

Service Learning and Community Projects

- Participated in the SC School Choice Rally at the State House; 5th grade student addressed the legislature
- Partnered with: Sunoco to expand recycling, Chinese Association of Columbia (CAC) and USC Confucius Institute for the Mid-Autumn Festival, CAC and USC for Spring Festival Celebration, American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart and Relay for Life
- Hosted the Chinese New Year Gala and Auction at the Carolina Coliseum
- School-wide service learning projects: Harvest Hope Food Drive, Valentines for Veterans, Toys for Tots



SIC Purpose | To focus on the vital role of parents, legal guardians, the community, students, and educators in the continuous effort to improve academic and social development of the students. The EPA SIC is to function as the primary advisory group, without fiduciary responsibility, for the EPA Board of Directors, Director/Principal, and faculty and shall encourage and motivate efforts to expand the levels of educational responsibility and accountability to provide quality instruction at EPA. School Improvement Councils are not mandated by the Charter School District. However, EPA chooses to involve and engage a School Improvement Council.

2014 - 2015 School Improvement Council Members

- Joan Hoffman, Chair
- Stacy Culbreath, Vice Chair
- Catie Martin, Past Chair
- Flora Cagno, Co-Secretary
- Victoria Dixon-Mokeba, Co-Secretary
- Mieke Perez, Parent Representative
- Kim Christ, Parent Representative
- Jean Boiteau, Teacher Representative
- Mengqiao Tang, Teacher Representative
- Paul Townes, Community Representative
- Renee Mathews, Director/Founding Principal



2014 - 2015

REPORT TO PARENTS & COMMUNITY



East Point Academy

South Carolina's First Chinese Immersion School

eastpointsc.org

MISSION

East Point Academy, as a leader in language immersion education, cultivates global understanding and fosters lifelong learning to prepare students to become productive, competent, and engaged citizens of the 21st Century.

CELEBRATE WITH US

2014 - 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



Received federal rating of "A" (97.1%); two consecutive years of "A" ratings

- Another consecutive year of all "Excellent" on the South Carolina School Report Card
- Increased student enrollment by 32% or 111 students from 2013-14 to 2014-15 for a total of 457 students
- Awarded Confucius Classroom designation; the first SC public school to receive this designation for excellence in Chinese language and culture education
- Increased full-time Chinese teachers from 10 to 19 from 2013-14 to 2014-15; increased state and international certified Chinese teachers from 6 to 17 from 2013-14 to 2014-15
- Developed STEM-based MANTIS (Mentoring Advanced Needs Through Innovative Study) program for Gifted and Talented students in 2nd - 5th grades serving 78 students
- One-to-one computing: provided 157 3rd to 5th grade students with iPads; purchased Chromebooks for rising 6th grade, iPad learning centers for primary grades, and keyboards for iPads
- Upgraded computer labs for both campuses
- Received 31 invitations for Duke TIP for 4th-5th grade students

Achieved a 98% re-enrollment rate for 2015-16 school year

提高成绩 | Improved Achievement

GOAL 5 | Support professional development plan and rigor for EPA faculty and staff.

- Provided 15 staff members with summer studies for language and culture in China
- Added a Mandarin Curriculum Lead Teacher and provided training for all Mandarin teachers on American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language proficiency standards and assessments.
- Provided Mandarin Proficiency Teacher Conferencing Tool and training for parent conferences
- Sent a team to the SC Science and the SC Kindergarten Conferences
- Provided a multi-grade level team training on Assisting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Multiple on-site training for teachers on project based learning at the Center for Inquiry
- Provided training and resources on bullying with videos with classroom community scripts

- **Work days**
- **Sessions at staff meeting**
- **Conferences**
- **Online courses**
- **Extended school year for teachers**

Provided professional development to teachers and staff through:

Professional Learning Topics:

Balanced Literacy, Project Based Learning, Authentic Assessments, Literacy by Design, Safe Schools, CPR/First Aid/AED, Love and Logic classroom management, Chinese Language Immersion strategies, Mandarin Proficiency Assessment, School Safety and Crisis Prevention Training, Teaching Math with Manipulatives, and Envision Math

Build Relationships | 建立关系

GOAL 2 | Build home/school relationships between parents/guardians and school staff/ leadership.

