

Indian Land Elementary

Warriors

Our demographics

School principal: Keisha Witherspoon **Began at school:** 2018 **In district:** 1997_(returned 2012) **In education:** 1997

Grades served: K5 – 5 **Enrollment:** 1,075 **Economic status:** 32% free & reduced lunch

Diversity: 79% White, 11% African-American, 6% Hispanic, 4% Other

Number of teachers: 66 **Classified:** 30 **Administrators:** 3 **Counselors:** 2 **Media specialist:** 1

Other: Nurse, Elementary Science Specialist, and Part-time Resource Officer, Speech, ESOL, Psychologist

Teachers with advanced degrees: 60.3% **Teacher attendance:** 94.3% **Student attendance:** 95.6%

Our mission

The mission of Indian Land Elementary School, in partnership with the students, parents and community, is to develop responsible and productive lifelong learners by providing a challenging curriculum in a safe and supportive environment.

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 1998 **Date of renovations:** 2010

Square feet: 120,608 **Number of computers:** 402 **Number of classrooms:** 70

Specialty areas: 1 science lab, 4 computer labs, 65 Smartboards, gym, and 11 mobiles

Our school programs

- **Science Enrichment Course** – Students in grades K-5 participate in a weekly science enrichment course that extends science instruction into a lab-based environment.
- **Uniform Dress Code** – All students have a uniform dress code.
- **Elementary Honor Choir** – The choir is open to Grade 5 students with strong musical interest. The choir rehearses after school.
- **iLead** – This is our Leadership development program. Selected young men in grades 3-5 embark on a journey to cultivate and develop the necessary traits to become a leader and develop essential character. Dads and men in our community visit our school every morning to greet students, promote character development and set a positive example of involvement and leadership.
- **iRead** – This is a school-wide buddy reading program developed and implemented to help build students' reading fluency and confidence. It enables our students to serve as mentors to those in other classes and helps build friendships through their common love of reading.

- **Student Council** – Fifth grade students are elected to represent their homerooms in various service projects throughout the year. These projects include the Backpack Project, Thanksgiving canned food drive, assisting with morning announcements and helping as needed in other service activities.
- **Drama Club** – The Drama Club is open to fifth grade students who express an interest in learning all aspects of the theatrical production of a play, which includes auditions, stage management and acting. Rehearsals take place after school.
- **Spirit Days** – Each month during Spirit Days, students can wear any Indian Land shirt to promote school spirit, and for 50¢, a student can wear a hat, with all proceeds going to a local charity.
- **The “Warrior Way”** – This is a school-wide behavior management plan utilized to promote, maintain and track student behavior. An emphasis is placed on “doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do.” All teachers implement the same color code system K-5 for consistency.

After school programs

- **Fit Kids**
- **Girls on the Run**

Our parents/parent support programs

- **Parent/Teacher Association (PTA)**
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)**
- **School Parent/Community Member Volunteer Program**
- **Annual Volunteer Breakfast**
- **Weekly Parent Newsletter**
- **A variety of Warrior events**

Our school strengths

- **Diverse academic and enrichment programs** – Programs include visual and performing arts as well as academics. In addition to art, music, physical education, and computer, students participate in a hands-on science lab. Reading recovery, reading enrichment and gifted/talented programs are available for students who struggle academically or excel academically. After-school programs include a homework center and chorus.
- **Strong community and parent involvement including a strong communication program** – One of the major goals of Indian Land Elementary School is to encourage involvement from stakeholders in the school. One of the major components of this initiative is through our PTA. This group works to

match classrooms with parent volunteers, provide funding for programs, school enhancement projects, and a focus on helping get parents and community members into the school. Our goal is to create a climate that promotes learning through the family and community. To achieve this, we work to provide parents with opportunities to be involved. Several initiatives to promote connection and communication include regularly updated web pages by school personnel, a school calendar with important dates and information, newsletters about important projects and activities, and a variety of other items aimed at helping parent and community members feel a part of the school.

- **Small learning communities** – A major strength of Indian Land Elementary is creating small learning communities within a large school. Each grade level maintains its own programs, projects, and processes while still functioning as a part of a larger school. Teachers in individual grade levels participate in weekly team meetings where curriculum, instruction, and managerial topics are discussed. These meetings allow for very consistent instructional practices in different classrooms. Each grade level focuses on standards-driven instruction matched with interdisciplinary approaches to deliver the best possible instruction to students. Teachers also meet regularly with administrators to discuss ways in which instruction has been individualized in the classroom and to share faculty and individual student concerns. Using this approach allows individual grade levels to promote student achievement, good personal worth and self-concept, and a connectedness to the overall mission and success of the school.

Our honors & awards

- Teachers have been awarded several thousand dollars from the J. Marion Sims Foundation for a variety of classroom projects and programs.
- Our school has a Carolina Fence Garden that was recently established as a National Wildlife area.
- Two Lancaster County School District Celebrate Great Teaching Award recipients have been from Indian Land Elementary School.
- S.C. Department of Education Red Carpet School for 2005-08
- Palmetto Silver Award 2006-07 and 2010-11
- Palmetto Gold Award 2011-12