

SIC Report to the Parents

May 18, 2020

Starr Elementary School

400 Professor Brown Lane Starr, SC 29684

Principal—Melissa M. Davis SIC Chair— Ashlea Hatcher

SIC Members— Parents- Ariel Davis, Johnnie Dickerson, Ashlea Hatcher

Teachers- Tonya Barbare, Jamie Davis, Jessica Eaton, Michelle Sonefeld, Iris Suber

Ex-officio members- Stephanie McClellan, Melissa Davis

Purpose of the Report: To inform the parents and community members of the many exciting and educational endeavors that have occurred this year at Starr Elementary.

The faculty and staff at Starr Elementary are dedicated to helping all students meet and exceed their individual abilities. We strive daily to help them develop to their fullest potential in becoming college and career ready. Starr Elementary serves students in K4 through 5th grade. Our total enrollment was 500 students during the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, we host 40 Head Start Preschool students for qualifying three and four year old children.

All grade levels at Starr Elementary hold students accountable for mastering the state standards and striving for excellence as they are emerged with character traits including integrity, self-direction, perseverance, strong work ethics, and interpersonal skills to help them in all facets of life. 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.

Starr Elementary includes a variety of STEM instruction that allow students to 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. This year, one of our student teams placed first in the District Jet Toy competition and advanced to the Regional tournament. The Starr Elementary Tiger Bots (Robotics team) placed in the top five at the Tri County Qualifier tournament in November and were able to advance to the Regional tournament. At the Regional Tournament, they placed in the top 12 and advanced to State. They went on to try out for the First Lego League Asia Pacific Open Championship in Sydney, Australia. They were chosen to represent South Carolina at the tournament in Australia this summer.

Curriculum at Starr Elementary is data driven. Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) tests are given three times each year to help our staff better determine students' strengths and needs within the curriculum. Benchmark assessments are given to find each child's reading level and writing abilities. This data driven instruction allows teachers to better meet the needs of each individual student.

Student achievement data is the primary focus that drives our instruction. Baseline data was the average SCPASS scores and data from the administration of the SC Ready test. Starr Elementary was above the state average for students scoring "Met" or "Exceeding" in all four core areas of the SC Ready. Math was the area that was the strongest, with Starr's percentage of students scoring "met" or "exceeding" was at 78.1%, the district average was 59.7%, and the state average 45.1%. In reading, Starr had 54.4% scoring "met" or "exceeding", while the district average was 50.4% and the state was 45.4%. The analysis of the SCPASS scores showed our school being above the state in met/exemplary in science and social studies. Starr showed 61% of students who scored "met" or "exceeding" in science compared to 49.1% statewide. Starr also showed 91.7% of students who scored "met" or "exceeding" in social studies compared to 67.6% statewide. With the implementation of the SC Ready test and the South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards, the Starr Elementary faculty and staff are continually striving to improve student achievement and test scores.

Starr Elementary's students participated 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 this year in Pizza Hut's "Book It" Program. Starr Baptist continues to partner with us by supplying weekend food bags for those students in need. These programs help foster the relationship between the school, home and community. Many parents and community members have volunteered numerous hours giving of their time, energy, and support to help Starr shine bright in all areas.