

Whittaker Elementary School

Teresa C. Jennings, Principal

Denise Simpson, Assistant Principal

Annual School Improvement Council Report to Parents 2017

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Mission Statement: The mission of Whittaker Elementary School— WES exists to provide effective teaching and learning through equitable, high expectations and digital learning environments to ensure academic success for all students through collaborative partnerships.

WES is a learning campus where caring people, academics, the arts and physical education connect—and our purpose is to enable our students to be thinking, productive, responsible citizens in the global, competitive 21st Century--while serving as the center for community learning.

Purpose of the Report: School Improvement Councils (SICs) are to publish and distribute a Report to the Parents each year highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the its five-year School Improvement Plan and the SIC's annual goals. This Report is unique to each school and is developed by the SIC with input of the principal to share the challenges and successes of the school, students, parents, and teachers for the current school year.

Whittaker Elementary School operates in a tradition of excellence that stems from dedicated, hardworking faculty and staff members that join hearts and hands with the Whittaker Heights Community to obtain academic success for all students. Whittaker is a Title I School with a poverty index of 97%. Each year, Whittaker strives to improve upon the tradition of academic achievement that has been established by providing our students with real world experiences that will positively influence their futures and secure the best academic foundation can be offered to a millennial student.

The Whittaker Family plans and collaborates regularly in order to provide a challenging and stimulating curriculum, in a one-to-one digital environment on a daily basis. All students from Pre-K to 5th grade received a digital device that is used to provide personal learning experiences. We believe that an academically focused and a technologically blended environment is the key to preparing our students for a successful future. Academic achievement is our primary focus and using data to monitor, assess, and adjust instruction based on the needs of our students, is our ultimate goal. We have completed our third year of the Race to the Top Grant and are proud of the innovations and practices that the professional development brings to our school. Teachers, administrators, and students being engaged in grant activities that constantly sharpen our instructional skills and abilities and increase the opportunities of success for all.

Whittaker's parents are a vital part of our school environment and our WES parents work diligently with the school to create a school-to-home relationship that is positive and productive. We have implemented opportunities for our parents to track their child's academic and behavior progress through the digital devices and software programs such as REMIND101 and Class Dojo. Also utilizing the PowerSchool Parent Portal, communication with regard to academics has provided parents with daily access to their child's assignments, progress reports, and sense of empowerment for parents that assist them in tracking and monitoring their child's academic growth.

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In an effort to continue to provide excellent classroom instruction, we examine data from multiple sources to ensure that the teaching and learning here at WES is “laser focused” and intentional. Through the use of data provided by classroom teachers, Universal Screenings, district benchmarks, common assessments,

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) and from Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing; we make every effort to provide learning that is personalized based on student learning needs.

To make sure that teachers remain abreast of best practices and trends we have implemented book studies and other professional development that assists teachers in building collaborative relationships that fosters the practice of *all* students belonging to *all* of us. During the Mindset book study, classroom teachers were divided into committees and participated in a variety of staff development that they created and shared. Over the past two summers teachers were afforded opportunities to participate in workshops to include Project Based Learning 101, The National School Faculty Reform training, as well as several other professional development opportunities that focus on developing skills to ensure teaching and learning is student focused and has a relevant purpose.

Teachers regularly plan collaboratively, develop assessments, and analyze data by grade levels to compare student progress, plan instruction, and integrate practices shared by colleagues. Our focus has made a major shift as we look at methods of differentiating instruction to meet the individual learning needs for all children. Our goal is to provide small group differentiated instruction that is focused on the individual learning needs of our students. Differentiation is a noted learning area that we will continuously focus on as we move toward a gradual release of learning to students; to prepare students to become critical thinkers, collaborative team members, and develop students who will possess world-class knowledge.

In a continuing effort to promote school wide positive student behavior, we continued our use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) through our school’s Respect Order Attitude and Responsibility (ROAR) Program. Through our daily announcements, children are reminded to show their Wildcat Pride in all they say and do. To support our ROAR initiative we implemented the “Hi-Five Friday” incentive program where the last Friday of each month we recognize students who demonstrate the characteristics of ROAR along with academic effort throughout the month. These students receive lunch with the principal and/or assistant principal and HERO awards from the guidance counselor.

