

Taylor's Elementary School

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Empowering Leaders for Today and Tomorrow"

VISION: *Our vision is to provide a safe, caring educational environment where students strive to reach their fullest potential as lifelong learners and responsible leaders.*

MISSION: *Empowering Leaders for Today and Tomorrow*

Annual Report to the Community

Heather Dye, Principal

Sarah Williams, SIC Chairman

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Taylor's Elementary School: Empowering Leaders for Today and Tomorrow! Taylor's Elementary offers a diverse learning community with teachers who promote student-centered instruction. Our year has focused on defining excellence and committing to creating a school environment where student needs are first. All decisions are based on "what is best for children." We are proud to be a Leader In Me Lighthouse School and National RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) School.

Taylor's Elementary School is fully accredited by the *Advanced Accreditation Commission* and proudly serves approximately 775 students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. Our school holds a pupils in poverty index of 62.2% (according to the most recent data from the SC State Department of Education). Each member of our professional teaching staff is 'highly qualified' and well trained for the position they hold. Our teachers work diligently to provide learning experiences that engage students in creative, rigorous, standards-based learning experiences that enable them to achieve to their highest potential. In addition to providing a *South Carolina Standards-Based Curriculum* and utilizing research-based *BEST Practices* throughout our instructional program, our staff regularly analyzes student achievement data to make necessary adjustments to our instructional strategies that will support success for every student and meet the unique learning needs of our children.

Raising student achievement is our primary goal. As a Leader in Me School, we set Wildly Important Goals (WIGS). This year, each student set an individualized Reading WIG to improve our Reading performance and ultimately to achieve our school wide Reading goal. Our Leader in Me Action Teams have facilitated conversations and actions among our staff to strive for continuous improvement. We are developing effective data teams to create common assessments and use data to drive instruction. With emphasis on individualized student

academic growth and achievement, Taylors received an **Excellent** rating on our SC State Report Card. Additionally, we are an Inclusive Strategy School. We strive to identify the strengths and learning needs of all students by offering inclusion-based learning. Inclusion is available for identified special education students whose learning can be maximized and supported in a regular education setting.

The faculty is collaborating to expand its repertoire of strategies for teaching by reading current literature, attending conferences, taking graduate courses, participating in professional learning communities (PLCs) and sharing ideas with colleagues at faculty meetings and in-services. Summer Academy provides one avenue for extensive training where an increasing number of faculty members are also presenters. Our Literacy Committee, comprised of teacher leaders, meets quarterly to support best practices in the area of ELA in our school. In addition to supporting best practices in literacy, teachers also collaborate during Tech-Know Tuesdays to enhance technological skills that further student engagement in the classroom. Presenters include teacher experts from within and outside of our school, as well as student experts that co-present alongside our educators.

Quality teacher leadership is nurtured and encouraged at our school. Our design of staff development includes the structure of our Wednesdays. The first Wednesday allows PLCs, Professional Learning Communities, to create, design and analyze assessments for student learning. From the transformation of traditional teacher meetings to our second Tuesday FBI Meetings, Focus on Better Instruction, teachers lead teachers on our school focus of data teams and other professional development. The third Wednesday of each month is dedicated to our Faculty Council. Teacher leaders review school data, discuss feedback and make decisions based on research and best practices and serve as an advisory committee for Administration. Action Teams meet on the fourth Wednesday for discussion of standards, assessment, and school improvement.

Taylors Elementary School provides a comprehensive counseling program and received the Recognized American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Program (RAMP) designation for our outstanding school counseling program. The RAMP designation, awarded to schools whose counseling programs align with the criteria set in the ASCA National Model, recognizes schools that are committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and creating an exemplary educational environment. The school counseling program at Taylors Elementary provides a comprehensive program that addresses the academic, career, and personal/social development of students. The program goals include improving students' reading scores, reducing unexcused absences, and using The Leader In Me model to embed the Seven Habits throughout our academic, interpersonal and entire school program. Counselors visit every classroom twice a month to address academic, personal/social, and career development topics and to reach excellence in achievement, actions, and attitudes (the Taylors Mission). Realizing the importance of a support network for our students and families, our counselors work cooperatively with parents, teachers, administrators and outside agencies to provide whatever support is needed to make sure our students' needs are met. Resources include, but are not limited to, programs such as Triple P - Positive Parenting Program and ReThink Ed, a social/emotional learning program that supports social and emotional wellbeing.

In a concentrated effort to make “every minute count” at Taylors, we participate in the Universal Breakfast Program, providing a free, healthy and nutritious breakfast free of cost for all students. Additionally, we have formed an early morning student learning group for our students learning English as a second language, by opening our computer lab to allow this group of young learners to acquire the English language on Lexia. We have several after school programs for enrichment: Chorus, Green Team, Garden Club, Student Ambassadors, Safety Patrol, News Show Leaders and a student Lighthouse Team. We have also partnered with the Greenville Hospital System and have three trained Girls on the Run (GOTR) Coaches and twenty girls who joined the GOTR program. These girls participated in a 5K Run in November. We are proud to offer a Run Hard Club with three trained Coaches for our Taylors boys. The boys practice twice weekly and conclude their season with a 5K race.

To further promote student success and parental support, PTA events are designed to grow student leadership, engage our families and improve our community at large. This year our PTA hosted two outdoor movie nights, a time for Taylors families to come together for an evening of fun and fellowship. Taylors PTA has also supported the purchase of additional instruments to complete our Orff Ensemble, putting instruments in the hands of each and every one of our students. Our PTA takes an active interest in the everyday workings of the school and is eager to strengthen the connection between school and home. In collaboration with PTA and community partners, Taylors hosted a “Feed Your Minds, Feed Your Family” outdoor literacy night. Students and families shopped for books from our outdoor book fair, met with representatives from PTA and literacy based community organizations, and simply enjoyed an evening together.

Our school belief system embraces that every child is a leader and has genius! Our role as educators is to tap into those gifts and empower students to lead, thrive and grow as individuals. The Seven Habits are embedded throughout our school and everyday life at Taylors Elementary. We are proud to be a Leader in Me Lighthouse School and believe “Greatness Starts Here!”