



Taylors Elementary

Excellence in Achievement, Actions and Attitudes

Taylors Elementary School

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Excellence in Achievement, Actions and Attitudes"

VISION: Our vision is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children will recognize and achieve their fullest potential, so that they can make their best contribution to society.

MISSION: Empowering Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

Annual Report to the Community

Rhonda R. Rhodes, Principal

Justin Smith, SIC Chairman

Terri Wheeler-Hawkins, Assistant Principal

Spring 2019

Taylors Elementary School: Empowering Leaders for Today and Tomorrow! Taylors Elementary offers a diverse learning community with teachers who promote student-centered instruction. Our year has focused on defining excellence and committing to creating a school environment where student needs are first. All decisions are based on "what is best for children." We are proud to be a Leader In Me School and National RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) School.

Taylors Elementary School is fully accredited by the *Advanced Accreditation Commission* and proudly serves approximately 775 students in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. Our school holds a poverty index of 57.6% (according to the most recent data from the SC State Department of Education). Each member of our professional teaching staff is 'highly qualified' and well trained for the position they hold. Our teachers work diligently to provide learning experiences that engage students in creative, rigorous, standards-based learning experiences that enable them to achieve to their highest potential. In addition to providing a *South Carolina Standards-Based Curriculum*, Kindergarten through 5th grade and utilizing research-based *BEST Practices* throughout our instructional program, our staff regularly analyzes student achievement data to make necessary adjustments to our instructional strategies that will support success for every student and meet the unique learning needs of our children.

Raising student achievement is our primary goal. Our Vertical Teams have facilitated conversations and actions among our staff to strive for continuous improvement. We are

developing effective data teams to create common assessments and use data to drive instruction. We continue to grow in the area of Balanced Literacy as a means to support and accelerate every child at Taylors Elementary School. Additionally, we are an Inclusive Strategy School. We strive to identify the strengths and learning needs of all students by offering inclusion-based learning. Inclusion is available for identified special education students whose learning can be maximized and supported in a regular education setting.

The faculty is collaborating to expand its repertoire of strategies for teaching by reading current literature, attending conferences, taking graduate courses, and sharing ideas with colleagues at faculty meetings and in-services. Summer Academy provides one avenue for extensive training where an increasing number of faculty members are also presenters. Teachers are currently participating in Balanced Literacy training. Additionally, we have two Literacy Mentors being trained as teacher leaders to support best practices in the area of ELA in our school.

Each classroom teacher has an iPad and laptop for daily instruction. We currently have three adjunct Google Instructors, iPad Trainers, and four Promethean Trainers, as well as five Discovery Ambassadors for our district who are classroom teachers at Taylors. Technology is enhancing our assessments and providing a higher level of engagement for student learning at Taylors.

Quality teacher leadership is nurtured and encouraged at our school. Our design of staff development includes the structure of our Wednesdays. The first Wednesday of each month is dedicated to our Faculty Council. Teacher leaders review school data, discuss feedback and make decisions based on research and best practices and serve as an advisory committee for Administration. From the transformation of traditional teacher meetings to FBI Meetings, Focus on Better Instruction, teachers lead teachers on our school focus of data teams and other professional development. Vertical Teams meet on the third Wednesday for discussion of standards, and assessment. The fourth Wednesday allows PLC's to create, design and analyze assessment for student learning.

Taylors Elementary School provides a comprehensive counseling program and received the Recognized American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Program (RAMP) designation for our outstanding school counseling program. The RAMP designation, awarded to schools whose counseling programs align with the criteria set in the ASCA National Model, recognizes schools that are committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and creating an exemplary educational environment.

The school counseling program at Taylors Elementary provides a comprehensive program that addresses the academic, career, and personal/social development of students. The program goals include improving students' reading scores, reducing unexcused absences, and using The Leader In Me model to embed the Seven Habits throughout our academic, interpersonal and entire school program. Counselors visit every classroom twice a month to address academic, personal/social, and career development topics and to reach excellence in achievement, actions, and attitudes (the Taylors Mission).

In a concentrated effort to make “every minute count” at Taylors, we participate in the Universal Breakfast Program, providing a free, healthy and nutritious breakfast free of costs for all students. Additionally, we have formed early morning groups, by opening our computer lab for students to enhance their mathematical skills in the First In Math program in grades second through fifth. We have several after school programs for enrichment: Art, Chorus, Green Team, Garden Club, Student Ambassadors, Safety Patrol, News Leaders and a student Lighthouse Team. We have also partnered with the Greenville Hospital System and have six trained Girls on the Run (GOTR) Coaches and 29 girls who have joined the GOTR program. These girls will culminate their participation with a 5K Run in May; additionally, 22 boys participated in the Run Hard Program and completed a Run Hard 5K in April.

To further promote academic success and parental buy-in, PTA events are curriculum-based. The school counselor conducts ITBS meetings with second grade parents to further parental understanding of standardized tests. Past PTA honors include SC PTA Outstanding Unit of the Year, SC PTA Principal of the Year, SC PTA Support Staff of the Year, and SC PTA Enrichment Programs of the Year. The current PTA is eager to regain the recognitions and was honored with one of the highest increases in membership among Greenville County Schools. In addition, School Improvement Council (SIC) takes an active interest in the everyday workings of the school. Voter Registration was made available at two school wide events by our SIC. Parental involvement is encouraged and celebrated with many opportunities to participate in school life.

To strengthen the writing program, each class chooses a “The Write Ingredient,” student whose works are selected for display during the month and they are invited to a special tea. As they sip their “tea”, munch a snack, and listen to the administration read a story, each child receives a special treat bag. “Writing Celebrations” have brought a whole new perspective to our writing program. Parents enjoy coming to celebrate student writing.

Our school belief system embraces that every child is a leader and has genius! Our role as educators is to tap into those gifts and empower students to lead, thrive and grow and individuals. The Seven Habits is embedded throughout our school and everyday life at Taylors Elementary. We are proud to be a Leader in Me School and believe “Greatness Starts Here!”

<i>Awards and Honors</i>
A Leader In Me School
National RAMP School (Recognized ASCA Model Program)
2019 National Distinguished Principal of the Year for the State of SC
Top Ten GCS Teacher of the Year 2018
Top Ten GCS Teacher of the Year 2017
South Carolina Association of School Administrators President Elementary Principal Division
Fully accredited by AdvancED Accreditation Commission 2014-19
'A' Rating on ESEA School Report Card - 2014
Lead the Way Program
Carolina Green Steps School
ds School
<p> K Leaf Award – Recognition of Membership k Leaf Gold Award – Recognitions of Programs </p>
PEP (Public Education Partners) Literacy Grant Recipient: Students Receive Free Books for Summer
PEP (Public Education Partners) STEAM Grant Recipient



