



### **A Year of Growth and Achievement**

It is hard to believe we are finishing our second year as an elementary school—this year has certainly been action-packed. Before students returned, our staff was already preparing for the year ahead, and they continued to grow professionally throughout the year.

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### **Professional Learning and Instructional Growth**

Our staff engaged in ongoing professional learning through a strong Professional Learning Community model. This year, all staff members participated in Resilient Schools training, focusing on trauma-informed practices and strategies. This work helps staff better understand how trauma affects students and equips them to de-escalate emotional situations while preserving student dignity.

In addition, most of our teachers completed LETRS training in the Science of Reading, provided by the state of South Carolina. This training is already making a significant impact on literacy instruction in our classrooms. Teachers also participate in regular collaborative planning with dedicated common planning time.

Finally, staff received additional training in AVID strategies, including reading, writing, inquiry, collaboration, and organization, ensuring students experience the rigor needed for academic growth. Our academic program was further enriched through events such as AVID College Day and field trips, including visits to Roper Mountain Science Center.

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### **Early Childhood Expansion**

One of our most exciting initiatives this year was the addition of two full-day four-year-old kindergarten classes. The program and curriculum are outstanding, and our youngest learners have shown tremendous growth both socially and academically. Their progress has set a strong foundation for success in five-year-old kindergarten. Watching them learn and adapt to school routines has been both rewarding and enjoyable. We are incredibly proud of them.

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### **School Climate and Culture**

This year, we continued to strengthen our school climate and culture. Each morning at 7:30, following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, classrooms hold a morning meeting. During this time, students engage in discussions on topics such as handling bullying, building friendships, and showing respect. These

meetings play an important role in setting a positive tone for the day, encouraging collaboration, and giving students a voice—even in our youngest grades.

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## **Family and Community Engagement**

A key part of our school culture is our outstanding PTO. The PTO supports our school community in many ways, including providing field trip scholarships, organizing fundraisers, and offering meaningful support to our teachers and classrooms.

Berry Shoals is committed to creating opportunities for family and community involvement. We host events such as Meet the Teacher, parent conferences, and open houses, along with family engagement activities like Donuts for Grown-Ups and Grits for Grandparents. We also offer parent workshops, including the Triple P Parenting Program hosted by the Middle Tyger Community Center.

Additional events such as STEM Night, Literacy Night, our Fall Festival, and Buzzy's Bash Spring Carnival provide both fun and educational experiences.

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## **Student Opportunities and Celebrations**

Students had many opportunities to participate in extracurricular and enrichment activities, including our Christmas concert, school play, musical, chorus, Creations, art showcases, BeeTown News Show, and LEGO Robotics Team.

Throughout the year, students were recognized for positive behavior and effort by earning Hive Tickets for helping others, following expectations, and demonstrating hard work. Students celebrated their achievements each quarter through Hive Day, and we recognized students regularly for both academic and non-academic accomplishments.

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## **Recognitions and Achievements**

We celebrated many individual and group accomplishments this year. We recognized 104 Terrific Kids and honored Skyler Harrison as our Terrific Kid of the Year. Several students had artwork displayed at the school, district, and county levels, and 13 students were selected for the District 5 Honor Choir.

Our BerryBots Robotics Team earned first place in the District 5 LEGO Robotics Competition, improving from last year's runner-up finish. First-grade teacher Kayla Weber was named Outstanding Teacher of Literacy. Third-grade teacher Ashley McCleary was selected as Teacher of the Year, and our nurse, Carly Wade, was named Support Person of the Year. Additionally, Caroline Ostheim, a third-grade teacher, was recognized as a finalist for Induction Teacher of the Year.

We also celebrated Alfredo Rubio Montilla, who won our school spelling bee and went on to place runner-up in the Region 3 Spelling Bee at USC Upstate, competing against more than 80 participants in an exciting competition.

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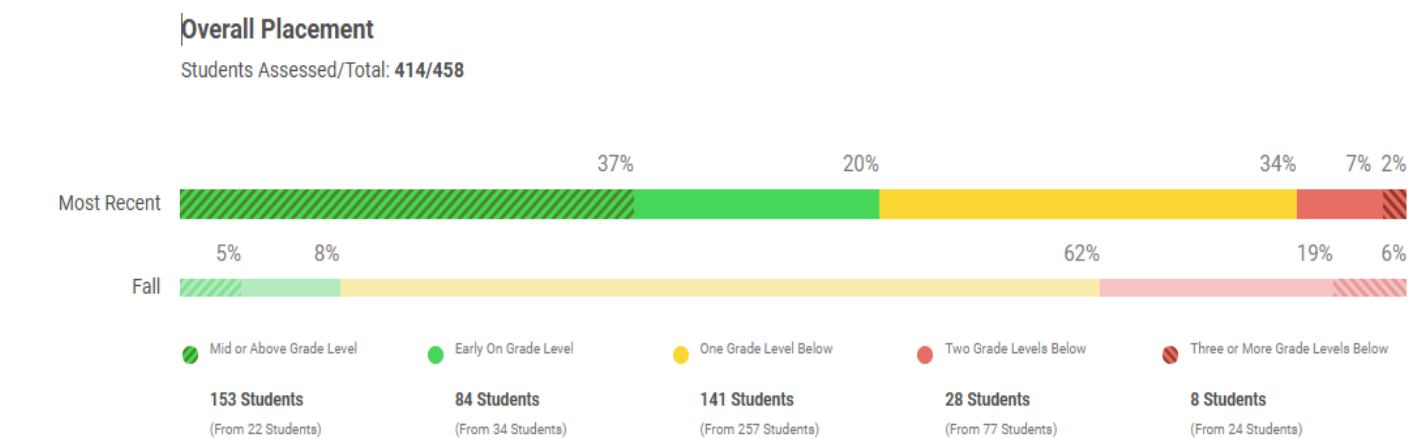
# Academics - iReady

These diagrams show the growth between Fall and Spring iReady, based on these levels:

- Mid or Above Grade Level
- Early On Grade Level
- One Grade Level Below
- Two Grade Levels Below
- Three or More Grade Levels Below

The bottom thinner bar is Fall, the thicker bar is Spring

## Fall to Spring Math iReady Placement. Bottom line is Fall, Top line is Spring



## Fall to Spring Reading iReady Placement. Bottom line is Fall, Top line is Spring

