



CASE STUDY BRIEF

Since 2013, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) has annually designated 21st Century Learning Exemplars based upon exceptional implementation of the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Each year, P21 has highlighted a cohort of early learning centers, K–12 schools, school districts, and beyond school programs in the U.S. as 21st Century Learning Exemplars. Now that P21 is a network of Battelle for Kids, we are leading together in celebrating the current year of 21st Century Learning Exemplars.

As part of celebrating these awardees, Battelle for Kids and its P21 network provide ways for their stories and impactful practices to be shared with others. This case study brief and those for the other awardees provide powerful insights to guide other school districts, schools, and programs so that every child can experience the best of 21st century learning experiences.



The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville Simpsonville, SC

Going above and beyond, The Goddard School located in Simpsonville, SC exemplifies whole-child learning, seeking unique pathways to meet the social, emotional, and developmental needs for all students.

Ages Served: Infant–12 years

Enrollment: 276 Students

Founded in 2006

[Website](#)

- Circle of Excellence President's Club Award recipient through Goddard Systems, Inc. for 2018–19
- Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Goddard School Director of the Year and Teacher of the Year 2017

The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville

Simpsonville, SC

Social and Emotional Development

Immediately evident when you enter the building, social and emotional learning supports permeate the school culture at The Goddard School located in Simpsonville.

Selected from amongst more than 8,000 teachers, Junior Kindergarten co-teachers were jointly honored as Goddard System, Inc. Teachers of the Year in 2017 for their development of FRES-CLAK, a social-emotional curriculum that highlights the essential components of a healthy friendship: respect, empathy, sharing, compassion, love, acceptance, and kindness.

To aid in the development and practice of their social-emotional skills, students build kindness chains, employ a feelings mood dial, engage in bucket-filling behavior and pledges, and undertake challenges such as 100 days of kindness. By exposing all students and teachers to this initiative, common language and expectations are set and tools are in place in all classrooms to create a safe, supportive, and welcoming learning environment where friendships thrive and students are equipped to tackle challenges both in and out of the classroom.

Based on the success of this program, Junior Kindergarten teachers and the Director have been invited to speak at state and national conferences such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Personalized Support

Student interests and preferences are taken seriously, and the school provides ample opportunities through their small group coordinator for personalized learning in the areas of literacy and STEAM. Students take ownership of their learning journey and are allowed the flexibility to select activities at various points in the day. Part of this ownership is giving students opportunities to collaborate through project-based learning to build critical-thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

Student and teacher agency are valued traits at the school. Administrative staff ensure that all classrooms are well resourced and they give latitude for creative exploration and engagement in projects and content areas that organically arise.

The neighborhoods around The Goddard School of Simpsonville, SC have a large international population, and many residents are moving in and out of the area for specific work assignments. The school has taken active measures to provide support for these students as they transition into the community—including pull-out language classes and frequent vocabulary and cultural lessons that are incorporated into the wider classrooms to provide both exposure to different cultures and a welcoming and inclusive campus for all students.



Robust Partnerships

College and career readiness is greatly facilitated by the strong partnerships the school has developed within the community. By participating in community events such as iImagine Upstate Festival, the school enables access to and participation with more than 70 corporations, businesses, and education centers that promote STEAM learning. Additionally, this program allows the school to distribute information about their educational programming and incorporation of 21st century skill development into their school's curriculum, as well as provide STEAM activities and challenges that show the learning in action.

The school takes steps to ensure frequent meetings are held with local school districts to ensure vertical alignment. They also partner with colleges and organizations such as Clemson University, Furman University, Greenville Technical College, ECPI University, Limestone University, and career centers for campus tours and programming opportunities. These efforts ensure familiarity with college at the earliest stages. The school has also established more than a dozen partnerships with local organizations and businesses to provide ad hoc lessons on topical courses along with exposure to a variety of career pathways.



2019 21ST CENTURY LEARNING EXEMPLARS

Each of the following earned this year's award for its outstanding practices in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life:

Early Learning

The Goddard School Located in Broadview Heights
(Broadview, OH)

The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville
(Simpsonville, SC)

K-12 Schools

Canyon Crest Elementary School (Fontana, CA)
Elon Elementary School (Elon, NC)
EVSC New Tech Institute (Evansville, IN)
Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design
(San Antonio, TX)
Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy (Vacaville, CA)
Kensington Elementary School (Waxhaw, NC)
Moreno Valley High School (Moreno Valley, CA)
Saint Ambrose School (Brunswick, OH)
Santiago Charter Middle School (Orange, CA)
Valley View High School (Moreno Valley, CA)
Vineyard STEM Magnet (Ontario, CA)
Vista Heights Middle School (Moreno Valley, CA)
Wolf Springs Elementary School (Overland Park, KS)

Districts

Lennox School District (Lennox, CA)
Vicksburg Warren School District (Vicksburg, MS)

Beyond School Programs

Camp Champions (Marble Falls, TX)

[Learn more](#) about the 21st Century Learning
Exemplars at: bfk.me/p21 [ExemplarProgram](#)