

Merriwether Elementary School continues to strive to fulfill our mission, “Creating Leaders for Tomorrow. “All stakeholders have worked diligently to create a learning community that enables students to communicate, demonstrate, and master skills essential for success in life. The goal of teachers, staff, and parents is to prepare students to be leaders for tomorrow by implementing a rigorous curriculum that meets the needs of all learners and instill core values that will empower students to think critically, solve real-world problems, and develop perseverance. Using Stephen Covey’s Leader in Me Program, we teach students key traits that will prepare them to be college and career ready.

Our student demographics change on a continual basis. Changes in student ability levels, socioeconomic status, ethnicity groups, and family dynamics have prompted teachers and staff members to analyze instructional, assessment, and behavioral strategies used in the classroom. We provide teachers and staff members with extensive professional development in the areas of differentiated instruction, classroom intervention strategies, technology integration, data analysis, and strategies to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Through high expectations and diverse strategies, our teachers and support staff help all students to reach their maximum potential.

Merriwether Elementary has seen several new initiatives during the 2014– 2015 school year. This year, we are implementing TAP. TAP has allowed teachers to participate in professional development during clusters. While in professional development, teachers and administrators collaborate to develop integrative units, analyze school and grade level data, reflect on lessons, and share instructional strategies are effective in the classroom. The Leadership Team (TLT) is also a new addition to the school’s community. The TLT is a group of ten teachers who serve as ambassadors for the school. They work together to with faculty to improve teacher effectiveness and increase student achievement.

The RTI program at Merriwether Elementary maintains commitment to closing the achievement gap. Based on the analysis of PASS, MAP, and AimsWeb test scores, identified students receive instruction that targets essential skills needed to overcome instructional gaps. We believe that the ongoing analysis of data and small group instruction will help all students experience academic success.

Our school continues to make advances in the area of technology. Our school is 100% Wi-Fi accessible. This allows our students to use Google Chromebooks, iPads, and Kindle Fires to research and play interactive learning programs from anywhere in the building. Several of our teachers have received grants to purchase technology equipment for their classrooms.

We believe that having a positive relationship with the community is essential to building leaders and encouraging community awareness. Throughout the year, the faculty and students participate in several service learning projects that help support a variety of organizations. This year, we raised over \$4,000.00 for Relay for Life and Jump Rope for Heart. Students celebrated the 100th day of school by collecting 803 non-perishable items for the Edgefield Food Bank and Sweetwater Baptist Church’s Food Pantry.

Merriwether Elementary continues to strive for excellence without excuses. Because of our commitment to academics and the community, we are the recipients of the Palmetto Silver Award and the Relay for Life Award for our district. Through high expectations, differentiated instruction, collaboration, and increased accountability, the teachers and faculty members create environments that facilitate the learning process for all students regardless of their diverse backgrounds. We will continue to motivate and empower students to use leadership skills as they make daily decisions. Additionally, we will maintain our close relationships with our community. Understanding that education is an evolving entity, we will monitor and adjust our practices to ensure that our students are leaders for tomorrow.

Dr. Mendi B. Tucker, Principal

Colleen Mathis, SIC Chair