



2022-2023 Report to Parents

Located within the city limits of Florence, SC, Delmae Heights Elementary School boasts a rich history and a diverse population. The school, originated in 1953, was reconstructed into a larger and more modern facility in 2017. Once a neighborhood school, it now includes students from the surrounding area as well as other areas of the city.

Delmae's student body consists of 980 students. This group of students consists of Asian (57), African American (453), Hispanic or Latino (95), White (286), and Bi-racial (88) ethnicities. We have 468 male students and 512 females. A total of 14 different languages are spoken by our 112 ESOL students. The highly qualified faculty and staff at Delmae are comprised of 96.5% females and 3.5% males. The ethnicity of our staff is 55% White and 45% African-American.

The mission of Delmae Heights Elementary is Kids first. This mission statement, adopted to be in line with the district's mission, was implemented by members of our APT (Association of Parents and Teachers), SIC (School Improvement Council), and staff. ***Our vision for our school is to provide an environment where we teach the head, the heart and the hand.*** Our vision and goal is for our students to develop self-discipline and self-confidence so that they learn to think, explore, create and ultimately experience academic success. Our staff has a commitment to achievement and academic excellence for all students through a process of on-going and continuous improvement that involves collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders. Our school's mission ensures that our students will benefit from a rigorous and well developed standard driven curriculum that will prepare them for not only the next level, but for life. ***Delmae's belief statements*** are indicative of our commitment to high expectations for all students and of a committed community of stakeholders working together for success through continuous improvement:

- All stakeholders are responsible for student success.
- Instruction must be rigorous, standards-driven, based on mandated state standards and implemented with research based curriculum and programs.
- Student success in meeting high standards requires input and support from the home and community.
- Provisions for the academic success of all students should be provided in a caring and safe environment.

We work hard to ensure students become life-long learners and productive members of society. We strive for all of our students to excel in academics, social skills and extracurricular activities. Students at Delmae continue to grow in all subject areas. This growth can be attributed to early intervention, use of data to drive instructional

decisions, curriculum choices, school wide accountability, on-going professional development, constructive use of professional learning communities, technology and school home relationships.

Delmae has a goal to accomplish the expectations of our district and school Strategic Renewal Plans. This includes student achievement, school climate and teacher and administrative quality goals:

- By 2023-24, 75% of our 4th graders will score "Meets or Exceeds" on SC Ready ELA and Math as measured by Winter and Spring LinkIt scores and SC Report Card scores.
- By the 2023-24 school year the percentage of parents indicating that they are satisfied with Home-School Relations will increase from 84.1% to 94% as measured by the School Report Card Survey.
- By the year 2023-24, Prime instructional time will increase to 90% as measured by the school report card.

While all of our numbers are not there yet, our most recent Linkit scores show that our students are growing academically and we scored better than both the district and state with the number of students scoring meets or exceeds in both ELA and Math on the last state report card, scoring an Excellent rating .

Our School's Leadership Team is composed of the principal, assistant principals, Curriculum Tech Coach, Reading Coach, Math Coach, Language Immersion Coach, Reading Interventionist, school-based therapist and school counselor.

Our teachers have weekly grade level meetings as well as meetings with grade level administrators -Principal (Special Needs, Second and Third Grades), Assistant principal (Kindergarten and First Grade), Assistant Principal (Related Arts, Fourth and Fifth Grades) to discuss student progress. District subject area coordinators are also a part of staff development. Through these meetings, analysis of student data and collaborations, we are able to identify areas needing improvement as well as students needing either remediation or enrichment.

Our school offers several programs and activities to address the needs of both of these groups. Flexible grouping and differentiating instruction in the classroom based on formative assessments (pretests, STAR and Linkit) , Collaborative planning and coaching for teachers, the use of programs such as, Reading Renaissance, Lexia, Dreambox, Reflex Math, Orton-Gillingham, and Touch Math. Error Analysis and Note-booking are also tools used to address the academic needs of all of our students, regardless of their performance levels. Before and After School Programs, Test Prep Days and the use of small group instruction are also used to target specific skills for individual student needs.

At Delmae Elementary, preparing our students for a successful future is our top priority! Our Spanish Language Immersion Program allows students to acquire a second language while further developing their native language. Providing the opportunity to learn a second language ensures that our students are growing to become responsible, productive members of our global community.

Our school has a variety of opportunities for parent and community involvement. These include membership in the National Network of Partnership Schools, Partnerships with Francis Marion University, First Reliance Bank, faith-based partnerships, Title One Parent Academies and our APT Family Nights. In addition, our students are involved in service projects throughout the year.

Delmae strives to help our students reach their fullest potential by offering a variety of programs and extra-curricular activities (Art, 4H, Chorus, Robotics, Morning Show, Battle of the Books, Math Club, Safety Patrols and Junior Beta Club).

Student Achievement

The major academic challenge our school has faced over the past three years has been

- Closing the achievement gap for students resulting from the impact of COVID

Programs such as Title One have been an important part of academic instruction at Delmae. A major portion of the funds we received from Title One are used to hire additional staff in an effort to decrease class sizes and provide additional classified support to the classroom teacher to assist with small group instruction.

Implementation of the MTSS process to identify students needing interventions is an additional tool we use to address the academic needs of our students.

The Read to Succeed state mandate helps to ensure that our students are on grade level by the end of third grade as they transition from learning to read to reading to learn. While the challenges are there, the academic performance of our students over the past three years indicate that we are making progress towards addressing them.

Teacher/Administrator Quality

Delmae Heights Elementary School has a highly qualified faculty and staff. All faculty and staff are Highly Qualified according to standards set forth by No Child left behind. . More than 64% of our teachers have advanced degrees with several others working on them presently. 84% of our teachers are returning with very little turnover from one year to the next.

School Climate

According to our parent and community survey, our school:

- Is clearly focused on student success
- Involves parents in decision making
- Has goals and a plan for improvement
- Communicates well with stakeholders

Our students are respectful and well behaved. Our attendance rate is 94% for students and 95.1% for teachers. Our promotion rate is 92% with fewer than 3 students in grades three and four (our highest grades) being retained.

Delmae Heights Elementary School has many things to be proud of including:

- *2022-2023 AdvancEd STEM Certification*
- *2023 Excellent Report Card rating*
- 2021-2022 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Lighthouse School
- Recipient of several Palmetto Gold and /or Silver Awards

- Recipient of the School Award from NNPS (National Network of partnership Schools)
- Recognized as an Emerging School of Character
- National Board Certified staff
- Having our principal named District Principal of the Year
- Having one of our assistant principals named District Assistant Principal of the Year
- Recipient of several regional and state awards for our Lego Robotics Team
- Recipient of two major School Foundation Grants along with various other grants

We are, however, most proud of the family atmosphere and commitment to the success of all of our children that is exhibited by our school community on a daily basis.

Through the use of data to drive instruction, research based instructional strategies and programs, extra-curricular activities, parent and community involvement we continue to educate, inspire and prepare students to become life-long learners and productive members of society by keeping ***“Kids first”***.

Delmae Heights School Improvement Council

Roy Ann Jolley, Principal