

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

Satchel Ford Elementary School 2024 - 2025

SFES School Improvement Council

South Carolina Statute - Act 135 of 1993 requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute an annual Report to the Parents highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the school's strategic plan.

The School Improvement Council of Satchel Ford Elementary School has prepared this annual report for parents and the community. In this report, you will find an account of test scores and academic rankings along with other information about programs, activities, awards, and recognitions for students and teachers.

Our School Improvement Council is always looking for ways to improve our school and we welcome any suggestions that you may have. The SIC would like to thank the teachers, students, administration, parents, and the PTO for their contributions, ensuring that Satchel Ford Elementary School remains a leading school in our community, district, and state.

Academic Accomplishments

On the 2024 SC Annual School Report Card, Satchel Ford Elementary again earned the highest overall rating of "Excellent!" indicating that, "School performance substantially exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate." The percentage of students who scored "Met" or "Exemplary" on the SC READY ELA were 78.5%, SC READY Math were 74%, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment was 68.3%.



This year, educators from grades K-3, Special Education, the reading coach, and administration engaged in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teaching of Reading and Spelling)Volume 1 training. This professional learning opportunity equips teachers with expertise in literacy and the science of reading.

Under the guidance of Heidi Mills from USC, faculty participated in a book study of Learning for Real, discussing the value of inquiry-based instruction. Teachers shared ideas and classroom examples, integrating inquiry into their teaching practices.

Students across various grades explored inquiry projects. First graders studied the Moon, journaling daily observations. Fourth graders researched animal classifications, designing books to present their findings. Fifth graders examined U.S. National Parks, virtually visiting a ranger and creating brochures. Third graders conducted a mini-inquiry on different countries, designing brochures to showcase their learning.

As part of the book study, selected teachers visited the Center for Inquiry (CFI) in Richland School District Two. They observed classrooms and engaged in discussions with CFI educators, enriching their instructional approach through firsthand experiences.

SIC - 2024/2025

Officers:
Steven Diaz - Chair
Caleb Gaston - Vice Chair
Jim Davis - Secretary

Parent Members:
Ben Bower, Steven Diaz,
Caleb Gaston, Daniel Hudson,
Kathleen Muthig,Zakiya Esper

Community Members:
Jim Davis, Zakiya Esper,
Chris Wormley

Ex-Officio Members:
Dr. Matthew Scandrol - Principal
Felita Green - Asst Principal
Ortega Missouri - Asst Principal
Lynne Trowbridge - CRT
Katie Smith - PTO President

Teachers: Rotation
Laura Timmons, Lauren Goethe
Sumner Livingston, Janelle Mickens
Susan Jones, Renata Pearson
April Barber -Brown, McKeever Cobia

SIC Meeting Guests:
Dr. Carla Mathis - RSD1 ED
Dr. Ericka Hursey - RSD1 Commissioner

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RSD1 Mission: We are Richland One, a leader in transforming lives through education, empowering all students to achieve their potential and dreams.



Goals and Improvements

Satchel Ford Lunch Buddies Program

Become a Lunch Buddy and Make a Difference! Lunch Buddies help build self-esteem and life skills by offering students a positive adult role model. By volunteering, you show students that their community cares, build their trust, and improve their confidence. We especially need male mentors. Volunteers must apply with Richland One and pass a background check. Commit to meeting with your student every other week for 45 minutes throughout the school year.
For more information, contact Kathleen at kathleen.muthig@gmail.com or (803)540-7732.

SFES School Highlights & Awards

Satchel Ford Elementary Named Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School!

This prestigious honor is awarded to schools that go above and beyond in creating an inclusive environment through programs that bring students with and without disabilities together. Even more impressive–Satchel Ford is one of only ten schools in South Carolina to receive this national recognition in 2024! Schools selected for banner recognition must meet 10 national standards of excellence, which include activities like Special Olympics Unified Sports (where students with and without disabilities compete together) Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole-School Engagement initiatives. **Chris Payne**, Satchel Ford's physical education teacher and advisor of the school's Unified Champion program, shared, "This award is a testament to our wonderful community at Satchel Ford. The students, staff, parents, and community are the driving force behind it all. I am privileged to be a small part of it."

We couldn't be prouder of our students, staff, and families for helping foster a school culture where every student is celebrated, included, and empowered. Thank you for being part of what makes Satchel Ford so special!

A Congratulations to the SFES Fitness Bowl team, 2025 AAA Champs!

The PTO has had another incredible year supporting the students, faculty, and staff at Satchel Ford Elementary. With 206 active memberships made up of families, faculty, and staff , we've worked together to make a meaningful difference on campus contributing over 1000 volunteer hours. Thanks to the success of three major fundraisers, we've been able to provide monthly meals for faculty and staff , support field trips for our students, purchase new courtyard tables and outdoor musical instruments to create a sound garden on the playground, sponsor a school-wide author study and fund over $20,000 in teacher -submitted grants. We' re proud of all we've accomplished together this year and grateful for the incredible support from our PTO community.

The Farm at Satchel Ford is a valuable educational resource that offers students of all grade levels meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. SFES parent Chris Wormley leads and organizes outdoor lessons focused on plant and flower life cycles, food safety and tasting, as well as planting and harvesting. Mrs. Cyr collaborates with students and teachers to align garden and chicken coop activities with grade-level standards. Students also take part in caring for the chickens, gaining real-world experience in animal care and responsibility. The outdoor classroom features 12 troughs, 7 large raised beds, and a dedicated pollinator bed.

The South Carolina Theatre Association is proud to announce that Scott Vaughan is this year's recipient of the Deborah Smith Hoffman Outstanding Mentor Teacher Award, which is awarded to the K-12 theatre educator judged to have contributed the most to rising, new and even experienced theatre educators in South Carolina during the year most recently concluded. Mr. Vaughan hast aught elementary theatre at Satchel Ford Elementary school for 11 years. Scott enjoys sharing ideas with new and seasoned educators about the importance of arts education and ways to add sparkle to any subject matter! He will be presented with the award at the SC Theatre Association's annual convention in June.

The SIC has and will continue to provide advisory support to achieve the goals and objectives of the SFES strategic plan. Recurring topics of SIC discussion this year included academic standings, facility maintenance, campus security, workforce/staffing challenges, and communication with RSD1. The SFES community will soon have the opportunity to nominate and elect the SIC Members for 2025-2026.











Richland One School district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, handicap, sex, age, lineage or national origin in its programs or activities.