

Executive Summary

School Profile

Oakview Elementary is located in the fastest growing area of Greenville County, the Golden Strip. Oakview opened in 1995 with 752 students. In the 2004-2005 school year, Oakview Elementary School celebrated its 10th anniversary. In early years, Oakview experienced dramatic growth, followed by a significant decrease in enrollment due to downsizing. Enrollment is once again on the rise as new subdivisions are continuously being built, with 1,267 students currently attending. Demographically, however, the school has changed little. As a result of the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act and the Title I Choice program, twenty one students are bused to Oakview from schools receiving an “Unsatisfactory” rating on state school report cards. As part of Greenville County Schools capital improvement plans, four new kindergarten classrooms were constructed in 2004 and the drop off loop which serves lower grades was relocated. The school community continues to take an active part in programs at Oakview with over 60,000 volunteer hours logged in last year.

Instructional and Organizational Priorities

Instructional and organizational priorities at Oakview focus on the needs of students in preparing them for responsible citizenship, lifelong learning and productive adulthood. Oakview Elementary School updates the portfolio each year to communicate progress as mandated by EFA, SACS, EAA and NCLB. Each year we set goals and strategies that will improve the educational program and most importantly, student achievement. Through the cooperative efforts of parents, students, faculty, and administration, Oakview Elementary continues to experience positive growth in many areas. Oakview PACT scores, for example, continue to rank among the top schools in the state when compared to “schools like ours.” Performance on PACT remains a priority as the faculty addresses state curriculum standards as part of the instructional program. Subsequent instructional and organizational priorities all point back to student achievement and reflect needs assessments across many school programs. Based on survey data, student performance data, and other quality measures, the school establishes and implements annual goals and strategies focused on continuous improvement.

Oakview has a strong emphasis on literacy. Greenville County Schools have implemented the Pat Cunningham 4 Blocks model for all elementary schools in the district. Oakview uses this model in all grade levels. Pat Cunningham’s 4 Block model uses guided reading instruction, student self-selected reading, writing instruction and practice with vocabulary development. The writing process is interwoven throughout the curriculum from kindergarten through fifth grade. The faculty believes the relationship between reading and writing is important and feels the more the students read, the better writers they become. Project Read phonology was added to the Word Block of 4 Block language arts in an effort to reach all students. To enhance and remediate reading instruction, Oakview teachers use the Lexia software reading program as well as Reading Counts. A new software, Compass Learning, purchased by the district will be

implemented during the 2008-2009 school year. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests were administered to students in grades one through five in the fall of 2006 to determine current levels of instruction and as a benchmark score in reading. Teachers administer teacher made and district mandated tests throughout the year to determine student progress. MAP tests are administered in the fall and spring of each year to determine if student growth goals for the year have been met.

Oakview uses the Houghton Mifflin math series and a district pacing guide to aid in use of timing for math curriculum. The math series is aligned with state math standards. Teachers in all grades have been trained and implement Everyday Counts Calendar Math in their classrooms to review and enhance math instruction. Teachers administer benchmark tests in the early fall to determine student progress and understanding. Teachers use Everyday Counts Math Partner Games, Leap Frog Math, Math Steps, and After School Math Achievers, to reinforce skills and concepts taught. MAP testing is also administered in the fall and again in the spring to determine growth.

Science instruction is driven by district science kits which are closely aligned to state science standards. The science curriculum is extended through weekly lessons in the school's science lab. Science instruction focuses on integrating content and process skills through inquiry base instruction. Over the years, Oakview has developed extensive science habitats which include an apple orchard, blueberry patch, nature trail, butterfly garden, and South Carolina garden. The South Carolina garden includes cotton plants which students study and harvest as well as popcorn. Oakview has a full time science lab teacher. MAP science was also administered in the fall and will be used again in the spring to show student growth gains.

Social studies instruction centers on the South Carolina curriculum standards. The texts used to support these standards are Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt Brace. Teachers are also provided extensive support from the GCS social studies consultant in implementing the curriculum. Web based links, standards correlations, essential questions and other support resources are provided. Student performance data is generated through curriculum based tests and other alternative assessments. To carry out the rich content in social studies, integration with ELA maintains a central role for teachers through the use of novel units at the upper grades. Training in novel unit integration is provided by the GCS ELA consultant. Teachers extend research skills and social studies content for students through technology based units of study.

Technology is used and integrated in all classrooms. During the 2006-07 school year, interactive whiteboards were installed in all classrooms in the building as well as to all support classrooms and computer labs. All total, the school now houses 70 interactive whiteboards to support instruction. Teachers participated in a 10 hour training series during the winter and spring of 2007 and have received ongoing support from the school's Instructional Coach. In addition to this initiative, the school implements computer based instruction through the use of two traditional hard wire labs as well as 113 wireless laptops available for classroom use on 7 wireless laptop labs. All instructional staff members also have laptop computers. The school updates its

Technology Plan annually as it addresses both hardware and software integration. The ultimate goal of course is to positively impact student achievement and prepare students for lifelong learning in a technology based workforce of the future.

Parent involvement continues to take a central role in the success of Oakview. Through volunteer hours, the school tracks its progress each year as parents work alongside teachers in providing meaningful activities for children. The school's PTA compiles volunteer data on an annual basis by creating a computerized database with names and contact information for each volunteer opportunity. Involvement can range from daily, to weekly, to monthly opportunities with some activities on campus and some from home. In addition to specialized volunteer opportunities through PTA, the faculty and administration also involve parents in more traditional ways through conferencing, School Improvement Council and workshops to name just a few. As part of the annual portfolio process, parent involvement strategies are reviewed and updated. School data from prior years indicate overall program success as a result of parent involvement. It is believed that these efforts have contributed significantly to the school climate at Oakview.

