



Saxe Gotha Elementary School

LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

100 Bill Williamson Court • Lexington, SC 29073 • 803-821-4800

Principal: Joseph Casey

Assistant Principals: Amy Cooper and Lauren Vann

Grades Served: PreK–5

Student Enrollment: 702

School Theme: Together We Shine

- ESPN Honor Roll School of Inclusion
- Special Olympics National Unified Champion School
- Class of 2021 National Banner Unified Champion School
- Special Olympics Innovation Grant
- Special Olympics Grant
- Michelin Golden Apple Grants
- Donors Choose Grants
- LEAP Campaign Award for Elementary Schools 2022
- 2022 Award of Merit for SIC Report to the Parents Excellence

Empower each child to design the future.

Our vision is to empower everyone to be leaders, thinkers, and creators of tomorrow. Our mission is to cultivate a caring community where ALL learners are extraordinary communicators, collaborators, creators and critical thinkers.

All students, regardless of circumstances, advance on time, prepared to graduate and ready to enter college, the military or industry with certification.

At Saxe Gotha Elementary (SGE), “All Means All.” Every student, regardless of circumstances, focuses on growing. Students and staff use data to track progress in multiple areas throughout the school year. Saxe Gotha teachers utilize Lucy Calkins’s Units of Study in Reading, Writing, and Phonics, and students are taught through the workshop model to ensure the individual needs of all students are being met. The workshop model is also used in math where the iReady math is implemented. When extra assistance is needed, Response to Intervention and special education services are provided in order to help close the achievement gap.

All students attend STEM classes to explore science, technology, engineering and math activities. Students also attend art, music, physical education and Spanish classes on a weekly basis.

Teaching and learning develop power skills in all students.

As students work throughout the year to meet their growth targets, they are encouraged to take risks, think critically and try new methods for solving problems. When a student feels like giving up, they are pushed to persevere and not allowed to quit. During the workshop model, students are asked to work in small groups where both collaboration and communication skills are displayed.

Students are asked to communicate with other students and adults to solve problems in academic, social, and behavioral situations. They are held to high standards and expected to display integrity at all times. Administrators and counselors work with students to emphasize the importance of always being honest no matter who is watching. During morning meetings, students are often asked to share with the class. Caring School Community is a CASEL SEL program which promotes positive behavior through direct teaching of responsibility and cooperation where students feel heard and cared for.

Our schools are service-oriented centers of learning, committed to family and community partnerships.

Saxe Gotha partners with other organizations to grow and provide services to students, families and the community. The School Improvement Council focuses on positive communication with families and community members. Staff communicates with families using the telephone, email, and the Bloomz application. Parents receive a weekly School Messenger update so everyone is prepared for the upcoming week. Our school has significantly increased social media presence on Twitter and Facebook and parents are responding.

Saxe Gotha partners with the University of South Carolina USC Department of Education. Undergraduate elementary education majors “Tall Teachers” are taught by their professor on campus a full day where they learn to teach ELA to elementary students. For an hour during the day, they partner with a classroom of fourth grade students and their teacher. The USC students provided one on one instruction to a fourth grade student “Small Teacher.” At the end of the year, presentations are made to parents, and the USC students hold their first parent/teacher conference with their fourth grader’s parents.

The Saxe Gotha school counseling team and our family liaison manages a resource closet for our families. The goal of the closet is for our families to have access to free resources (food, household goods, clothing, hygiene supplies, etc.) when they are in need due to financial hardship/emergency circumstances. Local churches partner with us to provide weekend snack packs, meals, school supplies, and clothing when needed.

Every adult will be equipped with the skills and resources necessary to advocate for and ensure the success of all students.

Equipping every adult with the skills and resources necessary to make all students successful is a priority at Saxe Gotha Elementary. Teachers have common planning time daily. Administrators and academic coaches are scheduled to meet with grade levels on a regular basis. Data days are scheduled for teachers to review data and share concerns with the school leadership team. Monthly Core Team and Mental Wellness Team meetings are held to discuss students who may need additional assistance in academics and/or behavior. Book studies are held to allow teachers to grow together while working to meet the needs of all students.