

# Brunson Elementary 2013-2014 Palmetto Gold Winner

It was announced on Monday, March 25, 2013 that Brunson Elementary was a Palmetto Gold School for its overall performance on the PASS test. What's more impressive is that Brunson Elementary was the only school in the county to receive a gold or silver award. The Palmetto Gold award is based on student achievement gains on the PASS test. There are three main reasons Brunson Elementary was named one of fourteen South Carolina's Rewards Schools and now Palmetto Gold. Schools in South Carolina that are on these lists have close to 90% of its students passing the mandated state tests because of excellent teachers that know the standards and students who work hard every day, as well as parents who realize the importance of a solid education. When those three groups come together, a school can accomplish any goal it sets.

In 2011, we had a goal of 80% pass rate in ELA and 70% in Math. We knew that if we got that many students to meet Met or Exemplary, then the increase in the number of students alone would be quite an accomplishment. We had over 82% of our students pass the ELA PASS and 77% of our students pass the Math portion, so our goals were met. This year we took it up a notch higher. For 2013, we have a goal of 87% ELA and 80% Math. It is an ambitious one, but with the additions to our instruction, it can be met.

This year, Brunson Elementary has added ELA small group time, so that ELA teachers can work with those students having trouble with specific ELA concepts. Students have increased their independent reading, by more participating with the Reading Counts program. Since last year, we have put an emphasis on students reading independently. It can be any book they like. They then take a quiz on the book they read. Students have read four times as many books this year compared to last year. They are reading an average of twenty books this year, compared to only five per student last year. Brunson Elementary teachers expect a student's best effort and will settle for nothing less.

*Parents, students and teachers of Brunson Elementary can all take pride in this honor, knowing they played a significant part in the achievement!*