

# SAXE GOTHAELEMENTARY

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

Joseph Casey, Principal	Katelyn Sullivan, SIC President
Amy Cooper, Assistant Principal	Michael Hightower, Parent
Ketsie Merizalde, Family Liaison	Jill Parker, Community Member
Margie Dennis, Community Member	Robyn Neville, Teacher
Andy Newell- Community Member	Ben Pickens, Secretary
Donna Neisha Steele, Teacher	

**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: 17%	Winter: 65%
1st Grade - Fall: 9%	Winter: 32%
2nd Grade - Fall: 22%	Winter: 43%
3rd Grade - Fall: 29%	Winter: 44%
4th Grade - Fall: 27%	Winter: 45%
5th Grade - Fall: 31%	Winter: 39%

### iReady Math - At/Above Benchmark

Kindergarten - Fall: 9%	Winter: 54%
1st Grade - Fall: 3%	Winter: 22%
2nd Grade - Fall: 11%	Winter: 36%
3rd Grade - Fall: 10%	Winter: 19%
4th Grade - Fall: 21%	Winter: 40%
5th Grade - Fall: 30%	Winter: 44%

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

## MISSION

*Our mission is to ensure all children learn, grow, and excel in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.*

## VISION

*We are the Shining Stars.  
We are kind.  
We are knowledgable.  
We are resilient.  
We are growing as learners and we belong here.*

## AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Special Olympics National Unified Champion School  
21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Recipient  
MCEC Bright Ideas Grant Recipient  
Green Steps School  
Lexington One Foundation Innovation Grant Recipient

### Saxe Gotha Elementary School

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## PROGRESS ON SIC GOAL FOR 2023-2024

The 2024-2025 Saxe Gotha Elementary School Improvement Council focused on expanding community engagement to support reading in academic classes. This goal built upon the foundation established last year by our previous school improvement council, which was to build community through family engagement events. This year, we took it a step further by leveraging our community partners to help increase reading in academic areas. Our school improvement council's goals culminated in a school-wide Community Read-In during Read Across America Week.

Our Community Reading Plan began with a Literacy Night at our Fall Festival on October 24, 2024, where we invited the engaging "Just a Chicken Guys." Our families loved seeing award-winning authors engage with parents on how to support their children's reading development and provide an engaging program for families that sparked renewed interest in reading. The "Just a Chicken Guys" signed books for folks and led a wonderful night that celebrated reading.

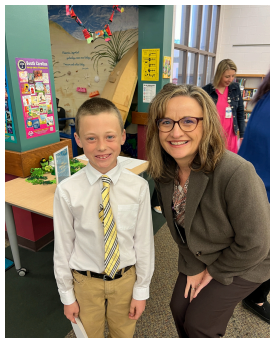
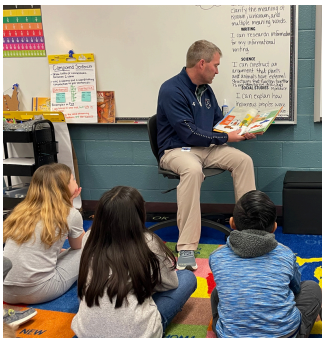
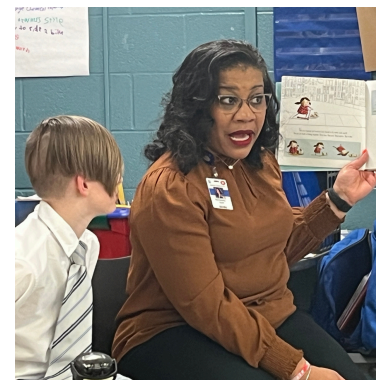
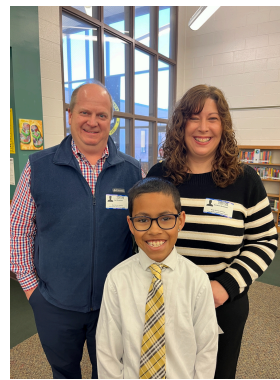
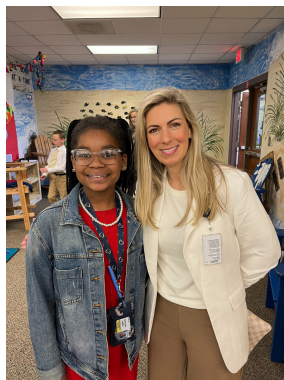
The second part of our community reading plan was to leverage our partnership with local community churches to support reading in the classroom. We targeted second and third-grade classrooms, and each week, members from Covenant Community Church came into classrooms to conduct read-alouds and lead small groups reading activities with children. This was supported by our literacy coach, who worked tirelessly to prepare our community partners so they could best serve our children. We also partnered with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department to individually meet with children and read with them. This partnership with the community helps our children expand their vocabularies, improve their reading comprehension, increase their phonological awareness, develop fluency and expressive language, and instill a love of reading.

The final part of our "Community Reading Plan" culminated in a wonderful celebration of reading at our 2nd Annual Community Read-In. Our theme this year was "A Celebration of Creativity, Hard Work, and BIG Dreams!" We invited community partners, Lexington School District One leaders, and Watch D.O.G.S. to read books to the children that all shared a theme similar to our community reading theme. This joyous event continued to show students the power of a caring community coming together to support our school's academic mission: *To ensure all children learn, grow, and excel in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.*

Our School Improvement Council also set a goal to expand our family engagement by revitalizing our Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program. This program aims to increase the volunteerism of fathers (and father figures) in schools. We successfully kickstarted our Watch D.O.G.S. with a dozen dads looking to help our school in a variety of ways. We look forward to our Watch D.O.G.S. growing even more in 2025-2026.

In the upcoming year, we will continue to expand our community partnerships to leverage them for the positive benefit of our students and staff. Our school community is thriving, and it's part of what makes Saxe Gotha Elementary School a wonderful place to be a student, teacher, parent, or community member. One Team, One Dream!

# Our Community Reading Plan in Action!



## Watch D.O.G.S.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY &amp; BUSINESS PARTNERS

*Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church*  
*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*  
*Zaxby's*  
*Sesquicentennial State Park*  
*The Just A Chicken Guys*  
*Terminix*

*Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative*  
*Lexington County Fire Service*  
*Lexington County EMS*  
*SC Department of Natural*  
*Resources*  
*USC School of Education*  
*USC School of Dance*  
*Lexington County Blowfish*  
*Lexington County Public Library*  
*Mosaic Church*  
*Radius White Knoll*  
*Covenant Community Church*  
*Saint James Lutheran*  
*Mt. Horeb 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**

Lexington County School District One is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, parents/legal guardians, staff, visitors, personnel and community members who participate or seek to participate in its programs or activities. Therefore, the district does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or any related medical conditions), color, disability, age, genetic information, national origin or any other applicable status protected by local, state or federal law.

The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district designates specific individuals to handle inquiries or complaints. To find out whom to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at <http://www.lexington1.net/contact-us>.