

JENNIE MOORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

2725 Bulrush Basket Lane • Mount Pleasant, SC 29466



South Carolina

School Improvement Council

Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence Application 2023

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County SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Jennie Moore Elementary Community: Jennie Moore Elementary School for the Creative Arts (JME) is an arts integrated constituent magnet school in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, a large suburban city in Charleston County. Instruction is based on the South Carolina State Standards with Arts Education integrated across all areas of the academic curriculum. The arts program provides an opportunity for all children to learn and develop their creativity through visual arts, music, drama, and dance in grades kindergarten through fifth. Teachers from the fine arts also work with students and general education teachers by co-teaching standards-based lessons that incorporate various art forms. JME also offers a childhood development program for 4 year-old children. JME had a total enrollment of 973 students in the 2020-2021 school year. The demographics were as follows: 77.9% White; 13.4% Black; 3.4% Hispanic, and 5.3% Other. Of the 973 enrolled students, 33% were in a Gifted program. Fall 2020 was the first time students were able to return to in-person learning since March of 2020. When students started school in the Fall of 2020, approximately 25% came to JME in-person while the majority started in a two-week temporary remote program. After two weeks, 50% of students returned in person, and after winter break about 85% returned to in-person learning. Students who wanted to remain in remote options were able to do so through district remote programs, some which were taught by JME teachers. The 2020-2021 school year required flexibility and creativity to adapt to the ever-changing learning environment.

Initiatives for 2023 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence: The School Improvement Council (SIC) at JME has worked tirelessly and collaboratively over the last several years to identify the needs and challenges that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic and then responded to create positive results for the school and the community. The JME SIC developed and implemented a variety of programs to assist JME students, teachers, and families in navigating the virtual world during this unprecedented time -- both during and after the pandemic. Above all, the JME SIC strove to keep JME students and families actively engaged and excited about learning despite the impact the pandemic had on all aspects of life. The SIC at JME created a variety of subcommittees dedicated to the three main initiatives outlined below.

INITIATIVE #1: VIRTUAL LEARNING

ISSUE: The JME SIC recognized that many students and their families were navigating a new educational environment while trying to learn virtually. To ensure the best possible results and engagement, the JME SIC developed an online survey for parents and teachers to gather more data on educational websites and digital resources they found useful for their children as well as areas where they felt more support was needed. An extensive list of online resources was made for parents, teachers, and children to access. It can be found on the JME school website (link below).

ACTIONS TAKEN: The JME SIC created a subcommittee specifically focused on this virtual learning initiative. The subcommittee first surveyed JME parents and families asking them how the JME SIC could best assist them during this unprecedented time. This SIC subcommittee utilized Survey Monkey to create the JME Virtual Learning Parent Survey 2020-2021. This subcommittee was dedicated to helping JME parents and families better their children's education. One way to do this was to help JME students and families access all the incredible online resources available to help their children excel during this unique time when in-person remediation and enrichment opportunities were very limited. Specifically, they asked JME parents what online resources they were using to help during virtual learning -- with the goal and intent of sharing all resources with all families as well as teachers to maximize the learning opportunities. JME parents could complete one survey to cover of all their children or separate surveys for each child in their family. The JME SIC highly encouraged JME parents to complete separate surveys if the resources were distinct for each child so that the council could categorize the educational websites, digital resources and applications (apps) by age group when appropriate. The JME SIC shared this online survey with JME parents via school email, posted it on the school's official website, and included it on the JME PTA Facebook page and its corresponding website.

The council took the data gathered from the JME Virtual Learning Survey 2020-2021 and created an extensive list of all the educational websites, digital resources, and applications (apps) that JME parents and families reported using. These resources varied from review to enrichment. Furthermore, the JME SIC organized this list of online resources by grade level, subject content being covered, whether or not they were available as website, application (app), or both, and any costs associated with them. The council even listed a few extracurricular online resources focusing on STEM activities, the creative arts, promoting critical thinking skills, and physical education. Lastly, the SIC cautioned JME parents that some of the websites and applications (apps) may contain advertisements that their children will see or links that can take them away from the intended educational website or app. The JME SIC reminded parents to always monitor online usage to ensure internet safety. These education websites, digital resources, and apps will remain on the JME website (located under Parents/SIC link) for JME parents, families and children to access at any time. We encourage you to visit ccsdschools.com/domain/4423 and scroll down to the links to access the Resource Document that was created.

