



Learning through the Arts

SIC Report to the People

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Standards Implementation and Professional Development – All teachers continue to utilize the SC College and Career - Ready Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Teachers have received professional development in ELA and Math and will continue to learn more about these rigorous standards throughout this year to best meet the needs of our students.

ROAR program - Our school - wide academic assistance program for reading and math continues to benefit our students. Students receive assistance during a 50 minute block during the school day. We use the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) system as our reading intervention for students not reading on grade level. Based on our data, our students have shown significant growth. We are excited to have this intervention system and look forward to seeing even more reading growth in the future.

Reading and Enrichment Time - In order to achieve uninterrupted class time, all students, including those needing special services, receive enrichment during a 50 minute block of time each day. These blocks of time are staggered among grade levels.

Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's Birthday – Our staff and students celebrate Read Across America day in several ways. Teachers encourage reading each day, but this day reading is emphasized! Our youngest students come to school dressed as their favorite book characters and participate in a parade holding the book that has their character in it. Our older students enjoy watching our youngest students and cheering them on.

Walk to School Day and Disabilities Awareness Day – Our staff and students combine physical activity with learning more about students with disabilities. While some students are walking during their related arts period, others are going through various stations “experiencing” some of the struggles our students with disabilities face daily. La France Elementary is currently a “Silver Level” partner with the SC Safe Routes Program due to our participation in programs like Walk to School Day.

SC Dogs Therapy “Bark” Program – Students participate in animal assisted activities that are goal directed, therapeutic interventions to help meet their special needs.

Writers' Pride – Students are encouraged and celebrated for exemplary writing each

nine weeks with a cookies and milk snack and small writing gifts. Their writing is showcased on a Writers' Pride bulletin board for the entire school to enjoy.

Read to Succeed – Many of our teachers are taking classes to become more aware of how to engage our students in literacy best practices across all subjects. As a result, we can see a huge improvement with student engagement in all content areas.

GoalPost – In collaboration with Clemson University, extra assistance is provided to students based on academic need in grades 3-6.

Tutoring Program- We collaborate with local universities to obtain student tutors for our students. While the college students receive credit for their classes, our students receive extra weekly support.

Mentoring Program – Students receive special attention from mentors from various walks of life depending on their needs. For example, our Good News Club leaders have mentored several of our students based on teacher requests.

MAGI Christmas Assistance – Families receive meals and gifts donated by area churches and distributed through our school.

Backpack and PACK Program- In collaboration with United Way and our local churches, we provide book bags and all of the needed supplies to begin the school year. In addition, we send home “kid-friendly” meals each weekend in backpacks for students in need.

Character Education Program - Each nine weeks a different character trait is introduced and at the end of the nine weeks, each teacher selects one winner. The winner is recognized during awards day. Students are also rewarded with special field trips and activities each 9 weeks.

Olweus Bully - Prevention Program – This comprehensive, school - wide approach addresses bullying and creates a safer, more positive place to learn. Olweus focuses on improving relationships among our students rather than just those who have been bullied or have bullied others.

International Peace Day - On Sept. 16, the entire school population assembled on the school grounds for a ceremony to affirm our desire to spread peace in our world. We sang songs about peace and two Pendleton High students, former students of La France, gave suggestions on how to prevent bullying at our school. Students used the Zentangle method of creating line and shape patterns with sharpies on their pinwheel templates. Next the pinwheels were constructed using straws and pins. We used our pinwheels to create an art installation that reflects our wish for a peaceful school campus. We used this event as a kick-off for our anti-bullying program at our school.

Archery in PE - LES students in third through sixth grades participated in the National Archery in the Schools archery unit in the fall. Students perfected their skills and had an opportunity to try out for the archery team. With the leadership of Coach Terry and Mr. Brock, the La France Archery team has once again earned state recognition. Our team placed 1st in the district and regional tournaments and are currently ranked 2nd going into the state tournament.

SC Elementary Honors Choir since 2005 – Three of our students represented our school in this year’s performance in Columbia, SC. The choir consisted of approximately 240 students from across the state selected through a rigorous recorded audition process.

Engaging students through Visual Arts - Ten of our students had art work displayed at the Anderson County Arts Council during Youth Art Month and one student was awarded 3rd place overall in the elementary division. All students will have the opportunity to work with artists in residence during our day long arts event in April. All students have artwork on display on Artsonia, which is an online art gallery where over 2500 pieces of art have been posted this year. Students write artist statements and all art viewers are invited to leave comments for students. Nearly 165,000 views have been recorded this year.

Engaging Learners with a Focus on the Arts – Our teachers have continued using the strategies they learned through the Focus Five training and Kennedy Center workshops to integrate the arts into our curriculum. Specifically, we have learned how the use of movement, drama, art, and music will enhance lessons ensuring our students retain what they learn through the 4C’s (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity) and further assist our students in the development of 21st Century Learning Skills.*

Cup Stacking - Physical education used Speed Stacks to have students work on their eye-hand coordination, ambidexterity and concentration through cross - linear movements and patterns. Once students have experienced the use of Speed Stacks, research shows the brain experiences biological changes which lead to an increase in academic abilities, memory retrieval and cognitive abilities.

Dance - Our PTO has sponsored a dance teacher to teach our 4K - Second grade students. Through this program, the students learn dance moves that help with body control and body motion. They are exposed to different types of dance (jazz, ballet, etc), learning multiple steps and combinations to create small routines. In addition, the students experience different types of music while discovering the beats and other aspects of music as it relates to dance.

PTO – Our Parent Teacher Organization plays an active role in our school community sponsoring family and school events throughout the school year including our Father/Daughter Dance and all our Family Nights.

IXL Math and IXL ELA – IXL Math and ELA are designed to help your child learn at his or her own pace. The website is adaptive and will adjust to your child’s needs. IXL Math and ELA are aligned with state standards and Common Core. This year we added IXL Social Studies and Science in fourth and fifth grades.

2017 All Stars Program – The Greenville Drive All Star Reading Program is a reading incentive program aimed at promoting reading and academic success among youth across the Upstate. The program is open to 3rd – 8th grades.

AOP Jet Toy - This is the fourth year our students have participated in the challenge sponsored by A World in Motion, which is a program that brings science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to life in the classroom. The Jet Toy Challenge event challenges students to create balloon-powered toy cars that meet specific performance criteria like; distance traveled, weight carried, and speed. Jet propulsion, friction, air resistance, and design are the core scientific concepts students explore in this challenge.

Wax Museum 2nd grade - Each 2nd Grade student chooses a famous American and researches that person's life. After completing research, each student writes a report and makes a display including the report and artifacts to represent the person. The entire school along with parents and other guests are invited to come and view our annual Second Grade Wax Museum.

School-wide SC Ready Data from the 2016-17 school year:

- 88.8% meeting or exceeding standard for ELA
- 87.5 meeting or exceeding for Math
- 68.9% meeting or exceeding standard for Science
- 82.9% meeting or exceeding standard for Social Studies
- 69.5% meeting or exceeding standard for Writing

I am thrilled to say we performed better than schools like ours.

21st Century Skills and Arts Integration

With the vast social, cultural, technological, and economical changes our nation is experiencing, as well as those we have yet to imagine, many are reconsidering what knowledge and skills students will need to be successful in the 21st century. The question under consideration is how to create “a new learning environment consistent with the cognitive and expressive demands of the 21st century.” The teachers and staff at La France Elementary feel the answer to this question is for students to be immersed in the arts encouraging creativity and problem solving.

That arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic.”

—William Bennett, Former US Secretary of Education

