

## Appleby School

It is my pleasure as the Principal of E. R. Appleby School to provide you with this profile of our school, its goals, and its unique characteristics. Appleby School is a moderately sized elementary school housing grades two through five. The current enrollment for the 2009/2010 school year is 456 students. Appleby School was originally constructed in 1953 with a small addition following shortly after that. Again, in 1957 and 1973 other sections were added to the building. Our media center was completed in 1996. Our most recent renovation, in 2004, involved the addition of a storage facility and some changes to existing classrooms.

Appleby School has 21 regular classrooms, ten small group instructional areas, two music rooms, an art studio, a computer lab, a 3,500 square foot media center, and an all-purpose room available for use.

Appleby School provides a comprehensive curriculum in the areas of social studies, science, language arts literacy, and mathematics. The curricular guides for each of these subject areas are available for inspection at anytime by contacting my office. The Harcourt Brace Reading/Language Arts Program, Collections, provides our students in grades two through five with highly enjoyable, motivational, skill development experiences. This nationally renowned program navigates students through a developmental skills array for each grade level. Utilizing a wonderful variety of reading selections and language arts activities, the curriculum's scope and sequence help ensure that our students of all ability levels are acquiring the requisite reading and language arts skills to successfully function at each grade level. Therefore, Appleby students are not only becoming more proficient readers and writers, they are also acquiring an appreciation for quality reading and writing pieces. Our math program, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Math Expressions is aligned with the standards developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. These standards stress the understanding and application of mathematical concepts as opposed to simply recalling information in isolation to real life applications. Our Science instructional program is also based on these standards with the goal of developing problem solving skills through hands on instruction at the core of the curriculum.

The Appleby School community is also extremely proud of the accomplishments in the areas of music, art, computers, and drama. Our instrumental music program is a huge success. Students are encouraged to participate in at least one of several forms of instrumental music such as advanced band and beginner band. Choral music is taught by way of a traditional music class and extracurricular activities. The Appleby students perform at various community events throughout the year. Both music programs stage several concerts during the school year to showcase the talents of the students. Each year the Appleby Drama Club gives a major public performance of a well-known and popular play.

Our computer lab is equipped with 28 personal computers, a printer and a PowerPoint projector. All students visit the computer lab at least once a week during which time they develop a range of computer skills: from turning on the computer to doing research and preparing PowerPoint presentations. There is also a computer area in the media center as well as a mobile laptop lab. Each classroom is equipped with at least one PC for use during instruction and is connected to the Internet. Five classrooms are currently equipped with state of the art Smart Boards and projectors with three more on the way.

The Enrichment Program at Appleby is a three-phase program designed to address the many and varied interests and talents of our students. The program consists of: 1) a pull-out program that addresses the needs of approximately 3% of the student body, 2) an all-school enrichment piece that allows all students to receive special training by the enrichment teacher in their regular classrooms, and 3) a rotational pull-out program, temporary in nature, that touches on student needs and interests as judged by the classroom teacher. This rotational pullout program may last for three to ten weeks depending upon the area of the curriculum being addressed. Appleby School also provides for student needs through programs such as Conflict Resolution, Anti-Bullying, Safety Patrol, and other small student groups that address the needs of the students and the school. Appleby School is also a main site for the district's CARES program that provides childcare services for the community both before and after school hours.

We at Appleby School are dedicated to meeting the goals set forth in the mission statement for the Spotswood Public School System. We understand the importance of building strong minds, bodies and communities. We are committed to providing a quality education encompassing academics, fine arts and physical activities in a safe, secure and enriching environment. Our goal is to help our students to develop as independent thinkers, effective communicators and lifelong learners with personal responsibility and good moral character. We encourage our children to challenge themselves to meet the highest expectations. I encourage you to contact me at [kboyle@spotswood.k12.nj.us](mailto:kboyle@spotswood.k12.nj.us).