

Heath Springs Elementary

Hornets

Our demographics

School principal: Sheri Watson **Began at school:** 1980 **In district:** 1980 **In education:** 1980

Grades served: PreK – 5 **Enrollment:** 358 **Economic status:** 66.2% free & reduced lunch

Diversity: 71% White, 19% African-American, 5 % Hispanic, 5% Other

Number of teachers: 21 **Classified:** 11 **Administrators:** 2 **Counselors:** 1 **Media specialists:** 1

Other: Nurse, Reading Recovery, Parent Coordinator, Preschool (4), Primary and Elementary Interventionist, Math Enrichment Teacher

Teachers with advanced degrees: 56% **Teacher attendance:** 95.3% **Student attendance:** 92.7%

Our vision

Change Your Mindset, Expand Your World

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 1954 **Date of renovations:** 2000, 2001, 2018

Square feet: 59,456 **Number of computers:** 188 **Number of classrooms:** 31

Specialty areas: 2 computer labs, gym, keyboard lab, drama room with dance floor, Commons for PD

Our school programs

- **Reading Recovery** – Students in grade 1 who struggle with the fundamentals of reading are enrolled in this program. One-on-one services are provided. Small group instruction is provided for grade 1 and 2 students, as needed.
- **Interventionists** – Two staff member works with first-third graders who need help in reading and math.
- **Arts Focus** – We infuse the arts in the classrooms. We feed into an arts focused middle school and high school. We are beginning to look more closely at integrating the arts into the classroom through problem and project-based learning, STEAM.
- **Keyboard Lab** – Students use this lab in scheduled music classes.
- **The Daily Buzz** – The principal reads a book, discusses strategies for comprehension, shares important messages and student artwork.
- **Student Newscast** – Students anchor a newscast each morning, including the pledge, birthdays and morning daily messages.
- **Safety Patrol (grade 5)** – Students from grade 5 open car doors each morning and afternoon. These students raise and lower our flags and are available to help in any capacity. The students also help to monitor 4 year-olds in the hall before school starts.

- **Uninterrupted Reading and Math Block** – The school works to see that teachers and students are afforded a 2-hour reading and a ninety-minute math block free from interruptions.
- **Awards Days** – Each grade level schedules awards day in May to celebrate the accomplishments of each student. Parents are invited.
- **Testing Breakfasts** – The PTO feeds every student that is being tested and faculty member the mornings of state testing.
- **Teacher Cadets** – Students from Andrew Jackson High School intern in several of our classrooms regularly.
- **Computer Labs** – Brain Pop, Study Island and Learning A-Z along with research and MAP Testing K-1 is accessed from our labs.
- **South Carolina Focus** – Our school sign, murals in the hallway, The Sandlapper Garden, and murals in our cafeteria share a common focus on our state and our county.
- **Carolina/Clemson Canned Food Drive for K.A.R.E.** – The Kershaw Area Resource Exchange helps benefit the less fortunate. We help with a canned food drive competition two weeks before the Carolina/Clemson game for Thanksgiving. We collected 1,800 cans in 2019-20.
- **Computers for Education-** Magazine drive to raise funds for various activities at school.
- **United Way-** Staff and students raise funds to donate to the Lancaster United Way.
- **Relay for Life-** Staff and students raise funds to donate for Cancer research.

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Friday Fun Day** – STEAM PBL with related arts teachers.
- **Chorus** – Students in grades 4 and 5 audition for this group. They join with other choral groups across the district to perform for various functions. They also perform for school celebrations and meetings.
- **LEGO Robotics Club** – Selected students in grades 1 through 5 meet weekly to design and build LEGO robots to perform particular functions.
- **Drama Performances** – 3rd-5th graders audition for a Winter play, and K-2nd graders audition for a Spring play.
- **Black Belt Recorders**

Our parents/parent support programs

- **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)** – This group sponsors fundraisers. Fundraiser money has been used toward the purchase of arts materials, P.E. equipment, landscaping, TAP artists, sound system and school welcome sign. The PTO plans wonderful activities to show teacher appreciation including feeding the faculty, providing limousine rides to go to lunch, massages, and providing for gift certificates.

- **School Improvement Council (SIC)** – The SIC sponsors our Arts Clubs.
- **Parent Volunteer Program** – Heath Springs families are asked to donate 30 hours of service to the school per family, per year. Families usually exceed that goal. Our parent volunteer coordinator manages this process.
- **Open House** – We schedule an open house on the Thursday before school starts so parents can meet the teachers and discuss schedules and supplies lists. Normally, at least 75% of our families attend.
- **Family Activity Nights** – Once each semester we plan activity nights for parents. We provide information about testing, test results and offer a chance for parents to experience school as their children experience it.

Our school strengths

- **Reading** – Teachers maintain a two-hour balanced literacy block that includes shared reading and writing, mini-lessons, independent reading/writing practice, and share time, using the units of study for reading and writing. Teachers teach, guide, and support students in how to independently use strategies to construct meaning and monitor deep understandings using challenging texts. Teachers work together in teams to collect and analyze data from MAP, CASE, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark assessments, and other informal assessments, establish goals for students, and create action plans for students to increase student growth. During workshop time, teachers differentiate instruction by conferring with individual students or working in strategy groups. Interactive read-alouds are used to teach state standards.
- **Reading Recovery** – We have one Reading Recovery teacher.
- **Math Enrichment Teacher** – Students in grades 2-5 who are on grade level will go for math enrichment 45 minutes daily. Students in grades K-1 needing intervention will work in small groups with the classroom teacher during this 45-minute period.
- **Professional Development** – A full-time reading coach supports teachers in the implementation of HSE’s reading goals. A full-time math coach supports teachers in the implementation of HSE’s math goals.
- **STEAM Committees (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math)** – Each committee plans a new initiative for the staff each year.
- **Technology Professional Development**
 - School-Based Technology Coach
 - Google Basics (classroom, docs, slides, forms)
 - DyKnow
 - Teacher websites
 - I Can statements – putting on google calendar/website

- Remind
- Sign ups & Documentation (meetings with principal, spreadsheets, forms, etc.)
- Study Island – creating tests, use of data to help plan instruction
- Signed AUPs
- Violation forms
- HSE Google Folder
- Read/Write Text to speech app on CB already
- Creating tests in Google Forms
- Helpful strategies website

* https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos?page=1&categories=subjects_english-language-arts,grades_5&sort_order=score&q=reading%20strategies&loa with new teachers

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 - Coding – Code Sparks and Code.org
 - Ozobots and math
 - Anything I learn from meetings or school visits - coaches
- **1:1 Chromebooks in grades K-5**

Our honors & awards

- **ABC (Arts in Basic Curriculum) Site Award and DAP (Distinguished Arts Program) Award**
 - This award includes grant money for the arts and STEAM.