

Carolina Forest International Elementary

2012-2015 Strategic Plan Summative Results

Dr. Helen Gross, Principal

Vision – Excellence in Education

Mission - Carolina Forest International Elementary inspires creativity and ambition to succeed while empowering students to invest in their learning. Our team provides a safe and vibrant environment where students develop academic, social and emotional strengths. We foster parent/teacher/student partnerships to ensure student success.

Purpose – Inspiring students to soar in an ever-changing, global society.

Goal 1:

- Carolina Forest International Elementary has successfully implemented both the Splash! Spanish Language Immersion program as well as the Model Passport Program. We have hosted 10 international teachers in the past 3 years and have plans to continue to expand our global programs.
- Carolina Forest International Elementary proudly sponsored the Belize Teacher Exchange program which originated in 2013. To date, we have sent 13 teachers to spend a week teaching in Belize and we have sponsored 7 Belize teacher visits to Onslow County Schools.
- A multi-faceted Title 1 team was developed to provide support to teachers and students. A literacy specialist, reading specialist and 3 assistants work with students to develop and reinforce effective literacy skills.
- Unofficial preliminary results indicate a performance composite increase from 57.5% in 2012/2013 to 68.9% in 2013/2014 to 69.6% in 2014/2015. Most notable growth occurred in the areas of 3rd grade math with an increase of 22.7%, 4th grade reading with an increase of 9.7% and 5th grade math with an increase of 11.5%.
- Our K-2 reading composite indicates an increase from 64% in 2012/2013 to 67% in 2013/2014 to 68% in 2014/2015. Most notable growth occurred in the areas of kindergarten reading with an increase of 26%.

Goal 2:

- Professional development was provided to 100% of staff members in the areas of Globalization, Effective Professional Learning Communities, Instructional Technology and Differentiation.
- Based on teacher feedback from the 2013 Teacher Working Conditions Survey, the WAVE schedule was implemented during the 2014/2015 school year to allow additional time for team planning.
- Team planning was increased by over 50% and team leaders utilized a results-oriented approach to ensure time was spent discussing curriculum objectives, sharing of resources, discussing formative assessments and student performance results.
- 100% of instructional staff participated on committees to include Literacy, AVID, Team Morale, Helping Hands, School Safety, Student Leadership and Community Partnerships.
- 100% of classrooms were outfitted with projectors, interactive whiteboards, document cameras and student computers/devices.

Goal 3:

- 4th and 5th grade student leaders participated in a Flag Service and Safety Patrol program to encourage leadership and pride in our school community.
- Transition programs such as kindergarten camp and middle school orientation were coordinated to ensure students acclimate to their new schools with success.
- 100% of students participate in Bully Awareness classes/assemblies.
- Girls on the Run and STRIDE were coordinated each year to encourage exercise and healthy life choices.
- 100% of 5th grade students participated in the DARE program in conjunction with the Jacksonville Police Department.

Goal 4:

- The Carolina Forest community celebrated our heritage by coordinating the yellow ribbon event and special military child celebrations.
- 100% of students had the opportunity to participate in at least one service learning opportunity yearly.
- Partnerships with community organizations such as 2D Combat Engineer Battalion were fostered to provide additional support to students and teachers.
- The Carolina Forest PTO continues to be a pillar of strength in our community. During 2013/2014 they procured over 25k to purchase a new playground for the school and during 2014/2015 they purchased 40 picnic tables to encourage outside learning opportunities on campus.
- Annual feeder district events were held to highlight instructional and enrichment programs such as the International Holiday Fair.

Goal 5:

- 100% of teachers have school websites which include homework, classroom policies and procedures, important class information and expectations.
- Administration provided weekly updates via school messenger, email and the school website to keep parents and families abreast of school happenings and events.
- Social media avenues were explored and developed to reach more stakeholders such as a PTO Facebook page and a Twitter account.
- Outstanding student and staff performance as recognized through our employee of the month program and our Character Education celebrations.
- Community partnerships with colleges/universities and businesses continue to be fostered to provide learning opportunities for students and staff.

Overall Successes

Carolina Forest International Elementary School has been home to over 1,000 students and 100 staff members for the past three years. We are an internationally focused themed elementary school who continues to outperform state and federal target indicators. We have consistently performed above state averages and have met or exceeded growth predictions. Our vision of excellence in education and high expectations for stakeholders has resulted in our outstanding academic performance. We transitioned to become an internationally themed school in 2012 and continue to expand our international focus each

year. During 2014/2015 we proudly hosted 10 international teachers and submitted an application to expand our programs to include a Chinese teacher for 2015/2016.

Carolina Forest International Elementary has fostered a collaborative relationship with our parents and community. As a military community, we strive to meet the unique needs of families by celebrating their military heritage. We were adopted by 2d Maintenance Battalion in 2013 and look forward to weekly groups of Marines who volunteer on our campus. We also have a successful PTO who work hard to support the needs of our school community.

Continued and Necessary Next Steps

Areas that we will focus on over the next few years include a renewed focus on the PLC model with a commitment to planning time that is consistent with PLC guiding principles, developing effective literacy skills across all grade levels and continuing to expand our globalization efforts. Carolina Forest International Elementary will pursue the North Carolina Global Ready Schools Designation during 2015/2016 and will utilize the 10 guiding principles to drive our strategic planning efforts. These efforts will include collaboration, professional development on embedding global education, problem based learning, inquiry based learning, global connections and service learning.