

Annual Report to the Community

In compliance with the Education Improvement Act of 1984, the Annual Report to the Community is written and reported each year to keep parents and community members informed regarding the progress the school is making in meeting school and district goals and objectives. This report was developed by our School Improvement Council (SIC), which consists of administrators, teachers, parents, and community representatives. The SIC works closely with the principal in examining the school's annual standardized testing data and setting goals that focus on specific areas of strength and weakness. Teacher, parent, and student survey data is also examined by the SIC to determine internal and external perceptions regarding the overall school operations. Utilizing this information, a plan for improvement is established each year.

As a result of our improvement plan, Skyland students continued to make steady academic gains on statewide student achievement tests. We contribute much of our success to several long-term initiatives including a focus on student data, teacher collaboration, teacher professional development that fosters academic success for all students, early intervention measures at the primary level, and added support for our at-risk learners. Another unique initiative that supports student success at Skyland is a focus on the integration of the arts across the curriculum. This approach allows students to showcase their knowledge and skills through non-traditional approaches and actively engages every student in the learning process.

At Skyland, we also focus on the development of the whole child. Therefore, we incorporate many other programs that promote success. We expose our students to career based learning opportunities as we support our district's Graduation Plus initiative. With a staff-wide focus on Social Emotional Learning, we are able to teach character traits that build success, as well as how to respond when adversity strikes. Students are also encouraged and provided with opportunities to get involved in clubs and service organizations that extend beyond the school day, increasing student leadership, building citizenship, and strengthening talent among our students.

Our PTA and surrounding community are also vital to maintaining a school of excellence. They continue to provide strong financial, educational, and moral support to our school. We sincerely appreciate the PTA and all of the community businesses that contribute so generously to ensure our students' success.

Over the last few years, our SIC has worked on projects that support our whole child model. During the 2020-21 school year, our SIC parents worked with our staff to create our Kindness Garden. We also celebrated with a week that focused on spreading kindness throughout the school and community around the book, Kindness Grows. Our teachers and students continue to maintain this outdoor space for learning experiences and lunches on sunny days. For the 2021-22 school year, our SIC is working in partnership with our classroom teachers and Prisma Health to bring the philosophies of Conscious Discipline to our families. They are currently working on a parent book study around the text Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline, as well as bite-sized videos to share Conscious Discipline strategies that could be implemented at home.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to you for being an integral part of our team at Skyland

Elementary. Thank you for making education a priority in your home. No doubt, building a school of excellence requires teamwork. Please join us in acknowledging Skyland’s dedicated teachers, staff, community partners, and volunteers who give selflessly to ensure that every child succeeds. Skyland Elementary continues to provide quality education in “a place where children flourish” thanks to the many dedicated individuals working together!

Leah Stafford, Principal
Jessica Holtzclaw, SIC Chair



**Calm Down Corner from
Conscious Discipline Initiative**

Kindness Garden

