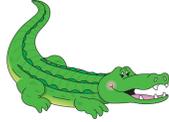


Gateway Elementary School

“Success Begins Here!”

Gateway Elementary School
GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS



Annual Report to the Community 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members,

It is my distinct privilege to share with you our annual Report to the Community for the 2023-24 school year. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support as we work together to provide our students with an exemplary learning environment. I would be remiss if I did not also share my appreciation for the overwhelming level of support that you have shown for our teachers and staff as well! Our staff has been literally showered with monthly snacks and drinks, positive emails, words of encouragement and amazing PTA sponsored lunches, breakfasts and coffee cart visits! The support from each of our stakeholders is a vital component in successful attainment of our primary goal: ensuring that our Gators are well-equipped at the elementary level, to become college and career ready, as young adults.

Gateway’s stakeholder support extends well beyond our classroom walls. Our community stakeholders provided essential resources to strengthen the social and emotional growth of our Gators when they leave our campus as well . For example, The Cliff’s Valley and Cliff’s Mountain Park outreach communities, along with many others, continue to provide holiday assistance to needy families, countless boxes of school supplies, and kid-friendly food items each week to assure that our students are well fed over the weekends. Additionally, Gateway’s Annual Fall Festival was exceptional this year! Due to the increase in monetary and in-kind donations, Gateway was able to “adopt” Slater Marietta Elementary School this year and present them with a check from the festival proceeds to broaden our impact on the students in Greenville County.

Gateway’s PTA enjoyed our most successful year ever in 2023-2024! Our PTA assured that every single Gator received a special Valentine surprise on Valentine’s Day, sponsored a “Silent Disco”to recognize exemplary student behavior, planned a fantastic Grandparents and

Special Friends luncheon as well as a fabulous fall festival, and provided faculty treats and duty free lunch opportunities throughout the school year. Perhaps the most popular event that was sponsored by our PTA was the “SLIME Mr. Gambrell or Mrs. Stublely ” race! This week-long event was so popular and was equally enjoyed by adults and students alike, as it brought laughs, friendly competition and new core memories to our Gators. Additionally, our PTA, school and community members raised funds this year to give our kindergarten playground a much needed facelift. We were thrilled to host a ribbon cutting to unveil a brand new piece of playground equipment for our smallest Gators! Exciting additions were added for our older Gators as well, as new playground boxes filled with equipment were delivered for each grade level, and a brand new “GAGA” ball pit was added to the lower playground. As you can see, Gateway continues to thrive because of the support of our PTA and major stakeholders, and we are so grateful to our wonderful Travelers Rest community.

In addition to ensuring that our Gators are provided with an educational atmosphere that promotes social and emotional growth, the academic progress of our Gators is equally important. As you know, Gateway again received an “EXCELLENT” overall rating on our 2022-2023 state report card! Additionally, our Gators were recognized at the district level for exemplary achievement in ELA, Math, and Science. Excellent work deserves an excellent celebration, and that is exactly what we planned for our Gators! Our students, faculty and staff enjoyed a surprise cook-out with lunch on the lawn, and an ice cream day to recognize our accomplishments.

Achieving an “Excellent” rating is not an easy goal to attain, but one that we are committed to earning each school year. In order to achieve this goal, the faculty and staff of Gateway Elementary School continue to attend monthly professional development sessions to improve our professional knowledge to assure academic growth for all students. This includes professional development presented by our own staff members as well as national presenters! As a result, our staff continues to embed rich, learning experiences into weekly lessons for our students.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Gateway conducted a series of “Learning Walks”, and “Instructional Rounds” throughout our building to fully assess how our students were performing in the classroom. These valuable exercises allowed our team to discuss learning trends at all levels, and assure that we provide targeted, specific support for all students. After each Learning Walk our team charts findings and opportunities for improvement that are then embedded into our professional development plan. Our progress is then monitored by our Instructional Rounds, and again charted to share findings with our staff.

