

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

Satchel Ford Elementary School 2022 - 2023



SFES School Improvement Council

South Carolina Statute - Act 135 of 1993 requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute an annual Report to the Parents highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the school's strategic plan.

The School Improvement Council of Satchel Ford Elementary School has prepared this annual report for parents and the community. In this report, you will find an account of test scores and academic rankings along with other information about programs, activities, awards, and recognitions for students and teachers.

Our School Improvement Council is always looking for ways to improve our school and we welcome any suggestions that you may have. The SIC would like to thank the teachers, students, administration, parents, and the PTO for their contributions, ensuring that Satchel Ford Elementary School remains a prominent school in our community, district, and state.

Academic Accomplishments

This school year was a return to what we do best! **On the 2022 SC Annual School Report Card, Satchel Ford Elementary earned the highest overall rating of "Excellent!"** indicating that, "School performance substantially exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate." The percentage of students who scored "Met" or "Exemplary" on the SC READY ELA were 70.5%, SC READY Math were 68.7%, and SCPASS Science (4th Grade) was 76.4%.

ELA  **70.5%** **MATH**  **68.7%** **SCPASS**  **76.4%**

The faculty continued the focus on literacy instruction using the works of Lucy Calkins, the founding director of Columbia University's Teachers College Reading and Writing Project and the focus on utilizing the math workshop model. Under the guidance of Heidi Mills, USC, and with the assistance of the reading coach, the first grade teachers and students developed an inquiry project where the students chose a family member to interview and create a biography about that person's life. The project ended with a celebration, Museum of Memories, where special family members came to school to see and hear about the projects. Several of our 4th and 5th grade students competed and placed in the District Science Fair and moved on to the state level.

Since 2004, Satchel Ford has been recognized as an Arts in Basic Curriculum School and continues to be awarded this designation through grant-writing efforts. Satchel Ford has received over \$335,000 over the past sixteen years through grants from the SC Arts Commission and the SC Department of Education's Distinguished Arts Program. All of our students were able to show off their dramatic skills through their grade level performances. This was the first year our strings students participated and received superior ratings in the Solo and Ensemble Program.

SIC - 2022/2023

Officers:

Josh Ard - Chair
Kim Leighton - Vice Chair
Elizabeth King - Secretary

Parent Members:

Josh Ard, Elizabeth King, Ryan Gentry
Ben Bower, Kim Leighton, Chris Wormley

Community Members:

Shayla Broadnax, Rob Gilmer
Lyle Lee, Andrew Morrison

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Matthew Scandrol - Principal
Felita Green - Asst Principal
Ortega Missouri - Asst Principal
Lynne Trowbridge - CRT
Lauren Hudgens - PTO President

Teachers: Rotation

Laura Timmons, Lauren Goethe
Sumner Livingston, Taryn Rowe
Kelsey Reynolds, Renata Pearson
April Barber-Brown, Katie Hartman

SIC Meeting Guests:

Deputy William McComb - SRO
Barbara Weston - RSD1 Commissioner
Chris Payne - PE Teacher/Unified Club



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School Highlights & Awards



The **Braves Unified Club** had a very successful 22-23 school year! The club participated in a bowling party with the Therapy Place, volunteered with our Miracle League in Columbia, and celebrated Unified Night with the AC Flora football program. The club also hosted the first "Ice Plunge," a school-wide fundraiser for Special Olympics and the Unified Club. Throughout the year, the 4th and 5th grade students volunteer during their recess to teach our students with disabilities sports and cooperation skills. SFES was recognized at the SHAPE conference in Seattle, WA, as an up-and-coming Unified Champion School.

The expectation of growth for **The Farm at Satchel Ford** program was matched and exceeded. The growth of experiences in all grade levels comes from hands-on activities in the school's garden beds. Activities have ranged from identifying parts of a plant and flower, to plant life cycles, to plant adaptations, to tastings, to food safety classes, and we were able to plant and harvest several times during the school year. The facilities have grown to include 12 troughs, 7 large raised beds, a renovated hand washing station, and a new pollinator bed supported by a grant from Columbia Green. Goals for the 2023-2024 school year will include renovating the current green house, growing the sensory garden, and investigating the concept of a food forest.

The **Braves Buddies** program is an academic initiative that pairs a volunteer with a first grader needing extra help in math. The tutoring takes place during the school day, and volunteers choose what days and time they can contribute. Please visit the SFPTO.org for more information on how to volunteer.

Through the success of fundraising events and boosters, **Brave Arts** at Satchel Ford has been able to support our incredible arts program in many ways. Brave Arts has been able to provide funding to send the arts team to continuing education, funding to order performance scripts/copyrights, and funding to purchase a handmade back drop commissioned by a local artist for the 5th grade performance. Brave Arts coordinated guests including a traveling Broadway artist who performed for 3-5th grades and Porkchop Productions for K-2nd grades. They were also able to provide two additional risers for the growing performances.

Goals and Improvements

The SIC has and will continue to provide advisory support to achieve the goals and objectives of the SFES strategic plan. Recurring topics of SIC discussion this year included academic standings, facility maintenance, campus security, workforce/staffing challenges, and communication with RSD1. The SFES community will soon have the opportunity to nominate and elect the SIC Members for 2023-2024.

In an effort to address the shortage of available substitute teachers, SFES hosted a **Substitute Recruitment Fair** to inform interested educators about the process of becoming an eligible substitute in RSD1. The informational meeting was well attended and has already proven successful in recruiting substitute teachers!

The SIC was proud to reintroduce the **WATCH D.O.G.S. - Dads of Great Students** - program this year. The program helps to provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important. WATCH D.O.G.S. also provides an extra set of eyes and ears to enhance school security, reduce bullying and provide a greater sense of campus safety allowing students and teachers to focus on learning and instruction. Fathers and Father-figures, volunteer!

We appreciate our SRO, Deputy McComb, for his initiative to improve and maintain security and for educating our council on options to further enhance campus protection. Thank you also to RSD1 Commissioner, Ms. Barbara Weston, for her guidance and insight during our February 2023 meeting. We appreciate and encourage the collaborative effort of the parents, teachers, administration, and community for providing our students with the opportunity to achieve their greatest potential!

