

**Memminger Elementary School**  
**2019-2020 SIC Report to the Parents**

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Memminger community sought to close gaps, not only in the instructional program and progress for students, but also in terms of communication with parents. A change in leadership brought about a renewed call to be “anchored in excellence.” Students and teachers worked diligently to address academic goals, and were rewarded with substantial student growth in Fifth, Fourth, Third, and First grades. Both the MAP tests and the Fastbridge assessments indicated that many students were closing the achievement gap.

In an effort to bridge the divide that often exists between schools and the community, Memminger implemented a multi-tiered approach to connecting with families. Regular call-outs became a staple throughout the year, as were notices from the newly adopted Remind app. Numerous in-person events were held, all of which were very well attended. Parents and guardians joined their students for an early morning “Pancakes with Parents” event. Families packed the Memminger auditorium for the annual Winter Concert. And both of the after-hours teacher driven instructional events, Literacy and S.T.E.A.M. nights, provided opportunities for students and families to interact with one another, and many of our local partnerships.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the sudden subsequent closing of school facilities, Memminger’s students, staff, and community quickly shifted to a completely virtual instructional model. With the creation of a “Memminger 2.0” site, families had a single landing page to access instructional content for students. Utilizing numerous G Suite features (Google Classroom, Google Forms, etc.), SeeSaw, and a variety of additional online resources, teachers created and maintained individual classroom pages. As the closure continued, Zoom class meetings became a regular occurrence for many of our students. The effectiveness of those efforts was observed in the Fall 2020 benchmark assessments, where many students performed at or above the level they reached prior to the closure.

The 2020-2021 school year promises continued growth for the Memminger community. An Advanced Academics component has been added for students in grades K - 5, which will continue to enrich those students currently performing in the highest quartile on standardized assessments. Full-time related arts offerings will allow students to not only experience their traditional Music, Art, Spanish, P.E., and Media Center classes, but also participate in IB focused exploratory periods. The school will also launch the district’s first Teacher Residency program, hosting five first year teachers in a co-teaching model.

Finally, despite the restrictions placed on outside interactions due to safety concerns, Memminger will continue to work with its growing listing of local partners, including The College of Charleston, Horizons at Ashley Hall, Kids on Point, The Green Heart Project, Grace Church, and many more.

Sincerely,

Dottie Brown, Principal  
Memminger Elementary