

Caughman Road Elementary School SIC Members

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Purpose of the Report *"This Report is issued by the Caughman Road Elementary School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other*

accomplishments during the school year."

Caughman Road Elementary School Annual School Improvement Council "Report to the Parents" 2021-2022



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Caughman Road Elementary enhances the lifelong knowledge of all its students by determining areas of interest and sharpening those interests through the introduction of 21st century literacy skills, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for all grade levels.

SIC Annual Goals

The School Improvement Council is working to support the school's strategic plan. Our focus for the 2021-2022 school year has been on parent engagement, literacy, teacher appreciation, and upholding the five core peace values, as Caughman Road is an International Peace Site. This council is dedicated to supporting Caughman Road Elementary and helping in any way possible to help them meet the goals in their strategic plan to the best of our abilities.

To accomplish our goal to improve literacy for the 2021-2022 school year we launched and assisted in several different initiatives to get students excited about reading. We wanted to figure out ways to get children to want to read, as well as ways to get them access to as many books as possible.

- We launched the Book-It program where students were given book logs at the beginning of the month and were required to read 20 books by month end, and record them on the log. When they returned the completed logs, they were rewarded with a certificate to redeem at Pizza Hut for a free personal pan pizza.
- We assisted in a Book Nook initiative throughout the school. Through this initiative there were book cases placed in the hallways of each grade level giving children access to additional books to take home and read and then

return to school. In a partnership with the school library, they could then give a review of the book to their peers via the Caughman Road morning news show produced by the librarian Mrs. Hering that they watch each morning in their classrooms. The purpose of these reviews is to allow students to hear about book recommendations from their peers and get them excited to visit the book nooks and borrow a book for themselves to review.

- A book exchange program began in the library where students are able to bring books from home in exchange for tickets, they can then use the tickets to trade in for new books to take home and keep. Then, if they wanted, they could exchange those again for more tickets and repeat the process.
- The School Improvement Council assisted the school librarian in writing a grant through the Snapdragon Foundation to be awarded funds to purchase more books for the book nooks to allow students a larger variety of books to choose from. This grant application was submitted at the beginning of February and the winners will not be announced until closer to the end of the school year.
- There were several different spirit weeks this year that were centered around literacy and we as a council

assisted in planning and facilitating these spirit weeks with Caughman Roads reading coach and librarian.

These weeks included Read Across America week that focused on diverse readers and during that week we were able to have a day in celebration of Dr. Suess's birthday called 1 Sock, 2 Socks, New Socks where students were asked to bring in new socks to donate to Toby's Place, which is a shelter in the Columbia area.

- The School Improvement Council teamed up with the reading coach, and the Southeast Branch of the Richland Library to host a day at their branch for Caughman Road Students to come and have a story time, play games, and either sign up to get a library card, or use their current library cards to check out books. The main purpose for this event was to get more books into the hands of students, and highlight another way for them to access books. The Richland County Public library actually sent library cards to the school for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and new students.

The Gentleman's club which is run by Mr. English made baskets for families in need for the 2021 holiday season and we were able to assist with that project by making greeting

cards for the baskets that the students helped to put together.

Another important thing to the School Improvement Council has been to show teacher and staff appreciation. The council, along with school administration were able to do at least one small thing each month to show our teachers and entire staff at Caughman Road how special and important they are. Some examples of things we did included bags of candy at Halloween, individual pies and Thankful Thursdays around Thanksgiving, a cocoa cart with cookies in December, and a variety of desserts and treats for Valentine's Day and a breakfast cart in February.

Something we are currently working on, and plan to accomplish before the end of the school year, is to start a campus clean-up program, to teach the young scholars at Caughman Road the importance of taking care of their environment.

Mrs. Burton the family engagement specialist at Caughman Road has worked hard to connect families to our initiatives by giving them activities at home to do with their children to engage them and help reinforce these literacy goals.

Caughman Road has implemented a visible learning strategy school wide during this 2021-2022 school year, and the School Improvement Council was able to get

involved by judging a door contest that was based on visible learning. The idea of the contest was to try and teach the students the components of this learning concept and have them choose a part of the concept and decorate their classroom doors in a way that showed their understanding of the concept that they chose.

