

North Elementary

Knights

Our demographics

School principal: Mrs. Keishea Mickles **Began at school:** 1998 **Years in district:** 20 **In education:** 20
Grades served: Pre-K-5 **Enrollment:** 731 **Economic status:** 59% free & reduced lunch
Diversity: 43% White, 42% African-American, 14% Hispanic, 1% Other
Number of teachers: 44 **Classified:** 14 **Administrators:** 3 **Counselors:** 2 **Media specialist:** 1
Other: 2 Nurses **Teachers with National Board Certification:** 11 **Doctoral Degree:** 0
Teachers with advanced degrees: 68% **Teacher attendance:** 96.4% **Student attendance:** 96%

Our mission

The mission of North Elementary School is for our students to be responsible, hardworking, life-long learners.

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 1966 **Date of renovations:** 1998, 2001, 2010
Square feet: 91,531 **Number of computers:** 270 **Number of classrooms:** 52
Specialty areas: One-to-One Technology in Grades 2-5, 3 mobile iPad labs, 2 technology labs, literacy lab

Our framework

- **Leader in Me-** The Leader in Me framework empowers 21ST Century learners with the skills to make positive, effective, and responsible choices by introducing and reinforcing the 7 Habits, a set of leadership and life skills from Stephen Covey's book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The Leader in Me framework is an introduction to personal leadership. Each morning students are empowered in Lead Time through intense immersion of the 7 Habits with the classroom teacher as their coach as well as another coach leader on staff. Leader in Me provides students with activities that will help them learn practical character and life skills that will lead to positive choices in school, at home, and in every aspect of their daily lives. When taught and practiced in a school environment, these 7 habits have been proven to improve academic engagement, comprehension, and performance by strengthening individual work habits and improving social interactions. They help improve student performance and support school success by helping to foster the qualities of independence (goal-setting, organization, time management, and planning); interdependence (teamwork, conflict management, creativity, and analytical skills); and renewal (fun, desire to learn, and good health & hygiene). Those 7 Habits include the following: Habit 1 — Be Proactive: You're in Charge, Habit 2 — Begin with the End in Mind: Have a Plan, Habit 3 — Put First Things First: Work First, Then Play, Habit 4 — Think Win-Win: Everyone Can Win, Habit 5 — Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood: Listen Before You Talk, Habit 6 — Synergize: Together Is Better, and Habit 7 — Sharpen The Saw: Balance Feels Best. When our students follow the framework, they all find their voices as leaders!
- **KITE-** Kids Interacting with Text Every Day is reading intervention designed to accelerate the development of reading proficiency for our kindergarten, first, second, and third graders who are identified as needing individualized responsive instruction. Daily observation and ongoing formal assessment using the LLI

Intervention of Fountas and Pinnell. The KITE teacher and assistant closely monitor and meet the reading needs of each student. KITE teacher and assistant to closely monitor and meet the reading needs of each student. The fluidity of the program and the careful monitoring of all students by our teachers allow students to enter and leave KITE throughout the school year as we work together to provide the best learning environment for our emergent and early readers.