In 2016, 90% of all WES fourth grade students met standards as based on the SCPASS Social Studies assessment and 80% of all WES fourth grade met standards as indicated by SCPASS Science assessment. In math and reading, we will utilize ELEOT data to analyze learning gaps and develop action plans to bridge and ultimately close the gaps in teaching and learning. We implement Morning Math and ELA Snippets to prepare and assess student learning throughout the year to target remediation needs. We will continue with the use of MAP, Mastery Connect, and Compass learning to monitor individual student needs and growth targets. Our expectation is to work, collaborate, and ensure academic success for students.

The WES BETA Club students and staff have begun to participate in a variety of community service projects this school year. Our students thus far, have packed meals for the less fortunate, collected foods and non-perishable items for those impacted by natural disasters. This year we will have the opportunity



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to have these students visit to well-known HBCUs in Atlanta as a part of our “Getting Ready for College Early” initiative.

Teachers at WES continue to strive for excellence in a myriad of ways. From pursuing advanced degrees, completing requirements for the state reading certification, as well as working on the district level to create pacing guides and other resources that can be used throughout the district for the purpose of teaching and learning.

Whittaker Elementary will continue to embrace the mission of ensuring academic success for all students, through a laser focus on teaching, learning, and collaboration to build a community of world class learners and leaders.

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Hartford Wright , SIC Chairperson

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Whittaker Elementary School Member Roster

Elected Parent Members				
Member	Address	Phone Number	Email	Type of Member
Mr. Hartford Wright	249 Corner Lane Branchville, SC 29432	803-378-9446		Parent/Chair
Mrs. Cynthia Mack-Brown			Cynthia.brown@ocsd5.net	Teacher
Mrs. Taisha Jefferson Brown			Taisha.jefferson@ocsd5.net	Parent
Tawana Howell			Tawana.fredrick@ocsd5.net	Teacher
Mrs. Mortistine Whetstone				Parent
Mrs. Faith Arthur	1750 Taylor Drive Orangeburg, SC	803-539-9509	Faith.arthur@ocsd5.net	Parent
Mrs. Joi Wade			Joi.wade@ocsd5.net	Parent
Principal Appointed representatives and business partner(s)				
Arbor Trust Investment Group	Box 328 1195 St. Matthews Road Orangeburg, SC	803-536-9626	N/A	Business Partner
Mrs. Charlene Frye				Community Member
Dr. Alfreda Jamison	28 Estate Court Orangeburg, SC		Alfreda.jamison@ocsd5.net	Community Member
Mr. Sean Jones				Community Member
Teresa C. Jennings, Ed. D	790 Whittaker Parkway Orangeburg, SC	803-534-6559	teresa.jennings@ocsd5.net	Ex-officio member

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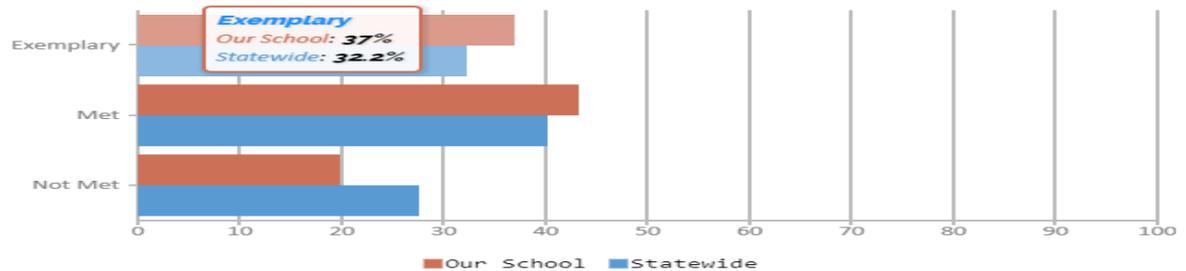
WES School Improvement Annual Goals for 2017-2018:

1. Continue to implement research-based and proven technology and software (Study Island, STAR Reading, Mastery Connect) to optimize the modalities for instruction.
2. Continue to provide academic assistance for students at various grade levels who are not meeting standards on school, district, and state assessments.
3. Increase the number of students meeting standards in third, fourth, and fifth grade reading, science, social studies, and math as indicated by SCReady, SCPASS, and MAP.
4. Analyze and strategically plan and implement best practices that focus on reading throughout the WES campus to increase the number of students reading on grade level.