Mission, Vision and Beliefs

The mission of Oakview Elementary School, in cooperation with our student's home and the community, is to prepare students for responsible citizenship, lifelong learning, and productive employment by:

- Opening opportunities for all students
- Accepting individual differences
- Keeping a smile
- Varying teacher techniques
- Identifying and addressing strengths and weaknesses
- Engaging students in learning activities
- Working as a team

Faculty Council, School Improvement Council, PTA and students worked together to establish a clear direction for each school year. Using the Education Plan of Greenville County Schools as a framework and guided by both state and federal school improvement benchmarks and accreditation requirements as outlined by SACS, Oakview set goals for improvement and strategies to carry out the plan. This portfolio documents achievements made in these areas and provides next steps toward continuous improvement.

Goal Area 1 Raise the academic challenge and performance of each student

Goal Area 2 Teacher/Administrator Quality

Goal Area 3 Parent Involvement

Strategies

- Develop and implement an After School Remediation Program for students scoring Not Met on PASS
- Staff part time Reading Intervention Specialists and one full time Computer Lab Manager
- Investigate the use of MAP data for the purpose of flexible ability grouping in the content areas
- Establish student achievement goals and supporting strategies each year as part of the PAS-T, PAS IC, and PAS-A evaluation programs
- Offer a “Math Master” student incentive program
- Train and offer volunteer Reading Tutors for lower performing students
- Continue to implement and upgrade Reading Counts and SRA support materials
- Offer co-curricular activities such as Lego Club, Robotics Team, Junior Robotics, Level I and II Spanish, Fitness Club, Honor Art, Chorus, Student Council, Morning News, Library Cadets, Board Games Club, International Club, Environmental Engineers, Garden Club, Safety Patrol, etc.)
- Offer “How to Help Your Child in Reading” and “Internet Safety” workshops for parents
- Continue to implement Four Blocks Literacy Model, Writer’s Handbook, Project Read Phonology, Larson’s Leapfrog Math, Compass Learning, Sunshine Math, Everyday Counts Calendar Math, Brain Based Strategies, and Learning Focus methodologies.
- Monitor student progress by implementing Rigby Running Records, Monitoring student growth with MAP testing, and Writing Prompts
- Continue to offer technology based professional development opportunities such as “Intel Teach to the Future,” Promethean Board Training, Video On Demand, Compass Learning
- Extend student learning by offering school wide activities such as Arts Festival, Family Math, Science and Technology Night, Culture Fest, and Fossil Fun Day
- Continue to implement Lexia and Compass Learning software across the school network to improve ELA skills
- Continue to implement Everyday Counts Calendar Math and Math Partner Games
- Provide instructional feedback through classroom observations
- Provide professional development through the “Summer Academy,” school based workshops and journal readings
- Provide support through mentoring and professional leave for teachers pursuing National Board Certification
- Continue the “mentor/mentee” program for new teachers at Oakview
- Involve faculty members in peer interviews for vacant positions
- Provide opportunities for teachers to observe in other classrooms
- Analyze and apply data from the S.C. Teacher Working Conditions Survey, S.C. School Climate Survey, PAS-T student surveys, PAS IC and PAS-A teacher surveys and on line Oakview School Survey

- Continue to offer and implement a summer camp program at the school
- Continue support of Business Partners through PTA and teacher support
- Continue to support and expand the use of school/teacher web pages
- Distribute the school newsletter to various community members, business partners and school district personnel
- Involve community members through opportunities such as Culture Fest, Doughnuts for Dads, Hands On Greenville Day, and other PTA/school sponsored events

In moving toward the 2008-2013 school year, the faculty, SIC, PTA, students and other stakeholders will assess the school's progress made in the three goal areas. Data points reflecting the strategies implemented will be reviewed to determine desired outcomes for student learning. Our School Portfolio validates that goals are being met and exceeded, as we successfully fulfill our mission.

Significant Accomplishments

During the last five years, Oakview and its teachers, students and parents have been recognized by local, state and national organizations for outstanding performance in a variety of areas. For an up to date listing of these honors, please refer to the school's web site at www.greenville.k12.sc.us/oakview. Oakview Elementary School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the South Carolina State Department of Education. The school has an "All Clear" rating. Based on PACT scores, Oakview again received the Palmetto Gold Award, the state's highest honor for student achievement, for the sixth straight year. The school has also been recognized for three consecutive years by the state of South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) as a Showcase School which is Closing the Gap among historically underachieving students. In addition, Oakview successfully fulfilled all requirements to attain "Adequate Yearly Progress" under the No Child Left Behind Act. Faculty and staff continue to achieve over a 97% attendance rate as well as meeting Highly Qualified status as outlined under NCLB guidelines. Over 60% hold Masters degrees or higher, and 10 teachers have completed requirements for National Board Certification. Oakview students have also garnered attention as 269 out of 361 4th and 5th grade students qualified for the Duke TIP program in 2005. Students have been recognized as Champions of the Environment in the state and at the national level have received the Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence in Education Award for their efforts. In addition, the school's robotics team won the state championship in 2005 and again in 2007. PTA again received district and state honors for parent involvement initiatives. Oakview PTA has been named a South Carolina PTA Unit of the Year and was granted a Phoebe Apperson Hearst-National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award for its innovative programs and support to the school. Oakview has also been recognized by the South Carolina division of the National School Public Relations Association for its web-based communication efforts.