

Clinton Elementary

Cubs

Our demographics

School principal: Rachel Ray **Began at school:** 1995 **Years in district:** 16 **In education:** 16
Grades served: Pre K – 5 **Enrollment:** 401 **Economic status:** 97.9% free & reduced lunch
Diversity: 20% White, 71% African-American, 6% Hispanic, 3% Other
Number of teachers: 37 **Classified:** 22 **Administrators:** 2 **Counselor:** 1 **Media specialist:** 1
Other: Nurse, Computer Lab Manager, Recovery Teacher, School Psychologist, Applied Behavior Therapist, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapist, Parent Coordinator, Literacy and Math Coach, AmeriCorps
Teachers with advanced degrees: 66% **Teacher attendance:** 96% **Student Attendance:** 95.6%

Our mission

The mission of Clinton Elementary is to prepare children to become responsible, lifelong learners in order to be successful in a challenging world.

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 1948 **Date of renovations:** 1993, 2001, 2009
Square feet: 63,460 **Number of computers:** 154 **Number of classrooms:** 34
Specialty areas: 3 computer labs, Professional Development Room, Recovery Room, Occupational Therapist Room, Applied Behavior Therapist Room, Physical Therapy Room

Our school programs

- **21st Century Community Learning Center** – The focus of this five-day a week after-school program is to provide academic assistance to increase PASS scores
- **Homework Center** – During this 2-hour after-school program, we help student complete homework assignments and provide ELA interventions.
- **Awards Day** – A celebration is held every six weeks to honor students' achievements.
- **Monthly school-wide writing contest** – Every month a school-wide writing contest is held. Secret judges choose three winners from each class. The winners are revealed on the Clinton Cub News.
- **Teacher Cadets** – Students from Lancaster High School who are interested in becoming educators, complete internships in our classrooms.
- **Clinton Cub News (WCCN)** – Our very own morning TV show anchored by fifth grade students.
- **Founders Fellows** – Sponsored by Founders Federal Credit Union, students are recognized for outstanding citizenship and dedication to academics.

- **Keyboard Lab** – Students may learn to play the piano.
- **Supplemental Education Services** – Children who receive free or reduced lunch are eligible to receive free tutoring.
- **100 Book Challenge**—100 Book Challenge is an independent reading program designed to maximize the effectiveness of a school's reading curriculum. Its goal is to develop avid, lifelong readers, students whose proficiency in and love of reading enable them to flourish throughout their lives—in the classroom, on standardized tests, at the college of their choice, and in a life-enriching career—allowing all aspects of their experience to be enhanced by the information and perspectives gained from reading.
- **Corrective Reading** – is designed to promote reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension skills of students in third through fifth grade. Corrective Reading is implemented in small groups.
- **AmeriCorps** – provides one-on-one or small group tutoring Monday through Thursday to maximize achievement in reading and mathematics.
- **NetSCOPE** – Clinton Elementary and Winthrop University have partnered together to improve the quality of preservice and inservice teachers with a focus on student learning. Clinton provides real world hands-on experiences for Winthrop interns who are pursuing a career in education.
- **Relay for Life** – a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. This is an overnight relay-style event. Our school raises approximately \$2,000 each year.

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **CES Chorus** – The chorus is comprised of students in grades three through five. They practice two days per week. During the year, they perform for our school and community.
- **Positive Action** – Our school-wide Character Education program positively impacts student development.
- **Adopt-a-Leader** – At-risk boys from kindergarten through fifth grade are members of this organization that provides male mentors and tutors.
- **Community Readers** – This program serves children in kindergarten through grade five. Community members from diverse ethnic and professional backgrounds visit to read books and spark enthusiasm for literacy. They provide other key elements such as role models. Through imaginative and progressive stories, students are challenged to see beyond the next test, to the professional and educational possibilities that await them in the future. Comprehension and analytical skills are developed in the program through question and answer sessions after reading.

- **Community Tutors** – Similar to the program above except that students are tutored individually or in small groups.
- **Academic Challenge** – A group of students who compete for the district title.
- **Safety Patrol** – Students from grades 4 & 5 work throughout the school in different capacities: hall monitors, car duty, flag patrol, cafeteria assistant, school store helpers and peer tutoring.
- **Backpack Feeding Program** – food-laden backpacks go home with children who qualify in order to help them get through the weekends when they are not provided free breakfast and lunch at school.
- **First Baptist After-School Reading Program** – First Baptist offers our first grade students a safe, fun, loving atmosphere. Aside from reading, retired teachers also provide help with homework and tutoring.
- **Red Ribbon Week** – Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of drug free America.
- **Founders Savings Club** – A unique branch of Founders Federal Credit run by instructors at the school will teach students the value of money and assists them with building their own savings account. The bank is open each Friday from 6:50 a.m. until 7:20 a.m. so students can make deposits into their accounts.
- **TerraCycle Recycling Program** – is a national recycling system for previously non-recyclable or hard-to-recycle waste. Students contribute to this program by recycling candy wrappers, cookie packages, potato chip bags, drink pouches and writing instruments.

