



# Pleasant Hill Elementary School

LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

664 Rawl Road • Lexington, SC 29072 • 803-821-2800

**Principal:** Margaret B. Mitchum

**Assistant Principals:** Kate Berresford and Kelly Middleton

**Grades Served:** 4K–5

**Mascot:** Cougar

**School Colors:** Green and Yellow

**School Motto:** Preparing and Honoring Every Student.

*Empower each child to design the future.*

Our mission is to cultivate a caring community where ALL learners are extraordinary communicators, collaborators, creators and critical thinkers.

**All students, regardless of circumstances, advance on time, prepared to graduate and ready to enter college, the military or industry with certification.**

To support students' academic growth as communicators, collaborators, creators and critical thinkers, our school utilizes a workshop model in both ELA and mathematics. We are committed to meeting the needs of all learners by providing targeted, differentiated instruction. We implement Lucy Calkins' Units of Study in Reading, Writing and Phonics. We also use i-Ready Classroom Mathematics. Our school-wide focus is on small group instruction, conferring and student engagement. Our instructional coaches provide continuous professional learning and book studies in these areas. Interventions, Reading Recovery and our EAGLE program (for gifted and talented students) help students improve their academic achievement. Our school counselors connect with classroom teachers to make sure students' social and emotional needs, as well as their academic needs, are being met.

**Teaching and learning develop power skills in all students.**

PHES is committed to developing the whole child. We incorporate the following Power Skills in all we do: collaboration, interpersonal skills, communication, accountability, perseverance, integrity, critical thinking and risk taking. We provide opportunities for students to apply Power Skills in their daily lives. PHES fosters the development of leadership skills as students serve on Principal's Cabinet and Safety Patrol.

**PHES has a Spanish Immersion program in which the immersion students in grades 5K–grade 5 receive all their math and science instruction in Spanish.**

**All PHES students participate in Spanish instruction as part of our related arts program.**

**PHES has a .5 mental health counselor on site.**

**PHES has an outdoor classroom, raised vegetable gardens and student-led recycling program.**

**AlphaBEST is our on-site after school care provider (2:20–6 p.m.)**

**PHES has 8 National Board Certified teachers.**

**PHES teachers have been awarded numerous grants including several from the Lexington One Educational Foundation's Innovative Award program.**

**The PHES PTA has been named a PTA School of Excellence for 2018–20 and 2020–22.**

**Every student in grades 5K–grade 2 has a district-issued iPad and every student in grades 3–5 has a district-issued Chromebook.**

**PHES has a Spanish Immersion Parent Advisory Board (SIPAT), a School Counseling Advisory Board, a Mental Wellness Team and a School Improvement Council.**

**The 2021–22 Lexington County School District One Teacher of the Year is PHES Interventionist/Reading Recovery teacher Sue Carter.**

**Our schools are service-oriented centers of learning, committed to family and community partnerships.**

Our amazing PTA provides monthly family events such as “Bike to School Night,” “Lucky to Be a Cougar,” and Bingo Night. Our first graders read virtually with senior citizens at the Presbyterian Community of Lexington. Students from Lexington High School volunteer at PHES as part of their Students in Action Program. Our school partners with the Lexington County Public Library to provide free books to some of our striving first and second graders as part of the Book by Book Program. Our students also participate in the Lexington County Public Library’s summer reading program.

Our PHES students serve our community in many ways. Our students write letters to Veterans; donate items to the Nancy K. Perry Children’s Shelter, Mission Lexington, and Children’s Hospital; prepare baskets for local first responders; and sponsor an annual Coat Drive. Our fifth graders research ways they can help in the community and then they put their research into action as they volunteer at a local animal shelter, assist their neighbors, etc.

**Every adult will be equipped with the skills and resources necessary to advocate for and ensure the success of all students.**

Staff members participate in professional learning sessions at the school and district level throughout the year. Teachers participate in book studies on books such as The Next Step Forward in Running Records and The Joyful Teacher. Our instructional coaches collaborate with teachers throughout the school year, and our Peer Ambassadors guide new staff members at PHES. Our school counselors support our staff and provide resources including those services available in our community.