

Bluffton Elementary School and Early Childhood Center

April 28, 2023

Report to Parents

2022-2023 Report to Parents

A Beaufort County School of Choice—Accelerated Academy and Computer Science



Purpose of the Report: "This Report is issued by Bluffton Elementary School's Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."

The School Improvement Council (SIC) is an advisory committee comprised of parents, educators, and community members which provides an opportunity for parents to take an active role in ensuring a quality education for our children. What to join us? Please let us

Bluffton Elementary/Early Childhood Center Vision:

At Bluffton Elementary School and Early Childhood Center, our community of professionals is committed to developing and educating the whole child. Through innovative approaches to learning, we address the needs of each child by encouraging creativity, confidence, and individuality. We prepare students for the world by exposing them to cutting-edge technology, arts, specialized and challenging academic programs, community-wide mutual partnerships with authentic situations and consistent, high expectations. Diversity is fostered by encouraging respect for and understanding of differing backgrounds and points of view.

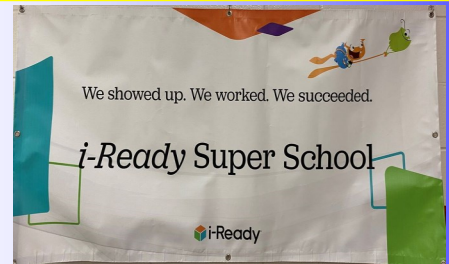
BLES/ECC Students in Action

This year our Wildcats have been busy.

Achievements

Students

- WordMasters National Challenge:
 - Perfect Scores—Vann Flanagan and Hunter Haro
 - 3rd grade team placed Second in the Nation scoring 182 out of 200
 - 4th grade team placed Eighth in the Nation scoring 170 out of 200
- Beaufort County's overall winner for character trait courage and tolerance, Asher Wright



Teachers

- Bluffton Elementary Teacher of the Year 2022—Laura Salerno (2023 announced in May)
- Bluffton Elementary Support Staff of the Year 2022—Sharonne Allen (2023 announced in May)
- Palmetto Bright Ideas Grant awarded to Dara Kappel, Elementary Engineering teacher, for Expressive Technology
- I-Ready Super School Winner for Highest Fidelity of Implementation
- Tanger Grant awarded to Laura Vanhorn for an Earthbox to start our composing for our gardens.
- Laura Salerno was selected as district's Outstanding S.M.A.R.T. mentor



BLES/ECC Students in Action

Students, Staff and Community Connections

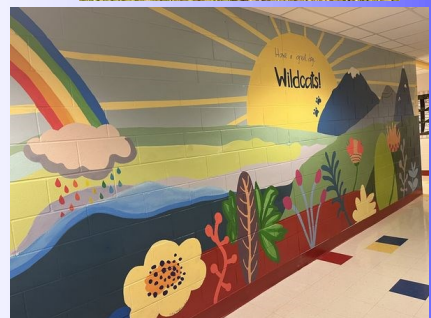
Service Projects

- Bluffton Self Help Donation collection
- Stand with Daws campaign for one of our Little Wildcats fighting cancer, raised over \$1600
- Fun Run that raised over 35,000 to support school projects
- Music Students participating in Honors Chorus
- Backpack Buddies to support families with Weekly food boxes
- Girls on the Run participated in the Savannah Women's 5K
- Gardening monitored and maintained by all staff and students
- Plant a Tree for Earth Day project, thanks to help from Tanger Outlets and Palmetto Coastal Landscaping
- Young Athlete's Day to support our Special Needs population
- Ms. Nottingham, Mrs. J. Miller, Mrs. Wardell, and Mrs. Kodys painted 35 foot long mural in the 5th grade hallway.



Parent and Community Awareness

- Classroom Newsletters, Admin Newsletter(SMORE), Facebook, Twitter, SeeSaw, BrightArrow for emails and texting, Class Dojo, Agenda Books
- Multilingual Parent Meetings, Open House, Meet and Greet
- Huge parent support for Amazon Wishlist



Literacy/Math at BLES/ECC

ELA- We've had another wonderful year reading with our Wildcats! We started the year with the SERG Star Reader's Challenge, a fun program with prizes including gift cards to restaurants and activities all around Bluffton and HHI. We also continued our Webster's Challenge this year, in which grade level classes compete to read the most minutes at home. We will end the year in a partnership with Beaufort County Public Libraries to offer a summer reading game with fantastic prizes.

