

**H. E. Corley Elementary School
School Improvement Council Members
2025-26**

Pete Lawson, Co- Chair, Parent

Katrina McMichael, Co-Chair, Elected

Dr. Quintavis Cureton, Secretary, Parent, Elected

Stacey Atkinson, Community Member, Appointed

Chris Lorick, Community Member, Appointed

Jeanie Gravelle, Community Member, Appointed

Amanda Smith, Parent Elected

Chyna Fry, Parent, Appointed

Cathy Ingram, Parent, Appointed

Kathryn Heymann, PTO President, Ex Officio

April Session, Teacher

Mary Ellen Thompson, Teacher

Melanie Harris, Principal, Ex Officio

Jason Bebber, Asst. Principal, Ex Officio

Julie Carothers, Asst. Administrator, Ex Officio

Kathryn Meetze, 2026-2027, Teacher of the Year

Jess Catalano, Support Staff Member of the Year

H.E. Corley Vision Statement

Our vision at H. E. Corley Elementary School Leadership Magnet and Montessori Magnet is to foster relationships that encourage the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of the whole child. Our lifelong learners will have the self-direction and integrity to make a positive impact on society.



School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, disability, spousal affiliation, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, pregnancy, service to the armed forces, or status with regard to admission to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities as required by Title II of ADA, Title VI, Title IX and Section 504, or any other protected characteristic, as may be required by law. Non-discrimination inquiries regarding students should be addressed to the Director of Special Services/504 & ADA Student Coordinator. Non-discrimination inquiries regarding employees and adults should be directed to the Chief Human Resources Officer/ Title IX & 504/ADA Employee Coordinator. Either can be contacted at 1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, South Carolina 29063. (803) 476-8000.

**H. E. Corley Elementary School
Leadership & Montessori Magnet**

Report to the Parents for the 2025-2026 School Year



1500 Chadford Road
Irmo, SC 29063
803-476-4001

<https://heces.lexrich5.org/>

Melanie Harris, Principal

Jason Bebber, Assistant Principal

Julie Carothers, Administrative Asst. Principal

Pete Lawson & Katrina McMichael, SIC Chair

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr, Superintendent

PROUD TITLE I SCHOOL

2025-2026 Objectives of HE Corley Elementary School

Each year, families, students, and teachers provide feedback through the South Carolina School Report Card Survey. Results for H.E. Corley reflect strong satisfaction across all groups:

	Teachers	Students	Parents
Percent satisfied with learning environment	94.5	87.6	95.6
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	92.7	83.3	96.1
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	96.4	93.8	95.7

Strategies for Improvement

- ❖ Provided ongoing district and school-based professional development to strengthen instructional practices and improve student achievement.
- ❖ Increased instructional rigor by incorporating Depth of Knowledge (DOK) strategies to promote critical thinking and problem-solving.
- ❖ Utilized Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to support collaboration, consistency, and data-driven instruction across grade levels.
- ❖ Implemented targeted professional development in Reading and Math, including the Science of Reading, small group instruction, and strategies to maximize student growth.
- ❖ Maintained partnerships with University of South Carolina and Columbia College to support preservice teacher development and enhance classroom instruction.

SC Ready Overall Student Performance Spring 2025

Percentage of students who scored Met or Exceeds ~ Spring 2025

Student achievement data reflects continued progress and performance above district and state averages:

	HEC	District	State
ELA	70.6%	66.5%	60.3%
Math	51.9%	49.8%	44.5%

Accomplishments for 2025-2026

H.E. Corley Elementary continues to demonstrate excellence through strong academics, leadership development, and meaningful community partnerships. Highlights from the 2025–2026 school year include:

- Maintained designation as a **Certified Magnet School** through the Magnet Schools of America, reflecting our commitment to innovative and high-quality instruction.
- Successfully **recertified as a Lighthouse School** through the Leader in Me framework and earned distinction as an **Academic Honor Roll Leader in Me School**, recognizing excellence in leadership and academics.
- Continued as a **Unified Champion School** through Special Olympics, promoting inclusion and student leadership. H.E. Corley raised **\$1,761** for Special Olympics South Carolina and participated in the Polar Plunge.
- Earned an **“Average” rating on the South Carolina School Report Card**, with continued focus on growth and improvement.
- Reported strong satisfaction rates, with **100% of teachers and 98% of parents** expressing satisfaction with the school's learning environment on the 2024 School Report Card.
- Strengthened community partnerships with organizations including State Farm (Theresa Miley), Irmo Police Department Foundation, Carolina Results Team, Denise Harper (Realtor), David Stanley & Associates, SC Career Kids, and the H.E. Corley PTO, supporting a wide range of school initiatives.
- Established a new partnership with Irmo Little League and the Richland County Recreation Commission for shared use of the H.E. Corley baseball field (Field 7). This collaboration marks a significant step forward in fostering community engagement and expanding opportunities for local youth athletics.
- Expanded student opportunities by hosting **spring semester clubs**, providing enrichment and extracurricular experiences.
- Hosted a variety of **family engagement events** to connect families with student learning, including HEC Leadership Day, Montessori Showcase, Pirate Palooza, Curriculum Night, and Trunk or Treat.
- Secured a transformative partnership with the Tank the Turtle Foundation, resulting in **\$7,000 raised for literacy resources** and the creation of a commemorative mural celebrating literacy and community impact.
- Demonstrated a strong commitment to student attendance by reducing the **chronic absenteeism rate from 15.4% to 9.3%**. Through intentional focus on attendance awareness, family education, and celebration of progress, student attendance significantly improved.
- Celebrated staff excellence, with **Mrs. Kathryn Meetze** named a **District Teacher of the Year finalist** and **Mrs. Jess Catalano** named a **District Support Employee of the Year finalist**.

H.E. Corley Elementary remains committed to continuous improvement, strong partnerships, and ensuring every student is equipped to lead and succeed. We appreciate the ongoing support of our families and community.

