

# Report Card Narratives

New Jersey Department of Education

CHERRY HILL TWP (07-0800-105)

## Joyce Kilmer Elementary School

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

On behalf of Joyce Kilmer Elementary School and the Cherry Hill School District, it is my pleasure to share with you the New Jersey School Performance Report. This report provides a method for tracking our school's progress toward the Common Core State Standards. Of course, student achievement cannot be defined solely by performance on standardized tests. Of equal importance are classroom work and assessments, projects, oral presentations, participation in classroom discussions, participation in the arts, community service, and character development. At Joyce Kilmer Elementary School, we have established the following initiatives that are unique to our learning community:

Our Character Education and Cultural Proficiency Committee organize and implement the Positive Behavior Supports in Schools (PBSIS) program. This is a systematic process of using data to create a school-wide culture that encourages pro-social behaviors through the implementation of effective school-wide and classroom incentives and behavioral interventions. In addition, this committee develops school-wide programs which qualify for No Place for Hate designation through the Anti-Defamation League. These programs enable us to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment where children are valued and their diversity is celebrated.

In September our students worked together to create a school constitution, and the acronym B.R.A.V.E. to remind us of the school expectations.

Be kind and caring

Respect yourself, others, and the school environment

Accept and celebrate classmates' differences

Value your education by making smart choices

Expect and nurture a safe environment that allows all students to do their best

Our school Professional Learning Community features a dedicated faculty who are committed to ensuring that ALL of our learners succeed. These faculty members strive to continuously grow as life-long learners and develop their expertise as they implement our district curriculum. The cutting edge, research-based curriculum programs utilized at Joyce Kilmer include Pearson-Scott Foresman Investigations and enVision Mathematics, Foundations, Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention, Wilson Reading Program, Comprehension Toolkit, Question Answer Response (QAR) technique, and Strategies for Writers Six Traits Writing.

In order to support students in their academic growth our school offers a variety of enrichment and intervention opportunities. Some examples of these programs are daily intervention/enrichment periods at all grade-levels, after-school homework club, kindergarten enrichment classes, kindergarten English as a Second Language (ESL) enrichment, SIOP Sheltered English Instruction for English Language Learners in grades K-5, kindergarten preparation program- Get Up & Grow, and instrumental/choral music

opportunities.

The students at Kilmer Elementary School also benefit from a technologically rich environment, including the use of Accelerated Reader software program for reading, Successmaker, Fluency and Automaticity through Systematic Teaching (FASTT), Math Intervention program, interactive smart boards in 4th and 5th grade classrooms, mini computer lab in our Library, Netbook Laptops, and document camera/projector carts in rooms with no smart boards.

The support of our parent community has a significant impact on the success of our school programs. Our families participate in offerings such as Title I parent information nights, family literacy events, family technology nights, and NJASK/PARCC information nights. We are also privileged to have an active and dedicated Parent-Teacher Association, which supports us in various community-building endeavors. Some examples of the activities supported by our PTA are student recognition celebrations, learning-based field trips, technology purchases, and educational assemblies. In addition the Kilmer PTA engages in community-building efforts such as our Costume Ball, Secret Holiday Shop, Silver Dinner Nights, Skate Nights, and Book Fairs for our students and their families.

As your school principal, I look forward to building on the great foundation that has been established here at Joyce Kilmer Elementary School. Please contact the school to learn more about the data in this report or about the many initiatives at our school that contribute to the development of the whole child.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rebecca Tiernan  
Principal



New Jersey Department of Education  
Report Card Office  
100 Riverview Plaza, P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500