RESULTS: A total of 191 JME parents completed the JME Virtual Learning Parent Survey 2020-2021. We had participation from all grade levels with response rates as follows: Pre-K: 2.62%; K: 25.13%; Grade 1: 20.94%; Grade 2: 19.90%; Grade 3: 25.65%; Grade 4: 20.94%; and Grade 5: 18.32%. It is important to point out that 75.92% of JME respondents said they have used online resources for their children's learning over the past year. While a large majority of families stated they benefited from online learning resources, the families that said or alluded to not benefiting shared some important feedback for us. For example, a second-grade parent at JME shared that she didn't use online resources with their child because they felt that it was very easy for kids to get addicted to the screen so she chose not to supplement her child's learning with virtual or online resources. Similarly, a fifth-grade parent at JME said that she tries not to supplement her child's learning with virtual or online resources since she needs to have more control over her child's electronic

device and that it is far too easy for her child to play games and do things that are not going to help her in school. In addition, the SIC asked JME parents and families to share what type of online support they needed but couldn't find. Several first and third-grade parents at JME wanted more online and virtual resources that focused on Math, Reading and ELA. A fourth-grade parent requested that these online and virtual resources be made available and accessible to JME parents all year.

We also found that a majority of JME parents in specific grade levels frequently used similar online resources to help their children learn at home. For example, most kindergarten parents at JME shared that they used such online resources as ABC Mouse, Duo ABC, Homer, Starfall and Storyline Online. First grade parents also shared that they frequently used such online resources as ABC Mouse, Dreambox, DUO ABC, Epic, Khan Academy, Lexia, Splash Math, Starfall, Storyline Online, and Teachers Pay Teachers. In second grade most parents frequently used the following online resources: Achieve, Aleks, Brain Pop, Dreambox, Epic, Homer, Khan Academy, Lexia, Math Nation, National Geographic, Prodigy, and Reflex. Lastly, in grades three through five most JME parents frequently used the following online resources: Aleks, Cool Math, Epic, IXL, Kahoot, Khan Academy, National Geographic, OutSchool, Quizlet, Storyworks, Teachers Pay Teachers, and YouTube.

The JME SIC appreciates all the feedback collected from the JME Virtual Learning Survey 2020-2021 and has taken that information into consideration when creating the Online Resource Document for JME parents and students. It has also helped the council in the development and implementation of their other virtual learning initiatives.

INITIATIVE #2: MATH VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM

ISSUE: During the pandemic, access to traditional in-person school activities was severely limited due to COVID-19. To offset this, the JME SIC developed a virtual family event, a Virtual Escape Room, to replace the traditional in-person math night. Math night is (was) an interactive, in-person, hands-on learning experience to reinforce math skills.

ACTIONS TAKEN: The JME SIC established a subcommittee to develop the Math Virtual Escape Room in lieu of hosting traditional in-person math nights during the pandemic. Megan Rzycki, a JME SIC parent member, spear-headed this subcommittee. Megan was perfectly suited for this endeavor given that she has a background in Elementary Education and Middle School Math Education and she currently works as an Elementary Methods instructor in higher education (Math, Science, and ELA).

The Escape Room Team designed the math virtual escape rooms with three goals in mind: 1) Meet JME's specific academic needs 2) Increase student engagement and 3) Bring the JME school community together. After the virtual escape room was announced, JME families had one week to answer math related questions online in the Virtual Escape Room. JME parents and students had to solve the "Mystery of the Missing Monarch" (JME's official mascot) in the Math Virtual Escape Room.

