



Goals and Progress Overview

Our school improvement plan goals are focused on student academic achievement, school climate, and teacher and administrator quality.



Academic Growth

Each year the PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards) test is administered to students in grades 3-5 to measure academic achievement. According to the State of SC 2011 Annual Report Card, which is based on the 2010-11 PASS data, Satchel Ford received an "Excellent" Absolute Rating and an "Excellent" Growth Rating for the third year in a row. Satchel Ford was again awarded the Palmetto Gold Award based on General Performance. The percentage of students who scored "met or exemplary" in each subject was: 89.7 % in English Language Arts (ELA); 83.3% in writing; 84.4% in mathematics; 80.7% in science; and 88.6% in social studies. In all areas, Satchel Ford's scores continue to be among the highest in Richland District One. Test scores for the 2011-12 school year should be available in June 2012.

In addition to the PASS testing, grade level academic growth was measured throughout the year with a variety of district assessments. To measure student achievement in ELA and math, district benchmark tests were administered to students in grades 3-5 and MAP (Measures of Academic Progress), a computerized assessment, was administered to students in grades 2-5. In grades K-2, teachers administered the Dominie assessments in ELA. After each assessment, teachers analyzed the data and planned instruction based on the needs of the students. During the 2011-2012 school year, the faculty continued to focus on writing instruction using the work of Lucy Calkins, the founding director of Columbia University's Teachers College Writing Project. In addition, to encourage student achievement, administration met with all second through fifth grade students to set academic goals for the reading component of the MAP. After each of the three administrations of MAP, administration celebrated with students who met their goals and to generate reading strategies for those who did not achieve their goals. Student achievement on MAP improved throughout the year. Also, faculty strived to support the academic needs of all students in reading by matching students to the appropriate level of text and providing focused small group instruction.



School Climate

In the fall of 2011, the SIC created a twenty-three question survey aimed at assessing parents' perceptions of the school's learning environment, physical environment and home-school relations. Parents and guardians responded by returning over 260 surveys. The results were then tallied and thoroughly evaluated by the SIC. The results of the parent survey largely formed the SIC's focus for the 2011-2012 school year.

The SIC believes that the parent survey is an efficient and effective tool for assessing and gauging parents' concerns. Likewise, the survey provides a useful indication of the many strengths and highpoints of Satchel Ford.

As in previous years, the nutritional value of the food served in the cafeteria and the physical well-being of students were areas of concern identified by the survey. Since last school year, the administrators, PTO and SIC have worked to incorporate healthier options into the menu. This effort has recently culminated with Satchel Ford receiving a salad bar and implementing this as an option at lunchtime. Satchel Ford has the distinction of being one of only twelve schools in the nation chosen to receive a salad bar and be a part of the new campaign tied to HBO's "The Weight of the Nation" documentary series. Along with HBO, Whole Foods gave each student a reusable water bottle. Whole Foods also funded a new GLOBALTAP, an attractive and reliable alternative to bottled water.

In conjunction with the nutritional issues, the SIC continues to support other wellness initiatives. Faculty efforts resulted in Satchel Ford being awarded a grant from the NFL's Fuel Up to Play 60 program. This program focuses on improving the quality of physical activity and exposing students and parents to healthy options. Once again this year, the PTO organized the second annual Walk-a-thon. This popular event encourages students to become active by completing an exercise log of daily activities for one month. This event also engages the community, to come out and cheer on all of our walkers.

We believe that Satchel Ford is a safe environment for your children and the survey results confirmed this belief. However, the survey also identified that some parents are concerned about the security and safety of the front entrance. Therefore, in response to the survey, the SIC has met with District personnel to address the continued and effective management of school and front office safety. The District has performed an assessment of the front entrance and the Richland One Board has approved funds for a District-wide improvement plan. We will continue to monitor the District's progress and look for workable options and ideas so that SF can continue to be safe, secure, open and inviting.

Another effort of improving the physical environment was to paint and refurbish some of the student restrooms. Restroom appearance and cleanliness have been given special attention and we hope that your students have noted improvements in this area.

Finally, the SIC supported a push to provide information about internet safety and bullying. A teacher project group brought in a speaker to talk with 5th graders about these topics. The issues were forwarded to the PTO, who sponsored a wonderful evening speaker to give parents a lesson on social media safety. The speaker, a special agent with the Secret Service, provided many enlightening facts and helpful tips to prevent our children from becoming victims of the internet.



Teacher / Administrative Quality

Satchel Ford maintained the goal of 100% of the teachers being designated as Highly Qualified in the appropriate content and level as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act.



Notable Comments

Since 2004 Satchel Ford has been recognized as an Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) School by the South Carolina Arts Commission and continues to be awarded this designation through grant writing efforts. Satchel Ford has been an eight year recipient of the SC State Department of Education's Distinguished Arts Program (DAP) grant. Overall, more than \$200,000 in grant money has been received over the past eight years when combining both of these grant sources.