Our parents/parent support programs

- **Annual Volunteer Luncheon** - We host a luncheon each year in honor of our volunteers.
- **Volunteers** – Parents, community members, civic organizations and business partners actively work with our students on building character and developing stronger academic ability. Our volunteers encourage and inspire our Clinton Cubs to strive to be the best they can be.
- **Family Program** – Several events are held during the school year where the students bring their parents or grandparents. The events give family members a chance to talk with their child's teachers.
- **Annual Veterans Day Program** – Program of activities tribute to active and inactive veterans.
- **Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)** – Our goal is that parents and teachers cooperate for the benefit of the education of our children. We hope to bring a closer home-school relationship in order to secure the highest advantages for all children in physical, mental, and social health.
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)** – Another forum to help secure the best future for our children.

- **Grade level meetings for parents** – This is another opportunity to where parents and teachers can collaborate for the benefit of children.
- **Parent Academy**– ELA, math, science, social studies workshops for parents throughout the school year.
- **Kindergarten Open House** – This event is held in the spring for rising kindergarten students.
- **Kindergarten Orientation** – This workshop is held on the first day of school to teach parents how to help their children be successful in kindergarten.
- **Open House for all Parents** – We celebrate every new school year with our Annual Open House. Approximately 350 people attend each year. Parents are able to meet their children’s teachers, tour the school and learn more about the up-coming school year.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – Parents relieve teachers of their cafeteria duty during this week. Parents also provide snacks such as finger foods, cake, and ice cream to show their appreciation to staff.
- **Parent Workshops** - Throughout the school year, various parent workshops are conducted on topics such as (1) computer literacy, (2) drug awareness, (3) bullies, (4) How to get the job you want (5) writing a powerful resume and (6) parenting classes. All workshops are free to our parents.

Our school strengths

- **Welcoming Environment** – Our philosophy at Clinton Elementary School is to model courteous behavior in order to develop a family like relationship with all who enter our building. This includes students, faculty, staff, parents and all visitors. Anyone who enters our building will feel like they belong. As part of our character, we make sure everyone feels like a part of our family. Anyone who walks through our building is acknowledged with a warm greeting and a big smile.
- **Parent Coordinator** – Our parent coordinator plans and schedules parent programs and keeps parents informed.
- **Professional Learning Teams** – Our teachers meet every Thursday during planning to deepen their understanding of reading and math content, knowledge of how students learn, and a variety of research-based strategies and practices that support student learning.
- **Professional Development** – Our current professional development journey began over three years ago. Our teachers have worked hard attending workshops, training sessions and participating in book studies to effectively blend reading instruction, conferring with students, and differentiated instruction.

- **Collaborative Culture** – The teachers and staff of CES work as a team with our parents and community members to meet the needs of each child. Our teachers and staff collaborate as grade level teams and through vertical teaming. Our parent and community volunteers support our school through Junior Achievement, mentoring, tutoring, supervising fieldtrips, providing extra-curricular opportunities for students during and after school.

Our honors & awards

- **Palmetto Silver Award** – Recognition for the PACT performance of historically underachieving groups, 2005-2006.
- **Palmetto Gold Award** – Recognition for the PACT performance of historically underachieving groups, 2007-2008.
- **Grants** – Since 2003, staff members at Clinton Elementary have written numerous grants. They have been awarded grant money in excess of \$70,000. A few examples: \$6,000- EIA grant for “A Whole Village Teaching Reading”; \$2,000 – EIA grant for children with Autism; \$6,000 – EIA grant for LIFT (Learning is Fun Together); and \$16,000 – Climbing Wall
- **Met AYP**, 2006-2007
- **Four Lancaster County School District Celebrate Great Teaching Award “Teacher of the Year” Recipients**
- **Red Carpet Award**, 2005- 2006
- **Open Court Pilot**, 2003-2004
- **National Promising Practices Award 2006** – As part of the National Schools of Character program, the Character Education Partnership gives Promising Practices to schools and districts in the United States for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education.
- **Shirley Hord Learning Team National Award** – 2011 This award is given to a team of teachers who demonstrate Learning Forward's definition of professional development in action.
- **Dick and Tunkey Riley WhatWorksSC Award for Excellence** – 2011 The Riley Institute at Furman and South Carolina Future Minds presents this award for excellence to an outstanding education initiative in South Carolina.
- **Clinton Elementary School's success has been featured in the following publications:**
 - American Reading Company Case Study 2009 - 2010 "African American Males Take Essential Steps Toward College and Career Readiness Clinton Elementary School of the Lancaster County School District in South Carolina, 2009-2010"

- Classworks – 2010 "Third Grade Students Make Tremendous PASS Gains, Clinton Elementary School, Lancaster, SC"
- Principal's Magazine March/April 2011 "Extreme Makeover: Reading Edition Seven significant changes that lead this school on the path toward achievement"
- The Inside Guide to the Reading-Writing Classroom: Strategies for Extraordinary Teaching by Leslie Blauman 2011
- Journal of Staff Development: Learning Forward's Journal August 2011 -Learning Forward's Featured Practioner in the article "Learning Designs: Study, learn, design: repeat as necessary."
- Clinton Elementary School's success has also been featured at the following conferences:
- South Carolina Association of Title I Administrators, Columbia, SC (April 2010) Title: Transforming School Culture for Sustainable Student Achievement
- National Staff Development Council Conference, Atlanta, GA (December, 2010) Title: Looking At Student Work: Professional Learning Teams Core Practice
- Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement Engaging North Carolina, Greensboro, NC (April 2011) Title: Transforming School Culture for Sustainable Student Achievement