As previously mentioned, JME was unable to host a traditional in-person math night that school year due to the pandemic. The Escape Room Team developed and launched the Math Virtual Escape Room in the Spring 2020-2021 school year. There were three leveled versions of the Escape Rooms for JME students: Kindergarten-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade, and 4th-5th grade. A JME teacher from a grade in each level reviewed the Escape Room before the event. All math content covered in the Math Virtual Escape Rooms aligned with South Carolina's Math Standards. Before the event, it was advertised through the school's weekly online newsletter (The Monarch Memo), JME school website, PTA Facebook page, and the corresponding PTA website. In addition, the Principal of JME made a promotional video highlighting the special event. The Math Virtual Escape Room centered around the story that JME's Mascot (Monarch butterfly) was lost inside the school. JME students had to solve a series of mathematical questions, or clues, to help lead them from room to room in the school to find the missing butterfly. The Math Virtual Escape Rooms feature actual photographs from locations inside JME that relate with each clue. Furthermore, each clue was based on a different math concept and incorporated the use of the free online virtual math manipulatives that are associated with our district-wide math curriculum, Bridges. With each clue, JME students were given a link to a virtual online tool (such as a virtual clock or virtual geoboard) as well as a video tutorial about how to use the tool. The inclusion of the virtual math tools that are aligned with JME's math curriculum served an additional purpose of bringing awareness of them to both students and parents. These tools could be utilized after the Escape Room for further online learning and practice. The Escape Room team created the Math Virtual Escape Room using a Google Form that recorded all student responses. In addition, JME students who completed the Virtual Escape Room were eligible for prizes, random drawings for participation, and the classrooms with the highest percentage of participation earned pizza parties. We encourage you to visit ccsdschools.com/domain/4423 and scroll to the bottom of the page to access the Math Virtual Escape Rooms.

RESULTS: The Virtual Escape Rooms were overwhelmingly well received by JME parents, teachers, and students. In fact, about 520 students in the school participated in the Math Virtual Escape Rooms. We had over 50% school participation rate with this online event! All JME participants received a Rubix Cube for completing the Math Virtual Escape Room. The JME SIC also gave 45 treasure box prizes to JME students via raffle drawings that week and the following JME classroom teachers earned pizza parties for their students: Ms. Bavosa (80% student participation), Mrs. Goodfellow (91% student participation), and Mrs. Price (88% student participation). JME students and parents throughout the school enjoyed participating in this online event. One student shared that the Math Virtual Escape Room was "amazing" and that she "enjoyed figuring out the answers with help from her mom". Another student commented that this event was "super fun" and loved the apps that were linked with the questions. A JME parent shared that the Math Virtual Escape Room was "very enjoyable and well written". She thought the math questions were "unique and different, focusing on

all different types of questions and skills". A parent new to JME shared that her child "thoroughly enjoyed this event and was a great way for new parents to learn a little bit more about the school". Lastly, another JME parent thanked the JME SIC for creating something both "tech-related and educational that we could do together as a family".

INITIATIVE #3: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM (ELA)

ISSUE: As previously shared, during the pandemic, access to traditional in-person school activities was severely limited due to COVID-19. These restrictions continued into the 2021-2022 school year. To offset this, the JME SIC developed a 2nd virtual family event, a Virtual Escape Room, to replace the traditional in-person ELA night which provided an interactive, in-person, hands-on learning experience, to reinforce English, Language, and Grammar Skills.

ACTIONS TAKEN: Due to the overwhelming success and popularity of the Math Virtual Escape Room, the JME SIC decided to create an ELA Virtual Escape Room. JME SIC took what they learned from the Math Virtual Escape Room, including some feedback from JME parents and students, and made improvements to the ELA Virtual Escape Room. JME's Principal, Karen Felder, shared that school-wide literacy test scores were an area of focus, and thus began the endeavor to create an ELA Virtual Escape Room for 2021-2022. Various grade level teachers at JME met to analyze student testing data (MAP scores as well as other test data) to determine ELA topics where students needed extra support and practice. Mrs. Felder then provided the SIC with this data to use in the content creation of the ELA Virtual Escape Room.

