

Cedar Grove Elementary school is a Title I school in Anderson School District One that serves approximately 620 students in grades K4-5th grade. Despite the challenges that come with being a Title I school, Cedar Grove continues to build upon a legacy of student achievement. On the 2017 SC Ready assessment, 66% of Cedar Grove students scored “Meets” or “Exceeds”, as well as 54% of students on the ELA portion of the assessment. This is significantly above the state average of 42% in Math and 43% in ELA in comparison.

In addition, our school culture and climate continue to be a strength. Based on 2017 survey results, 100% of Cedar Grove teachers reported that they are satisfied with both the learning environment and the social/physical environment. In these same categories, between 94%-98% of students and parents report that they are satisfied with both the learning environment and social/physical environment.

Our school’s character development program continues to be rated as “Excellent”. This includes our school-wide character expectations called *Colt Customs*. These customs are expectations such as manners, eye contact, a good handshake, and other positive behaviors. In addition, our House System is one of the foundations for everything that we do. Modeled after the Ron Clark Academy, every student and adult belong to one of four houses that build camaraderie, school spirit, and motivation.

While we are proud of our progress and accomplishments, we continue to strive to improve in several areas. Our school to home communication and partnership is a primary focus for our school this year. This is reflected in our 2017 survey results which indicate that compared to our school environment, parents are not as satisfied with school-home relationships. Only 70% of parents reported that they were satisfied in this area. It is our goal to promote ways for parents to become involved in all areas of our school, as well as begin to build an effective PTO and stronger partnership with our parents. We will also improve communication between parents, teachers, and administration with a variety of vehicles of communication throughout the school year.

This year, we will have a specific focus on creative ways to help our male students be successful. Based on the 2017 SC Ready assessment, only 48% of our 4th and 5th grade boys scored “Meets” or “Exceeds” on the ELA portion of the test, compared to 69% of girls that scored “Meets” or “Exceeds” on the ELA portion. We will implement an all-boys 5th grade classroom with a boy-centered environment and strategies. We will also continue our “Man Up” mentoring program that focuses on positive character traits and a healthy image of masculinity and manhood.

In addition, many of our resources will be used to continue to improve our school literacy program. In order to promote a love of reading, we will look to provide our students with a variety of literacy experiences which will include: author visits, literacy night, literacy centered field trips, and expanding our classroom libraries. These resources and experiences will complement the daily dedication and development of our faculty and staff. Through reading intervention, reading professional development led by our Reading Coach, and a school wide focus on Lucy Calkins’ Units of Study, our students will continue to make tremendous growth and develop a love for Reading.