

# Meadow Glen Elementary School



*"Rooted in Knowledge, Growing in Wisdom"*

## HOME OF THE EXPLORERS!

Meadow Glen Elementary is a school where students are Empowered to Design the Future! We are a community of learners who believe in the concept of 'CREW.' We believe that we must ALL work together to grow as a family of learners and individuals.

MGES focuses on practices that promote mastery of knowledge and skills, high levels of character and leadership, and the production of high-quality work in every classroom.

Our Habits of Success are Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, and Craftsmanship.

## SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program
- 4th and 5th Grade Robotics Teams
- Student-Led Conferences Kindergarten -Fifth Grade
- SIC Sponsored International Night
- First Annual Parade of Nations
- National Board Certified Teachers
- Special Production: Aladdin, jr.
- Sensory path for all students
- PTO-funded playground updates and classroom library additions



**2023-2024 MGES Teacher of the Year**  
**Mr. Michael Frank**

**2023-2024 Staff Member of the Year:**  
**Mrs. Cindy Cavalear**

**Jennifer McNair, Principal**  
jmcnair@lexington1.net

**Michelle Brazell, Assistant Principal**  
mbrazell@lexington1.net

**Todd Wade, Assistant Principal**  
twade@lexington1.net

## SIC YEARLY GOALS:

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT:  
FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT AND PARADE  
OF NATIONS**

**ACADEMICS: INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS ON USING DATA  
TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT LESSONS THAT ARE  
INTENTIONAL AND BASED ON STUDENT NEEDS;  
PARTICIPATION AS FAMILY MEMBERS IN STUDENT-  
LED CONFERENCES**

### SC READY DATA

MGES received an **Excellent** overall rating on the 2022-2023 school report card.

### SC READY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**ELA (Reading and Writing) - Percent Met or Exceeding 2022-2023**

School 77.5% District 58.8% State 53.9%

### SC READY MATHEMATICS

**Mathematics - Percent Met or Exceeding 2022-2023**

School 71.2% District 46.2% State 40.9%

### AWARDS AND GRANTS

- MGES Robotics Teams - State qualifiers
- Recognition as a Top Donor, Linking Lexington
- MCEC Teacher Grant - 5th grade - Mrs. Wenzinger
- Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grant - Special Education - Mrs. Denny

### FAMILY EVENTS

Skate Nights  
Monthly Restaurant Nights  
International Night  
BINGO Night  
Fall and Spring Bookfairs  
Field Day

### 2023-2024 PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) BOARD

President – Kara Brurok  
Vice President, Fundraising - Adrienne Bellinger  
Vice President, Merchandising - Marissa Hill  
Secretary – Megan Kyzer  
Treasurer – Whitney Glass



### 2023-2024

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Ramya Sreedharan - Chair

Tabitha Cotter  
Susan Jennings  
Michael Frank  
Andrew Beeson  
Michelle Brazell  
Todd Wade

Valencia Bostic  
Wynn Dupkoski  
Christine Martinez  
Jennifer Gessner  
Jennifer McNair

*SC School Improvement Council Website:  
<https://sic.sc.gov/>*



## ***A few thoughts from Michael Frank, 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year...***

Having taught in more than a dozen schools in five states - three in this district - I can confidently say that Meadow Glen is a gem in the Lexington One school system with dedicated, caring professional educators and an engaged school community of families whose children, our students, make it a pleasure to come to work each day. To have been chosen by this school community to represent us as teacher of the year for 2023-2024 has been a great honor.

Meadow Glen's after-school clubs and activities have remained strong with the Glen Bots Robotics Team, Garden Club, and Run Hard along with the return of the Lil' Gator Archery Program. These programs enrich our students' education through character building, promoting fitness, health, and good nutritional habits, and the hands-on application of STEM principles. Our Green Team has focused on recycling for an entire year in the 2023-24 school year making recycling a regular part of our school experience with weekly recycling bin pickups on Fridays led by parent volunteers and student leaders. Our library has become a hub of learning and the heart of our school, supporting our teachers with resources and programs that promote literacy. Chinese New Year this year celebrated the year of the dragon. Our Mandarin Immersion teachers worked with our students, putting on an impressive display of traditional dance and authentic songs in Mandarin to celebrate the new year.