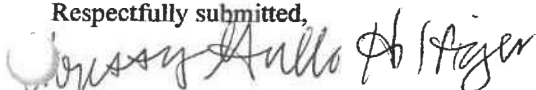
Many of the logistics of the ELA Virtual Escape Room were the same as the Math Virtual Escape Room. For example, the ELA Virtual Escape Rooms were presented in a Google Form, so all the student responses were recorded. In addition, JME students had one week to participate and were eligible for participation prizes, weekly raffle prizes, and classrooms with most participation could earn pizza parties. Before the launch of the ELA Virtual Escape Room, the JME SIC also advertised in the weekly online newsletter (The Monarch Memo), JME school website, PTA Facebook page, and corresponding PTA website. In addition, there were three different levels of the ELA Virtual Escape Room similar to the Math Virtual Escape Room. However, based on both parent and student feedback taken from the Math Virtual Escape Room, the three leveled virtual escape rooms contained three completely different story lines. This allowed JME students to participate in more than one level of the ELA Virtual Escape Rooms, since each level contained different story lines and clues. This was notably different from the Math Virtual Escape Rooms, which had all the same story lines but clues/questions that differed per ability level.

In the ELA Virtual Escape Rooms students once again went on a journey throughout JME. This time they were helping our JME mascot, the Monarch Butterfly, find its missing color-changing pencil. Pictures from various locations around the school were included in the virtual escape room clues. The clues focused on ELA topics such as parts of speech, cause and effect, contractions, compare and contrast, making inferences, and more. Based on feedback we received, and reflection from the Math Virtual Escape Room, we also included resources to support students with each of these ELA topics. If a clue had a key symbol next to it that meant that students could visit the provided resource page to view videos, tutorials, articles, or online practice activities related to that particular ELA concept. Both the Math and ELA Virtual Escape Rooms can be found on the JME school website. We invite you to visit ccsdsschools.com/domain/4423 and scroll to the bottom of the page to access the ELA Virtual Escape Rooms.

RESULTS: The results from our ELA Virtual Escape Rooms were equally as impressive with 530 students participating in this event. Some JME students even completed multiple levels as we had 583 submissions. All JME participants received a color changing pencil for completing the activity. The JME SIC also gave 45 treasure box prizes throughout the week to JME students via raffle drawings and the following JME classroom teachers earned pizza parties for their students: Mrs. Armbruster (100% student participation), Ms. Barnett (100% student participation), Mrs. Wilcenski (90% student participation) and Ms. Bavosa (100% student participation). Similarly, JME students and parents had great things to say about the ELA Virtual Escape Rooms. One JME student said she "loved it and cannot wait to do it again next year". Another JME student said it was "so much fun" that they are going to try out level one and two of the ELA Virtual Escape Rooms. One JME student shared that he was sad that he was going to Laing (middle school) next school year, but he's "lucky to have a little sister who goes to Jennie Moore", so he can do it with her next year! A JME parent said it was "a phenomenal experience" and that it was "a nice addition to their afternoon routine" and that the prizes were rewarding.

There is no doubt that the pandemic had a profound impact on all families and students. The JME SIC proudly took on the challenge to keep our children engaged to help them learn, retain, and excel despite the challenges present. Our commitment to JME and the entire Mt. Pleasant community most certainly embodies the ideals set forth by the Rileys in "sparking the flame of education improvement in South Carolina." We look forward to the opportunity to further elaborate on our initiatives and discuss how we are continuing to support our school and community through these initiatives and others. We greatly appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Chrissy Gullo Hilfiger
SIC Co-Chair and Parent
Jennie Moore Elementary School



Megan Rzycki
SIC Co-Chair and Parent
Jennie Moore Elementary School



Jennie Moore Elementary

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Anita Huggins
Interim Deputy Superintendent

Anthony Dixon, Ed.D.
Interim Chief of Schools

Jennifer Swearingen, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Superintendent
of Elementary Learning

Karen C. Felder
Principal

Dear SC-SIC Awards Committee:

When the Covid Pandemic came through Jennie Moore Elementary School, the School Improvement Council immediately stepped up to identify the needs and challenges that might be prevalent during this time, not only for students but for parents and staff members.

