



# AJ WHITTENBERG ELEMENTARY

## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

### Annual School Improvement Council Report to the Parents 2026

Principal: *Cameron Brice* Program Director: *Demond Criss* Admin Assistant: *Tonya Jordan*

#### A.J. Whittenberg Mission Statement

We, at AJW, create a culture of respect and highest achievement, uniquely aligned with engineering principles, that best prepares a diverse group of learners to succeed in the 21st Century.

#### Purpose of the Report

*"This Report is issued by the A.J. Whittenberg School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."*

#### School Profile

Enrollment: 512

Grades: K4-5th

Teachers: 42



#### A.J. Whittenberg SIC Members

Cameron Brice: Principal  
Demond Criss: Program Director  
Misty Natskakula: Teacher  
Johanna Hartmann: Teacher  
Sherlen Crawford: Parent  
Bryan Hayes: Community Partner  
Dr. Byron Battle: Community Partner

#### Features of A.J. Whittenberg

- Engineering focused, problem-based curriculum
- One to One Technology Program for K through 5th grade
- Building designed to facilitate learning and the engineering curriculum
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Schools Silver certification
- Downtown Greenville location adjacent to the Swamp Rabbit Trail, Unity Park, and Reedy River
- Co-located with the Salvation Army's Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
- Extended Day Program and Enrichment Activities
- FIRST Lego League (FLL): Explore (Junior Lego) Robotics and Challenge (Lego) Robotics teams
- Award-winning Innovate! program
- Class-size Mars topographical map
- Watch D.O.G.S (Dad of Great Students)
- Bee Ambassadors
- SEL (Social Emotional Learning)
- Green Team - Recycle Program
- Engineer Partner Program with such local organizations as Michelin, Fluor, Society of Women Engineers, GE Energy, Jacobs, and Garver to bring engineering to life for students
- Clubs - Battle of the Books, Space Club, Chorus, Art, Good News Club, Girls on the Run, & A.J. Garden Club (ECO Kids)
- House system to support relationship building and teamwork.
- Essential 18 School Wide Expectations

#### School/Faculty Achievements

- Palmetto Silver Award: 2023-2024, 2024-2025
- Upstate Leadership Award for Outstanding K-12 School & William "Bill" T. Wylie Valued Lives Award for School Excellence in Diversity
- FLL Fall Jr. Lego Regional Finalists
- FLL Spring Jr. Lego Regional Finalists
- MAC School Project Grant Recipients
- Teacher of the Year: Hannah Hall
- 22-23 Academic Achievement Awards: Positive Growth in ELA, Science & Math
- 2020 National Blue Ribbon School



## Parent/Community Involvement

- Mentor Upstate
- iImagine STEAM Festival Upstate
- AJW Morning Reading Program
- Real Men Read
- Community Food Drives
- Uniform Drives
- Watch D.O.G.S (Dad of Great Students)
- Good News Club
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- PTA Events
- PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheons
- School Improvement Council (SIC)
- Monthly SIC & PTA meetings
- Career Awareness
- Backpack Program
- Engineering Weeks
- Arts Night
- AJ Night at the Drive
- Reading All-Stars with Greenville Drive
- Society of Women Engineers
- Moody Black Artist in Residence

## Updated Needs Assessment

- Continue to further our efforts to create a school environment that is challenging, engaging, supportive, healthy, and safe.
- Strengthen our focus on individualized learning, specifically Inquiry-Based/Project Based Learning (PBL) and Guided Reading and Math. Continue to emphasize specific strategies to ensure all students are engaged in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication.
- Strengthen our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) through continued professional development and the implementation of programs, including Book of the Month, that will enhance this effort.
- Continue to develop our school's instructional focus to increase achievement as indicated by SCReady, Mastery Connect, and formative assessments.
- Continue to strengthen local community partnerships through mentorships.

## Student Achievement 2025 SCREADY/SCPASS Scores Meeting or Exceeding

| Subject | Test     | % Exceeds & Meets | District Avg. | State Avg. |
|---------|----------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| Reading | SC Ready | 69.4%             | 68%           | 60.3%      |
| Math    | SC Ready | 67.1%             | 54.8%         | 44.5%      |
| Science | SC Ready | 72.7%             | 60.9%         | 49.5       |

For more information, you may view A.J. Whittenberg's S.C. School Report Card for the previous school year online at [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov).

## Power Through Partnerships

A major portion of AJW's success is due to robust partnerships with many community organizations and major engineering-focused corporations. Since the school's inception, AJW students have benefited from real-world engineering instruction from Fluor, GE, Jacobs, Michelin, Dottie Rose Foundation, and others. Today, those partnerships continue to grow and expand.

## Engineers Make a World of Difference!