In closing, I would like to again express our sincere appreciation for your support of Gateway Elementary School. This year has once again brought frequent reminders of how truly special it is to be a part of such a thriving and resilient community of stakeholders. Our school climate and academic goals that follow, include an increase in the academic component, as our Gators surpassed the original goal in 2023! Together, with your continued support, we will continue to surpass our expectations.

Academic Goals

Goal 1: The percentage of students scoring Meets Expectations and Exceeds Expectations on SC READY ELA will increase from 48.5% in 2016-17 to a minimum of 73% in 2023-24. (actual 2023 results: 70%)

Goal 2: The percentage of students scoring Meets Expectations and Exceeds Expectations on SC READY Math will increase from 59.1% in 2016-17 to a minimum of 77.0% in 2023-24. (actual 2023 results: 74%)

School Climate

Goal 4: Maintain at least 95.0% attendance rate for all students and all student sub groups from 2019 through 2024.

Objective: Continue to maintain at least 95.0% attendance rate for all students and all student subgroups for the 2023-2024 school year.

Teacher and Administrator Quality

Goal 5: Maintain 100% of teachers as highly qualified from 2019-2024.

Objective: Continue to meet qualification criteria for 100% of teachers in all areas of certification.

The school renewal plan includes elements required by the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135) and the Education Accountability Act of 1998 (EAA). We revise, monitor progress and adjust our goals within the plan annually in collaboration with our school faculty and staff, and our SIC (School Improvement Council).

Lastly, I feel that it is only fitting to again share our core values and beliefs. Our values and beliefs are the core of who we are, what we do, and how we think and feel. Values and beliefs reflect what is important to us; they describe what we think about educating our children, while continuing the focus of remembering that the hearts and minds of our children are of equal importance. Each school year, our staff revisits these guiding principles to assure that they truly reflect our current beliefs. We examine and align our instruction,

curriculum, and assessment initiatives to meet the expectations of 21st Century learners. We think that it is important to include our values and beliefs in our annual report as they set the tone for all that we do, and remind us of our purpose as educators.

Beliefs

We believe...

- We believe all students and staff should be valued and treated with respect, dignity, and equity.
- We believe a physically and emotionally safe environment is essential to the learning process.
- We believe students should feel emotionally safe to make mistakes and build confidence.
- We believe in positive behavior support for students including Gateway's Essential 21 and Gateway's House system.
- We believe students should all have the opportunity to learn.
- We believe all children and adults should be challenged to view life from different perspectives.
- We believe social-emotional learning, discipline, and self-respect should be modeled and reinforced at school.
- We believe family and community involvement in the learning process is an essential component for student success.
- We believe students should collaborate productively, communicate ideas, solve problems, and think critically and creatively while consistently reflecting on their own thinking and learning.
- We believe in providing experiences through data-driven planning to ensure that students are engaged in a rigorous curriculum that challenges each student.
- We believe each member of our school community can be a successful, lifelong learner.

Purpose

The purpose of Gateway Elementary School is to educate, prepare, and empower our students to become productive members of society. We, as the Gateway community, will lead and seek opportunities for personal and professional growth so that we can prepare students for success. Our students will gain the skills and knowledge to effectively communicate by

developing socially and emotionally. They will foster and acquire problem-solving skills by collaborating with others.

Mission

Gateway Elementary School provides a diverse educational experience for each student. We develop, guide, empower, and mentor students to be confident, innovative, collaborative, and strategic thinkers. We provide our students with an atmosphere that models and teaches empathy and respect. We empower students with academic and social-emotional learning strategies so that they can be successful at Gateway and beyond. Gateway Elementary School partners with our students' families and the community to support our students in all areas. Our dedication to this mission propels our students to meet their potential.

Shared Vision

The focus for our vision at Gateway Elementary School emphasizes the ability to recognize strengths within ourselves and in others. We provide meaningful experiences that empower students to analyze data, track their learning progress and utilize critical thinking and technology as tools for learning.

Sincerely,
Susan Stuble, Principal
Betsy Steifle, SIC Chair