



Student Involvement / Programs and Activities

- Beyond core curriculum, all students participate daily in related arts classes including drama, dance, art, music, Spanish, computer lab, science lab and physical education.
- Brennen also features an Advanced Academic Placement (AAP) program, acclaimed deaf education program, special education, and ESOL instruction.
- Brennen is a Positive Intervention System School (PBIS), which utilizes data to monitor behavior and celebrate positive outcomes.
- Brennen Student Council is very active and was responsible for: Bulldogs are the Best Writing Competition, Make a Wish Foundation, Valentine Grams (monies donated to Jump Rope for Heart), and Spirit Days. In addition to those projects, our student council helped our school bring in over 19,000 pounds of non-perishable food for Harvest Hope Food Bank.
- Jump Rope for Heart continues to be very successful. We thank our PE team for leading this charge to help with the American Heart Association.
- Extracurricular offerings include ACT (Action Cheer and Tumble), German (taught by USC students), chorus, orchestra, Girls on the Run, Zumbatonic, and the Good News Club.
- Bulldogs of the Month are chosen by teachers in each class and honored for exhibiting LifeSkills for character education.
- Classes have participated in class specific field trips: 5th graders took an annual three-day trip to Camp Greenville in South Carolina; 4th graders had a Colonial Day to bring social studies to life; 3rd graders engaged in real life experiences at Barrier Island and Ft. Moultrie in Charleston, S.C.
- Volunteers, teachers, staff, 5th graders and business partner Sunoco Recycling ran Brennen's office paper and cardboard recycling program. With bins in each classroom, all students pitch in to make this a successful recycling program.

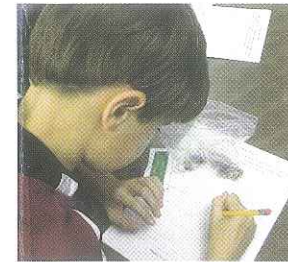
- Students presented drama performances custom created by Brennen faculty to integrate positive character principles and grade-level academic standards: 2nd grade: "Everybody Smiles in the Same Language"; 3rd grade: "South Carolina in the Spotlight"; 4th grade: "Snapshots from the Past: How America Got on the Map"; and 5th grade: "Happy Birthday Zeus!".
- Brennen promoted Red Ribbon Week and the D.A.R.E. program to teach students about the risks of alcohol, drug use and violence.
- Other Student Involvement Projects include New Student Orientation groups that met weekly, Morning News Show, operational weather station, and Recycling Club. The 4th graders observed and maintained our outdoor garden which enhanced science skills, and a Spring Fling Social for 4th and 5th grades celebrated accomplishments and positive behavior during the school year. 5th grade Friendly Helpers were always here to work with special events happening in our school.

Community Outreach

- PTO sponsored more than 12 events for the parents and community. More than 30 Brennen Business Partners contributed \$12,200.00. Business Partners sponsor regular activities to benefit the school such as Family Nights Out at Five Guys, 32 Degrees, and Hooligan's.
- A strong liaison with Epworth Children's Home enabled those students to attend off-campus family nights and school functions funded by PTO.
- Our mission is to provide, through the combined efforts and resources of the school and community, an educational environment that sets high expectations for each student to experience the greatest academic success, and to build a foundation for lifelong learning as responsible, contributing members of a global society.**

2012-13 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Randolph Shives, President | Michael Quinn, Vice President |
| Neva Clark, Secretary | Mark Shea, Principal, Ex-Officio |
| Kezia Myers, Assistant Principal, Ex-Officio | Rebekah McFall, Teacher |
| Kelly Bunch, Teacher | Nikki Yancey, Teacher |
| Rick O'Connor, Parent | Mitzi Daniels, Parent |
| Pam Meriwether, Parent | Allison Cox, Community |
| Jane Davidson, Community | David Hodges, Community |
| Vanessa Bankhead, PTO Liaison | |



BRENNEN ELEMENTARY

An award-winning Richland One school

4438 Devereaux Rd. / Columbia, SC 29205 / 738-7204
www.brennen.rcsd1.org

2012-2013 Report to Parents & Community



2012-2013 SIC Report to Parents and Community

This report from the School Improvement Council presents Brennen's accomplishments and progress toward goals in the 2011-12 school year, as required by Act 135 passed by the S.C. General Assembly in 1993.

What's new at Brennen, 2012-2013?

- New Buzzer Controlled Front Security Door
- PTO Funded State of the Art Electronic Marquee
- Salad Bar in the cafeteria to promote healthy choices during lunch
- 5th Grade Mural based on South Carolina Social Studies Standards
- Nature Trail Improvements along with Eagle Scout Projects to enhance the trail
- Brennen fifth grade students placed in the USC Region II Science Fair. In addition one of our fifth graders was the top winner in the Junior Division for his project involving Earth Science.

