

School Organization and Contact

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shameka Stephney – Principal
Ms. Erica Williams – Assistant Principal
Melvin White - Chair
Ms. Diane Gillie – Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shomari Willis	Kenneth Irby
Mahogany Hunter-Hall	Montressa Ryan
Ruth Savinda	Diane Gillie
Barbara Tiller	Wilhelminia Mathias
Wanda Turner	

ABOUT THIS REPORT.....

The School Improvement Council of Arden Elementary School has prepared the annual school report for you and the community. The report reviews the progress and growth made last year, reviews last year's test scores, and describes plans for improvement this year. Enclosed you will find an account of the progress we made toward accomplishing targeted goals in 2025-2026, as well as the desired results for student learning that have been made a priority for this school year. If you have any questions about the information summarized here, please contact Mrs. Shameka Stephney, Principal, (803) 735-3400.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Fitness Team
Disc Golf Team
WAES News Show (Virtual)
Reading Matters
Visible Learning
Student Laptop Program (PK - 5th)
Comprehensive Remediation Program
Barron Academy After-school Program

Extra-Curricular Activities

ESOL Program
Advocacy Clubs
Girls of Excellence Empowerment Group
Midlands Reading Consortium (MRC)
Males Mentoring Group
STEM Girls

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Columbia College Education Department
Richland County Library-North Main Branch
College Place Community Council
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Gamma Nu Chapter)
Bethlehem Baptist
Midlands Reading Consortium

MISSION STATEMENT

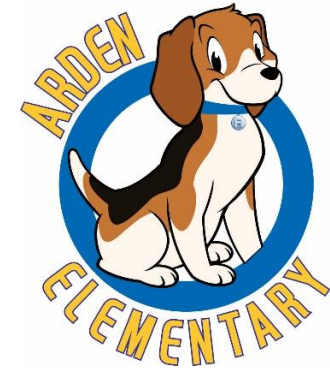
We are Richland One, a leader in transforming lives through education, empowering all students to achieve their potential and dreams.

VISION STATEMENT

At Arden Elementary, we strive to create an engaging learning environment where every student is empowered to think critically, pursue life-long learning, and make a positive impact in their community.



Arden Elementary School



2025-2026 SIC ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

1300 Ashley Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Office (803) 735-3400
School Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

At Arden Elementary, we are committed to creating a supportive and engaging environment where students can learn, grow, and succeed. Through strong partnerships with families and the community, our staff works together to provide high-quality instruction and meaningful opportunities for every child.

We are Arden Elementary rooted in Community, Growth, and Excellence!

“Together We Achieve More!”

School Highlights & Awards

HealthierUS School Challenge Award

2017 Gold Recipient
 2019 Bronze Recipient
 2020 Bronze Recipient
 2025 One Topic Area

SCHOOL AWARDS & GRANTS

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
 Fully Accredited by Cognia and the SCDE
 Columbia College Math Grant
 Average School Report Card Rating
 Bethlehem Baptist Church Backpack Program
 Saks of Luv Weekend Food Program

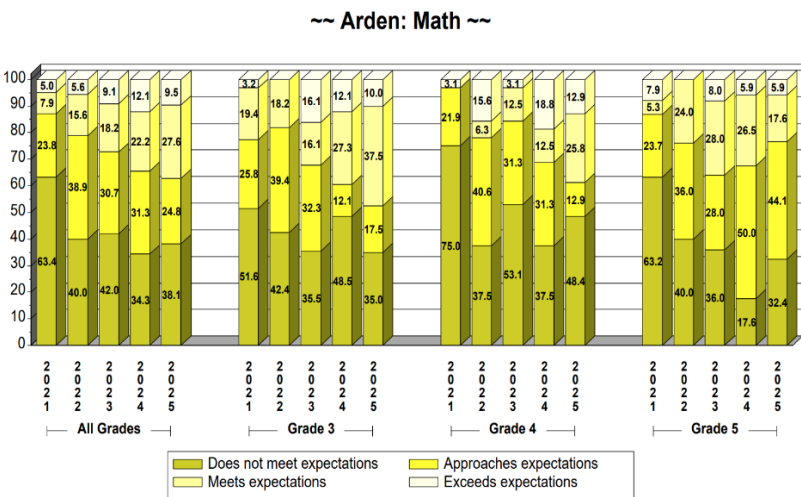
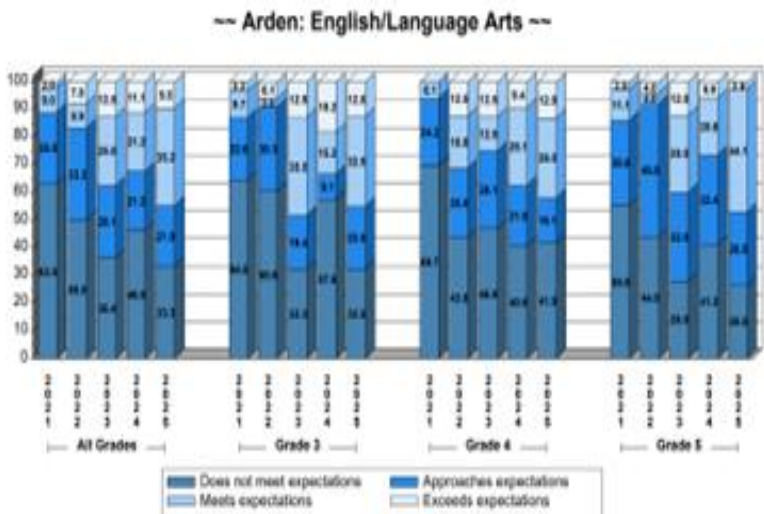
School Demographics

Total Enrollment

<1% White
 63% African American
 29% Hispanic
 <1% Other

35 Total Certified and Classified Staff
 12 Homeroom Teachers
 (1 National Board Certified)

2024-2025 SC Ready Test Information



2025-2026 School Goals

- ✓ Enhance the quality of Tier One instruction. (Teacher Quality)
- ✓ Support students in collaboration with parents using the multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) model (School Climate)
- ✓ Laser-like focus on teaching and learning (i.e. student data, classroom observations and other data points) (Student Achievement)
- ✓ Increase the proficiency level of students in all academic areas (Student Achievement)

2025-2026 Visible Learning Goals

- ✓ Every classroom will clearly display and reference the Learning Intention and Success Criteria so students can explain what they are learning, why they are learning it, and how they know they are successful.
- ✓ Students will take ownership of their learning by using success criteria and feedback to improve their work.

TECHNOLOGY

- All rooms have
- ✓ Smartboards in Classrooms
 - ✓ Laptops (PK – 5th)