



Deerfield Elementary School

LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

638 Longs Pond Road • Lexington, SC 29073 • 803-821-5500

Principal: Stephanie G. Taylor

Assistant Principals: Samantha Trotter and Brandon Schirmer

Grades Served: 4K–5

Student Enrollment: 835

School Motto: Success Every Day for Every Child Through Leadership and Learning

German Immersion School: Students that enroll and participate in this program learn their math and science in German all the way through elementary school (5K-5th Grade). They commit to continuing the program as they enter middle school, and they become fluent in a second language.

Empower each child to design the future.

Deerfield Elementary is a pilot proficiency-based learning system that focuses on customized learning and student leadership.

The mission of Deerfield Elementary School is to create a caring community that develops life-long, successful leaders and learners.

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

At Deerfield Elementary we live by our motto and celebrate “Success Every Day for Every Child Through Leadership and Learning” as we empower all students to take risks that yield success in their efforts. Our staff has been perfecting implementation of using the workshop model across grade levels and subject areas (reading, writing, and math). Through instruction in this model, teachers are able to meet with small groups of students daily or confer with them individually to support specific learning needs to ensure students are meeting personal growth goals. Celebrations involving all stakeholders occur school-wide. During student led conferences students are able to articulate what they are working on academically and share their growth in that particular area. We also use Progress Driven Feedback to communicate with parents specific information around each grade level standard.

Teaching and learning develop power skills in all students.

Historically speaking, Deerfield Elementary has been a Leader in Me School and was named a Lighthouse School in 2020. Students and staff have a well grounded foundation in developing the whole child. Power skills are woven into many facets of our day to day happenings with intentionality. Students start their day participating in a Morning Meeting across all classrooms for 30 minutes, and students wrap up their day with a 15 minute Closing Circle Activity. Our staff collaborated to create a structured calendar to plan/pace out the various power skills to use as part of our students’ character development across settings. These opportunities provide a time for some direct teaching of life skills that support accountability and cooperation while building a strong sense of belonging. Each classroom and student space is also equipped with a “Reset and Return Basket” (funded by Title I funds) that provides a variety of options for students to use for a short break to help regulate their emotions. Our school counselors model how to use the items and how to process those big feelings in order to remain calm to avoid missing class time.

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

Following the past two years of COVID restrictions, Deerfield will be implementing strategies to improve family engagement, community involvement, and customer service. Fostering stronger relationships between home and school is a school-wide focus. We will partner with our PTO to host monthly events for families in efforts of providing multiple opportunities for participation beyond the school day. Families will be invited to attend Meet the Teacher Night, student-led conferences with parents/teachers, dine out nights, BINGO nights, Game Nights, and more!

Some of our Title I funds helped secure our Parent Liaison position. Our Parent Liaison is able to support our families by connecting them with resources in the school and for the home. Our new parent resource center will be unveiled around December once the space is ready. Our Tiny Trailblazers (3 and 4 year olds that participate from our attendance area) will be able to meet in this newly designed space in one of our learning cottages where various staff members will facilitate different engagement activities. We will also use Title I funds to invite families to come meet our new principal and assistant principal with popsicles, welcome all of our incoming Kindergarten families to a Kindergarten Ice Cream Social before school starts, and provide books to students to expand their home libraries.

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

Deerfield Elementary will continue to provide opportunities to ensure every adult is equipped with the skills and resources necessary to advocate and ensure the success of all students. Deerfield is a partner school with Teachers College. Through this partnership our ELA teachers work with a staff developer throughout the year to yield high quality professional learning opportunities that impact student achievement. The professional learning experiences will be centered around school-wide goals targeting specific strategies to use during small group instruction that will strengthen the use of using formative assessments to identify specific student needs and progress. This year teachers will also choose an area of focus to continue their own personalized growth and learning around topics in The Joyful Teacher. The learning through these professional learning communities will help them implement ideas to address needs in their classrooms while strengthening school culture and community amongst the staff as we emerge from the restrictions of less interaction the past couple of years.