

# Kershaw Elementary

**BULLDOGS**

## Our demographics

**School principal:** Annette Melton      **Began at school:** 2000    **In district:** 1983    **In education:** 1983  
**Grades served:** K – 5      **Enrollment:** 454      **Economic status:** 72% 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%    **Teacher attendance:** 95%    **Student attendance:** 95.7%

## Our mission

Mission Statement of Kershaw:

Building  
Upstanding  
Lifelong  
Learners  
Developing  
Optimistic  
Graduates

## 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:** 22      **Specialty areas:** 2 computer labs and iPads for classroom use

## Our school programs

- **Literacy** – Emphasis on strengthening reading comprehension across all content areas.
- **Teacher Cadets** – Students from Andrew Jackson High interested in becoming educators complete internships in several of our classrooms on a regular basis.
- **Technology** – Two permanent labs and one portable lab are available to our students on a weekly basis. Students use ClassWorks and various online programs to work on math and reading standards. The laptop lab is used in the media center for class research. A set of iPads is available for instructional use on a check-out basis.
- **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 and to employ a parent coordinator to facilitate family involvement opportunities and organize volunteer activities.

- **School-wide literary and character themes** – A “book of the year” is provided for each classroom and area that provide the foundation that encourages academic achievement and promotes life skills. Recent titles include *How Full is Your Bucket for Kids?* And *The Seven Habits of Happy Kids*.

### 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 fourth graders at the outdoor Kershaw pool.
- **Safety Patrol** – Our safety patrols walk kindergarteners to class each morning and greet 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 participate in off-site classes once a week.
- **Junior Achievement** – Volunteers from local businesses teach lessons in grades two.
- **21st Century Learning Center** – This grant-funded program offers free academic assistance and enrichment activities Monday through Friday from 2:10 until 4:45 p.m. Bus transportation is provided.

### Our parents/parent support and community 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.
- **Retiree Luncheon** – We host local school retirees for our annual Thanksgiving meal.

### Our school strengths

- Communication, collaboration and continuity between and among grade levels and support areas has strengthened teaching and learning at KES. Teachers, administrators and support staff meet to review student work, analyze data, to plan instruction and to study the Common Core State Standards. Data from formative assessments provides the foundation for goal-setting for students and staff. We have expanded the implementation of the *100 Book Challenge* to include kindergarten through fifth grade. This has increased our use of leveled texts and enhanced our ability to meet individual student needs. Students in grades kindergarten through also participate in *FastForWord* to strengthen comprehension skills. The emphasis on math instruction has been increased through the implementation of the new math series, targeted use of *Classworks* in the technology lab, Math Bees and small group instruction. Teachers and support staff work with individuals and small groups of students to provide targeted assistance in both reading and math. Several web-based programs allowed students to have access, at home and at school, to reading and math skills on their individual levels to support classroom instruction and learning.

### 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.
- **Palmetto Silver Award 2011-2012**
- **Science Fair** – A number of KES students were recognized for their scientific projects at the district level.