Quickly Zoom meetings became the norm and attendance was excellent. Knowing that not everyone was technology savvy, the first goal was to help parents to identify appropriate resources their students could use. These resources would help parents to understand what students were learning and to give students the opportunity to enhance their learning through different websites. The SIC did a Survey Monkey which was sent to parents and to staff. The results were vetted and then the council categorized the educational websites, digital resources, and apps by age group. This information was shared through a school wide e-mail, posted on the JME school website, and included on our JME PTA Facebook and Web page.

As the council was trying to bring some normalcy and familiarity into the lives of the students and parents—we decided that since we couldn't do our traditional Math Night, which was an evening where parents and students came to school to do various math activities together, we could create a virtual opportunity for them to work together. This committee lead by Megan Rzycki hit the ground running. Three leveled versions of a virtual math escape room were developed. K-1, 2-3, and 4-5. All the content and expectations in the virtual room were based on SC Math Standards and aligned with the Bridges Math program. All students/families who participated in the virtual escape room were given a prize and daily drawings were held to randomly reward families who participated.

As we began the 2021-2022 school year, there were high hopes that school life would return to pre-pandemic. Unfortunately, there were still many restrictions and group activities did not happen until the very end of the school year.

After the high success of the Math Virtual Escape Room, the SIC chose to do the same concept using ELA this time. Once again, the Room was designed for families to do together. Classroom teachers were surveyed to reveal concepts students seemed to have a harder time grasping. With this information collected, the room was again divided into 3 levels each with a different story line, allowing students to participate in more than one level if they chose to.

Jennie Moore has always had a strong SIC, but I am so proud of the work and dedication of the Council during the pandemic. This was a time that people could have chosen to back off and slack off. Instead, the SIC immediately looked for ways to stay connected and to keep the families connected to JME during a time they were not able to have a presence in the actual building with their students.

Karen C. Felder
Principal

Dear SC-SIC Awards Committee,

November 8, 2022

As a parent of two Jennie Moore Elementary students, I recommend the Jennie Moore Elementary School Improvement Council for the Riley Award for SIC Excellence. During the past two school years, my 3rd/4th grade son and K/1st grade daughter were able to utilize, and benefit from, many resources that were provided by the JME SIC.

One of the main initiatives of the JME SIC for the previous school year was the Virtual Escape Rooms in Math and Language Arts. Both my son and daughter successfully completed the Escape Rooms, and were able to gain enrichment in areas of both Math and Language Arts. Not only were the Escape Rooms educational and enriching, but they were also fun and engaging for students.

The Math Virtual Escape Room consisted of different levels for different grade bands (grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-5). This enabled each student to complete their own Escape Room at their specific level. As students progressed through the Math Escape Room, they were able to utilize tools such as Geoboard by The Math Learning Center to help them arrive at the correct answers to questions. If students answered a question incorrectly, the page was refreshed and students were given a second chance. The Escape Room links were available to students and families during an entire week, which allowed flexibility for students to complete them with busy schedules. The goal of the Math Escape Room was for students to find the missing JME mascot (a Monarch butterfly) that was locked in one of the rooms in the school. As students progressed through the Escape Room, they were able to see embedded pictures of various familiar rooms in their school, as well as teacher names in the questions/answers, which added to their interest and excitement. My 4th grade son said "I liked the pictures in the Escape Room. They made me feel like I was actually inside the school trying to solve the problem. And it was fun to see my teachers' names too." After completing the Escape Room, students received a prize and also had their names entered into a raffle for chances to win prizes throughout the week, and even a pizza party for the class with the most participants. These added incentives were a great way to ensure participation among students.

The ELA Escape Room also provided different levels for students in different grade bands (K-1, 2-3, and 4-5). The ELA Escape Room incorporated many areas of focus, which were provided by teachers of those grades. Some of the areas of focus were parts of speech, Venn diagrams, character traits, cause and effect, and text features. As students moved through the Escape Room, they were again able to view embedded pictures from around their school, giving it a more familiar and personable feel. When my son and daughter finished their grade-level specific Escape Rooms, they were able to visit the resources provided to learn more about the areas of focus. These resources were plentiful, and included videos, extra practice, and more. In addition, students were able to try the other Escape Rooms for other grade levels if they wished to challenge themselves further.

