

Gateway Gators

"Success Begins Here!"

Gateway Elementary School
GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Annual Report to the Community April, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members,

It is with great pride that I again share with you our annual Report to the Community for the 2015-16 school year. The 2015-2016 school year has provided exceptional learning experiences for our teachers, support staff and students. Our teachers and staff were able to continue to improve our practice by strengthening our core curriculum as mandated by Greenville County Schools and initiatives that are unique to Gateway Elementary School. We began the school year with another successful round of Lucy Calkins Units of Study lab training for all grade levels and followed this up with training from our very own Literacy Mentors to further refine our Balanced Literacy curriculum development. April continued our path to continuous improvement as we traveled as a team to Charlotte, North Carolina to learn more about the new Lucy Calkins reading initiative from the author herself! During the winter months, Gateway was thrilled to welcome Debbie Donovan, nationally acclaimed math specialist to our learning community. Mrs. Donovan led our team through two days of hands on, student focused lessons that were designed to challenge all students and our staff as well! It was great to pair this important training with our Clemson Professional Development Training as well as our in house training with our district math specialist, Cathy Hale.

Our Gators are our primary focus in assuring that we are constantly seeking out opportunities to gain more insight into current curriculum delivery models and our efforts are rewarded by enriching the educational experience of each student. In fact, this spring we were again notified that our Gators earned the prestigious Palmetto Gold Award for academic excellence! This marked our fourth consecutive year to receive this honor, and the award signifies the highest award given for academic excellence in our state.

In addition to continued growth in the area of academics, our Travelers Rest community has grown as well and once again, this growth brought additional community support to our Gators. We have been thrilled to be able to increase the volume and quality of food items that we provide for our needy students each weekend as they would be forced to go without meals otherwise. Our partnership with the Cliffs Communities continues to provide this gift to our Gators. As a result of the volunteer efforts of our local Professional Tool Products company, our Gators in after care receive additional homework help and tutoring each Monday and Tuesday afternoon. These faithful volunteers have made a huge difference in the lives of our students! I would also like to share the news of our partnership efforts with our Travelers Rest YMCA. This summer, a number of families in our Brooks Point subdivision will participate in a free summer camp. This is an overwhelming show of support for our students and we are thrilled at the prospect of these students participating in continued reading, horseback riding and swimming over the summer months. All of our students will have eleven self-selected books at their disposal this summer, as the PEP (public education Partners) program again awarded our students with a free book fair. This will take place in late May and will be a great help in strengthening the home libraries of our students.

As you know, this year also brought with it a few uncertainties, as our state decided upon a new testing tool and revamped our learning standards. As a result of this new assessment choice, our goals listed below do not contain the usual data, as our students will be taking the SC Ready assessment for the very first time after our

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annual report is published. We look forward to sharing the results of this assessment with our school community this fall when our scores are published, however our school climate and teacher and administrator quality goals are listed below:

School Climate

Goal 4: Maintain at least a 96.8% attendance rate for all students and all student sub groups from 2012 through 2018.

Objective: Continue to maintain at least a 96.8% attendance rate for all students and all student subgroups for the 2016-2017 year.

Teacher and Administrator Quality

Goal 5: Maintain 100% of teachers as highly qualified from 2012-2018.

Objective: Continue to meet qualification criteria for 100% of teachers in all areas of certification.

It often feels as though our school year has just begun, however spring is definitely in the air and it is at this time that we begin to look forward to the coming school year, and plan alongside our major stakeholders for another year of excellence for our Gators. The formal title of our combined efforts is our "School Renewal Plan". This plan is now included on our school web site. Please take a few minutes to look over our plan and the goals and professional development opportunities that will give purpose and continued growth to our new school year. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss any or all of the contents with you in further detail. The school renewal plan includes elements required by the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135) and the Education Accountability Act of 1998 (EAA). We revise, monitor progress and adjust our goals within the plan annually in collaboration with our school faculty and staff, and our SIC (School Improvement Council).

Lastly, I feel that it is only fitting to close with our values and beliefs. Our values and beliefs are the core of who we are, what we do, and how we think and feel. Values and beliefs reflect what is important to us; they describe what we think about educating our children, while continuing the focus of remembering that the hearts and minds of our children are of equal importance. Each year, our staff revisits our core beliefs examining how our instruction, curriculum, and assessment will increase student achievement. We think that it is important to include our values and beliefs in our annual report as they set the tone for all that we do, and remind us of our purpose as educators.

- ❖ *We believe that all students should be valued and treated with respect and dignity.*
- ❖ *We believe a safe environment is essential to the learning process.*
- ❖ *We believe all children should be challenged to view life from different perspectives.*
- ❖ *We believe self-respect, discipline, and social skills should be reinforced at school.*
- ❖ *We believe family engagement in the learning process is an essential component for student success.*

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- ❖ *We believe differentiated curriculum and instruction should accommodate individual learning styles to meet the needs of all students.*
- ❖ *We believe educational experiences should enable students to communicate ideas, solve problems, think critically and creatively and consistently reflect on their own thinking.*
- ❖ *We believe a community partnership is essential for school success.*
- ❖ *We believe a PLC (Professional Learning Community) empowers all stakeholders to make informed decisions and provides experiences through data driven planning to ensure the success of each student.*
- ❖ *We believe each member of our school community can be a successful life-long learner.*

Sincerely,
Susan Stublely, Principal
Heather Bolt, SIC Chair