



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. We are excited to celebrate our school's 40th anniversary in late April 2025. Our school is a member of the Arts Schools Network, Arts in the Basic Curriculum Institute, South Carolina Arts Alliance, and Palmetto State Arts Education Association.

Our School Improvement Council focuses on four main areas including arts integration, gifted and talented services, staff morale, and social emotional learning.


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.


School Improvement Council Members


Timothy Sullivan, Principal
Na'Kneetra Capers-Ruiz, Assistant Principal
Amanda Cook, Assistant Principal
Krista Godek, Chair
Sean Connor
Alvin Johnson
Cathryn Hines
Destiny McCoy
Angela Page

Contact Us

 843-763-1555

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

 ashleyriver.ccsdschools.com
facebook.com/arcae elementary

 1871 Wallace School Road
Charleston, SC 29407



Special Area 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
- Suzuki Violin/Orchestra: basic Suzuki instruction with required guardian involvement in K-3; string 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

- Piano Lab
- Music Therapy
- First Friday Arts
- 4th and 5th Grade Performing or Service Clubs
- Artist in Residence programs twice a year
- Field Trips in our local community
- Author Visits
- Yearbook
- Fall and Spring Book Fairs
- Adaptive Digital Content
- 1:1 iPads/Chromebooks
- Field Day
- Spirit Rock
- Family Nights sponsored by PTA
- College and Career Week
- 2nd and 3rd Grade Enrichment with SOS! Stretch or Support Games
- Quarterly Reading Goals and Incentives

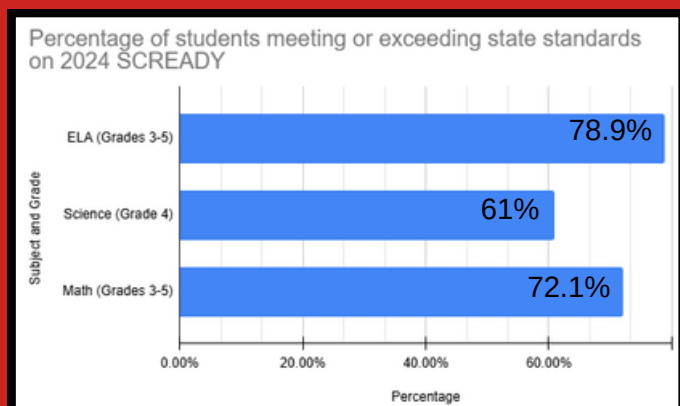
ARCAE Teacher of the Year 2024-2025



Mrs. Melissa Spaulding, Primary Grades Music Teacher

School Achievement and Accomplishments

2024 SC READY Performance



- Student awards for visual arts at the Coastal Carolina Fair
- 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
- 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
- Recipient of Project Lead the Way grant