



The Paw Print



WMES is "PAWS"-itively the Best!

290 South Metts Street

St. George, South Carolina

Phone (843)563-3231 Fax (843)563-3421

Website: <https://wm.dorchester4.k12.sc.us/>

2022 SCHOOL REPORT CARD RATING—AVERAGE (51)

December 2023



Dear WMES Family-

As the holiday season approaches, no matter how busy you are, I hope you take a moment to reflect on the people who have enhanced your life. In the pressures of daily life, we may sometimes take for granted the people who are most important to us. The holiday season gives us an opportunity to remember and reflect on the ways certain individuals add value to our lives. I want to take this time to express my appreciation to everyone who is working so diligently to make WMES "PAWS"-itively the Best: our students, our faculty and staff, and our parents and guardians.

For Thanksgiving, our students, faculty, and staff collected food items, and our students were able to deliver Thanksgiving food boxes to the residents at Dorchester Village. In December, we are sponsoring a school-wide Toy Drive to benefit the Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House at MUSC. A flier was sent home as to what is needed.

Just a few reminders, with the weather getting cooler, students need to come dressed accordingly. According to our Dress Code that was in our Student Handbook, flip flops should not be worn to school. Also, all shorts and skirts should be fingertip length, as well as "rips" or tears in pants. Hats and hoodies should not be worn in the building.

Once again, I am truly blessed to have a great group of students, parents, guardians, and faculty and staff members to work with! We look forward to seeing you. I sincerely hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ruth Mims

Our Mission Statement

The children, parents, and staff of Williams Memorial Elementary School are unified in their purpose of accelerating the learning of all students through shared decision-making and powerful learning experiences.



School-wide Community Service Project

WMES will be collecting toys for our MUSC Toy Drive December 4th-14th. All toys and games can be turned in either to the front office or in homeroom classes. Please make sure items are *unwrapped*.



Use Dorchester District Four's PowerSchool Parent Portal to obtain real-time access to view your child's:

- Attendance
- School Announcements
- Assignments
- Assignment Scores
- Final Grades
- Teacher Comments

You can access the PowerSchool Parent Portal online from the homepage of any Dorchester District Four website.

Please contact your child's grade level school counselor for log-in information.



Dates to Remember in December

December 4-8—Winter i-Ready Testing (Reading & Math)

December 4-14—School-wide Toy Drive for MUSC

December 11-15—5 Days of Holiday Activities

December 12—DD4 Board Meeting @ 6:00 P.M. (WHS)

December 13—5th Grade Spelling Bee for District Bee

December 13-14—Winter Field Day

(13th—Kindergarten -2nd Grade/14th—3rd-5th Grade)

December 15—Holiday Programs (Zoom Link Will be Sent)

½ Day (Dismissal @ 11:30 A.M.)

December 18-January 2—Winter Break (No School)

From Our WMES Family...

Happy Holidays
To you



December 11th: *Grinch Day*—Wear Green and Jeans

December 12th: *Tis the Season*—Wear Seasonal Colors (Red and Green OR Red and White)

December 13th: *Santa's Workshop*—Be a part of Santa's Workshop by dressing like Santa, an elf, a reindeer, a present, a toy, etc.

December 14th: *All Aboard the Polar Express*—Wear your favorite PJ bottoms

December 15th: *Deck the Halls*—Wear your favorite Christmas shirt or sweater.



Just a Reminder... The speed limit is 25 mph during loading and unloading hours. Don't let a speeding ticket be your Grinch during the holiday season!

Our Vision Statement

The vision of Williams Memorial Elementary School is to create a community of academic excellence for our students by establishing high expectations and academic rigor, providing effective and innovative educational practices in a safe and supportive environment, and helping our students develop world-class skills and to graduate with a 21st Century education and to be globally competitive in their chosen career path.

WILLIAMS MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON-LINE STORE



Please Use the QR Code to place your order for WMES apparel on or before December 3, 2023.



Orders will be delivered to school before our Winter Break.

*The school will not accept any orders or money. All orders must be completed on-line. You can either use the QR Code or the link below.

<https://jussports.tuosystems.com/stores/wmes23>



From the Literacy Coach...

Did you know that visualization or imagery of what you read or are being read to is a learned skill? Not everyone naturally has a movie playing in their head. According to Literacy Expert Timothy Shanahan, the brains of children in the age range of 5 to 7 focus on the visuals of words and their sounds; this could be why picture books are so important for them! It is not until the range of 8 to 11 that the brain has visual and imaginative processes develop. Students have to be taught how to experience what they are reading or hearing. According to the second edition of *Strategies that Work*, one way to grow this skill is to pause and have children tell you about something specific in the story. If they need a little guidance, consider prompting them with the following beginnings; I see... I hear... I can feel ... I smell...I can taste...



Don't forget that our 2023-2024 Yearbooks are on sale now for **ONLY \$25** until December 31, 2023. Starting January 1st, the yearbook price will increase to \$30 for the remainder of the year. Forms were sent home earlier, so just complete the form and send **\$25** for each yearbook you are purchasing to your child's homeroom teacher. You will need to either pay with cash, a money order, or purchase on-line at the website <https://www.balfour.com/south-carolina/saint-george/williams-memorial-elementary-school>