

New Prospect Elementary School

School Improvement Council

2015-2016 Report to the Parents



Purpose

The purpose of New Prospect Elementary School is to educate students to be productive citizens academically and socially.

Vision

The vision of New Prospect Elementary School is to develop eager, well-engaged students as problem solvers and critical thinkers, both independently and collaboratively, so that they are positive contributors to society.

Mission

The mission of New Prospect Elementary School is educating students through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a literacy-rich environment.

Slogan

We are the high flying...JETS!

Beliefs

We believe that all students deserve a safe, secure, and positive school environment, where learning is the first priority.

We believe that responsibility comes with every right.

We believe that all students learn best through varied instructional strategies using literacy-based and STEM practices.

We believe in celebrating diversity through teaching children to see the world through the eyes and minds of others.

We believe parents, staff, and community members must work together to plan and implement experiences that allow all students to build a strong academic foundation.

We believe in educating the whole child through activities that promote mental, physical, and social growth.

Programs

New Prospect Elementary School offers a variety of opportunities to enrich students' learning environment. First and foremost, STEM classes are offered to each class once a week in Grades 1-5. Also, STEM lessons are offered daily in classrooms to enhance the Science and Math curriculum through inquiry based lessons supported by our STEM lead teacher. Other opportunities for students include the following:

Clubs & After School Opportunities:

- Art Club
- Chorus
- Volleyball Club
- Rock Band Club
- Beta Club
- Student Government
- Lego/Robotics
- Basketball Club
- Running Club
- Step and Dance
- Book Club
- Recycling Club
- Good News Club
- Flag Football Club
- Mentoring Club

Other Support Programs:

- After school Homework/Tutoring Center
- ESOL
- Gifted and Talent Project Challenge Program
- Anderson University Tutors
- AmeriCorps Reading Program
- Accelerated Reader
- Guidance/Counseling
- Speech/Resource Classes
- ERI (Early Reading Intervention)
- Reading Recovery
- Lead Interventionist Teacher
- School Psychologist
- Related Arts Teachers in full rotation (Art, Music, Physical Education, Media Center, STEM)

Student Recognition

- Top Jets- A school wide program that identifies students for being leaders in their classroom.
- Positive Office Referrals- Students recognized for outstanding behavior
- Jet News- Positive recognition for outstanding students during the Morning Announcements News Show with Mrs. Putnam, our principal.
- Awards Program- Recognition each 9 weeks for Honor Roll and Good Behavior.

Teacher Recognition

One teacher each year is nominated and selected as New Prospect Elementary School Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year represents our school in the District Teacher of the Year Program, which recognizes exemplary teachers across the district. Also, each month a teacher is recognized on the morning announcements as our Teacher of the Month. Teachers nominate one another for this award citing reasons why this teacher should be recognized.

School Goals, Action Plans, and Outcomes

Goal 1: The percentage of our students in grades 3 -5 who score Met and Exemplary as measured by the state assessment in Science, Math, ELA, and Social Studies will increase to 90% by 2017-2018.

Action Plan:

1. Teachers will be provided professional development in all content areas.
2. Teachers will provide monthly data sheets and share them with the administration.
3. During the Monthly Data Meetings, the teachers will adjust their students' progress on the school's Data Wall to reflect their progress. (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3)
4. Teachers will have common planning time to collaborate and discuss best practices in all content areas of instruction.
5. Teachers will use science kits for hands-on instruction.
6. Teachers will follow a balanced literacy approach, including guided reading instruction.
7. Teachers will increase the amount of primary sources used in social studies instruction.

Outcomes: The district purchased new Math curriculum and provided training for all teachers. Manipulatives and mentor texts were purchased and are being utilized by the teachers. Science kits emphasizing science and math using Probe Wear was purchased and training is scheduled for November 2013. Grade level sets of guided reading books were purchased in the 2013-2014 school year. The entire staff received professional development in writing instruction from Upstate Writing Project during the 2013-2014 school year

Goal 2: Embed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum into all areas of instruction.

Action Plan:

1. A STEM lead teacher will be hired to provide additional support to classroom teachers. The STEM teacher will model inquiry-based lessons for teachers in all grade levels and provide STEM lessons daily.
2. Teachers will continue to participate in professional development designed to enhance inquiry based teaching and learning.

Outcomes: A full time STEM lead teacher was hired for additional support in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The STEM teacher teaches in the Related Arts rotation for grades 1-5, assists teachers in all classrooms with Science instruction, as well as provides professional development for all teachers. The STEM teacher attends conferences to continuously stay abreast of new STEM practices.

Goal 3: Increase student engagement through diversified teaching and interactive learning.

Action Plan:

1. The faculty will participate in a year-long book study and professional development plan concentrating on increasing student engagement in the classroom.
2. Administration will do weekly observations of teachers, focusing on how well their students are engaged.
3. Map scores, Istation scores, and the SC Ready Test, as well as other data will be monitored throughout the year to quantify results.

Outcomes: Using Map scores, Directed Reading Assessments, Running Records, Istation results, and classroom observations, student growth exceeded 2014-15 results. We believe that the professional development and increased accountability with the teachers resulted in more positive gains.

2014-2015 Test Data

*Students took the ACT Aspire Test, which has been discontinued by the State Department of Education. The State Department of Education has adopted a new testing measure called SC Ready. The results of the SC Ready test will be available soon.

2015-2016 Test Data

MAP Test Results Grades 3-5

Reading: 73% Average and Advanced

Math: 65% Average and Advanced

New Prospect Elementary School is dedicated to teaching students to reach their maximal potential through our very rigorous and high expectations, positive relationships we build with our families, and current best practices that are relevant to our learners. Through these practices we will increase our standardized test scores by 3% each year, so that by the 2017-2018 school year, all students will score Met or Exemplary on the SC Ready Test at 90% or better.

