

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

Satchel Ford Elementary School 2023 - 2024



SFES School Improvement Council

South Carolina Statute - Act 135 of 1993 requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils (SIC's) 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 SIC of Satchel Ford Elementary School has prepared this annual report for parents and the community, to include updates on academic rankings, programs, and student and teacher recognitions. While we know we cannot capture everything in just a few pages, below are many highlights to celebrate.

Our SIC is always looking for ways to improve our school and we welcome any suggestions that you may have. We 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

We had another fantastic year of academic achievements! **On the 2023 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 75.3%, SC READY Math were 69.8%, and SCPASS Science (4th Grade) was 78.5%.

ELA  **75.3%** **MATH**  **69.8%** **SCPASS**  **78.5%**

The faculty continued its 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. Out of the 56 students from Richland One elementary and middle schools that were recognized for receiving a perfect score on the 2023 SCReady assessments, **18** of them were from Satchel Ford.

One of our 5th grade students, **Anne Empleo**, was a winner in the **District Science Fair**. And Satchel Ford was the top elementary school in the District for the **Superintendent's Reading Challenge**, with the most minutes read. Our own **Teion Washington** was one of the top 10 readers in the challenge.

Satchel Ford special education teacher **Janelle Mickens** was featured in the news and shown as an example for her success using one of Richland One's '**RoboKind**' robots in her classroom. The goal of the RoboKind Robots program is to improve the social-emotional learning of students with disabilities, better preparing them for opportunities within school and in their communities.

First-grade teacher **Mrs. Jones** has been selected as one of five finalists for the **2024-2025 Richland One Teacher of the Year**. The award winner will be announced May 10 during Celebration 2024, the district's end-of-the-year employee recognition event.

SIC - 2023/2024

Officers:

Elizabeth King - Chair
Steven Diaz - Co-Chair
Dr. Rob Gilmer - Secretary

Parent Members:

Ben Bower, Steven Diaz, Ryan Gentry,
Elizabeth King, Janie Langdale

Community Members:

Shayla Broadnax, Jim Davis,
James Erwin, Zakiya Esper,
Rob Gilmer, Lyle Lee, Chris Wormley

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Teachers: Rotation

April Barber-Brown, Lauren Goethe,
Katie Hartman, Susan Jones,
Sumner Livingston, Janelle Mickens,
Renata Pearson, Laura Timmons,
Consuela Yisrael

RS1 Mission:

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



5901 SATCHEL FORD RD
COLUMBIA, SC 29206

OFFICE (803) 738-7209
FAX (803) 738-7218

SFES WEBSITE SFPTO.ORG
SFES.SIC@GMAIL.COM



School Highlights & Awards



This year, Satchel Ford again obtained re-certification as an **Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) School**, a designation it has held for the past 19 years. ABC Schools keep arts as an essential component of the basic curriculum, and through certification, they receive grants from the SC Arts Commission and SC Department of Education. As part of our extensive arts program, all students are able to learn and display dramatic skills through grade level performances and shine on the stage in chorus, strings, and steel drum groups. Just this past month, the **Satchel Ford Honor Choir** led by music teacher **Mr. Day**, earned a 'Superior distinction' at the 2024 Carowinds Festival of Music. 52 students (grades 3-5) represented SFES and were evaluated by nationally-known adjudicators.



In addition to the grants mentioned, significant donations from the **Brave Arts** Committee's fundraisers enable SFES to provide countless unique experiences for students. In March, **Dr. Scandrol** and **Ms. Barber-Brown** organized a visit from a special guest, cast member with the National Tour of 'Hamilton'. He shared career insights and even performed a hit song from the musical. On May 23-24, our school's **Arts Fest** will feature more than 17 diverse artists who will provide school-wide performances and breakout sessions/hands-on experiences for all classes, including hip hop, shag dancing, drums, rangoli playing, and more.



The **Braves Unified Champions Club**, under the leadership of Satchel Ford P.E. Coach **Chris Payne**, had another impactful year. The program provides a unique opportunity for students with and without disabilities to come together through ongoing educational and physical activities. Members volunteer their recess and other time to mentor and interact with students, forming friendships that expand beyond physical barriers. They also participate in and host events that include and support children with disabilities, such as Special Olympics Young Athletes playdates, bowling and disc golf events, and helping coordinate school participation in the "Polar Plunge" fundraiser. For his committed leadership of the Unified Club and for motivating others throughout the state and beyond to have success in their schools, Coach Payne was recognized earlier this year as '**Champion of the Mission**' by the Special Olympics of S.C.

Our talented **Fitness Bowl team** again earned the highest overall score and set district records. And Satchel Ford's newly-formed **Pickleball team** competed in the first Richland One Elementary Pickleball Tournament, with the girls finishing in first place, and the boys' team finishing in second place.

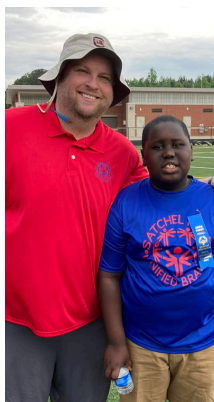


In the fall, **Mr. Bidwell** introduced the SIFMA Foundation's **Stock Market Game** to our 4th and 5th graders. Participating students met with him weekly to learn about stocks and financial education. Out of all the teachers and students from across the state that took part in the SIFMA program, our Satchel Ford Elementary team came in first place.



This year's **Boosterthon** was an amazing success thanks to the PTO and all those who made donations in support of our school! The school's financial goal was met and exceeded, and the funds raised are helping provide items such as teacher grants, a new kiln, and an artist in residence to teach pottery class. In addition to financial support, Boosterthon provides an opportunity for students to learn about goal-setting and building character through character awards, daily programs, and the Fun Run.

The Farm at Satchel Ford is an invaluable resource, providing hands-on learning experiences for students in all grades. SFES parent **Chris Wormley** leads and coordinates outdoor lessons on the life cycles of plants and flowers, food tastings and safety, and planting and harvesting crops. The outdoor classroom has grown to include 12 troughs, 7 large raised beds, hand washing station, and a pollinator bed. This year included a complete renovation to the greenhouse and expansion to the sensory garden.



Goals and Improvements

The SIC will continue to provide advisory support to achieve the goals and objectives of the SFES strategic plan. Recurring projects and topics of discussion this past year included academic standings, diversity, equity, and inclusion, communication with RSD1, and facility maintenance and security, such as the implementation of a new intercom system with added safety technology. Looking ahead, those efforts will continue as well as a focus on growing our mentoring/outreach programs. The SFES community will soon have the opportunity to nominate and elect SIC Members for 2024-2025.