

# Erwin Elementary

*Bears*

## Our demographics

**School principal:** Jane Gaston    **Began at school:** 1990    **In district:** 1990    **In education:** 1989

**Grades served:** K – 5    **Enrollment:** 430    **Economic status:** 89.6 % free & reduced lunch

**Diversity:** 35% White, 49% African-American, 14 % Hispanic, 2% Two or more races

**Number of teachers:** 30    **Classified:** 15    **Administrators:** 2    **Counselors:** 1    **Media specialists:** 1

**Other:** 1 Nurses, 2 lab managers, Hearing Handicapped Teacher, EMD Teacher, Speech Therapist

**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 60%    **Teacher attendance:** 94.9%    **Student attendance:** 96.3%

## Our mission

Erwin Elementary’s mission is to put children first while providing a nurturing and engaging learning environment that helps all children develop the world class skills, and life and career characteristics of the profile of the South Carolina graduate.

## Our motto

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

## Our facilities

**Date main building was built:** 1975    **Date of renovations:** 1996, 1998, 2001

**Square feet:** 74,450    **Number of classrooms:** 40

**Specialty areas:** 2 computer labs, Chrome book 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.
- **Technology/Leveled Literacy Intervention After-School Program** - Forty-two students from grades 3, 4, and 5 participate in this program each afternoon. The students work on Study Island, Moby Max, Reflex Math, and keyboarding when they are in the lab. Half of the students are pulled daily to receive LLI.

- **Artsonia** – This is an online gallery where your child can see his or her artwork published. Once an account is created, family and friends are able to purchase the art.
- **Random Acts of Kindness** – Our guidance counselor works with a group of students who complete acts of kindness for staff and students.
- **K/Grade 1 Chorus** – This consists of approximately 24 students who work to prepare a parent program twice a year.
- **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 which promote physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being. This program is offered most years.
- **Robotics** – Our /robotics team meets on most Tuesday afternoons to prepare for a competition. This is a STEM activity.
- **Jump Rope Club** – This program promotes fitness for students and are taught about support and being judgment free of each other's skills.

## Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **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.
- **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
- Spring Fling Auto Show
- Volunteers

- Relay for Life
- Way to Go Blowout
- Wax Museum
- Family Day
- Fun with Science Workshop
- Kindergarten Open House
- Back To School Night/Open House
- Pastries for Parents
- Goodies for Grands
- Veteran’s Day Program
- World War II Night (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Parent Lunch for each grade level

## Our school strengths

- Erwin’s positive environment and family like atmosphere are strengths at Erwin.
- Our motto is simple, but meaningful as it reads, “Live to Love; Love to Learn; Live to Love Learning.”
- Our arts program 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.

## Our honors & awards

- Numerous J. Marion Sims Grants
- Water and Conservation Teacher of the year – Donna Wilder
- SACS Accreditation for 20+ years
- Celebrate Great Teaching Award Nominees
- Special Olympics
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