



Forest Acres Elementary School

Working together to build Foundations of Academic Excellence

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2010-2011

Forest Acres Elementary School faculty and staff provide exemplary instruction for ALL children in a caring and safe environment. Our faculty and staff share the same high expectations as the parents: a safe, clean environment where all children experience academic success. Our community actively seeks a role in the education and celebration of our children.

Our children benefit from this strong partnership with our community, as has been evidenced by again being recognized by the State Department of Education as a *Palmetto Gold Award* winner. Forest Acres also proudly achieved the Education Oversight Committee's Award for *Closing the Achievement Gap* in recognition for closing the achievement gap among students of differing economic, racial and ethnic groups. Our number one goal at Forest Acres is Academic Achievement. Our percentage of students meeting standards on PASS exceeded the state in Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. We utilized MAP Testing (Measures of Academic Progress) in grades K5 through five. On both PASS and MAP, Forest Acres' students scored at or above the district average at all grade levels in both Reading and Math.

Students are provided a myriad of enrichment activities and learning based field trips which include a fifth-grade trip to Tybee Island, Georgia to study marsh and beach ecology. We have the QUEST program for Academically Advanced and Gifted students. Our PTA sponsors week-long artists-in-residency to enhance our school's arts program. We provide extended day activities through an After School Care program, after-school academic assistance, and a summer 'Seekers' skills program.

Outdoor learning environments offer students the opportunity to interact with environment. A water garden provides students with space to study weather, plant life, and seasons. A nature trail and outdoor lab allows students the opportunity to have science classes outdoors. This past year, our PTA enhanced our building by equipping our Science Lab enabling our students to experience hands on lessons to improve instruction.

We believe service learning and service to our community are important aspects of our offerings to students. Our active Student Council lead many efforts in this area each year. These are vehicles for our students to learn good citizenship and compassion for others. Among our student and staff efforts are gathering canned goods for a local food bank, collecting toys for Country Santa, Angel Tree giving to families in need at Christmas, Share the Warmth, Jump Rope for Heart, Special Olympics, and the Dollars for Donation effort for the Japan disaster.

Due to the dedication and commitment of the staff of Forest Acres and the support and pride of our parents and community, our accolades are many. We seek to continue maintaining high standards and achievement and meeting the needs of our diverse student population. Together, we are working to embody our mission to build "*Foundations of Academic Excellence*" at FAE.

Darian Byrd, Principal

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