

Sullivan's Island Elementary helps students develop world-class skills and life/career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by providing a safe, caring, and academically challenging learning environment. During the 2019 - 2020 school year, Sullivan's Island Elementary implemented several initiatives fostering student growth in creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills.

Students learned about the coastal environment through authentic math and science experiences in the lab, nature trail, beach, and school garden. Students regularly created models, worked in groups to solve problems, and shared their ideas through speaking, writing, drawing, and technology.

Students participated in expanded opportunities to use adaptive digital platforms (Dreambox, Lexia, ALEKS, and Achieve300) to assist with targeting specific math and reading skills based on individual student readiness. While students worked independently on these platforms, teachers analyzed their progress. Teachers used the data to pull small groups of students for instruction based on student needs.

Additionally, Sullivan's Island Elementary served as a pilot school for Bridges in Mathematics. This comprehensive elementary curriculum focuses on developing students' deep understandings of mathematical concepts, proficiency with foundational skills, and the ability to solve complex and novel problems. The transition to Bridges in Mathematics aligned well with our inquiry-focused school vision and the National Science Teachers Association Science and Engineering Practices that we teach through the coastal environment program.

Sullivan's Island Elementary teachers also began implementing the Social, emotional learning curriculum Second Step at grades K -1 under the direction of our guidance counselor. This framework is a simplified, fun approach that combines bullying prevention, child protection, and foundations of social, emotional learning. Each component's lessons are age-appropriate and fun to learn.

Our parent-funded K-5 Spanish exposure program continued to directly impact student communication skills and global awareness this past year. It exposed students to the language and the cultures of Spanish speaking countries through conversation, writing, song, dance, art, and games.

Finally, our 4th and 5th grade continued to participate in Special Interest Units, which motivated students to work and interact with other students, teachers, and community volunteers who shared common interests. Students self-selected 6-week courses offered on Friday afternoons. Units included cross-training fitness, kindness club, robotics, GreenHeart gardening, and many other high-interest topics.

At Sullivan's Island Elementary, our teachers and community are committed to continued innovation and improvement. We work together to create a learning environment that cultivates

critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Thank you for your support in helping develop our future graduates and stewards of the Earth!

Susan King, Principal

Heather Galloway, SIC Chair