

# Erwin Elementary

*Bears*

## Our demographics

**School principal:** Jane Gaston    **Years at school:** 21    **In district:** 21    **In education:** 21  
**Grades served:** K – 5    **Enrollment:** 465    **Economic status:** 85% free & reduced lunch  
**Diversity:** 44% White, 48% African-American, 8% Hispanic  
**Number of teachers:** 28    **Classified:** 15    **Administrators:** 2    **Counselors:** 1    **Media specialists:** 1  
**Other:** 2 Nurses, Fast ForWord Lab Manager, Hearing Handicapped Teacher, 2 PMD Teachers, Speech Therapist  
**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 52%    **Teacher attendance:** 94.6%    **Student attendance:** 95.8%

## Our mission

Live to love,  
Love to learn,  
Live to love learning!

## Our facilities

**Date main building was built:** 1975    **Dates of renovations:** 1996, 1998, 2001  
**Square feet:** 74,450    **Number of computers:** 210    **Number of classrooms:** 40  
**Specialty areas:** 2 computer labs, lap top lab, multipurpose room

## Programs unique to our school

- **ACE Club** – This club is extremely active and serves 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who have excellent academics and citizenship. The group is responsible for jobs around the school, and they provide assistance to teachers and other students through a Study Buddy Program. The ACE Club also is in charge of writing and producing our Babblin’ Bears Morning News Program.
- **Art Therapy** – The guidance counselor and art teacher meet with the identified students weekly to discuss students’ concerns through the use of art.
- **Reading Counts** – Students are encouraged to read for pleasure while providing incentives for being able to answer comprehension questions.
- **Homework Center/Classworks Learn Lab** – Sixty students from grades 3, 4, and 5 participate in this program each afternoon. The students complete homework and then work on math and language arts standards using the Classworks Learn Program in our main computer lab.
- **Pioneer Night and World War II Night** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students present a living history presentation which depicts life during the Westward Expansion of our country and presents life during WWII.

- **Artsonia** – This is an online gallery where your child can see his or her artwork published. Once you have created your account, family and friends will be able to download your child’s art.
- **Advanced Art** – Twenty students from grades 4 and 5 are selected by talent and interest in art. The group creates projects. This program prepares students for future work in the arts.
- **B .E.A.R.S** – Boys Exercising And Running Strong is a fitness program for the 4th and 5th grade boys at Erwin Elementary School. Coach Sinclair and Mr. Bradley are in charge of the program. Coach Sinclair and Mr. Bradley have created this program to give young boys the opportunity to get more physically fit and learn how to start living a healthy lifestyle. Currently the program is free to the students involved.
- **K/Grade 1 Chorus** – Consists of 45-50 kindergarten and first grade students. The chorus is led by Mrs. Vaughn and Mrs. Laney. Mrs. Ribelin helps choose the participants based on their love for music and participation in Music class. Rehearsals are held during school hours. The chorus performs at Christmas and again in the spring if time permits.
- **Girls on the Run** – This is a program that encourages girls in grades 3-5 to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. Girls are taught lessons twice a week that promote physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being. At the end of the season the program culminates with a 5K race.
- **Tests for Higher Standards** – This provides Grade-Level Tests for Grades K-5 in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Reading/English/Language Arts. The tests are aligned specifically and uniquely to the South Carolina Academic Standards. Mini Tests are also provided to allow ongoing evaluation of student performance.
- **KidBiz3000** – This provides a Web-based, individualized reading and writing instruction that delivers differentiated assignments based on each student’s Lexile level. KidBiz enables teachers to customize content and monitor student growth.
- **Keyboard Lab** – Erwin has a full keyboard lab to be used during music class.
- **Fishing for Good Behavior** – This is a school-wide positive reinforcement initiative for good behavior.
- **Literacy Garden** – Our outdoor literacy garden provides an enriching and stimulating environment to read and learn.

## Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Book Writing Club** – This group writes and illustrates books for possible publication.
- **Advanced Art Club** – Students who excel in the arts meet each week to create backdrops for programs, artwork to be displayed and art entries for local contests.
- **Relay for Life Team and Activities** – Throughout the year, the team holds events to raise money for cancer research. Events are as follows: Christmas Dance, Spring Dance, Dunking Booth, Luminary sales, Relay bracelet sales, etc.
- **Student Council** – The student council provides service learning activities and events for the community.

- **Drama Club** – The drama club provides opportunity for students in grades 2 and 3 to demonstrate their talents.
- **Chorus** – Our chorus provides vocal opportunities for students in grades 4 and 5.
- **K – 1 Chorus** – This group provides opportunities for students in K and grade 1 to feel comfortable performing for an audience.

### Our parents/parent support programs

- PTO
- SIC
- Parent of the Week
- Volunteers
- Relay for Life
- Wet and Wild Day (Testing Reward)
- PASS Workshop
- Fun with Science Workshop
- Kindergarten Open House
- Back To School Night/Open House
- Pastries for Parents
- Goodies for Grands
- Veteran's Day Program
- Pioneer Night (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- World War II Night (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

### Our school strengths

- Our mission statement and the way we use it make Erwin's environment positive and full of humor. Our mission statement is simple, but meaningful as it reads – Live to Love; Love to Learn; Live to Learn Learning.
- Our arts focus allows special area teachers to work with the faculty to provide numerous opportunities for students to succeed through the arts.
- Erwin's community service focus allows students to become familiar with many causes and encourages them to give of themselves and their time to make things better for others. We participate in Hoops for Hearts, St. Jude's Math-A-Thon, Pennies for Policemen, Operation Christmas Child, Coats for Kindness, Veterans' Day Recognition, Avon Breast Cancer Walk and Relay for Life.

## Our improvement/growth areas

- To continue working on the Student Engagement Initiative to make teachers and students constantly aware of the level of engagement and its connection to achievement.
- To continue to follow the action steps of the SACS Plan to meet the goals identified.
- To continue our focus on the use of technology as a teaching tool.
- To continue using professional learning teams to plan and analyze teaching and student work.

## Our honors & awards

- 2005 and 2006 Palmetto Silver Award, recognized for improvement in minority achievement
- Trustees Award
- Numerous J. Marion Sims Grants
- SACS Accreditation for 20+ years
- Celebrate Great Teaching Award Recipients
- Met AYP 2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2008-2009, 2009-2010
- ING Grant
- Relay for Life Top Elementary
- Get Fit Award
- Special Olympics
- Academic Challenge Team