

## Why School Improvement?



Brunson-Dargan Elementary School did not meet the federal guidelines for Adequate Yearly Progress for the 2011 school year, meeting 19 out of 21 objectives. Although targets were met in ELA and math, there was a decline in the performance of learning disabled students. Brunson-Dargan has since been working closely with the district's exceptional education department to develop instructional strategies to help this category of students reach their instructional goals.

As a part of the state's accountability system, Brunson-Dargan's progress towards improvement was reported on the 2011 school report card. Proudly, our school received an Average rating towards the 2011 accountability goal.

### Rating Over 3-Year Period

School Year	Absolute Ratings	Growth Ratings
2011	Average	Excellent
2010	Below Average	Below Average
2009	Below Average	Average

### School Improvement Council

SIC Members may be contacted through the school office at (843) 398-5080.	
Evelyn Robinson, Chair	
Ada Sindab, Ex-Officio	Gwendolyn McElveen, Title I Coordinator
Pat Cavanaugh, Community Member	Jennifer Heilbronn, Teacher
Cynthia Boulware, Teacher	Cecil Bromell, Community Member
Regina Parker, Teacher	Mack McGiveran, PTO President
Terry McPhail, Parent	Daniel Watson, Community Member
Sonia Vinson, Parent	Nakia Juma, Parent



## Mission Statement

The mission of Brunson-Dargan Elementary School is to provide students with quality instruction in an environment that fosters the developmental needs of the whole child, empowering all students with the knowledge and educational resources

### What is the Report to Parents?

South Carolina statute (ACT 135 of 1993) requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute a Report to the Parents by April 30th of each year, highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the school's strategic plan. This report is unique to each school and is developed by the SIC to share the challenges and success of the school, students, parents and teachers for the current school year.



### Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to be active in their child's education at Brunson-Dargan Elementary School. Some activities include:

- BDE GIVES Parent Volunteers
- Parent, Teacher, Community Workshops
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- School Improvement Council/Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)
- School Volunteers (Bag Buddies with Carolina Kids, Office Workers, Test Monitors, Field Trips, etc.)
- Title I Planning Committee
- Special Events for Parents and Grandparents



# Brunson-Dargan Elementary School

**"Where Dreams Become Reality!"**

## Report to the Parents 2011-2012



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Darlington, SC 29532  
Phone (843) 398-5080  
Fax (843) 398-2534  
<http://bde.dcsdschools.org/>**

**Ada O. Sindab  
Principal**

## School

### Demographics



Brunson-Dargan Elementary is a Title I school that serves 210 students in grades 3 – 5 from various socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of our students are African-American, eighteen percent (18%) are Caucasian and three percent (3%) are classified as Other. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of our students receive subsidized meals. Eighteen percent (18%) of our student population receives exceptional educational services.

### School Renewal Goals

The following steps have been continued for the 2011-2012 school year to improve student achievement:

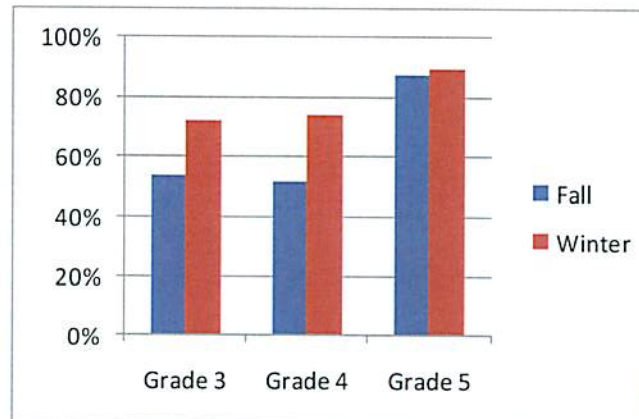
- School-wide departmentalization, resulting in one teacher responsible for no more than two core areas
- Accelerated classroom for students identified as gifted and talented and advanced learners
- Weekly cluster data analysis meetings with teachers to analyze student work samples and learn research-based instructional strategies
- School-wide use of PASS-like assessments in all core subject areas
- Reading intervention program for targeted students
- SC Chamber of Commerce Homework Center After-School Program
- Daily PASS-like question implemented per core content area
- School-wide Accelerated Reading Program
- Math Masters program to encourage students to learn math facts
- Professional development sessions for teachers in all subject areas
- Holiday and summer instructional activities to extend learning opportunities
- Mentoring program for targeted students

### Gains in Student Achievement

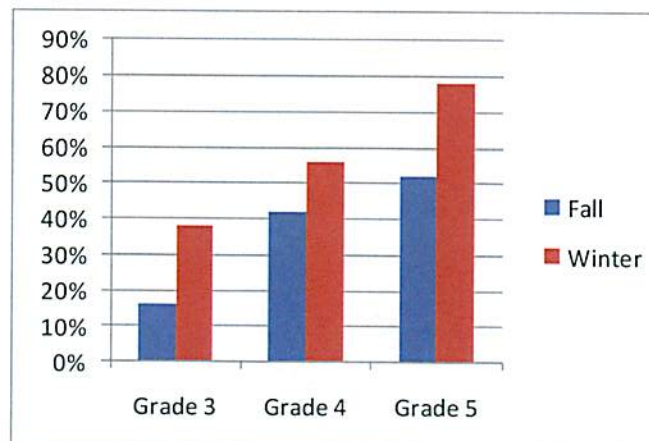
Brunson-Dargan Elementary School's achievement goal for the 2011-2012 school year was to improve the percentage levels of all students to at least 70% of the grade level obtaining mastery in reading and math. In order to achieve this goal, many instructional strategies have been implemented. As a result, gains in student achievement have been documented by various data sources. The graphs below show students' progress in reading and math as measured by the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress.)



Comparison of Fall to Winter MAP Data in ELA  
Percentage of Students Meeting Standard



Comparison of Fall to Winter MAP Data in Math  
Percentage of Students Meeting Standard



### Academic Programs

Brunson-Dargan Elementary is a school that prides itself on the inclusion of academic programs that provide students an opportunity to experience educational growth and success. Some activities include:

- Teacher Advancement Program (TAP)
- Weekly Teacher Data Meetings
- Balanced Literacy Model
- Master Teacher and Mentor Teachers that support classroom instruction
- Reading Interventionists (Read Well)
- Multiplication Step-by-the-Step
- Universal Math Morning Work/Daily Oral Language
- Bonus Math Time (25 additional minutes twice a week to focus on problem solving strategies)
- Bonus Reading Time (25 additional minutes twice a week to focus on reading strategies)
- Early Morning Computer Assisted Math Instruction
- Early Morning Math Facts Drills
- COMPASS Learning Odyssey Lab
- Science Lab
- Gifted and Talented Program
- Positive Behavioral and Interventions Support Model (PBIS)
- Elementary Science Fair
- Academic Jeopardy Tournament
- School-wide Assessments (Benchmark Testing, Measures of Academic Progress, etc.)
- Black History Program
- Kiwanis Club's Terrific Kids

#### Academic Honors Include...

- AdvancED Accreditation, 2008-09
- Five Star Award, 2007-08
- Value Added 5:Top TAP Rating for Student Growth, 2011-12
- Palmetto Gold Award, 2011-12
- Palmetto Silver Award, 2011-12, 2004-05