Whittaker Elementary School 2017 Assessment Data

SCPASS

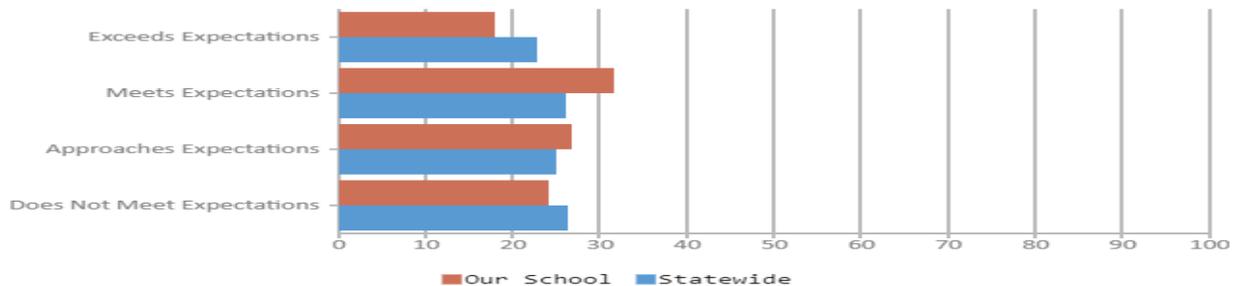
Social Studies



Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

4th Grade	5th Grade
89.9	71.4

Science



Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

4th Grade	5th Grade
59.4	40.3

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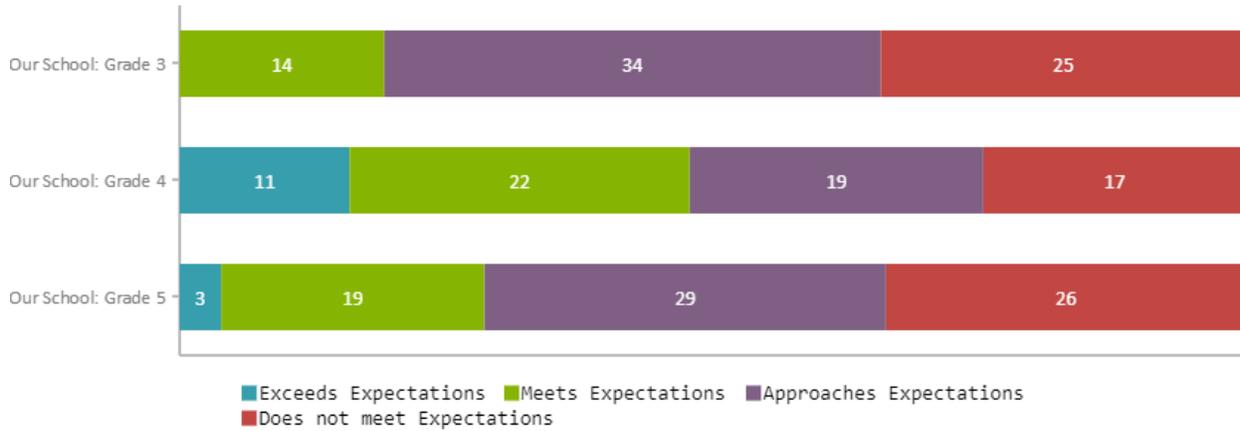
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Whittaker Elementary School 2017 Assessment Data (con't)

SCREADY

Math



English



Whittaker Elementary School Motto: "Impacting the Future.....One Student at a Time"