

# Kershaw Elementary

**Bulldogs**

## Our demographics

**School principal:** Annette Melton      **Years at school:** 1      **In district:** 1983      **In education:** 1983  
**Grades served:** K – 5      **Enrollment:** 478      **Economic status:** 64.2% free & reduced lunch  
**Diversity:** 70% White, 24% African-American, 2% Hispanic, 4% Other  
**Number of teachers:** 32      **Classified:** 15      **Administrators:** 2      **Counselor:** 1      **Media specialists:** 1  
**Other:** Nurse, Instructional Facilitator, Parent Coordinator  
**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 75.0%      **Teacher attendance:** 95.0%      **Student attendance:** 95.7%

## Our mission

The mission of Kershaw Elementary is to prepare responsible creative individuals capable of functioning in an ever-changing world by providing a safe, positive, goal-oriented learning environment.

School-wide Theme: Sailing to Success – Around the world in 180 days  
Grade levels will host virtual visits to ports-of-call around the globe throughout the year. Content standards, cultural information and geography will be integrated through classroom activities, displays and technology.

## Our facilities

**Date main building was built:** 1961      **Date of renovations:** 1993, 1998, 2001  
**Square feet:** 61,397      **Number of computers:** over 200 with SMARTboards in every classroom  
**Number of classrooms:** 25      **Specialty areas:** 2 computer labs

## Our school programs

- **Teacher Cadets** – Students from Andrew Jackson High interested in becoming educators complete internships in several of our classrooms on a regular basis.
- **Retiree Luncheon** – We host local school retirees for our annual Thanksgiving meal.
- **AmeriCorps** – Tutors provide additional reading and math assistance to first graders.
- **Computer Labs** – Two permanent labs and one portable lab are available to our students on a weekly basis. Students use ClassWorks and Study Island to work on math and reading standards. The laptop lab is used in the media center for class research and is available for teacher checkout.
- **Keyboard Lab for Music Instruction** – Classes participate in music instruction on a weekly basis.
- **Title I Inclusion** – Through school-wide Title I services, we are able to provide SRA Corrective Reading for students in grades three, four, and five who qualify, to foster positive grade one transitions

with lower class size, to support the Discovery Cluster curriculum, and to employ a parent coordinator to facilitate family involvement opportunities and organize volunteer activities.

- **School-wide writing activities** – Periodic themes provide common topics for our students kindergarten through grade five.
- **Discovery Cluster** – This school-within-a-school program includes one class in each grade 1 – 5. Parental involvement is a key aspect of this program.

### Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **KES Chorus** – Grade five students audition and perform as a small group here at school and as part of the Lancaster County Elementary Chorus in the spring.
- **Junior Beta Club** – Membership recognizes grade five students with outstanding academic achievement and character. The organization encourages these traits along with positive attitude, leadership, and service through monthly service projects in the school and community.
- **Fourth Grade Swimming** – This grant-funded instruction takes place for Kershaw Elementary grade 4 during the first weeks of the school year at the outdoor Kershaw pool.
- **Safety Patrol** – Our safety patrol walks kindergarteners to class each morning and greets car riders by opening car doors as they arrive.
- **Bulldog Bulletin Morning News Program** – This show highlights morning announcements and other school news. Students are involved in on and off camera responsibilities.
- **EAGLE Gifted and Talented Program** – Grades three through five
- **Junior Achievement** – Volunteers from local businesses teach these lessons in grades two.
- **Accelerated Reader Program** – This web-based program encourages reading and assesses student comprehension.
- **21st Century Learning Center** – This grant-funded program offers free academic assistance and enrichment activities Monday through Friday 2:10 until 4:45 p.m. Bus transportation is provided.
- **Homework Centers** – The homework center offers academic assistance Monday through Thursday until 3:30 p.m. at no cost to our students.

### Our parents/parent support programs

- **School Improvement Council (SIC) Family Nights** – Family nights for all grade levels provide activities and ideas for academic enrichment at home.
- **PTO** – KES PTO actively supports our school through volunteers and funding for instructional supplies.

### Our school strengths

- Adoptions over the last several years of standards-based materials that encourage higher order thinking have raised the bar for our instruction and provided additional supplemental opportunities for challenged students. Staff development in these areas of the curriculum has been outstanding. Our school currently uses **Open Court and SRA Corrective Reading, Everyday Math and Science Kit-Based Instruction.**
- **MAP Evaluation Program** – This computer-based measurement provides our teachers with thorough information of a student’s knowledge at the beginning of each year and growth during the year based on the winter and spring administrations.
- **Teacher Quality** – All faculty members are Highly Qualified, and five are National Board Certified.
- **Our community support is extraordinary!** Volunteer commitment, along with a very active SIC and PTO, enhance our entire school with activities, instructional materials, and tutoring.

### Our honors & awards

- **Lt. Governor’s Essay Contest** – Grade five District winners, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2010-2011
- **Honor Roll/Principal’s List Awards** – Student achievement is celebrated on a six-week and semester basis along with perfect attendance, citizenship, and other student incentives.
- **Essay and Poster Contests** – Kershaw Elementary students are recognized periodically through award winning participation in essay and poster contests sponsored by local groups and Lancaster County Council of the Arts Youth Art Month.
- **SC Red Carpet School-** This honor was awarded in Spring 2006 to recognize an outstanding family-friendly atmosphere.