

**2022**  
-  
**2023**



**SULLIVAN'S ISLAND ELEMENTARY**

# **Report to the Community**

*SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL (SIC)*

Susan King, Principal

Lee Weatherly, SIC Chairman

# ABOUT US

Sullivan's Island Elementary provides a safe, caring, and academically challenging learning environment with the guidance of our school vision: To grow inquiry-based learners equipped with the skills to explore and contribute as stewards of our world and environment.

Nestled just behind a maritime forest and directly adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, our school is a Constituent Magnet with the school-wide theme of Coastal Environment Studies. Through the coastal environment lens, students engage in authentic math and science experiences in two specialized wet labs, explore the adjoining nature trail/beach, and develop a sense of independence and responsibility in our school garden. Students regularly create models, work in groups to solve problems and share their ideas through speaking, writing, drawing, and technology. Our three coastal environment teachers work closely with classroom teachers to focus on cross-disciplinary science instruction.

Special Area classes at Sullivan's Island Elementary include a Spanish Exposure program, art, music, physical education, coastal environment, and technology.



# VISION

"Learning By the Sea"

School Quote: "Individually, we are one drop.  
Together, we are an ocean." - Satoro

2022-2023 School Theme: Soar On, Skimmers!



# MISSION

The mission of Sullivan's Island Elementary School is to grow inquiring learners equipped with the skills to explore and contribute as stewards of the coastal environment and our world.



# MOVING THE NEEDLE IN 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KING

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual Report to the Community. During the 2023 School Year, our young SIES Skimmers have "Soared On" with the support of teachers, parents, and community members. Our recipe is simple; we relentlessly prioritize learning and growth for all students. The SIES community has always believed students are the center of our work. However, we must transform that belief into collective action to continuously move the needle for student growth. I am pleased to report that thanks to many's hard work and collaboration, we have moved the needle during the 2023 school year!

### KEY SCHOOLWIDE CURRICULUMS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This year, teachers have worked together to implement Bridges Math and EL Reading/Writing to provide a solid literacy and numeracy foundation for students at every grade level. More robust implementation has necessitated increased planning, strategic scheduling, and team teaching.



To bolster these curriculums, staff members are currently participating in professional development based on the science of reading and mathematics. The frameworks of LETRS (literacy training) and OGAP (numeracy training) translate current educational research into a practical approach that helps teachers deliver highly effective instruction to meet **all** student's needs. These trainings help support EL and Bridges by providing teachers with the knowledge and tools behind **how** students learn. In turn, our staff has increased efforts to provide our families with the tools to support their children at home. Several parents have attended parent coffee chats and utilized our new curriculum dashboard on the school's website.

# MOVING THE NEEDLE IN 2023

*A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KING*

## **DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORTS FOR ALL STUDENTS**

Additionally, our Multi-Tiered System of Supports team (MTSS), meets weekly to assess student performance and find ways to ensure all students reach their full potential. This is accomplished with resources such as personnel and programming for reading and math interventions, as well as classroom support. The SIES MTSS team continues to receive the highest ratings for comprehensively implementing universal supports for all students. As a result, the iReady data at each grade level reflects an increase not just in achievement, but in overall student growth.



## **SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS IN TODAY'S WORLD IS CRITICAL**

At times overlooked, many factors impact teacher morale and wellness. Tragic school shootings, social media, curriculum debates, and the rising cost of affordable housing are just a few of the challenges. To continue to boost staff wellness and morale, we have worked hard to increase two-way communication between parents, administration, and teachers. Additionally, our PTA, Friends Group, volunteers, business partners, and parents from every grade level have gone above and beyond by showering the teachers with appreciation throughout the year. This year, the SIES staff was treated to Woot Woot Wagon visits, Rise and Shine Breakfasts, lunches during Professional Development days, teacher supply monies, and an amazing Teacher Appreciation week. Volunteers have graciously given their time and talents to help build and launch our first miniboat, monitor classes at lunch, provide copy services for teachers, assist

# MOVING THE NEEDLE IN 2023

*A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KING*

with special area classes, the library, and during coastal days. These efforts are so appreciated and tangibly impact our overall school climate.

