

2016-2017 SIC Members

Pam Adams, Chair
 Kenya Ford, Member
 John Wills, Member
 Seldon Pedan, Member
 Bo McDonald, Community Member
 Dr. Megan D. Mitchell-Hoefer, Principal
 Amanda LeBlanc, Secretary, Teacher Representative
 Melissa V. Lowe, PTA President
 Marleen Hygema, Administrative Assistant
 Hamilton Parks, Instructional Coach
 Deb Blume, School Counselor
 Lynn Mann, Program Director

School Profile

School Enrollment: 550
Administrators: 3

Grades: K4 - 5
Teachers: 37

Mission: 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.

Vision: Essential 18
 Rock the Top
 Power Through Partnerships
 We Own Wow!

WHAT IS SIC?

The School Improvement Council (SIC) serves as an advisory committee to the school's principal and faculty. SIC plays a key role in the education of our state's children, bringing together parents, educators, and community stakeholders to work collectively to improve student achievement.

A Pioneer for the Upstate

Engineering focused, problem-based curriculum

88,232 square foot, three story facility

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 and Reedy River

Co-located with the Salvation Army's Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center (shared facility space)

Student-designed playgrounds

Junior FLL Lego Robotics

FIRST Lego League (FLL) Lego Robotics

Goldie Blox Club

Breathe Better Air Program

Challenge Program for Gifted and Talented students

Green Teams

Green Roof

Solar Panels

STEAM Labs

Robotics Curriculum

Coding / Programming

3D Printers

CATCH Program

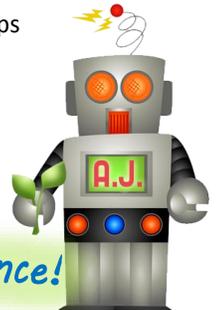
School Garden

AJ Day at Flour Field

Walk to Run Program

Leveled Bookroom

Robust after school programs and summer camps



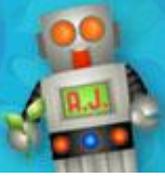
A Word from our Chair

Our School Improvement Council (SIC) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the students at A.J. Whittenberg by supporting the administrative staff, selecting passionate parents for membership, and inviting credible community leaders who are respected in their profession.

The number one priority is our children's well-being. "Equal Opportunity for Success" is our motto where academic achievement and access to the right tools for each student is easily available. We are always in the process of strengthening the SIC team by networking with the surrounding community. We know it takes dynamic, uncompromising people that represent a diverse background to increase the vibrancy of our school's reputation, implement effective programs, and ensure every child accomplishes their goals.

Pam Adams
 SIC Chair

Engineers Make A World of Difference!



Rock the Top

We take hands on, authentic learning to a whole new level. Our students get to participate in field trips that were specially designed for our school, curriculum, and state standards. Each grade level does at least one “big” field trip along with a multitude of other experiences throughout the year.

- K5 – Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia, SC
- 1st – Botanical Gardens, Clemson, SC
- 2nd – Barrier Island ECO-Tour, Barrier Island, SC
- 3rd – Historic Charleston, SC
- 4th – Space Camp, Huntsville, AL
- 5th – Naval Flight Academy, Pensacola, FL

WE OWN WOW

A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School of Engineering believes in a student-centered approach to learning that addresses the whole child and works with parents and the community to develop the academic, social and problem-solving skills of each child to their full potential. AJW students are equipped with all of the skills necessary to meet the demands of the 21st Century workplace and not only succeed, but lead the way to a brighter future. Engineering Makes a World of Difference!

AJW was the first elementary school in South Carolina to offer an engineering-focused curriculum for all students. Beginning in pre-kindergarten, students learn the Engineering Process and apply this to a problem-based curriculum. The school leverages the many international corporations with engineering expertise in the Upstate to bring real-world engineers into the classrooms on a regular basis. These business partnerships offer a wealth of benefits to AJW students including expert instruction, field trips, mentoring, career path development and other support that brings learning to life throughout the school. Special programs such as Lego Robotics, Coder Club, Engineering “eWeeks”, Lunch n’ Learns and STEAM-focused festivals enrich learning for students of all ages.

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, Hubbell Lighting, Michelin, and others. Today, those partnerships continue to grow and expand including, the Greenville Drive, iMagine Upstate, Jacobs Engineering, O’Neal Engineering, Renewal Water Resources (ReWa) and its DIG Greenville project, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, First Baptist Simpsonville, Project Host, YouthBASE and many others. We offer a special thanks to those who choose to give anonymously to our many programs.



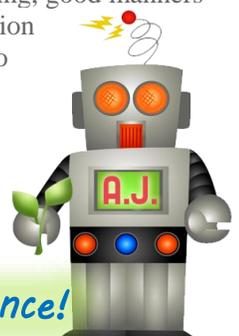
New Technology

In addition to 1:1 computing, AJW students have exposure to a variety of technology tools to reinforce math, engineering, coding, and other STEAM concepts. You can find our students using technology such as 3D printers and 3D pens, many different types of codable robots, and programmable circuit boards (Raspberry Pi, Arduino and MakeyMakey). The tools are integrated into all subject areas so that students have wide exposure and are comfortable with a range of technology tools and systems. This technology helps to engage students in all subjects, including ELA, public speaking and team work.



Essential 18

Team work and social skills are major components of the AJW approach to learning. From day one, students are taught the school rules called the Essential 18, which are the character development and soft skills that students will need to succeed. Eye contact, public speaking, good manners and effective communication skills are incorporated into the Essential 18.



Engineers Make A World of Difference!