



Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School

About Our School

Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School was established in 1984 as one of the first magnet schools in the Charleston County School District.

We were created with the vision of providing an arts integrated curriculum that would benefit all students. Our school serves students in the West Ashley area of Charleston and a small neighborhood zone.

Our teachers, staff, and parents have worked hard over the past 40 years to create and maintain an environment of academic and arts excellence. We continue to be a leader in arts education in our district, state, and nation.

As our student and family needs change, we adapt our programs and offerings to ensure equity and access for all students. Ashley River Creative Arts is a member of the Arts Schools Network, Arts in the Basic Curriculum Institute, South Carolina Arts Alliance, and Palmetto State Arts Education Association.

Mission Statement

In partnership with parents and community, we will provide all students the opportunity to reach their maximum potential through an arts integrated academic curriculum providing relevant, diverse, and challenging learning experiences in a safe and positive environment.

Arts Education Vision Statement

To cultivate confident, creative learners who excel through arts-integrated education and are prepared to lead and thrive in a diverse, dynamic world.

Contact Us

843-763-1555

Timothy Sullivan, Principal
Na'Kneetra Capers-Ruiz, Assistant Principal
Amanda Cook, Assistant Principal

ashleyriver.ccsdschools.com
facebook.com/arcaelementary

1871 Wallace School Road
Charleston, SC 29407



Visual & Performing Arts Classes

All students participate in two special area classes a day including:

- Visual Arts: exposure to art history, opportunity to work in all types of mediums including textiles, ceramics, and set design
- Music: playing instruments such as ukuleles, xylophones, drums, opportunity to move to music, create music, and exposure to a variety of composers and genres
- Drama: basic acting techniques, theater history, performances, puppetry, improvisation, and script writing
- Cultural Arts: introduction to second language, study of Hispanic culture and history
- Physical Education: creative movement through fundamental movement, rhythmic movement, gymnastics, an introduction to a variety of sports
- Violin/Orchestra: basic violin instruction with optional guardian involvement in K-3; strings instruction with note reading in grades 4 & 5
- Ballet: dance instruction in traditional ballet
- STEAM: project based tasks using science, technology, engineering, art, and math to engage students in collaborative real-world problem solving
- Media Arts: lessons focused on ELA skills especially reading, writing, speaking, and listening, participating in research, and exposure to a variety of genres, texts, and authors



Opportunities for Students

- Strings Instruction for any child, including instruments to borrow
- Music and Art Therapy
- Mental Health Supports and Counseling
- First Friday Artists
- 4th and 5th Grade Performing or Service Clubs
- Artist in Residence programs twice a year
- Field Trips in our local community
- Author Visits
- Yearbook
- Hip Hop Dance Year Long Residency
- Fall and Spring Book Fairs
- 1:1 iPads/Chromebooks
- Field Day
- Spirit Rock and Family Nights sponsored by PTA
- College and Career Week
- 2nd and 3rd Grade Enrichment with SOS! Stretch or Support Games

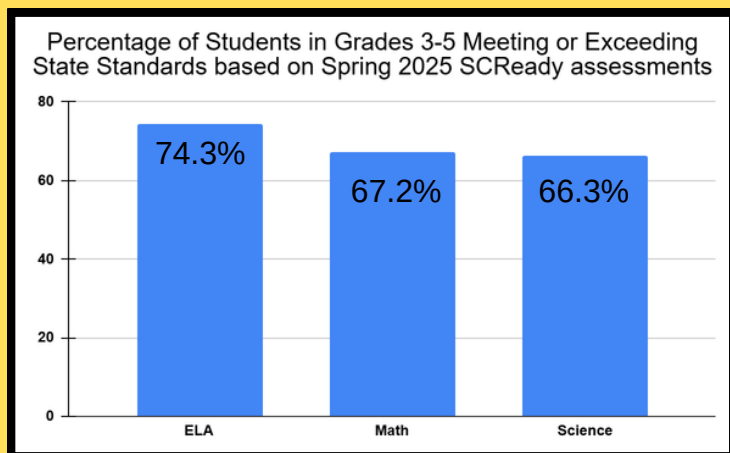
ARCAE Teacher of the Year 2025-2026



Mrs. Lizbeth Perez, 5th Grade ELA & Social Studies Teacher

School Achievement and Accomplishments

2025 SC READY Performance



- Student awards for visual arts at the Coastal Carolina Fair and the North Charleston Arts Festival
- Arts Schools Network Exemplary School Designation
- Engaging Creative Minds Partner School
- Arts in the Basic Curriculum (ABC) Grant Recipient
- Distinguished Arts Programs (DAP) Grant Recipient
- Awarded numerous Donor's Choose Grants
- Unichorus performed at Carowinds
- Student participation in S.C. Elementary Honor Choir
- Successful fund and supply raising for the Lowcountry Food Bank, Charleston Animal Society, and Toys for Tots
- Schoolwide implementation of Second Steps curriculum
- Participation in Unified Special Olympics
- Giant holiday card displayed at James Island County Park Festival of Lights
- Site for Engaging Creative Minds Summer STEAM Institute