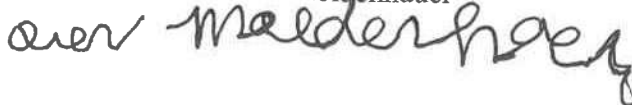
My son and daughter enjoyed and benefited from both Escape Rooms provided by the JME SIC, and the Escape Rooms also provided a unique and fun opportunity for families to participate in a learning experience from home alongside their students. I recommend JME SIC for the Riley Award for SIC Excellence.

Sincerely,

Parent: Kristen Moldenhauer



Student: Owen Moldenhauer



November 29th, 2022

Dear SC-SIC Awards Committee Members,

I am deeply honored to write this letter in support of the School Improvement Counsel at Jennie Moore Elementary School for the Creative Arts (JME) in their application for the *2023 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence*. I have been a JME teacher for 8 years and can attest to the unwavering support provided by the committee. Their devotion and commitment to our school's success builds lasting relationships between our families and faculty and embodies the true spirit of our community.

Having been the parent of an elementary student and a virtual teacher for most of the 2020-2021 school year, I fully understand the demands thrust upon families and schools during this time. I endured the challenges of navigating through the digital education age and supported my families as they contemplated the decision to remain virtual. Caution and anxiety could easily have driven a wedge between our remote families and the traditional school environment, however, the SIC at Jennie Moore Elementary made a conscious effort to maintain the strong bonds formed prior to COVID-19.

Despite many students being back in the building, we were under strict mandates that eliminated many of our social engagements and prevented parents from being invited to school events. The abrupt shift to this new "normal" negatively affected students, teachers, staff, and parents. Many felt a disconnect between the classroom and home. The strong bonds and relationships once shared were now on-hold. With both our remote and in-person families feeling the impacts of the pandemic, the SIC decided to take one of our most beloved events, Math Night, and recreate the experience as a digital escape room for families to complete together. Students loved solving the math puzzles as they hunted for our school mascot hiding somewhere in the building, and parents enjoyed helping their children work through problems in a way that was fun and engaging. My virtual students were especially connected to the event because they were finally given a glimpse of the school and classrooms they had not entered for more than a year. The feedback I received from families was overwhelmingly positive. I'll never forget the students' excitement after they "escaped." They logged into our Zoom classroom early so they could share their experiences with their friends. The more students that talked about it, the more participation I had. It was definitely a highlight of our year.

I was thrilled when the SIC announced they were creating a new virtual escape room focusing on ELA the following year. Remembering the joy my former students experienced, I immediately started promoting it to my new class. When the event finally opened, my students were eager to participate and were motivated to try more than one level! Like the previous year, my kids talking about how much fun they had "escaping," was the best advertisement I could have asked for. It warmed my teacher heart to know that my students actually wanted to practice the skills we've been learning. Every single student in my class completed at least one level of the escape room, with many of them finishing multiple levels.

The tireless efforts of Jennie Moore's School Improvement Counsel demonstrate a commitment to excellence, a dedication to improve our school and the community, and a drive to positively impact education. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I give my endorsement and hope that you consider honoring them with the *Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence*. Please feel free to contact me if you are in need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Dennese Armbruster
4th Grade Teacher

JENNIE MOORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS (JME):
School Improvement Council's (SIC) Progress on Established Goals

In addition to the three main initiatives discussed in the Level One Case Statement of the Riley Award application, the SIC at JME is focusing on other strategic initiatives: 1) Virtual Parent Workshops & Preventing Summer Slide with Reagan Price and Sarah Goodfellow (4th grade JME Teacher & JME Media Specialist) 2) Math and ELA "Guess Who" Virtual Escape Room 3) New Parent Communication and Vital Resources, and 4) Promoting Health and Wellness via in-person events.

Over the last several years the JME SIC responded to the needs and challenges created by the COVID pandemic by tirelessly collaborating to create positive results for the school and community. We developed and implemented a variety of programs to assist students, teachers, and families in navigating the "new" virtual world during this unprecedented time which we know impacted student learning. We kept JME students and families actively engaged and excited about learning despite the impact the pandemic had on all aspects of life. To accomplish this, we created a variety of subcommittees dedicated to implementing the initiatives outlined below. We've also improved communication for new families and are now transitioning back to hosting in-person events.