- Engaged parents in leadership roles on the Board of Directors, PTO, School Improvement Council, Mandarin Curriculum Committee and Outdoor Learning Committee
- Offered incentives, door prizes, and free childcare to parents attending PTO meetings and Parent University
- Expanded Principal's "Unsung Hero Award" to include multiple staff and volunteer recognitions
- Participated in holiday parades for two service area cities, Cayce and Columbia
- Recognized parent volunteers through personal notes, volunteer appreciation reception, district volunteer of the year nomination, and school spirit gifts
- Offered multiple Parent University sessions for MAP, CircleView, ITBS, CogAt, Dominic Assessments, Mandarin basics, literacy, internet safety, leadership, grant writing and parenting for success
- Recruited and coordinated parent volunteers to serve as greeters, coaches for athletic and academic teams, technology support, field trips and as homeroom parents

Hosted events to celebrate student successes which included:

- **A harvest festival**
- **Dance & music recitals**
- **Chinese New Year**
- **Grand Friends Day**
- **A talent show**
- **Bridging ceremonies**
- **Awards ceremonies**
- **Spring picnic**
- **Field day**
- **Intramural sports events**
- **Campus beautification days**
- **State & regional competitions**

加强沟通 | Improved Communications

GOAL 3 | Enhance communications internally and externally to engage parents and promote EPA across the community.



Weekly principal and staff e-newsletters distributed via Planet K8

Promoted parent-teacher conferences

100% parents participated

- Promotional presentations by principal to nine civic and community groups and state leaders
- Booth, games and presentations at the SC International Festival
- Distributed hard copies of South Carolina content standards for each grade level/content area at Parent University events, Open Houses and front office
- Added info carousels for parents and visitors for the front offices of both campuses
- Added wide screen TV and presentation module to front office of elementary campus
- Presentations by students, Student Government and the principal at state legislature charter school events
- Weekly grade level team and monthly Staff Advisory Council meetings; recommendations on class scheduling, compensation facility design, homework and testing schedules, etc.
- Student of the Year and Volunteer of the Year candidates were selected as top five finalists in the district
- Developed a rotation schedule for homework and testing
- Expanded Planet K8 with pages, agenda and/or minutes posted for key groups, SIC, Board, PTO, Outdoor Learning Initiative and clubs; school video and topical Powerpoints shared
- Piloted student led conferences in first grade; 100% school wide parent conference participation rate

This report from the School Improvement Council presents East Point Academy's accomplishments and progress made towards goals during the 2014-2015 school year.

GOAL 4 | Engage a process that identifies, secures and builds funding for school initiatives.

- Implemented Red Envelope Annual Fund drive, Annual Fund Thermometer display, Board Funding Challenge, Tax Year Philanthropic Appeal
- Obtained funding for gymnastics mats for PE and a portable sound system
- Leveraged resources and programming from more than 200 organizations to support school activities
- Partnered with the PTO to raise \$25,000 and obtained Board approval of \$25,000 match for purchase of an activity bus
- Held first "Boosterthon Fun Run" and leadership development week
- Expanded the library collection and classroom libraries for both English and Mandarin classrooms with a book drive, Scholastic Book Fair, and grant funding

Raised approximately \$60,000 through the PTO and school fundraising activities

- Improved the seven weeks summer camp program opening to the community and partnering with vendors for pre-engineering activities, video game design, and gymnastics
- Obtained federal funding to support technology, academics and professional development
- Gained Board approval for funding from bond sales to expand facilities



GOAL 1 | Improve achievements of all students across grade levels and demographic groups.

- Four Region II Science and Engineering winners
- Qualified for the state National Geographic Bee
- Exceeded the national MAP norm scores in all grades in reading, math and science
- Placed in top three in the SC Math Kangaroo Competition
- 16 students awarded in the Palmetto Chinese Star Contest with one student winning in three categories
- Of two Odyssey of the Mind school teams, eligibility for international competition awarded for two consecutive years to one team
- Doubled the time that elementary students engaged in art, music, PE and

18 students were nominated to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM in Raleigh, NC

- dance per week
- Added Chinese Cultural Arts as a related arts class
- Extended the instructional day by fifteen minutes and designed a block schedule to maximize time in classes and increase time in related arts
- Established primary and elementary Homework Clubs
- Continued the outdoor learning initiative and added a composting station to the cafeteria



Expanded afterschool & extra-curricular offerings to include:

- Basketball
- Calligraphy and Origami
- Odessey of the Mind
- Soccer
- Chinese Dance
- Hands-on-science
- Lego League
- Martial Arts
- Ping Pong
- Piano
- Badminton
- Concert Choir
- Classical Guitar
- Green Team
- Student Government
- Running Club
- Gymnastics
- Violin