

Annual Report to Parents

Our Mission: To transform lives through education, empowering all students to achieve their potential and dreams.

At Brennen, we believe that a great school is built together. Students, families, teachers, staff and community members all play important roles. This year, we deepened that commitment in meaningful ways. By putting feedback into action, strengthening family partnerships, and growing community connections, we continue to make Brennen a place where every child can thrive. Here are some highlights of how the school engaged students, families, and community members this year:

STUDENTS

Arts & Activities

Students participated in Honors Choir, House Leaders, Musical Theatre Club, Safety Patrol, Friendly Helpers, Orchestra, Special Olympics, Girls on the Run, the Good News Club, and more. In April, **96 students** performed in the school musical, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*

Career Pathways

This year's annual Career Day, held in November, was redesigned based directly on student input, connecting what students are curious about to **South Carolina Career Clusters**.

Going the Extra Mile

Through **Top Dog Academy**, students had the opportunity to get weekly afterschool academic support, with transportation included.



SC Ready

SC Ready is a statewide assessment in **English Language Arts (ELA)** and **Math** for students in grades 3-8. Brennen students continue to perform above state averages, with notable growth in 3rd and 5th grade scores. Our focus remains on strengthening performance across all grade levels.

These graphs show the percentage of Brennen students, by grade, who **met or exceeded expectations** for the past three years.

FAMILIES

Family Learning Nights

Brennen hosted Literacy Night, Science Night, Attendance Support Night, and Sign Language Support and Engagement Night, **engaging families in learning** alongside their children.

Stronger Together

Our **PTO** had an outstanding year, exceeding financial goals and channeling that support into school activities and improvements — including **Brennen Bucks**, a new teacher grant opportunity, and the transformation of a school courtyard into a vibrant **outdoor classroom**.



COMMUNITY

Champions for Reading

Now in its third year, **Paw Pals** — a School Improvement Council initiative — connected volunteer reading tutors with students who benefit from small group instruction and one-on-one support.

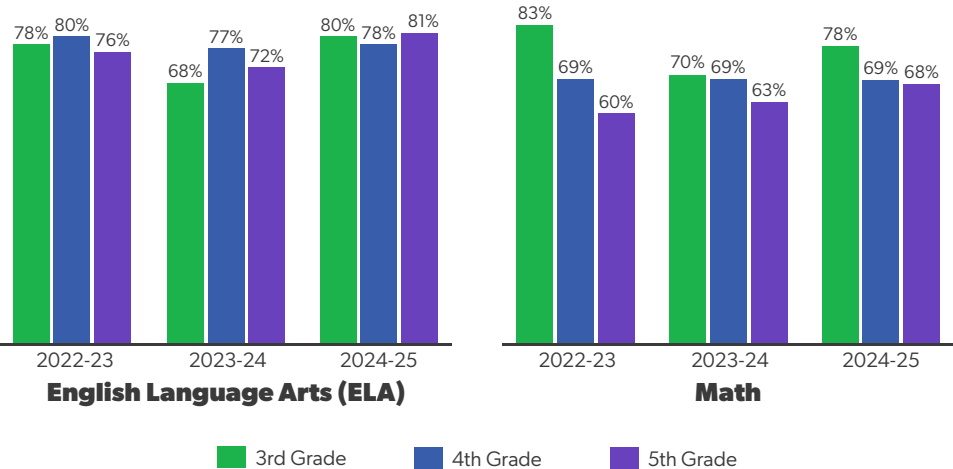


Building Citizenship

Students participated in **Junior Achievement BizTown**, bringing economic concepts to life and showing students how to be active community contributors. Students also gave back through Walk for Life, March of Dimes, a canned food drive, and a cleaning supply drive.

You Spoke, We Listened

For the first time, the Brennen School Improvement Council conducted a school-wide survey, with **639 responses** from students, families, teachers, staff, and community members. Your input is already shaping priorities for the year ahead, including expanded student leadership opportunities and stronger school-wide communication.



Six Houses One School

At Brennen, the Ron Clark Academy House System creates a dynamic school culture for students and staff.



Awards and Acknowledgments



Brennen continues to be recognized as one of **America's Healthiest Schools** by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

At the **Richland One Science Fair**, 5th graders Sina Mounsai and Udbhav Pujari won 1st place in the biochemistry and chemistry category and went on to compete in the USC Region II Science and Engineering Fair.



Brennen teachers completed over **8,000 hours of professional development** this year, each averaging 136 hours of in-service days, focus sessions, and professional learning communities.

Currently **100% of teachers** are trained in Orton-Gillingham methods for reading instruction.

Alex Fogle was named a finalist for **District Teacher of the Year**.



The school participated in the **Richland One Fitness Bowl**, where 5th grader Porter Harmon was the competition winner for the second year in a row.

Special Programs

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Brennen's Deaf and Hard of Hearing program serves students from Richland One and neighboring districts in a positive, inclusive learning environment. Families, students, and staff are invited to monthly dinners to build community and practice sign language.

Multi-Language Learners

About 10% of Brennen students are learning English as an additional language. Our school offers a strong system of support to help multi-language learners develop English proficiency while learning alongside their peers.

Unified Champions

As a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, Brennen promotes a culture of inclusion for all students. Activities include a school-wide read aloud, peer buddies program, and student participation in the Special Olympics Unified Games.

Shared Leadership

This report is issued by Brennen's **School Improvement Council (SIC)** in accordance with state law. As an advisory group to the principal and school, the SIC focuses on innovations and school-led improvement efforts. Parent and teacher representatives are

elected each year, and community members are appointed by the principal.

Elected Members

Mike Harmon, Parent – Chair
Stephanie Blackmon, Teacher
Jake Chapiesky, Parent
Caroline McManus, Teacher
Beth Moore, Parent
Lee Patterson, Parent

Appointed Members

Barbara Hilton, Community Member
McKenzie Lafleure, Community Member
James Ann Sheley, Community Member

Ex-Officio Members

Tiffany Ligon, Principal
Monica Lawton, Assistant Principal
Tracy Miller, Assistant Principal
Kara Knight, PTO Co-Representative
Sarah Owens, PTO Co-Representative