GOAL 1: Increase Student Achievement

- Over the last nine years, Brennen has achieved five Excellent ratings and four Good ratings on the SC School Report Card. In six of the past nine years, the school has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), including AYP in all 21 areas in 2010. New this year is the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA), which is part of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. ESEA is federal legislation that promotes student achievement through school and district reform. Brennen's grade based on the ESEA was an A. Brennen has also received the Palmetto Gold or Silver award in 10 of the past 11 years.
- The school also used Dominic Text Leveling, MAP, District Benchmark Assessments, Common Assessment, and PASS data to monitor and guide instruction. New this year, we have piloted AIMSweb benchmark testing in grades Kindergarten-Second Grade. This assessment gives us data on students three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). In addition, we use AIMSweb to help progress monitor students that participate in our intervention classes as well as those receiving intervention in classrooms.
- To boost student achievement in all areas, Brennen continued the implementation of a school wide writing program (Empowering Writers) and continued with PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System), our school wide student discipline plan.
- Teachers have continued work in Professional Learning Communities for team lesson planning, which includes utilizing data in order to make decisions on our instructional strategies. Our early childhood teachers have participated in data meetings with our Literacy Team in order to improve and enhance our instructional strategies in literacy. Teachers have also learned to identify students in tiers in order to better meet the needs of their students, which helps us work with our student sub-groups.
- Daily classroom instruction is infused with the latest technology: Smart Boards, a wireless mobile computer lab, laptops, digital cameras, LCD projectors and new this year, iPads. Thanks to our PTO, we will be implementing two-30 station iPad carts. Our goal is that each grade level will have their own iPad cart to share. and maintains an award-winning outdoor classroom for hands-on lessons in science.

Palmetto Gold and/or Silver Award for PASS scores, 10 of the last 11 years.



Red Carpet Award for creating a family-friendly environment 2010-2013.



Fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

Our mission is to provide, through the combined efforts and resources of the school and community, an educational environment that sets high expectations for each student to experience the greatest academic success, and to build a foundation for lifelong learning as responsible, contributing members of a global society.

GOAL 2: Increase Parent Involvement

- PTO, SIC, and the volunteer network provide a wide variety of events and opportunities to allow anyone to get informed and involved such as the Back-to-School Bash, Harvest Happening, Walk Your Child to School Day, Grandparents' Day, 5th Grade Science Fair Prep Night, Bingo Night, Used Book Sale, general membership meetings, and the Brennen School Auction that regularly draws hundreds of attendees.

PTO FUNDRAISING CONTINUE TO BE RECORD BREAKING!

MEMBERSHIP	\$ 11,965
HARVEST HAPPENING	\$ 2,582
INNISBROOK GIFTWRAP SALE	\$ 15,048
DISCOUNT CARD	\$ 1,643
SPIRIT ITEMS	\$ 1,000
BUSINESS PARTNERS	\$ 10,665
GROCERY STORE CARDS AND BOX TOPS	\$ 2,824
	(THROUGH FEBRUARY)
FAMILY NIGHT OUT	\$ 500
	(THROUGH FEBRUARY)
AUCTION	\$48,000
TOTAL	<u>\$94,227</u>

These funds directly support Brennen students and school programs.

- Getting accurate, timely information to families is critical. Our channels of communication include the

bi-weekly Pawprints newsletter, annual student directory, guided tours for prospective parents, Brennen and Brennen PTO websites for class and event information, weekly email blasts, computerized phone messaging and new student registration packets.

- As a faith-based partner, Kilbourne Park Baptist Church has assisted PTO events and served as volunteers.
- More than 28 professionals spoke to 22 classes at Brennen's Annual Career Day. Brennen also held a Vehicular Career Day, where 12 different professionals came with their vehicle and spoke to 18 different kindergarten, first grade, and second grade classes.
- Volunteers logged over 6,000 hours helping the Brennen family.

GOAL 3: Increase Teacher Quality

- Educators continued to increase their professional development that promotes team curriculum writing to integrate standards across subjects, effective instructional strategies, and establishing and maintaining relationships with families and the community.

- Teachers continue to attend professional development workshops, enhancing their ability to integrate the Common Core Curriculum and stay ahead of changes in education. Teachers also receive recertification credits through the District.
- USC consistently requests Brennen teachers to serve as mentors to the next generation of educators.
- Teachers use "Empowering Writers" for writing instruction at all grades. This program provides a "step-by-step" method for all grades. Visit: www.empoweringwriters.com
- Teachers work collaboratively in Professional Learning Communities to integrate curriculum.
- Teachers often serve as professional development presenters to faculty and staff.
- Brennen encourages additional education: 28% of all faculty are Nationally Board Certified, 2 hold Doctorate degrees and 43 hold Masters or higher levels of coursework.
- Administrators and teachers also serve as leaders among many statewide professional organizations and district committees.