

SAXE GOTHA ELEMENTARY

South Carolina Statute (Act 135 of 1993) requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute an annual Report to the Parents highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the school's strategic plan. The report is developed by the School Improvement Council to share the challenges and successes of the school, students, parents and teachers for the current school year.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Josephy Casey, Principal

Amy Cooper, Assistant Principal

Amy Shearer, Family Liaison

Margie Dennis, Community Member

David Jones, Community Member

Andy Newell- Community Member

Jane Eliza Chisholm, School Counselor

Hope Clark, Teacher

Jana Brewer, Parent

Ginny Campbell, Parent

Mirella Gonzalez, Parent

Jason Hathcock, Parent

Donna Rhaney, Parent

Katelyn Sullivan, Parent

Antonio Pressley, Parent

Aretha Pressley, Parent

iReady is a district, formative assessment administered to students three times a year. The assessments are computer-adapted and utilized by teachers and administrators to inform instruction to meet the needs of students.

iReady Reading - At/Above Benchmark

Kindergarten - Fall: 12% Winter: 69%

1st Grade - Fall: 19% Winter: 44%

2nd Grade - Fall: 25% Winter: 38%

3rd Grade - Fall: 41% Winter: 63%

4th Grade - Fall: 29% Winter: 42%

5th Grade - Fall: 24% Winter: 32%

iReady Math - At/Above Benchmark

Kindergarten - Fall: 4% Winter: 41%

1st Grade - Fall: 9% Winter: 40%

2nd Grade - Fall: 8% Winter: 26%

3rd Grade - Fall: 10% Winter: 38%

4th Grade - Fall: 22% Winter: 39%

5th Grade - Fall: 24% Winter: 34%

The Spring testing window of iReady occurs in April and May.

MISSION

Our mission is to cultivate a caring community where ALL learners are extraordinary communicators, collaborators, creators and critical thinkers.

VISION

To empower everyone to be leaders, thinkers and creators of tomorrow.

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Special Olympics National Unified Champion School

21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Special Olympics Innovation Grant

MCEC Bright Ideas Grant

Green Steps School

Lexington One *School on the Move*

Saxe Gotha Elementary School

Joseph Casey, Principal (jcasey@lexington1.net)

Amy Cooper, Assistant Principal (acooper2@lexington1.net)

Lauren Vann, Assistant Principal (lvann@lexington1.net)

100 Bill Williamson Court

Lexington, SC 29073

Phone: 803-821-4800

Fax: 803-821-4803



PROGRESS ON SIC GOAL FOR 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 Saxe Gotha Elementary School Improvement Council met throughout the school year and focused on the goal of building community through family engagement events. The first part of our mission is to cultivate a caring community and our efforts this year showed a renewed sense of vigor on building ties between our parents, business partners, local church volunteers, and other community partners. These efforts aligned with our goals of creating a sense of belonging for all children in the school building. With a greater sense of community around our school, our children have more opportunities to create a positive connection with our school, the staff members, and their peers.

Our family engagement plan aimed to provide opportunities for families to engage in learning, social, and fun activities at our school and local businesses. We began our family engagements in the summer with our SGES Spirit Nights at local businesses around the Red Bank & Lexington area. We held five SGES Spirit Nights and received such positive feedback from the local business; they reported that our spirit nights were among the most successful they have had and welcomed us back. SGES Spirit Nights were held at Zaxby's (twice), Groucho's, Marco's Pizza, and Highway 55. Children and families were able to enjoy a meal together outside the school building and build positive relationships.

The next part of our community building plan was to equip parents with the knowledge and tools they need to support their children at home. A new event added this year was SGES Parent University, held in November during American Education Week. At this event, parents were given the opportunity to attend multiple sessions on a variety of topics that aimed to help them advocate for their children and deepen their understanding of the instructional approach and model we use at SGES. We offered sessions on Reading Workshop, Math Workshop, Response to Intervention, School Counseling, and Feedback Driven Progress Reporting (School Report Cards). This event was well received and paired with our spring event, The Shining Star Showcase, held in March. At this event, all of our related arts teachers had grade-levels showcase different projects they completed throughout the school year and held a musical performance by our 4th graders. During the event, we also provided parents with information on SC Ready Testing and the South Carolina Department of Education survey's impact. Providing our parents with the knowledge, tools, and resources to support their children at home was a major success as a part of our community building goal.

At our Grandparents Breakfast, we invited grandparents in for a meal with their grandchild and then provided them with resources and tips to help enrich the literary lives of their grandchildren. We followed that event with our Pastries with Parents event that invited parents in for a sweet treat with their child and provided them with resources and tips to help their children grow in mathematics. Both events were well attended with a lot of positive feedback.

Mentoring is another large part of our school's focus and bringing in community members to provide opportunities for students to build positive relationships with the community was a major success. We partnered with Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative and each week they sent volunteers to engage children in fun activities related to science and engineering but also built positive relationships with the children through fun activities like baseball and basketball. We continued our relationship with USC hosting the "Tall Teachers, Small Teachers" program to provide learning experiences during Reading and Writing Workshops. USC students worked individually with students to observe students' reading and writing habits, reflect on these observations, and plan specific instruction. Members of Covenant Community Church and Lexington Church of God came to our school weekly to read to our 2nd grade students and, in conjunction with our Literacy Coach, worked in small groups with children on their reading skills. We capped off our community events with our Read Across America Week Read-in and invited school leaders and community members to read a book to our children related to our theme "*One Dream: A Constellation of Stellar Readers*." All of our children were able to have a community member come to their classroom to share their love of reading.

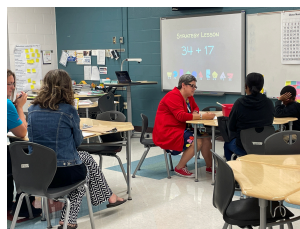
Finally, we partnered with our PTA to provide the fun events that children and families love each year. We held two drive-in style SGES Movie Nights. Children and families were able to park in our bus loop and we had a large screen on the roof of the building. PTA Bingo Night was another highly requested night that did not disappoint and Family Game Night was filled with joy as parents and children played board games and card games together.

Our School Improvement Council's goal of engaging the community and building our community relationships was a resounding success. The students and staff at Saxe Gotha Elementary School are so thankful for the support the community shows in the lives of our children.

Spirit Nights



Parent University



Grandparent's Breakfast



Community Read-In



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY & BUSINESS PARTNERS

*Lexington County Sheriff's
Department
WP Rawl Farms
Dickerson Children's Advocacy
Center
LifeChanges Family Guidance &
Wellness
Lexington County Mental Health
Highway 55
Marco's Pizza
Starbucks
Lowe's Foods
Publix
Office Depot
The Lex Nutrition & Energy
Northside Baptist
Lexington Church of God
St. Peter's Lutheran
Office Depot
Zaxby's
Sesquicentennial State Park
The Chicken Guys
Ms. South Carolina: Jada Samuel*

*Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative
Lexington County Fire Service
Lexington County EMS
SC Department of Natural
Resources
USC School of Education
Lexington County Blowfish
Lexington County Public Library
Mosaic Church
Radius White Knoll
Covenant Community Church
Saint James Lutheran
Mt. Horeb United Methodist
Red Bank United Methodist
Lexington United Methodist
Red Bank Baptist
The Heritage Co
Mac's Realty
Groucho's
Columbia Martial Arts
SC Career Kids
Lexington Soil and Water
Conservation District*

Saxe Gotha Elementary School

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