



"Student Success Through Innovation" is our motto as we work to help all students develop the world class knowledge, skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate. We are accomplishing this by providing the following:

- Highly qualified teachers and staff
- Instruction focused on standards and driven by data
- Differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students
- Rigorous and research-based student centered lessons and activities
- Increased opportunities for project-based and problem solving learning
- Opportunities to incorporate technology into daily instruction
- Professional Development focused on rigor and data
- School Home and Community Partnerships that enhance student achievement
- Instructional programs that extend beyond basic basal instruction
- Opportunities for extra-curricular activities that extend beyond the school day
- Opportunities to participate in both STEM and STEAM focused learning opportunities

Our **highly qualified staff** consists of National Board Certified Teachers, District Honor Roll Teachers, teachers with advanced degrees and teachers involved in continuous learning and growth opportunities. Our staff engages in on-going professional development provided by “in house experts” and outside consultants that focuses on rigor in the classroom, project and problem- based learning, high expectations for students and the use of data to change and focus instruction.

Our school wide instructional focus is standards and data driven. Our teachers work collaboratively to plan for instruction. The instructional program includes differentiated instruction, research-based supplemental programs (Every Day Calendar Counts Math, Accelerated Reading and Math, Thinking Maps, Literacy Work Stations, Cooperative Learning, Science Foss Kits, and Engineering is Elementary Units). In addition, through our participation in Verizon’s Project Lead the Way Grant, and in the district’s Discovery Learning Digital Pathfinders Program we have begun our move towards becoming a STEAM certified school.

Early intervention is key to student academic success. Through our **Kindergarten Literacy Lab**, our **Reading Recovery Program** and **First Grade Literacy Lab**, we are able to provide early literacy support to

our students. Our Academic Assistance Team which includes our administrative leadership team, our school counselors and our classroom teachers provide guidance and support to insure that we address the needs of all students providing both remediation and enrichment.

Excellence is our goal at Delmae. This is evident in our school being the recipient of the state's Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards for excellence in academic performance and consecutive NNPS (National Network of Partnership School) Awards.

Instruction goes beyond the school day at Delmae through after school tutorial programs, extended day after school program, extra-curricular activities (chorus, drama, art, science, technology and fitness clubs), Lego Robotics Team, Step Team and a 4-H Club.

The **school home connection** is essential to student school success. We provide numerous opportunities for families to participate in school sponsored fun activities (Back to School Blast, Celebrating Our Diversity and Spring Fling) in addition to providing parent academies to help parents support student learning (Title One Parent Nights). Grade levels also provide grade level specific programs that provide opportunities for the home school connection (Second Grade's Women in History Program and Third Grade's South Carolina Wax Museum).

Service projects are also a way to develop world class skills in our students. Our students are engaged in several service projects throughout the school year. These include Harvest Hope Food Drives, Jump Rope for Heart, Pennies for Patients, and Operation Christmas Child.

Delmae received **AdvancED STEM Certification** during the 2015-2016 school year as a continued effort to help our students be prepared to exhibit world class knowledge and skills along with the characteristics to be successful in a Global 21st Century Society.

Delmae Heights Elementary students have participated in numerous learning experiences with a STEM focus. Participation in these programs and/or activities have proven to be beneficial to our students and have supported them in their learning in the classroom.

Project Lead the Way which provides lessons for STEM curriculum designed to prepare students for the global economy through 21st Century Skills and Objectives. Students are engaged in hands on learning experiences that involve collaboration and problem-solving.

Engineering is Elementary is an annual school-wide event that provides students with an opportunity to showcase their STEM learning with an emphasis on problem-solving and the design element.

Think Tank Thursday allows students to get away from the traditional daily classroom experience involving paper and pencil tasks and engage in a full day of lessons and activities immersed in collaboration, discovery, technology and project and/or problem-based learning.

Compass Learning is individualized learning at its best. Lessons are student specific based on MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) data. In addition they are interactive and students have access at school and home.

Mathematics Design Collaborative (MDC) engages students in a productive struggle that builds fluency with their procedural skills, and deepens mathematical reasoning and understanding. Rather than following predetermined steps to find an answer, students are supported to deepen their math reasoning to solve problems.

Science and Technology Labs at Delmae are facilitated by certified teachers. Our science lab teacher is National Board Certified and the technology lab teacher has a master in technology degree. These teachers provide students with STEM learning that is engaging and that supports learning in the classroom.

Discovery Education has also increased student engagement. The increased use of technology in the classroom is appealing to students and lends itself to creativity, inquiry, collaboration and increased problem-solving skills. Lessons and resources are designed with 21st Century Learning in mind.

Error Analysis is a central part of math instruction and learning at Delmae. Students have learned that when they look at their work using this process they increase their knowledge and problem-solving skills.

Science Note-Booking takes place in the classroom and in the science lab. Students have learned that there is a focus to their learning for the day (the focus question) and that they have an opportunity to show what they have learned (line of learning) in their own words and/or pictures.

Field Trips provide opportunities for our students to experience STEM learning beyond the walls of the school. Students look forward to these opportunities to experience activities and have learning experiences that are both fun and educational.

With the addition of two ***STEAM Labs, a Maker Space, Creation Station and the 1:1 initiative*** for the upcoming school year, the addition of a STEAM Coach will allow for the most effective use of these new initiatives and support teachers in their use of them.

While we are doing a great job of providing STEM experiences for students in our STEM programs and activities, we believe there is room for improvement. Through our self-study, we have determined that there is

a need to provide additional STEM extra-curricular activities to allow for more students to participate. Our teachers need additional professional development and resources related to teaching STEM lessons and parents and students without internet access need access to successfully complete some class assignments and activities.