

West Pelzer Elementary School is helping all students by focusing on the South Carolina Profile of the Graduate. WPES is creating an environment that promotes valuable academic opportunities and addresses the individual needs of students. Our mission is to R.E.A.C.H. every child, parent, teacher, and community member of WPES by respecting others, educating all, achieving goals, communicating well, and setting high expectations while molding today's learner into tomorrow's creative and innovative thinker. This mission was put into practice by all faculty and staff during the 2020 school closures due to the pandemic.

Academic success is the driving force behind our mission. Our district's Digital Innovation program provided iPads to students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, encouraging them to be college and career ready upon graduation. Professional development continues to be provided to enhance students' experiences and meet individual needs. Literacy is a large focus with the "Read to Succeed Act" not only with instructional expectations but creating an environment where children love to read. We held literacy events such as Real Men Read, Literacy and STEAM Day, grade level parent literacy workshops, Administration/Student Book Clubs, and workshops for our ELL parents and students. Our teachers incorporated Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading to improve student reading achievement. These efforts will continue as well as teachers using Professional Learning Communities to address the academic needs of all students.

Teachers have used a variety of effective and engaging strategies in the classroom through field trips, musicals, plays and fifth-grade project-based learning with ecosystems and WWII. We promoted core academics by incorporating STEM activities, the Greenville Drive Reading program, math fluency recognitions, and literacy events to encourage reading. In response to student needs, we utilize best practices in intervention as well as reduced class sizes.

Life and career characteristics are enhanced in many ways. The Y Mentor program encourages mentors to spend time with our students. The WPES Champions League allows students to connect with a staff member within the building to encourage and support students. We are continuing to partner with Palmetto High School through Mustangs4Motivation. This provides our students with positive role models from successful high school students who participate in football, cheerleading, etc. They read to classes or help during morning drop-off.

Collaboration, teamwork, and self-direction are incorporated in our students' academic work; however, our school provides other opportunities for students to grow. We offer a Girls and Boys Running Club, Good News Club, Junior BETA Club, Safety Patrols, WPES Dance Team, and Student Council. Clemson University funds our afterschool program through a 21st Century grant. Our continued implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavior Implementation System) and TLIM (The Leader In Me) helped us to create a student-friendly, positive climate and establish common language and expectations for behavior. The Powdersville YMCA hosts an afterschool program at West Pelzer Elementary.

Our parents are very supportive and attend conferences, student performances, and Title I parent events. Our PTO worked hard to provide a Fall Festival, Spring Fling, Fifth Grade Dance, and Teacher Appreciation luncheons. We will expand our academic successes by creating a challenging learning environment for each student and a shared focus from parents, teachers, and the community. WPES celebrates the growth of our students each year as represented with report card data.