Right on the heels of the Chinese New Year, we had our first annual International Night cultural fair. This event took the collaboration of so many people - our School Improvement Council, the PTO, our ML teachers, parent volunteers, teacher volunteers, technical support staff, and custodial staff. The entire day was beautiful starting with our Parade of Nations in the morning with our students and their parents displaying their traditional clothing as they walked through the halls of the school carrying a banner that represented their home country. The evening event included displays of cultural items important to the home cultures of the participants, food, food, and more food, student and family performances, and, most importantly, community socialization and bonding.

Meadow Glen is a special place. It is the elementary school with the most diversity in home languages other than English in Lexington District One with the number of languages spoken jumping to over 20 this year as we have had an influx of students who are newcomers to our country. As we conclude this school year, we are all looking forward to continuing to develop as a supportive, collaborative, multicultural community of learners.

## ***A few thoughts from Jack Collum, 5th grade student...***

To me, 5th grade is a very unique grade that stands out against other levels by far. Not only does it prepare students for the challenges of middle school, but it also builds their confidence and character as a person. When a student enters 5th grade, they not only learn challenging new skills needed for many careers, but they also learn to live by the habits of scholarship to become successful. I also believe that from the first day of 5th grade, you have to take initiative and use integrity to do the right thing even if no one is watching. It is also a fun experience that includes field trips, projects, and making lots of friends along the way. In conclusion, since 5th grade is the final level of elementary school, it is very important to show what you know, challenge yourself, and of course, do your best.

## ***A few thoughts from Ramya Sreedharan, a parent/SIC Chairperson...***

It is a delight to reminisce in writing about the 2023-24 school year at the "Home of the Explorers." I have had the pleasure and the honor of being associated with MGES for the past four years. And each year, my admiration and respect for all the teachers, staff, and administrators has only exponentially increased. The pandemic taught us to appreciate everything that happens in our school even more, and especially not to take anything or anyone for granted.

"Just because something works doesn't mean it can't be improved." ~ Shuri, Black Panther. This is the principle the school embodies. And I can see it year after year – in academic instruction, extracurricular activities, events, communication, organization, etc. If you take a walk across the school hallways, you see the fruits of several hours of hard work, artistry, individuality, creativity, and knowledge on the walls. This is entirely due to the collaboration of a steadfast teacher (who recognizes and acknowledges each student for who they are) and the perseverance of that student. The word "teacher" seems inadequate when they do more than just teaching. The Student Led Conferences (SLC) are a testament to us parents that our students are learning to be confident, showing leadership, taking initiative, and most importantly enjoying the process. Our teachers are excellent mentors to our students, and I am extremely thankful for them.

I would be remiss if I did not mention what a robust Immersion program we have at our school and seeing the children conquer the challenges of incorporating a new language and its various nuances amazes me. I would like to thank the Mandarin teachers for their incredible support, patience, and their willingness to help always. 谢谢

This year, I came to realize that our community truly values and loves our school when I saw the grand success of MGES' First International Night. It was wonderful to see the confluence of various countries' cultures and especially their culinary delights. We were so thrilled with the extensive participation, and everyone expressed joy in having the opportunity to highlight various aspects of their culture and heritage. This is yet another example of the partnership of the school and the families to create something wonderful and welcoming for all.

Next, I hope the reader will echo my applause for the dedicated and hardworking PTO of MGES. This group consistently works tirelessly throughout the year to organize wholesome family events for our community. In addition to that, they also organize unique events for our wonderful teachers and staff, so they feel loved and appreciated. I am incredibly thankful for the PTO for being instrumental in bringing the school and the community together.

The Aladdin Kids musical championed by our supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Ms. Thrift, Mr. Owens, and their army of students has been the most befitting conclusion to the "magical ride" this year! I would like to reiterate my appreciation and gratitude to the school for continuing to be an institution of superior learning for our students. I welcome the new families joining MGES in the upcoming school year and am confident that you will be a proud parent, just like me.