## SCHOOL SAFETY AND COMMUNITY

Speaking of safety and security, our School Safety Team meets monthly to review schoolwide systems and special events to ensure safety and security. The team consists of Sullivan's Island Fire Department, Police Department, and Town officials, as well as the school resource officer, administration, nurse, Kaleidoscope director, counselor, custodian, secretary, teachers, and parents. CCSD and the Charleston County Sheriff's Department also worked closely with SIES to staff the school with our outstanding new School Resource Officer (SRO), Deputy Ross. Perhaps most notably, in the area of safety improvements, parents, students, and staff have improved compliance with safety guidelines. This consistent teamwork not only increases safety, but it increases peace of mind for everyone in our school community.



## PLEASE ENGAGE IN CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

After reading the report, please feel free to contact me with questions and ideas. As this year draws to a close, I invite everyone in our school community to look for ways to help us **move the needle forward** for student learning and growth at Sullivan's Island Elementary School. I look forward to "Soaring On" in school year 2024!

Many Thanks!  
Principal Susan R. King



# ACADEMIC GROWTH

The charts on the following 2-pages provide the percentage of students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade who met their individual goals on iReady Math and Reading for the 2022-2023 school year. For reference, i-Ready is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that helps a teacher determine a student's needs, personalize his/her learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. i-Ready allows each teacher to meet his/her students exactly where they are and provides data to increase student learning gains. i-Ready consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction.

The i-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit a student's needs. Each item a student sees is individualized based on his/her answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions. The purpose of this is not to give each student a score or grade, but instead to determine how best to support student learning. Students take three diagnostic assessments during the school year. The initial Fall Diagnostic score is used to determine individual student growth goals.

While 50% or more of students meeting their growth goal is robust, our schoolwide goal is to continue maintaining their goals at 60% or higher. Since this is our first year administering standardized iReady testing, there is no historical data for comparison.

*\*\*iReady Description Source:*

<https://i-readycentral.com/familycenter/what-is-i-ready/>

# iREADY DATA

Kindergarten	% Met Individual Goal
<i>Reading</i>	54%
<i>Math</i>	52%

First Grade	% Met Individual Goal
<i>Reading</i>	69%
<i>Math</i>	70%

Second Grade	% Met Individual Goal
<i>Reading</i>	81%
<i>Math</i>	66%

# iREADY DATA

Third Grade	% Met Individual Goal
<i>Reading</i>	74%
<i>Math</i>	64%

Fourth Grade	% Met Individual Goal
<i>Reading</i>	67%
<i>Math</i>	56%

Fifth Grade	% Met Individual Goal
<i>Reading</i>	66%
<i>Math</i>	62%

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

In January of 2023, our School Improvement Council created and distributed a family survey to gauge perceptions concerning one of our targeted growth areas: communication. Additionally, participants were asked to provide insight concerning programs funded by donations to the FRIENDS of Sullivan's Island Elementary School 501c3. Results from this survey were analyzed to prioritize future school goals and initiatives. The survey was distributed on January 12th and closed on January 24th through SurveyPlanet. In all, **179** parents and guardians completed the survey. Complete analysis of survey results is included below.

## STATEMENT 1: MY CHILD'S TEACHER TELLS ME HOW I CAN HELP MY CHILD LEARN.

	2022	2023
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	6.1%	2.2%
<i>Disagree</i>	20.7%	12.3%
<i>Agree</i>	31.7%	47.5%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	41.5%	38%
<i>Percent Favorable</i>	73.2%	85.5%

**STATEMENT 2: MY CHILD'S SCHOOL GIVES ME INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT MY CHILD SHOULD BE LEARNING IN SCHOOL.**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	2.4%	2.8%
<i>Disagree</i>	20.2%	8.9%
<i>Agree</i>	39.3%	55.3%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	38.1%	33%
<i>Percent Favorable</i>	77.4%	88.3%

**STATEMENT 3: MY CHILD'S SCHOOL CONSIDERS CHANGES BASED ON WHAT PARENTS SAY.**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	11.9%	2.3%
<i>Disagree</i>	22.4%	10.1%
<i>Agree</i>	37.3%	63.3%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	28.4%	24.3%
<i>Percent Favorable</i>	65.7%	87.6%

## STATEMENT 4: I AM SATISFIED WITH HOME/SCHOOL RELATIONS AT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL.

	2022	2023
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	2.8%	2.7%
<i>Disagree</i>	20.8%	9.6%
<i>Agree</i>	38.9%	47.8%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	37.5%	33%
<i>Percent Favorable</i>	76.4%	87.7%

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM SURVEY COMMENTS

- Families indicated a strong desire to have additional enrichment and club opportunities in the afternoon. (69.9% afternoon, 30.1% morning)
- Families indicated preference for additional enrichment/club opportunities in the area of Science/STEM and Visual Arts.
- Families noted an appreciation for the level of communication from the school and volunteer opportunities.
- Several comments made reference to a desire for increased individual feedback from their child's teacher.
- An appreciation for our Spanish Program and increased language time was also noted.
- Many references were made to continue the Parent Educator role.

