

Welcome to Woodruff Middle School, where the best get better! is the phrase that greeted 670 students every morning as the student body gathered to begin each morning of the 2013-2014 school year. This guiding principle organized each day as students were challenged to follow directions, be prepared, make good choices, and do their best. Woodruff Middle School has a heart for the unique emotional, social and academic needs of a middle school student. This nurturing environment where students work within teams of teachers sets the stage for success. With strong support from the Woodruff community, parents, faculty and staff, Woodruff Middle School students improved from best to even better. The school received recognition from the South Carolina State Department of Education with the Palmetto Silver Award for significant student achievement over a 3-year period on our state's PASS assessment. Additional academic awards were numerous as 96 students were inducted into the Junior Beta Club. Eighteen students were recognized as Junior Scholars on the basis of outstanding PSAT scores. Fifty-two 7th grade students qualified for the Duke TIP Scholar Program and 12 successfully completed the program. 141 students were honored at the Academic Awards Ceremony for maintaining a yearly average of 93 or better. Fine Arts accomplishments included an "Excellent" rating for the Chorus at the Carowinds Festival. Twelve WMS students participated in the high school band. Drama students staged performances of *"School for Nerds"* in the Activity Center and for the student body. 15 students had art displayed in the community, and 6 had works hung at the Chapman Cultural Center for Youth Art Month. In athletics, 258 students participated in middle school, junior varsity and varsity sports teams. 28 students received Edward Jones' *Athlete of the Week* recognition. During fall and winter sports, 89% of our student athletes were named All Academic, and 13 athletes were named All Conference. School activities and events included extended-day Academic Focus groups and approximately 310 students selected as "Student of the Month" by teachers. Eighth graders continued the annual event, "Cubs Go to College," and toured area college campuses. A Media Center program, *Real Men Read*, invited speakers from area government and businesses to encourage student reading. 68 girls participated in the ENGAGE club which facilitated activities to develop a more positive self image in young female students. Our students made contributions to Helping Hands Ministry, the Humane Society, local Soup Kitchen, Coops for Troops, Operation Christmas Child, and raised funds to build two wells in Nicaragua. Woodruff Middle School is committed to serving the needs of our community and its students by educating them academically, socially and through extracurricular activities. In this school climate of high expectations-coupled with a caring, supportive staff- students lived up to the motto: *Welcome to Woodruff Middle School, where the best get better!*

Denise D. Brown, Principal