

2023-2024



LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY

Annual Report to Parents

LFE PRIDE
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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Lake Forest Elementary School is a vibrant suburban school located in the heart of the Lake Forest Community near Wade Hampton Boulevard and Pleasantburg Drive. We serve students from four-year-old kindergarten through fifth grade, providing a high-quality education tailored to meet the needs of every learner. Our diverse student population enriches our community and reflects our school-wide theme: Taking Pride in Learning.

In 2023–2024, Lake Forest celebrated a year marked by growth, resilience, and strong community partnerships. Through the continued implementation of Conscious Discipline and our LEO (Lift Each Other) initiative, we strengthened our school culture by fostering kindness, connection, and mutual support.

Our School Improvement Council (SIC) played a vital role in enriching the school experience. This year, we launched the Ole' Leos Lunch Relief program, offering monthly lunch breaks for teachers with the support of dedicated volunteers. Our SIC was also honored with an Honorable Mention for the prestigious Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence, one of only four schools in the state to receive this recognition.

Students made strong academic gains in literacy and math, supported by data-driven instruction and targeted interventions. Staff also engaged in ongoing professional learning focused on social-emotional development and behavior management to ensure responsive and effective teaching practices.

We are proud of what our students, staff, and community have accomplished together. Lake Forest Elementary remains committed to supporting the academic, social, and emotional success of every child.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making Lake Forest a place where students love to learn, grow, and thrive.



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Warm regards,
Julie R. Cooke
Principal



SIC MEMBERS

Bill Hawkins, Chair
Sheyla Norton, Vice Chair
Sarah Gorday, Secretary
Diana Nations, Teacher
Melissa Henderson, Teacher
Payton Dowling, Teacher
Lindsay Pharr, Parent
Leslie Hellenga, Parent
Emmeline Martin, Parent
Travis Cross, Community Member
Gordon Turnbull, Community Member
David Snodgrass, Community Member

Ex-Officio Members

Julie Cooke, Principal
Sierra McGriff, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Brown, Admin. Assistant

Mission

The mission of Lake Forest Elementary School is to provide a nurturing, student-centered learning environment where students are empowered to learn about the world, persevere through challenges, and develop positive character traits.

Vision

The vision of Lake Forest Elementary School is to empower students to learn, grow, lead, and succeed.



About this Report

South Carolina Statue (Act 135 of 1993) requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute an Annual Report to Parents. The report highlights the progress in achieving the goals detailed in the strategic plan. The report is developed by the School Improvement Council to share the challenges and successes of the school with students, parents, and teachers for the current school year.



Purposes of SIC

- Assist in the development and evaluation of the five-year School Improvement Plan (also called the School Renewal Plan or the Strategic Plan).
- Assist in the preparation of annual updates and/or revisions.
- Compose the annual Report to Parents to provide information about the school's progress in meeting school/district/state goals or objectives.
- Assist the principal in preparing the annual narrative for the School Report Card.
- Serve as the liaison between the school, community, and local school board by collecting and disseminating information.





We are a school family!

Progress Towards Student Achievement Goals



ELA Mastery Connect Benchmark '24-'25

% At/Above Benchmark	Fall Benchmark	Winter Benchmark	Spring Benchmark
2nd Grade	33%	37%	49%
3rd Grade	50%	47%	61%
4th Grade	50%	52%	55%
5th Grade	37%	54%	54%
School	42%	47%	55%



Math Mastery Connect Benchmark '24-'25

% At/Above Benchmark	Fall Benchmark	Winter Benchmark	Spring Benchmark
2nd Grade	43%	43%	47%
3rd Grade	59%	56%	55%
4th Grade	41%	49%	56%
5th Grade	24%	39%	47%
School	41%	47%	51%



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Academics

SUPPORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



- Reading Horizons Program (K5/1st/2nd)
- Reading Intervention Program
- Balanced Literacy Approach
- Lexia Program for Multi-Lingual Learners
- STEAM Lab and Literacy Lab
- One-to-One technology (K4-5th)
- Jr Beta Club (5th grade)
- LFE Student Mentoring Program (4th/5th)
- Butterfly garden
- Academic Coaching from Instructional Leadership Team
- Media studio with student-produced live morning news using green screen technology
- Specialized instruction for students with exceptional needs (Challenge), Multi-Lingual Learners (MLL), and special needs (Resource)
- DreamBox – online program to improve math skills
- Lego Robotics Club (2nd-5th)
- OnTrack Team – a whole child approach that helps to address challenges students face and ensure social/emotional and academic success



Social and Emotional

SUPPORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



- Conscious Discipline (trauma-informed, adult-first methodology that integrates SEL, school culture and discipline)
- ACEs training for staff (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- Mindful Room designated for student/staff reflection and calming strategies
- Mindful counseling groups
- Part time behavior interventionist
- Two full-time counselors
- Daily “WIN” (What I Need) Time for all students
- Mentoring program via Mentor Upstate
- Greenville Mental Health on-site therapist
- Counseling classes for all students (K4-5th)
- Healthy Lifestyles Meals/CATCH program
- LEO Clean Team
- Cheer Squad (3rd-5th)
- Student clubs monthly during the school day
- Artist in Residence program
- Chorus – annual musical
- Anti-bullying curriculum and program
- Zones of Regulation Curriculum
- Backpack Blessings program providing food to students/families in need
- Angel Tree project providing gifts and food for students/families in need over the winter break holiday