# NEXT YEAR

Our staff, PTA, SIC, and FRIENDS of SIES groups are working together to finalize our plan for the year ahead. After careful analysis of School Improvement Council results by our Leadership Team, Faculty Senate, and School Improvement Council, several recommendations were made to FRIENDS for funding next year. Our FRIENDS group voted to approve these recommendations, which are outlined below. Additionally, other updates concerning school initiatives are included.

## SCHOOLWIDE THEME

- Soar On, Skimmers!
- Staff voted to make this our permanent theme.

## SPECIAL AREA SCHEDULE

- Our Special Area schedule will revert back to a traditional 5 day a week schedule, instead of the rotating 6 day schedule.
- Spanish will be included 5 days a week, instead of 4.
- Staff and parents noted a need for consistency in this area, especially to assist with volunteering in Special Areas, such as Art.

## COASTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

- Coastal Science will no longer be a part of the Special Area Schedule.
- Instead, each class will attend a weekly Coastal Science class.

# NEXT YEAR

## COASTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM CONTINUED

- Classroom teachers will Co-Teach with the Coastal Science teacher to better include the whole school in the Coastal Science Program.
- The Parent Educator will continue to work with the Coastal Science Program, focusing on magnet selection, curriculum development, and community partnerships.

## PROGRAMS FUNDED BY FRIENDS 501C3

- Spanish will increase to 5 days a week, based on Survey Results
- Technology (75% of Salary)
- Math and Reading Interventionists (A Portion of Salary)
- Balcony Seating and Sun Coverage
- School Dismissal Manager
- Touch Tank Maintenance and Animal Care
- Green Heart Gardening
- Teacher Supplies

## VOLUNTEERING

- This year, we did an overhaul of our Volunteer system to allow more individuals access to opportunities that fit both their interests and availability.
- We will continue to expand on our volunteer system and ensure access for ALL families.

# NEXT YEAR

## EXTENDED PLANNING

- We will continue to provide our teachers with four extended planning opportunities throughout the 23-24 school year.
- Extended planning allows our teachers the opportunity to collaborate, review data, and engage in meaningful planning to ensure the highest level of instruction.



# IN CLOSING

Thank you for your interest in and support of the learning environment at Sullivan's Island Elementary School. Community engagement is an integral part of student and school success. If you have questions about this report or would like to volunteer your time and talents during the 2023-2024 school year, please contact us.

Special Thanks as well to our 2022-2023 School Improvement Council, listed below.

- Lee Weatherly (Chairperson)
- Susan King (Principal, Ex-Officio Member)
- Lisa Marie Ferguson
- Linda Hipps
- Natalie Harden
- Barrie Crimmins
- Katie Paige
- Heather Galloway
- Ted Kinghorn
- Stacie Marksbury
- Megan Stifel
- Pete Zamboki

# OUR YEAR

# IN PICTURES



**Staff Summer Retreat**



**Miniboat Club**



**Kindergarten and  
New Family  
Orientation**



**Sandcastle Day**

# OUR YEAR

# IN PICTURES



School Store



Seeds to Shoreline



Monthly Woot Woot Wagon



Outreach

# OUR YEAR

# IN PICTURES



Lion King Musical



Veterans Day



Coastal Day Fun



The Islanders  
Author Visit

# OUR YEAR

# IN PICTURES



Coastal Night



Coastal Night



Sweetheart Dance



Parent Volunteers

# OUR YEAR

# IN PICTURES



**Mystery Reader**



**Career Day**



**Mother/Son  
Stingrays Game**



**Parent Sponsored  
Monthly Staff Breakfasts**

# OUR YEAR

# IN PICTURES



100th Day of School



Reading Around the Bases



Teacher of the Year,  
Brittany Guthrie



Movie Night

# OUR YEAR

# IN PICTURES



Safety Patrol



Safety Patrol



Soar On, Skimmers  
5K & Fun Run



Soar On, Skimmers  
5K & Fun Run