- **Response to Intervention (RTI)-** Response to Intervention (RTI) is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. The RTI process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. These services may be provided by a variety of personnel, including general education teachers, special educators, and specialists. Progress is closely monitored to assess both the learning rate and level of performance of individual students. Educational decisions about the intensity and duration of interventions are based on individual student response to instruction. RTI is designed for use when making decisions in both general education and special education, creating a well-integrated system of instruction and intervention guided by child outcome data.
- **Knights in Action-** Young people are encouraged to learn, develop, and grow through service to others. We provide time for active participation in ample, organized service experiences. These opportunities provide early life lessons about dependability and responsibility to many North students. Service-learning opportunities include:
 - North Helpers – Fifth-grade students learn about dependability and responsibility by helping teachers and other students. Example duties include: helping specials teachers prepare for the day, helping students take AR tests, updating the school sign, preparing computers in the labs, delivering birthday cards to our students, and reading with kindergarten.
 - Safety Patrol - Fourth graders greet students by opening car doors for car riders each morning.
 - Canned Food Drive - An annual food drive encouraged by a friendly competition between USC and Clemson fans to see which team gathers the most food. Fifth grade students count cans daily throughout the month of November and package them in boxes. The food is donated to HOPE before Thanksgiving.
 - Jump Rope for Heart is supported through our physical education teachers. Students jump rope to raise money for children with heart defects.
 - Relay for Life is a school focus. Money is collected over the course of the year. Teachers and students come together to support our booth at LHS and walk in honor of cancer survivors and in memory of lost loved ones.
 - Special Friends - Students from fifth grade share special time with our exceptional students before school, in art, music and P.E.
 - School Store - Fifth graders manage the school store.
 - WNES - School news anchored by fifth-grade students

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **National Junior Beta Club-** Beta Club organizations are committed to recognizing and

promoting high academic achievement, rewarding and nurturing worthy character, fostering leadership skills and encouraging service to others. The students have participated in several service learning projects, such as our Clemson vs. Carolina Canned Food Drive for Hope, Angel Tree Project, and organizing Livi's Library book donation, which will provide books to promote literacy for all students.

- **Robotics Club-** The robotics club is a team of eight students made up of fourth and fifth graders. During the year, they build a robot and use various technologies to program it to perform several missions on a mat designed specifically for our annual robotics competition. The students also complete a research assignment during the year that relates to the theme of the competition each year. They develop a skit to perform for the judges explaining all of their research on competition night.
- **Knights Run-** This program will be designed to assist young girls in living a healthy lifestyle while discussing topics that occur socially at school. Your child will be exposed to a curriculum to help them be successful in difficult social situations while training to run a 5K!
- **iLead-** This program communicates to students the importance of accepting the responsibility of being a leader. Students are exposed to various principles to apply in their lives which allow them to become a person of influence and make a difference in their world.
- **Grade Level Author Study** – Students focus on an author and studies his or her biography. Students complete projects from their favorite piece of the author's literary work. They also participate in Readers Theater and classroom videos about the author are incorporated.
- **Book Club Read-In** – Fifth grade students read a predetermined text. The media specialist meets with these students regularly to discuss important events and to share their reflections about the district to discuss book themes and to complete culminating activities.
- **A Little Knight Music** – A choral group of approximately twenty grade five students chosen through an open audition. The chorus rehearses each Thursday after school from 2:30- 3:30 p.m. This provides quality choral music experiences for our students and the community. The group performs for school functions, sings at Christmas in the community, and participates in the All-County Choral Festival each year.
- **Peer Mediators-** Peer mediation is the voluntary, peaceful resolution of disputes or conflicts in which one or more neutral parties act as Mediators. It provides students with a positive alternative to conflict and makes school a safer place to be and learn. It is a positive way for students to learn conflict resolution.
- **Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs** – A fishing program for all grade two students held during the school day. Students learn that fishing is a good individual or family activity. They learn how to take care of their environment, how to fish, about the anatomy of fish, and about pond life. The program includes a fishing trip to a local pond.
- **PAX Leadership-** The focus of the group is to the better world and to start with one's self. PAX teaches students self-regulation, self-control, and self-management in context of collaborating with others for peace, productivity, health and happiness.

- **Nature Stewards-** Our Nature Stewards Club introduces our 4th and 5th grade students to the wonders of nature and teaches them how to preserve those wonders through life long service. Our mission is to help our natural habitat by engaging our students in environmental activities, and completing P.E.A.C.E Projects (Peaceful Environmental Activities Concerning Everyone).
- **North Green Team-** Our North Elementary Green Team is comprised of 4th and 5th after-school helpers. We collect recycled paper, cans, boxes, and plastic items throughout the school each Friday afternoon. We place the recyclable items in the City of Lancaster's big blue bin.
- **North's Art Club** – This is an after-school activity made up of interested grade five students who help enhance the school, make props for North's plays, and complete art projects for the school community.