INITIATIVE #1: VIRTUAL PARENT WORKSHOPS & PREVENTING SUMMER SLIDE: The JME SIC collaborated with 4th-grade teacher Reagan Price and media specialist Sarah Goodfellow to develop a series of parent workshops that were made available to all parents. These virtual parent workshops covered topics such as study and organizational skills, managing test anxiety, and using technology to support learning at home. These workshops were well attended and participants found them extremely helpful. Some parents attended more than one workshop and one parent appreciated that the workshops connected in-school and at-home learning to keep parents and teachers aligned. To continue supporting parents and students, Mrs. Price developed and organized some fun summer learning activities and resources in a variety of content areas to help prevent the summer slide, or loss of academic skills. The Summer Slide activities are posted on the school website and will be offered again for the summer of 2023.

INITIATIVE #2: MATH AND ELA "GUESS WHO" VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM: During COVID when access to traditional in-person events were severely limited, the SIC developed a virtual family event, a Virtual Escape Room, to replace both the traditional in-person Math and ELA nights. This was overwhelmingly well received by JME parents, teachers, and students – with over 50% participation! When JME parents were surveyed in the Spring of 2022 about the effectiveness of our main initiatives, 100% of JME parents wanted to participate in another Virtual Escape Room. We will continue to use learnings from previous years' events to improve the experience. The SIC will focus this year's Virtual Escape Room on both Math and ELA concepts. There will be three levels of the Virtual Escape Room each having a different storyline. Participants will "Guess Who" the JME teacher is in each story. We will feature some of our JME teachers in videos and sound clips throughout the Escape Rooms. Our SIC will use teacher input and school test scores to create academic content for the clues and questions. We will also provide resources to assist JME students and families in answering some of the questions in the Virtual Escape Room. We expect a record turnout for this online event!

INITIATIVE #3: NEW PARENT COMMUNICATION & OTHER VITAL RESOURCES: To improve communication for all, the SIC's communications subcommittee and the PTA, will revamp the design of the "Welcome Wagon" letter. This letter contains information on a variety of topics including upcoming school events and announcements. This subcommittee will send letters home to new families monthly during the school year and follow these up with a phone call or email to ask if parents have additional questions or concerns. Our SIC and PTA also created a one-page document to go home with the letter, which includes active links to supply lists, important school policies and procedures, and all things JME. Lastly, with many new families originating from out-of-state and even the country, the SIC will include information about the surrounding Mt. Pleasant and Charleston area. This "new to the area" information will be sent home with the "Welcome Wagon" letter and one-page document and published on the JME school website.

INITIATIVE #4: PROMOTING HEALTH & WELLNESS VIA IN-PERSON EVENTS: To bring students and families back to school for in-person events post COVID-19, the health and wellness subcommittee will host its annual Walk to School Event to promote safety, health, and wellness. The Walk to School Event will take place in May 2023. JME students and families will be able to walk to school with help from the Mount Pleasant Police Department and SC Safe Routes to School. In years past, about 200 JME students and families participated. We expect great participation in this year's event as we have seen enthusiasm about the return to in-person events. The PTA had over 1,000 attendees at the annual Ice-Cream Social, the first in-person school event post COVID-19. We are also planning to bring back the JME Bike Rodeo where students can ride their bikes around an approved course, have their bicycles checked for safety by Trek Bicycle, and, if needed, receive a free helmet from "Low Country Helmets for Kids" sponsored by the Christmas Injury Lawyers.

JME continues to benefit from the SIC efforts. We strove to identify, develop, and further refine a variety of creative programs feeding directly into our school's arts integration mission. Our commitment to JME and the entire Mt. Pleasant community embodies the ideals set forth by the Riley's in "sparking the flame of education improvement in South Carolina." We look forward to the possibility of presenting more details on our initiatives as finalists for the 2023 award and appreciate your consideration.