



Theodore Lester Elementary



3501 E Palmetto St
Florence SC 29506
843-664-8459 O
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GRADES
3-5

ENROLLMENT
375

CLASS SIZE
20
AVERAGE

STUDENT TO
TEACHER
RATIO
20:1

PRINCIPAL
**Tiffany
Matthews**

MOTTO **We are "PAWSITIVELY" the best!**

lester.f1s.org

NOTEWORTHY

Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Theodore Lester Elementary School has been named a 2022 Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Beacon School! We are very proud of the hard work of our students, teachers, staff, parents, and community!

School-wide Montessori Curriculum

As a Montessori School, Lester provides a unique and celebrated method of education based on self-directed activity, hands-on learning, and collaborative play. Classrooms are designed to encourage students to make creative choices, while age-appropriate activities guide the learning process. A study released by Furman University revealed that public Montessori students in SC outperformed their non-Montessori counterparts on standardized tests and a variety of social and emotional metrics.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Curriculum

Daily Montessori Lessons ▪ Freckle ▪ Study Island ▪ Brain Pop Jr. ▪ Flocabulary ▪ Lexia ▪ Dreambox

In the Montessori environment, children "move up" to the next level based on individual readiness, which is evaluated by the Montessori teacher/ guide. Montessori education is education for life by addressing the needs of the whole person. Physically, children move from concrete hands-on and sensory experiences to abstract levels of cognition. Through learning about physical and cultural geography and the fundamental needs of man, plants, and animals, students discover the interconnectedness and interdependence of all life.

Gifted & Talented

18% of students participate in Gifted & Talented Programs

Faculty & Staff

We're a dedicated team of 51 certified teacher, plus teaching assistants. Nearly 100% of our teachers are Montessori Trained.

Extracurricular Activities

Art ▪ Music ▪ STEM Lab ▪ Chorus ▪ Good News Club ▪ Horizons Art Club ▪ Morning Show Crew ▪ PEARLS ▪ R.I.D.D.E. ▪ Safety Patrols ▪ Terrific Kids Program ▪ Violin Club

Extended Learning Opportunities

After-school care is available for students from 2:15pm to 6pm.



Technology
1:1 Chromebooks

MASCOT **Scottie Dog** COLORS   FOUNDED **1981**

COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Communications

We strive for clear, concise, and consistent communication with our School community.. We share information though the PowerSchool Parent Portal, our website and social media, as well as through weekly folders and planners. We encourage parents to download the F1S app to receive critical and timely messages.

Community Involvement

We are fortunate to have a strong partnership with Francis Marion University. Our students benefit greatly from having student teachers in our classrooms.

We have an active Association of Parents and Teachers, as well as an engaged School Improvement Council and Title I Committee. Additionally, community volunteers serve as student mentors and provide professional development for parents through programs and topic-specific training opportunities, such as Pro-Dads. Lastly, we host an annual fall festival for our School community.

SCREADY TEST SCORES

MATH	2023 % Scoring MEETS or EXCEEDS	2024% Scoring MEETS or EXCEEDS
3 RD	37.2%	59%
4 TH	32.8%	42.6%
5 TH	25.2%	31.3%
ELA	2023 % Scoring MEETS or EXCEEDS	2024 % Scoring MEETS or EXCEEDS
3 RD	58.1%	65%
4 TH	53.8%	60.9%
5 TH	53%	51.8%

SAFETY

The safety of our students is a top priority. The doors to our School remain locked at all times, and we utilize an automated visitor check-in system. We participate in monthly fire and Code Blue drills.

75%
of parents indicate
their children feel
safe at school

94%
of teachers feel safe
at school before
and after hours

Theodore Lester Elementary School Report Card 2023-2024

ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT

AVERAGE

PREPARING
FOR
SUCCESS

NOT RATED

STUDENT
PROGRESS

AVERAGE

SCHOOL
CLIMATE

GOOD



Overall, performance
meets the criteria to
ensure all students
meet the Profile of
the SC Graduate

2023-2024 SCHOOL REPORT CARD RATING

AVERAGE