Our parents/parent support programs

- **PTA** – Organizes and promotes student learning through fundraising. Fundraising monies are allocated through our PTA Board to enhance instruction.
- **Teacher Appreciation** – Monthly celebrations are planned by parents in honor of teachers' birthdays and various holidays throughout the school year.
- **Volunteers** – Parents and community members give generously of their time to assist in areas of their own strengths and interests to promote student learning and safety.
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)** – Advisory board who acts as a liaison between the community, school, and administration.
- **Parent Volunteer Coordinator** – Serves as a liaison between school and families to encourage all parents to volunteer and participate in family events.

Our school strengths

- **Fostering excellence** – Our faculty and staff have a common goal to foster excellence for every child in the areas of learning and behavior. That is also the standard we hold for ourselves. Although there is a framework for our school's policies and procedures, within each classroom we foster and nurture creativity through hands-on activities, paired sharing, and small groups. The teacher is the facilitator of learning.
- **Professional Learning Teams** – We work as a team with our parents and community to meet the needs of each child while supporting and working together. Our teachers and staff are nurturing, creative, and resourceful. We collaborate with grade level teams and through vertical teaming. Our Specials teachers who teach art, music, PE, and computer lab coordinate unique learning experiences that complement the general curriculum. Our community and parent volunteers support our school through Junior Achievement, tutoring, mentoring, classroom assistance, attending field trips, and fundraising.
- **Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing**– Our Lucy Calkins reading and writing framework is made up of the mini-lesson, work time, and share time. The Mini-Lesson is where the teacher teaches the students a skill or strategy through demonstration and direct instruction. Reading Workshop is a powerful way to structure our reading classes. Using this model involves encouraging our students to choose their own books as well as providing significant amounts of time for them to read independently. Writer's Workshop is an interdisciplinary writing technique which builds students' fluency in writing through continuous, repeated exposure to the process of writing. Work Time is when our students are reading and writing and

directly applying the lesson they just learned. The teacher acts as a mentor author, modeling writing techniques and conferring with students as they move through the writing process.

- **Double-blocked math** – We double-block our math so that every child in grades 2-5 receives two blocks of math daily. The first block of math takes place in the regular classroom where the students participate in standards-based lessons. A second math block offers additional math instruction in leveled groups based on MAP and SC Ready data. Students are introduced to mathematical concepts and strategies not addressed during regular classroom instruction time and participate in problem-solving activities. During this time of personalized learning, every child gets what every child needs.
- **Incorporating media standards** – The incorporation of media standards with grade level standards has improved many curriculum areas. Through the use of technology, our media specialist reinforces the standards classroom teachers are covering. Basic computer skills for our younger students are expanded into research skills for our older students. The media specialist models technology standards and allows students to practice these skills in the computer lab.

Our honors & awards

- **Leader in Me School**, 2017-2018
- **Beta Club School of Distinction**, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018
- **South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award for General Achievement**, 2014-2015
- **South Carolina Palmetto Silver Award for Closing the Achievement Gap**, 2014-2015
- **ESEA rating of “A,”** 2012, 2013, 2014
- **South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award**, 2012, 2013, 2014
- **Title 1 Award School for Academic Performance**, 2012
- **South Carolina Palmetto Silver Award**, 2011-2012
- **ADVANC-ED District Accreditation**, 2011-2012, 2016-2017
- **South Carolina Distinguished Title I School Honorable Mention 2009-2010** for Closing the Achievement Gap
- **Certified as a National Wildlife School**, 2006
- **Grants** – Over \$200,000 grants over the past ten years
- **Exemplary Writing Award**, 2004-2007, 2007-2010
- **Red Carpet Award**, 2002-2005, 2005-2008
- **Met AYP**, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010
- **School Report Card Absolute Rating: Good**, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2008-2009

