

2019-20 BLES School Report Card

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2017-18	Average	Average
2014	Average	Average
2013	Average	Below Average
2012	Average	Good
2011	Average	Good
2010.	Average	Average
2009	Average	Average
2019-20	Average	Below Average

- Batesburg-Leesville Elementary School is a Palmetto's Finest winner for the 2017-2018 school year!



- Batesburg-Leesville Elementary School was named a Transform SC school this school year for our work with personalized learning!



School Improvement Council Members 2019-20

Beverly Cariere– Co-Chair

Quentin Whitt—Community Member

Mo Baldwin– Co-Chair

Donna Padgett—Afterschool Program Director

Shila Tharp– Teacher of the Year (20-21)

Kristin Pugh– Teacher of Year (19-20)

Matthew Velasquez, Principal
(Ex-Officio)

Samantha Kennedy, Assistant Principal (Ex-Officio)

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**Batesburg-Leesville
Elementary School**

Annual Report to Parents 2020-2021



Matthew Velasquez, Principal

**Samantha Kennedy,
Assistant Principal**

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Principal's Message

Welcome to Batesburg-Leesville Elementary School! I am honored to be the principal of this amazing school family and am excited to share just a few of the phenomenal things happening at our school.

At BLES, we work hard to promote a culture of perseverance, work ethic, and belief in ourselves and each other. You may notice students wearing lanyards with pins and talking about clipping up on the behavior chart. Students have an opportunity to earn Panther PRIDE tickets on a daily basis which they can use to earn lanyards and pins. PRIDE is an acronym that stands for the following:

Positive

Respectful

Involved

Determined

Enthusiasm

Through this system, we firmly believe that we are addressing the skills that students need to be successful now and in the workforce later in life!

You may see students engaged in "Panther time" throughout the day. Our "Panther Time" differentiation blocks for ELA and Math are built into the day to provide opportunities for students to receive small group instruction, one-on-one instruction, and to collaborate with their peers. Technology is often integrated into learning stations at this time. Our students can hardly wait for "Panther time" each day! This also allows us to serve the needs of our students through Gifted and Talented, Response to Intervention (RTI), and Special Needs. This is truly a time where students' learning is personalized based on their strengths and areas for growth.

This year, in spite of Covid, we continued our Personalized Learning initiative through flexible grouping, flexible seating, learner pathways, learner profiles, and continuing the use of data notebooks throughout our school. Our teachers immersed themselves in the areas of personalized learning to grow professionally and provide our students with structures that make learning more meaningful. Teachers also developed Student Learning Progressions that allowed families to see what skills the class was learning, their child's current level of success, and the goal for mastery.

Our Related Arts team was able to still be a vital part of student achievement despite Covid restrictions. Our teachers organized Covid friendly activities such as Workout Wednesdays, Buddy Lunches, Virtual Music Programs, and helped organize our Drive Through Parent Night. We look forward to bringing back our Honors Choir, Broadway musical, and other extra curricular activities for the 2021-22 school year.

Finally, we started the beginning phase of our Panther College program a couple of years ago. This program was designed to give students opportunities to explore different career options at a young age. It is my belief that we must begin exposing students to careers and having conversations about their interest in careers at a young age to foster goal setting within the child. Through Panther College and the help of community volunteers, students were able to choose courses in the areas of electrical engineering, coding, agricultural business and science, photography, nursing, drama, turf grass management, HVAC, and journalism. One of our main goals for 2021-22 is to bring this program back! Thank you parents and stakeholders for all of your support through a crazy year! Go Panthers!

Matthew Velasquez

Principal, BLES



2018-2023 School

Renewal Plan Goals

- By 2035, 90% of students will score a level two or higher on SC Ready by creating a more rigorous classroom environment and increasing support for at-risk students. By 2023, the percentage will increase from 74.2% to 79.5%.
- By 2035, 70% of English learners will achieve annual progress in English by the end of the 5th year in the EL program through supports for English learners. By 2023, the percentage will increase from 31% to 44%.
- By 2023, the percent of stakeholders satisfied with the social and physical environment on the EOC survey will increase by 1.5 percentage points a year to 95% for parents and 100% for teachers through facility upgrades and meeting students' social needs.

Lexington School District Three recently completed an external review process with AdvancED and received above the network average scores. The District and Batesburg Leesville Elementary School are fully accredited through AdvancED. As part of the process, the School Renewal Plan was updated. The BLES School Improvement Council and School Leadership Team will provide annual updates on progress towards our goals.

BLES Highlights

- PBIS Panther PRIDE system
- Implementation of Personalized Learning (data notebooks, learning paths, and flexible seating)
- Panther Time Differentiation and Enrichment block for both ELA and Math.
- School of Journalism to expose students to various careers in media, technology, and broadcasting.
- Our students are learning French or Spanish through Rosetta Stone in our computer labs.
- Off campus field trips to Charleston, Camp Greenville, and Capers Island
- Implementation of Lucy Calkins Writing Workshop this year.
- Math-a-thon and Literacy Bowl
- After School Tutoring Program
- Girls on the Run
- Math Club
- Student winners in State Youth Art Exhibition through the SC Arts Education Association
- Unify Champions
- 5th Grade Maker Faire
- We have implemented Project Based Learning (PBL) in all grade levels.
- Educate My Sole school
- Girls on the Run and Panther Prowl
- Girls Soccer Club
- Honors Choir
- Community Garden (AKA Sorority Partnership)
- Panther College (career exposure in numerous fields)
- Coding, STEM, and Makerspaces in our Media Center