Information pertaining to the Strategic Plan, the Annual Report to the Community, and the School Mission Statement is posted on the school website, individual student agenda books, and parent handbooks. Agendas are kept on record from Faculty, Parent Teacher Organizations, and School Improvement Council meetings. Plans and goals are reviewed annually and more frequently as often as necessary. School leadership and staff share values on the educational beliefs communicated through our Mission Statement, which is focused on student success.

Caughman Road Elementary School takes the necessary steps to ensure student success by encouraging a variety of academic and social structures. Positive academic and social development behavior is promoted through goal setting and acknowledgment of Goal Achievements. Weekly, teachers promote Daily Action Plans in classroom meetings, they have implemented visible learning school-wide, and school-wide expectations are posted throughout the building. According to STAR testing results in the Fall of 2021 Caughman Road had 35% of students

who were at or above benchmark for ELA, and in Winter of 2022 43% of students were at or above benchmark for ELA. Additionally, 13% of students in the Fall of 21' were on the cusp, and another 13 % of students in the Winter of 22' were on the cusp of being at benchmark. Currently, at Caughman Road 57% of students have met their growth projections for the year, the districts goal is for 65% of students to meet their growth projections. Based on data, we are optimistic that with a 10% growth, we will meet our goals of 65% of students who are at or above benchmark.

We are working to help Caughman Road raise their achievement scores through our efforts in promoting literacy by giving students many ways to access books, encouraging them to read through the Book-It incentive program, and hearing about books from their peers through the book reviews on Caughman's morning news show.

**“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”
- Margaret Fuller**

For more information, you may view Caughman Road Elementary School's "S.C. School Report Card" for the previous school year online at www.ed.sc.gov.

Additional Information

There are many different boys and girls programs at Caughman Road that are meant to help our bright young minds reach their highest potential and teach them life skills that will stay with them their entire lives.

Caughman Road is International Peace Site, this is an award that exemplifies 5 core values. Our scholars work daily to create a school culture supportive of their peers and aligned to daily Positive Mental Mindsets. We have a group of peace ambassadors that are located in different areas of the school to share uplifting messages and greet others at drop off in the mornings. We have a peace center for students to find a quiet place and benches throughout the school where students go to find support from a peer when they are struggling.

Caughman Road has a wonderful Montessori program within our school. This program is a unique approach to education where the educational goal is to focus on the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of each child, and is a child-centered educational approach.

Caughman Road has implemented a school wide visible learning approach. Visible learning is where students are taught to know what they need to learn, how to learn it, and how to evaluate their own progress. They students are taught to think about what they

are doing and understand their task, think about how they can and will do the task, they set expectations for themselves and reflect on their achievements. The point of this process and way of learning is to help students better achieve their learning goals.

Due to challenges presented by COVID – 19 we have not been able to offer all of our usual clubs and extracurricular activities. As Covid restrictions lighten, we have been able to reinstate the West African Drum and Dance Team, and plan to work towards reinstating the Step Team, Gardening clubs, Art clubs, Chorus, mentoring and community stakeholder support systems to get back to our true roots at Caughman Road.

What is the SIC?

The School Improvement Council is intended to advise the principal and school, and is focused on helping achieve school improvement. We are made up of parents, teachers, and community representatives, as well as the principal, and other ex-officio members.

We are always looking to add new members to the SIC, so please contact the front office at Caughman Road and leave a message and someone will get back to you. There are many reasons to get involved.

- When parents are involved in their children's education, their children

do better in school and the quality of the school improves.

- Parent's bring wisdom to the council.
- Community members who don't have children in the school benefit from good schools through stronger local economy and property values.
- Citizens who are NOT parents of children in the schools also have unique contributions to make to School Improvements Councils.

Next year one of the initiatives of the SIC is to improve parent communication on all levels. Our council is a crucial piece to this puzzle.

Please consider becoming involved and help us make Caughman Road an even better place.