

**2023-2024  
School Improvement Council**

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Erin Bramlett   | Parent/SIC Chair      |
| Blake Hedden    | Parent                |
| Erin Garland    | Asst. Principal       |
| Kerri Tilson    | Parent                |
| Nivia Miranda   | Bilingual Facilitator |
| Jessica Lemere  | Parent                |
| Brad Siedschlag | Asst. Principal       |
| Mary Thrift     | Principal             |
| Lauren Provost  | Teacher               |

**Vision Statement**

We envision a welcoming school that provides an atmosphere in which students are motivated to learn. With the support of the community, instruction is enhanced to meet the academic and developmental needs of each student. James M. Brown Elementary School empowers children to positively impact the world in which they live.



**Belief Statements**

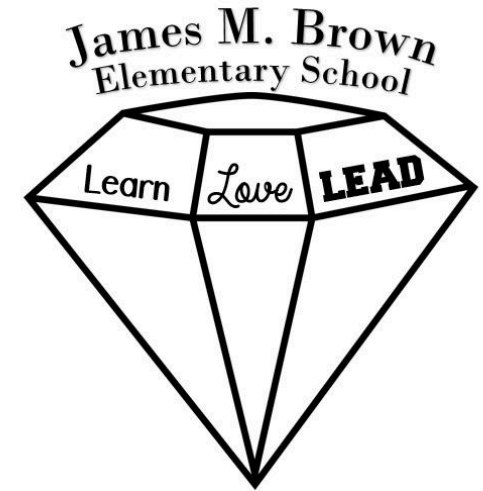
We believe that...

- ◆ Education is a lifelong process.
- ◆ Education will provide opportunities for students to learn to communicate effectively, solve problems, think critically and display their creativity.
- ◆ Students will utilize resources that will prepare them for our ever-changing technological society.
- ◆ All students will learn and achieve academic success within a secure environment.
- ◆ Students are the center of the education process and will accept the responsibility to be actively engaged in the learning process.
- ◆ Parents and guardians will accept the responsibility to actively support the learning process.
- ◆ The educational process will be valued and supported by the local community.
- ◆ All individuals will be treated with dignity and respect.

**James M. Brown  
Elementary School**

2023-2024

**Report to the People**



**MISSION STATEMENT**

James M. Brown Elementary is a place where students feel loved and love to learn.

**Mary Thrift, Principal**

**Erin Garland, Assistant Principal  
Brad Siedschlag, Assistant Principal**

James M. Brown Elementary  
225 Coffee Road  
Walhalla, SC 29691

864-718-4200  
864-886-4471 (fax)



The School District of Oconee County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in admission to, access to, or employment in its programs and activities. The Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Director of Special Services and 504/ADA coordinator, and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction (Title II) have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding any discrimination matter. Their offices are located at 414 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691. They may be contacted at 864.886.4400 if you have questions.

Dear Parents,

This Report is issued by the James M. Brown Elementary School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year. This report is distributed to all James M. Brown Elementary students, parents/guardians, the district office, and the Oconee County Board of Trustees. In addition, copies can be found in the main office.

If you have questions about the information summarized or about JMB, please call Mary Thrift, Principal, at 718-4299 or email at [mthrift@sdoc.org](mailto:mthrift@sdoc.org).



## JMB Curricular Goals

James M. Brown Elementary continues to review, revise, and improve our school plan in order to strive for excellence. The following are key areas of focus and implementation for us:

**Literacy in all classrooms** - We continue to emphasize best-practices in literacy in every classroom. We provide ongoing professional development on instructional strategies and resources such as Shifting the Balance, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, guided reading, small group instruction.

**Using data to drive instruction** - We continue to analyze and utilize data from school, district, and state assessments such as SC READY, Benchmarks, MAP, FastBridge, and various classroom and school level programs. We also provide ongoing professional development on leveraging the data to maximize our teaching.

**Implementing Technology** - We continue to utilize technology as an instructional tool by purchasing Chromebooks, interactive panels, and other various technology items for classrooms and student learning.

**Interventions and Enrichment** - We continue to provide intervention and enrichment resources for teachers to use with students in the areas of reading and math. We have a Reading Coach on campus to help support teachers in implementing interventions in the classroom. In addition, all students receive an enrichment period during the school day to further individualize instruction.

## JMB Information for 2023-2024

Grades: PreK-5th grade  
Enrollment: 570 students  
Males: 293, Females: 277  
Average Pupil to Teacher Ratio: 17 to 1  
All Students Served Free Lunch/Breakfast  
Average Daily Attendance: 92%

### **Ethnicity Breakdown of JMB**

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| White                     | 60%  |
| Hispanic/Latino           | 35%  |
| Black or African American | 3.0% |
| Two or More races, Other  | 2.0% |

### **JMB Celebrations**

National Beta Club School of Merit  
Student Leadership  
Watch DOGS Program  
House traditional beehive and apiary for district  
Maintain a sustainable school garden  
Partnership with Clemson Hope  
Partnership with Mentoring Upstate  
Title 1 School

