

School Organization and Contacts

School Improvement Council

Malcolm Pressley	Chair
Markesia Jones	Vice Chair
Latisha McCanic	Secretary

Council Membership

Stephanie Moore	Community Member
Malcolm Pressley	Community Member
Kate Hart	Parent
Richelle Sinkler	Parent
Markesia Jones	Teacher
Alvera Butler	Ex-Officio
Robert Carswell	Ex-Officio
Katrina Holmes	Ex-Officio



Extracurricular Activities

Clubs, Teams & Partnerships

National Jr. BETA Club
JKE Chorus
TIED to Success Mentoring
Girls with Pearls Mentoring
USC-JKE Strings Project Consortium
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
(Columbia Alumni Chapter)
Forest Acres Rotary Club
Shane and Emily Beamer Family Foundation
WJKE Morning News Show

Special Programs

One to One Computing (K-5)
Americorp Foster Grandparent Program
Small Group Reading & Math Interventions (K-5)
Summer Explorers
(Summer Enrichment Program)
21st CCLC After-school Explorers
(Tutoring and Enrichment Program)
Little Cubs After-School Enrichment (K-2)

Family Programs

Parent Teacher Organization(PTO)
Quest Zone (Before and After School Care
Programs)
Parent and Grandparent Support Group
Parent Educator
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Partnership with Columbia Area Mental Health
Parent Universities

Joseph Keels Elementary



7500 Springcrest Drive
Columbia, SC 29223
www.richland2.org/schools/jke
Twitter: @JosephKeelsCubs

The faculty and staff of Joseph Keels Elementary in partnership with students, parents, government, business partners, and the community guarantee each student optimum achievement in all areas of learning by providing a challenging and flexible learning program to meet individual needs by incorporating technology, field experiences, and support services to equip each student for life-long learning and responsible citizenship.

Vision Statement:

At Joseph Keels Elementary, we have high expectations for organization and preparation and a mindset without limitations.

Alvera C. Butler, Principal
abutler@richland2.org

Daily School Hours:
7:10 AM- 2:30 PM
Monday through Friday

Highlights and Awards

Joseph Keels Elementary School is housed in the heart of the Springwood Lake community in Northeast Richland County. Our students are provided grade-level specific learning experiences, taught using engaging hands-on methods, where students have the opportunity to learn foundational skills and then apply them to real-life scenarios. Students receive rigor and support to meet the high expectations we have at JKE. The SIC in partnership with the school has worked hard to promote character and positive citizens within the Bearsville Community. Joseph Keels has continued its objective of recognizing students positively with the continued implementation of Honor Roll recognition and many positive support systems designed to enhance student growth. In addition, JKE continues to make providing students with “being-there” experiences a priority in it’s instructional plan. Students continue to excel academically and socially at JKE.

Awards & Recognitions

National Youth Advocacy and Resilience 2025 High Flying School Award
National Beta Club School of Distinction & Merit
Project Unify Champion Award
ASCD Whole Child Award

Student Information

Ethnicity Distribution:

African American: 81.5%
White: 2.31%
Hispanic: 9.87%
Asian: 0.63%
Two or more races: 3.57%

Number of teachers: 47
Number of National Board Certified: 4

Test Scores

Overall Student Performance

SC Ready English Language Arts and Mathematics

English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) - [Percent Met or Exceeding](#)

School 45.1% (83 / 184)



District 50.7% (6248 / 12312)



State 54.1% (184228 / 340256)



Mathematics - [Percent Met or Exceeding](#)

School 39.1% (72 / 184)



District 40.4% (4982 / 12319)



State 42.8% (145531 / 340271)



Technology for Instruction and Support:

1 Computer Lab
1:1 Chromebook Computing in Grades K-5
ClearTouch Panel in every classroom
Document Cameras in all classrooms
State of the Art news studio (WJKE)
10 ABii Robots

Major Grants

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant
Title 1 Funding

Richland School District Two does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, or other protected characteristic in its programs and activities.

www.richland2.org

Goals for 2025-26

- Keels Elementary will implement a variety of instructional and academic initiatives that support teachers and students in becoming an increasingly rigorous and high achieving school.
- Build a positive, safe, respectful and nurturing environment in which our students will learn and live.
- Develop an environment that fosters professional learning communities

Administrative Team

Alvera C. Butler, Principal
abutler@richland2.org

Dr. Robert Carswell, Assistant Principal
rcarswell@richland2.org

Katrina Holmes, Assistant Principal
kholmes@richland2.org