



# Report to the Parents

Merriwether Elementary School

May  
2022

## Purpose and Mission Statement

**Purpose of Report:** The purpose of this report is to inform our parents of various things that are going on at Merriwether Elementary School.

**Mission Statement:** We envision a positive school climate at Merriwether Elementary School where students, staff, and parents become a community of learners. We strive to create a safe environment that will engage, empower, and enrich all students so they can be successful in life.

## Thank You!

Thanks to our MES families for:

- your patience in car line!
- adapting to the construction at MES!
- supporting our school!

## Construction and Safety

### Construction

The growth we are experiencing at MES has allowed for the following additions to our school:

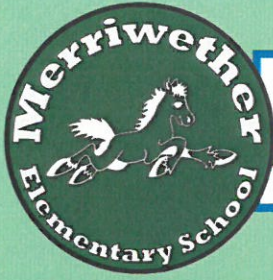
- We have added a new gym, music room, four full size classrooms, six smaller rooms, four extra bathrooms, new carpet and flooring has been installed in certain parts of the school.
- The front and back parking lots received additional parking spaces.
- Construction at MES is almost complete with only a few minor tasks to be completed. However, there is the possibility the front office could have more renovations.

**Safety and Security Measures:** To ensure MES is a safe place to learn for students and teachers, the following have been put in place:

- Security cameras and security doors
- Full time School Resource Officer (SRO)

## Notable Celebrations

- Our chorus competed in the Festival of Music at Carowinds and received a rating of "EXCELLENT". This is a highly anticipated event that is judged by college professors. Elementary, Middle, and High School students participated in this event.
- Our students collected and donated over 500 items to an organization that protects, heals, and strengthens children and families from the impact of trauma in their lives.
- Our fifth-grade students participated and won the first ever district Battle of The Books. Battle of The Books is a reading competition designed to improve reading and comprehension while building enthusiasm for reading using a fun competition format. We look forward to participating in this event again next year!
- One of our third-grade students at MES won the writing contest sponsored by Strom Thurmond High School's baseball team. The student was allowed to throw out the first pitch at one of the baseball games.
- Mrs. Kirkendahl (kindergarten teacher) and Mrs. Guess (first grade teacher) each received a \$500.00 grant sponsored by the Savannah River Site. These grants are very competitive and many teachers in the CSRA compete for these grants.



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## Technology

- Merriwether Elementary is now 100% wi-fi accessible throughout the school.
- MES is one-to-one with technology in the classroom (meaning all students have access to a chrome book).

## Cognia

This is an accreditation system that is recognized around the world. Our district successfully went through this process this year. We have to go through this process every five years. Based on the final report from Cognia, there were not any negative findings in the Edgefield County School District.

## Student Achievement

Our most recent test data from the State Department of Education revealed:

- Our students outperformed the state average test scores in ELA.
- Our students did not outperform the state average test scores in Math.

## Academic Initiatives

- Read 180 - This is an intensive reading intervention program. This reading program has positive effects on comprehension and general literacy.
- DreamBox - This is an adaptive and supplemental math intervention program that individualizes instruction for the learner. DreamBox is provided to all school districts by the South Carolina Department of Education at no cost for 3 years. DreamBox is provided in an effort to address unfinished learning brought about by the interruptions from COVID-19.
- Lexia - Literacy is the gateway to all learning.

## Instruction

- At MES, we realize education evolves as society changes; and for that reason, we monitor and adjust instructional strategies to ensure teachers are modeling best practices within the classroom for our students. We all take pride in being life-long student and adult learners.
- We embrace our diverse student population as we prepare them to be college and career ready.
- Teachers analyze student data and then individualize instruction to meet the needs of their students.
- Teachers implement various strategies in their classrooms.
- Teachers meet once a week, or more, to plan.
- Teachers focus on standards, unit plans, and creating assessments throughout the year.

### Merriwether Elementary School

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