

Our school theme for the 2010-2011 school year has been “Saddle Up For A Great Year”, and it has been just that.

Student achievement is always our main goal at Liberty Elementary School (LES). Our faculty, staff, and administration work hard to provide a safe, caring, and academically challenging environment for our 857 students. Our goal is for each of them to learn and reach their full potential. To achieve this goal our teachers receive staff developments in cutting edge teaching strategies and best practices in education. Our teachers implement the district literacy model which includes guided reading, content area reading, Accelerated Reader, Write From The Beginning, and Reading Recovery. Our staff uses Thinking Maps, Café, manipulatives, Every Day Math, Classworks, and science kits to deliver content.

This year our entire faculty read the book *Igniting A Passion For Reading* and worked hard to try and instill a joy for reading in every student. Many faculty members took part in “Hot Reads”, where they would stand up at lunch to preview a book. Faculty would often be dressed up like a character from the book while presenting. We will attempt almost anything to get students interested in reading.

At Liberty Elementary we not only focus on educating the mind, we work hard to develop the whole child. This year we continued to use the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program here at LES. This program promotes a positive learning environment. We have a firm belief that each child is unique and make sure to provide the students with a variety of opportunities to be successful. We also continued our partnership with the YMCA of Pickens County and had them providing a free after school care to students on free and reduced lunch. This program is called the Learning Lab. The Learning Lab is funded through a 21st Community Learning Center grant. We saw several new programs begin at Liberty Elementary School during this school year. We began serving breakfast in the classroom and saw our breakfast participation double. The Young Appalachian Musician (YAMs) program began this year and had over 50 of our students staying after school to learn to play the guitar and fiddle. These students have excelled and even had the opportunity to play at a county wide festival. Our guidance department was the first in the district to start BARK and Fix-It-Fido, two wonderful programs that bring dogs into the school to work with students who struggle with reading and also to assist students with bullying. We partnered with Golden Harvest and area churches to start a program called Backpack Buddies. This program provides food for the weekend for over sixty students who would not otherwise have something to eat at home.

We appreciate the continued parental support we received this year. Parent communication and support is essential to the success of any school. Therefore, we use a variety of forms of communication to inform parents of how their child is doing in school. We communicate through weekly folders, the Parent Link phone system, newsletters, and agendas. We also offer a variety of ways for parents to become involved in their child’s education. Some of the opportunities for our school involvement include the School Improvement Council, PTO, parent bookchats, parenting workshops, parent nights, and the volunteer program. The school, family, and community must share the educational responsibility to produce students who are effective members of society. Thank you for all of your support in helping to make this year a year to remember.

Valerie Baldwin, Chair of the School Improvement Council
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