

George Espy Elementary School is one of five Kindergarten through Fourth Grade schools in Nixa, Missouri, a small but progressive and quickly-growing suburban community in southwest Missouri. Now in its 21st year, Espy Elementary has experienced a legacy of educational excellence, and the future has never looked brighter for our students!

The mission of Espy Elementary is to ensure all students acquire a comprehensive academic, social, emotional, and physical foundation for life-long learning and personal fulfillment. At Espy, we envision: (a) a safe, positive, stimulating environment that is highly conducive to learning; (b) learning experiences that are enhanced through research-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment facilitated by a highly-skilled, comprehensively-trained and dedicated faculty; (c) intrinsically-motivated students who are challenged and empowered to achieve at their highest academic and personal capabilities; (d) collaborative partnerships among students, teachers, parents, and members of the community; and (e) a prominent, state-of-the-art campus that allows for the achievement of our goals. Through strategic planning, deliberate action, and responsive reflection, we work tirelessly each day to move our vision and mission to results in the form of increased student achievement and success.

Espy Elementary serves 448 students with an instructional staff of 45. Our student population consists primarily of middle class Caucasian students, with 22% of students qualifying for free and reduced meals and an 8% minority population. Our school is best described as a welcoming atmosphere where a team-centered and fun-loving attitude leads student learning. For the last three years, student attendance has averaged above 96%, a testament that our students enjoy learning at Espy. Our Character Education program, Caring Kids: Above and Beyond, sets the culture for our school and helps us sustain an environment highly conducive to learning.

Synergistic teamwork is the fuel that powers continuous improvement at Espy: Cooperation, collaboration, communication, and shared commitment are evident in all we do. Teamwork abounds throughout our educational organization, and is reflected in the success of our students. Behind every good outcome within our school, lies a dedicated team of parents, students, teachers, and community partners who are devoted to success for one...success for all.

Espy teachers take a prescriptive approach to teaching the written curriculum in a differentiated and diversified manner so all students reach mastery. Results are reflected in our assessments. Missouri Assessment and Stanford Achievement scores regularly place Espy students above the respective state and national norms on Math and Communication Arts.

Along with the "Three R's," Espy is a progressive leader in technology. All Espy classrooms are multimedia equipped with First through Fourth Grades and Specials being SMART Classrooms. Document projectors, student responders, web cams, and digital science probes are all used to help students learn, complete assignments, and prepare research. Communication among students, teachers, and parents occurs regularly through websites, blogs, podcasting, and traditional methods. In 2008, Espy completed construction of a state-of-the-art Library Media Center/Computer Lab which now serves as a hub for learning and research within our school community.

Parental and community involvement at Espy abounds as we partner for progress for all students. Leading all partnerships is the Espy Parent Teacher Association. Educational, celebratory, and philanthropic activities occur weekly throughout the year via this highly-supportive organization. Other partners include A+ high school tutors, business partners, Adopt-a-School/Class partners, university extension programs, parents, grandparents, and volunteers. Indeed, many constituencies make countless personal contributions within our strong community and strong school.

Our students, teachers, parents, and community are proud of our school, and it shows in all we do! As we reflect on our past success, we concurrently look ahead as we reach for a world-class education for all students.