

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This has been an exciting year at Pocalla Springs Elementary. We have participated in many initiatives and have earned several recognitions. We are able to accomplish these things because at Pocalla Springs Elementary, we Aim for Success!

Pocalla Springs aims for success by being a school where students are prepared to learn and ready to meet the challenges of each day. We aim to have a school where parents are actively involved and participate in their child's education by attending workshops and special events, and by encouraging school attendance, good homework habits, and excellent behavior. We aim for a safe and supportive environment across the entire day—whether it is on the playground, on the bus, in the hallways, or in the cafeteria.

Pocalla Springs aims for success by utilizing the services of a school-wide curriculum coach to assist the principal in developing professional learning opportunities based on our population and needs. Opportunities include Standards-Based Curriculum Delivery, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Test Analysis, Book Studies, Understanding Poverty, and Technology-based Learning. Our Reading Coach facilitates activities to improve instruction and to create a rich, literacy-based learning environment for students.

Pocalla Springs aims for success by contributing to and caring for the community. Service Learning initiatives include Shower Shaw with Cookies, Career Fair, and other projects to beautify the environment and raise awareness. Our philanthropic effort has been mainly geared toward the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life, but we have also made significant donations to other organizations such as March of Dimes and St. Jude's Children Research Hospital.

Thank you for working with us and for giving us the opportunity to serve your child.

Angela Lee, Chairman
School Improvement Council

Dr. Laura M. Brown, Principal

Pocalla Springs Elementary School

PrincipalDr. Laura M. Brown
Assistant Principals. Dr. Candy Richburg
Teresa Dennis
School-wide Facilitator.... Claudia Medlin
Reading Coach Pamela Fields
Counselors.....Alice Singleton
Donna Johnston
SIC ChairpersonAngela Lee
Secretary/Bookkeeper Janice Brown
Teacher of the Year ... Lawonda Wheeler

Our Beliefs

- Student learning is the chief priority for the school.
- A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
- Teachers, administrators, parents, students, and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
- The commitment of continuous improvement is imperative at our school and will enable students to become confident, self-directed, and lifelong learners.

Our Vision

Committed students, staff, and parents
achieve the best education.

Pocalla Springs Elementary School Report to Parents

2016-2017



**The mission of
Pocalla Springs
Elementary School is
to ensure the best
education for every
child.**

**2060 Bethel Church Road
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 481-5800**



Chairperson Angela Lee
 Principal.....Dr. Laura M. Brown
 Asst. Principal..... Dr. Candy Richburg
 Asst. Principal..... Teresa Dennis
 LibrarianLouise Kay
 MTSS Coordinator Corey Ripley
 Parent..... Stephanie Bradley
 Parent.....Julie Denton
 Parent.....Rashida Durant
 Parent.....Amy Strickland
 Community Donna Johnston
 Community Charlene Miller
 Community Danny Shaw
 Staff.....Alice Singleton
 Staff..... Karen Gadson



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Accomplishments, Awards, and Initiatives

One to Global Chromebooks in Grades 3, 4, and 5
 Accredited -Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation
 AfterCARES
 Alice Drive Baptist Church Partner
 American Heart Association supporter
 Art Walk
 Back to School Orientation
 Balanced Literacy
 Black History Month Celebration
 Book Fairs
 Breakfast in the Classroom for All Students
 Career Awareness
 Choir
 District Clean School Award Winner
 District Teacher of the Year
 Exxon Science Grant
 Facebook Page and Website @ PSES.sumterschools.net
 Fall Festival and Spring Pocallapalooza
 Family Nights and Parent Workshops
 Girls on the Run
 Grade Level Planning & Professional Development
 Heart Walk, March of Dimes, Relay for Life
 Hess STEM Grant Recipient
 Kindness Certified School
 Military Kids Appreciation Luncheon
 Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
 Palmetto Silver Award
 Parent Workshops and Family Nights
 LetterLand Multi-Sensory Phonics Program
 Red Carpet School
 Red Ribbon Week and Drug Awareness Week
 School-wide Title One
 Shower Shaw with Cookies
 Volunteer and Mentor Programs
 Washington, DC field trip for 5th grade
 Wee Braves

Summary of Needs Assessment

In order to develop the Pocalla Springs Elementary Strategic Plan, district and school level administrators, teachers, parents and community members analyzed data from the last four school years. The sources included the SC Ready, SC PASS, Next Steps Reading Assessments and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The team also analyzed survey results from parents, teachers and students. They reviewed discipline/suspension reports, attendance trends, and teacher turnover rates. After a review of all data, teams developed strategies and activities based on specific areas of weakness and strength.

Student Achievement

The early childhood level requires emphasis on the implementation of strategies that address academic expectations, assessment procedures, and literacy skills. Continued emphasis on a strong family literacy program has been identified as a major need for children and families in this group.

Teacher Quality

In order to ensure teachers are highly qualified, ongoing professional development must be provided. Therefore, a major area of focus will be an emphasis on training, as well as recruitment and retention.

School Climate

Review of perception data, discipline and attendance records indicates a need for connecting with students and the community. Professional development focusing on school/home relationship is shown to be a major need, along with a continued emphasis on service learning and school-to-work initiatives.

District Priority

Technology has been established as a district priority objective.

Pocalla Expectations

- Be Ready**
- Respect Others**
- Act Responsibly**
- Value Myself**
- Enjoy Learning**
- Stay Safe**