We have continued our work with our core literacy program, Scholastic Literacy, supported by small group instruction and word work for maximum impact on student proficiency in reading. This year, in grades 3-5, we have emphasized Text Dependent Analysis, a section of the SC Ready Assessment, in which students examine a highly complex text then write to analyze the author's craft. The students continue to impress us as they grow increasingly proficient in this high-level, rigorous task.

We were able to continue offering additional reading support to many third graders after school. During tutoring, students read high-quality literature, write in response to reading, and engage in phonics and word study.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our literacy work with your children! Thank you for your support at home and please keep reading with your child every night!

Math— It has been a wonderful year at BLES! In mathematics, we continue to use *Ready Classroom Mathematics* as our primary math program. This program is focused on teaching mathematics through problem-solving. This focus helps students see that math is relevant and is used regularly in our daily lives. The math program is also supported through an online platform. Students take an assessment 3 times each year on this platform. The student results on these assessments creates an individual learning path which helps to support students in their math instruction, whether they need extra practice with certain skills or need to extend their learning beyond grade level standards. To see the greatest benefit from the program, the students participate for 45 minutes each week and pass 1-2 lessons weekly.

Additionally, our teachers focus on building mathematical understanding, not teaching math skills by following a procedure. By building this understanding, students will know when to use the skills they learn, and it leads to more success in middle and high school mathematics. Teachers also meet students' needs through small group instruction which allows teachers to fill gaps in instruction or extend learning for those students who have already mastered a particular math skill.

Also, this year we were so excited to have 2 tutors during the school day. These tutors worked with students in grades 3-5 to provide additional practice and/or instruction to help close some gaps due to the learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also continued with after-school tutoring for 3rd grade students who needed more support in math.

Students and teachers have worked extremely hard this year and students have shown great growth in mathematics! We encourage families to look for math in the many places you go this summer and the activities in which you participate!

Thank you for your support this year and enjoy your summer!

Ticker as of 4/25/23 for Enrollment—732



2022-2023 Parent/Teacher Organization Report



This school year (2022-2023) was fun and exciting for our board as we had new members join and were able to help make up for the last couple of years when Covid hit and really put a damper on how we were able to fundraise and provide items needed/wanted for the school. Since this was a new board there were some trials and errors that helped us bring on new ideas and challenges for our team for the 2023-2024 school year!

The PTO provides funds for a variety of items. In a normal year, it takes about \$8,000 - \$9,000 to keep the programs that are renewed yearly or repeated along with running events or fundraisers.

We provide funds for subscription renewals, field trip transportation costs, pride bike giveaway, décor for events, and other items needed for events, etc. The PTO holds events such as Spirit Nights, Trunk-or-Treat, Holiday Mart (coming 2024), Spring fundraiser, Field Day, and Teacher Appreciation Week. We also receive Box Tops for Education digitally now through their app where all you have to do is scan your receipt and Publix Partners Rewards.

In order for our PTO to thrive, we need more parent and guardian involvement. If you are interested in helping us in any way, please contact us through our email, pto4bles@gmail.com or Facebook page at Bluffton Elementary School PTO. We are in the process of searching for a new Vice President next school year. If you are interested, please let us know! When parents and guardians are involved at their child's school, it can lead to better behavior, increased achievement, improved self-esteem, and motivation. We understand time constraints for parents and contributions can come in many magnitudes. We welcome them all, no matter how big or small.

We also welcome any and all ideas that will help our organization and students flourish! Do not hesitate to reach out to us! And with our monthly newsletter, it's easier to be involved!

2022-2023 Requests

- Walk to School Day prizes- \$121.83
- Secret Stories (Phonics Flashcards) & Journals for two Kindergarten Classrooms- \$210
- Coffee Truck for teachers (split with Sunshine committee)- \$250
- Kindergarten Moving on Ceremonies supplies & snacks- \$430
- Pre-K Rooms enhancement to centers & replacing worn items- \$475
- Fifth grade needed some help with their field trip so we used the funds raised for our Mellow Mushroom Spirit Night to go towards this trip. We raised \$380.

Since we are a non profit organization, we rely on the help from our fundraising events, community and families. We had a very successful year with our fundraisers from Spirit Wear, Cookies Dough, Spirit Nights and our Fun Run being our biggest one yet. These funds will help us keep up with the needs for our teachers and staff which in return go back to our students. We look forward to a new school year with our Wildcat Families.

Thank you for your continued support! BLES/ECC PTO