

McCormick Elementary School's

Report to the People 2016-2017

At McCormick Elementary School, we follow the district's lead with our purpose being to *Educate, Prepare* and *Inspire* students to be productive citizens in a changing global society. We strive to provide a challenging instructional program for all students to achieve grade level expectations to be college and career ready. Our school offers students a quality education in a safe learning environment where children are mentored, nurtured, and challenged to always do their best. We embrace innovations and best educational practices as a means through which children can become responsible adults who live and work effectively. To accomplish this end, we focus on our instructional program, teacher preparedness, a strong home-school connection, and a positive school climate that promotes a culture of teaching and learning.

The instructional program at McCormick Elementary school is implemented through a wide variety of methods and materials. Students receive 120 minutes of uninterrupted English Language Arts instruction each day. Teachers implement a Balanced Literacy approach to reading, writing, and language arts instruction based on the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards in ELA. Social Studies instruction is also integrated into the language arts curriculum. One hundred minutes of math instruction is provided to students to master grade level SCCCR standards. Students also receive 45 minutes of science instruction daily, with weekly opportunities to apply their knowledge during science lab time. Academic needs of students are addressed through the use of a reading interventionist, computer assisted instruction, and differentiated instruction within the classroom. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores and results from Fountas and Pinnell benchmarking reflect growth in all areas, but we continue to strive to close the achievement gaps where they exist.

To support teaching and learning, teachers are provided with differentiated coaching in all subject areas from instructional leaders at the school, district and state levels. Teachers plan collaboratively to best meet the academic needs of our students through careful data analysis and implementation of high yield instructional strategies. Other relevant professional development opportunities for teachers include district G.E.M.S. sessions throughout the school year and school level book studies that provide them with best practices that lead all students to meaningful learning.

To support academic success, our students are taught social skills that encourage making good choices. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports is a framework that allows us to teach appropriate behaviors and make provisions for incentives such as school bucks and school socials for our students who exemplify positive expectations. Classroom guidance lessons are taught to classes weekly. Small group and individual guidance sessions are held as needed. Lessons and sessions assist students with conflict, bullying, study skills, peer pressure, and good decision making. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated to remind our students to be free from drug abuse. Bully Prevention Week activities are presented to spotlight the devastating results of being bullied and to teach ways to prevent and stop this crime. A mentoring program is available to students experiencing social and behavior concerns. Community members as well as school personnel act as mentors.

Parents and community members provide strong support through our Parent Teacher Organization, Business Partners, and School Volunteer programs. Our School Improvement Council and our Title I Planning Committee lead the charge to support goals outlined in our School Improvement Plan. To also

support academic success, our parents are invited and encouraged to participate in interim and report card conferences, parent-teacher conferences and PTO events such as: Family Night, Grandparents' Banquet, Awards/Honors Days, Literacy Nights, and Field Day.

Our school administration and staff recognize the importance of all four of these focus areas coming together as a collective whole in order to accomplish the goals and tasks of educating our students to become responsible adults who live and work productively. This is reflected in our school theme that "Together Everyone Achieves More as a T, E, A, M...Team!" We are committed to providing a challenging instructional program delivered by innovative, creative teachers in a positive school climate in conjunction with an involved, supportive community. The success of our students and our school are paramount in all decisions outlined in our School Renewal Plan and in meeting the diverse needs of all students.

Patricia C. Burch, Principal

Michael Belt, SIC Chairperson