For the fifth year at Satchel Ford, the second grade has created its own original opera. This year's production was entitled, "Magnets – an Opera of Attraction". Under the direction of Nicholas Smith, the former conductor of the SC Philharmonic, students wrote choral poems and lyrics to songs, and created and choreographed dances to represent topics involving magnetism. All other grade levels participated in their traditional performances that incorporate all aspects of the arts:

- Community Helpers by Kindergarten
- The Wolf by First Grade
- South Carolina Extravaganza by Third Grade
- Kids on Broadway by Fourth Grade
- School House Rock Live, Jr. by Fifth Grade

Satchel Ford teachers continued to offer clubs for students before and after school hours. Students participated in the dance club, a book club, Safety Patrol, Chorus, Recycling Club, and Student Council. Several new clubs were started this year: the Video Production Club, Girls on the Run, and Fuel Up to Play 60 fitness club. The Satchel Ford

chorus participated in the Richland One Festival Choir and selected members participated in the SC Elementary Honors Choir. All clubs had dedicated members and the students enjoyed the activities.

Students in grades 3-5 in Braves Aftercare program auditioned to participate in the Steel Drum band again this year. The Satchel Ford Steel Drum Band performed at Satchel Ford PTO meetings, Lewis Greenview Elementary, Eau Claire High School Festival of Steel Bands, Satchel Ford Field Day, and Pendergrass Fairwood School graduation. Many new clubs were started this year for students in the Braves Aftercare program: Craft, Computer, Karate, Book Club, Music, Spanish, and Fitness Club.

Satchel Ford again supported the American Cancer Society by participating in two events: Walk for Life in October and Relay for Life in May. The school's Unity and Faculty Wellness Project Group, along with Satchel Ford's Student Council, organized a fundraising campaign for both events. Satchel Ford raised \$4318 for Walk for Life and for the second year was recognized by the Richland One School Board of Commissioners as the first place winner in the district competition. In April, Satchel Ford staff and community raised over \$5000 and was honored by the American Cancer Society as a Gold Team for the school's efforts.

The Brave Arts Steering Committee sponsored the sixth annual Faculty Follies, raising over \$4700 to support the arts program at Satchel Ford. Parents and students attended the event, voting for the group of faculty/staff that provided the "best" entertainment. Columbia community members of various art organizations and businesses acted as judges for the show and selected the most talented act.

The Brave Arts Steering Committee mural subcommittee completed the task of converting our ten-year-old painted wall murals into framed works of art by having them professionally photographed and framed. The murals are now preserved for future students, faculty/staff and parents to enjoy for many years to come. Satchel Ford can anticipate more works of art and photography to grace the school hallways as this active



Some of our Outstanding Features and Programs Include:

Advanced Academic Program (AAP), Braves Buddies, Braves Assistance, Lunch Buddies, Fuel Up to Play 60, HBO Salad Bar, GLOBALTAP, Spanish, Science Lab, Literacy Lab, SmartBoards, Columbia College Professional Development School, USC Clinical Experience School, AC Flora and Dreher High Schools Cadets, Braves Aftercare, Artfest, Freaky Friday, VIP Day, Science Fair Day, Faculty Follies, Walk-a thon, Field Day and Arts in Basic Curriculum School featuring Art, Dance, Drama, Chorus, Music (including strings and tone chimes).



Our Community Involvement Includes:

PTO, Business Partners, Brave Arts Steering Committee, Faculty Follies, Very Important Person Day, Spring Fling, Mentors, LifeCare Center, Holiday Market, WIS-TV, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, American Cancer Society Walk for Life, United Way, Animal Protection League, Academy of Autism, Cards for the Veterans, Cards to Senior Citizens in Nursing Homes, Toys for our Community, Coat Drive, Bethlehem Baptist Church Food Bank, Sew Captivating, and Junior Achievement.



This 2012 year-end report is published by the Satchel Ford School Improvement Council. The School Improvement Council participates in the creation and revision of Satchel Ford's five-year School Improvement Plan and monitors the school's progress towards achieving the goals and objectives established by the plan.

The School Improvement Council would like to express its thanks and appreciation to Satchel Ford's teachers, administrators and staff for all of their hard work during the 2011-2012 school year. We also want to recognize and thank all of our parent volunteers, who are a key part of our success. Thanks to all, and keep up the good work!

2011 - 2012 School Improvement Council Members

Kimberly Andrews	Lynn Barnette	Pete Balthazor (Chairman)	Thad Chapman	Connie Derrick
Christy Fink	Liz Hedgepath	Claudia Brooks	Jim Lane	Mandy
PierceAllison Rashley	Amy Teas	Megan Jacocks	Lori Tumlin	
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