

Starr Elementary School  
Report to the People 2021

Starr Elementary School is committed to helping all students develop characteristics and World Class Skills that are related to the profile of the South Carolina Graduate. All students in pre-kindergarten (K4) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are provided with a safe, encouraging, academically challenging and rigorous learning environment. Starr Elementary is dedicated to fulfilling our vision of “Leading the Way to a Brighter Future” by providing all students with instruction that challenges their understanding, deepens their skill knowledge, and ignites a self-motivated purpose and passion for learning.

During the 2020-2021 school year, administration and teachers worked together to find new ways to guide instruction for our students by having vertical team meetings across grade levels. Teachers were able to see the strengths and weaknesses that students have when leaving one grade level and enter into another. Teachers were then able to use this information to guide grade level instruction that would better support our students’ needs and fill in the learning gaps where needed in the subjects of ELA and Math.

Teachers continuously drive their instruction based on the South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards. Instruction is delivered in a variety of ways, including large group instruction, small group instruction and individual instruction in order to challenge students to think critically, problem solve, collaborate together, and communicate effectively with one another. Starr uses a Balanced Literacy approach to learning language arts and integrates reading and writing into other core subjects to increase knowledge in all subject areas. Teachers foster inquiry-based learning in the classroom by developing independent and self-motivated learners.

Students are also encouraged to participate in reading programs outside of the classroom such as the Greenville Drive All Star Reading program. We had 100% participation in this event. Our students also participated in Pizza Hut’s “Book It” Program. Students in grades K-2 were challenged to read at home for 20 minutes each day and students in grades 3-5 were challenged to read 8 books within each month. Students who completed these challenges and turned in reading logs earned pizza vouchers. We are proud to participate in programs that encourage our students to be strong readers.

Starr Elementary continues to provide a STEM program that serves as an additional related arts class for grades K5-5th. This STEM classroom incorporates South Carolina Standards from all grade levels into each assignment. In addition to this related arts program, Starr has been able to enhance its STEM program this year by adding a Gifted and Talented STEM class. This G&T STEM class allows students to use higher order thinking and gives them opportunities to collaborate across grade levels to complete advanced STEM projects. Our students’ parents and families are invited each year to attend our STEM Family Night, which gives families an opportunity to work creatively, cooperatively and think critically to complete projects within and around the school. Students within our school use critical thinking and problem solving skills in

areas such as the Rocket Launch Project, the egg drop experiment, coding, Jet Toy, and Robotics teams.

Our faculty and staff are dedicated to reaching an Excellent rating each year by continuing to meet in vertical teams, study the best and most effective practices to help our students succeed, and continue to provide authentic and rigorous academic instruction. We strive to bridge the learning gaps from the loss of instruction during the pandemic to produce successful lifelong learners.

Melissa Davis, Principal

Ashlea Hatcher, Chair

Other Members: Tonya Barbare, Ariel Davis, Jaime Davis, Johnnie Dickerson, Jessica Eaton, Michelle Sonefelt, Iris Suber, Christy Baldwin, Susan Bryant, Rhonda Carnes, Tonya Fowler, Stephanie McClellan