

Your Wildcat School Improvement Council Report to the Parents 2022-23



HILLCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

4355 Peach Orchard Road, Dalzell, SC 29040
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Mission Statement:

Believing, Achieving, and Succeeding through Academics, Citizenship, and Service.

Vision Statement:

We envision a school where the major emphasis is on the development of the total child and students achieve simultaneous gains in academics, citizenship and service.

About Your SIC:

Your SIC is part of a state-wide network that is dedicated to helping students succeed. Your SIC is open to all parents, students, teachers, and community members.

Your SIC Members:

Chair: Alicia Timmons
Vice Chair: Katie Rogers
Secretary: Misty Roberson
Parent Representative : April McFadden
Community Partner: Dennisse Jones, Shaw AFB
Community Partner: Gail Hyatt, Sumter Evening Optimist Club

Ex-Officio Members:

Tarsha Staggers, Principal
Lauren Cantey, Assistant Principal
Alicia Timmons, Teacher of the Year 2022
Tremain Owens, Teacher of the Year 2023



The purpose of this report: This Report is issued by the HMS School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.

Goals from the School Renewal Plan (2023-27)/Student Achievement Data:

At Hillcrest Middle School, we are driven by performance goals in the following areas: College/Career Readiness, High Performing Workforce, Safe and Supportive Schools, Strong Stakeholder Partnerships, and Effective and Efficient Operations.

The goals as outlined in our school renewal plan drive our vision and mission to ensure a quality and effective learning environment is provided for all stakeholders.

Pillar 1: College/Career Readiness

Goal: By the end of the 2027 school year, the percentage of students scoring proficient or better in grades 6-8 at Hillcrest Middle School will increase by 10% on the state summative assessment.

Pillar 2: High Performing Workforce

Goal: The percentage of the certified staff will increase from 95% to 100% by June 2027.

Pillar 3: Safe and Supportive Schools

Goal: The number of discipline referrals that result in suspension and expulsion will decrease by 20% by 2027 through the use of effective classroom management, positive school and community relations, and providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment for learning to take place.

Pillar 4: Strong Stakeholder Partnerships

Goal: Partner with stakeholders to build advocacy for our students, families, schools, and Sumter School District by promoting transparency and providing accurate information in an effort to increase stakeholder investment by 10%.

Pillar 5: Effective and Efficient Operations

Goal: Hillcrest Middle school will increase/maintain building level facility management and operations by ensuring protocols are met, technology resources are available to staff/students, and funds are allocated appropriately for instructional purposes/programs to 10% by the end of the 2027 school year.

Data Results:

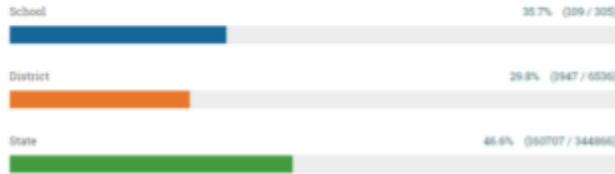
Testing Source	ELA/Reading		Math	
	Number of Students Scoring Met or Above	Percentage of Students scoring met or above	Number of Students Scoring Met or Above	Percentage of Students scoring met or above
2019 SC Ready	145/354	41%	148/354	41.8%
2021 SC Ready	100/295	33.9%	81/295	27.5%
2022 SC Ready	109/305	35.7%	76/305	24.9%
Fall 2022 MAP Projection for 2023 SC Ready	91/358	25.4%	63/359	17.6%
Winter 2022 MAP Projection for 2023 SC Ready	74/345	21.5%	63/347	17.9%

**2018 - 2020 Data represents students testing during the traditional school year.
2020-2021 Data represents students testing in the Hybrid Model, in which students attended 2 days face to face and 2 days remotely.**

2021-2022 - Last Reported State Standardized Testing Results Comparison

SC Ready English Language Arts and Mathematics

English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) - [Percent Met or Exceeding](#)

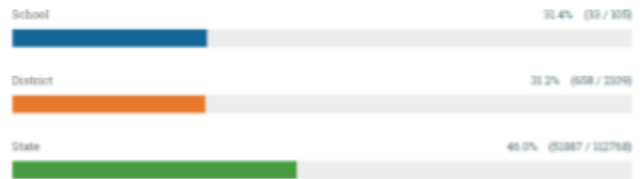


Mathematics - [Percent Met or Exceeding](#)



SCPASS Science

Science - [Percent Met or Exceeding](#)



Academic Achievement

Average



Preparing for Success

Unsatisfactory



Student Progress

Good



School Climate

Average

Wildcat Student Pride:

At Hillcrest Middle we take pride in our students and their accomplishments. Our students continuously participate in community service projects helping others. Beta Club participated in Stash the Trash, participated in the Sumter Evening Optimist Christmas Parade, and participated in both the American Heart Walk and Relay for Life. NJHS members participated in an annual canned food drive providing donations to the Catchall Center for Seniors. In addition, NJHS participated in the Shower Shaw with Goodies program, they donated fresh vegetables to the Catchall Community Center, helped organize the Valentines Day Dance, and held a volunteer luncheon to honor our business partners and community organizations that support our mission.

We are an AVID School. Our students are taught independent learning and organizational skills daily, and their success is celebrated by all. Ten Hillcrest students have placed in the top five in the state for Math Nation since September and three of our 7th students are currently completing the Algebra One program. Four HMS students were finalists in the USC Sumter Spring Poetry Contest and were invited to read their poems at a poetry reading at USC Sumter. Two students qualified as Junior Scholars for the South Carolina Junior Scholars Program.

At Hillcrest, we are not just concerned about academics but also the physical and mental well-being of our students. The HMS Guidance Department leads a focus group for our male students that is solely led by male volunteers. It is through this group that our students receive mentoring and support from our volunteers. Our Unified Sports Team made Valentine's Baskets for Crosswell Children's Home and attended the Unified Sports Pep Rally at the State House.

We are very proud of our Hillcrest athletics program. Two Hillcrest young ladies qualified for All Conference in Volleyball, three young men qualified for All Conference for Football, two young men qualified for All Conference in Basketball, two young ladies qualified for All Conference in ladies' basketball, four young men qualified for All Conference in Track and three young ladies qualified for All Conference in Track.

Hillcrest Middle School kicked off an anti-bullying campaign. The purpose of this initiative is to foster a positive and safe learning environment for all students at Hillcrest Middle School. We want to put preventive measures in place to help students combat daily emotional and social issues against their peers. Our hope is to help students build confidence and develop proper communication skills in a diverse society. Through this initiative, we will bring anti-bullying awareness to the school while teaching conflict resolution skills. This initiative will begin with a town hall assembly as the kickoff activity and end with a pep rally as the culminating event to celebrate this initiative. We charge all students to continue in the fight against bullies beyond this initiative by pledging their commitment to the cause.

Our Fine Arts department encourages students to test and enhance their abilities through performances and State fair entries. Four students placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for their artwork at the Sumter County State Fair. The HMS Art Club made decorations for the Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day dances. They participated in the "Walk of Art" in Downtown Sumter and an HMS student's artwork was selected to be featured on the cover of the Mayor's Christmas Card. The Art Club also participated in creating banners and visuals for the breakfast promotion for our school. Each year Hillcrest is represented in the REACH Fine Arts summer camp. This year 25 students participated in the district level screening and 12 students were accepted into the program. Three students were chosen for the Governor's School Summer Program. Two were selected for the area of creative writing and one student was selected in music. Hillcrest is also proud to report that one of our own has been accepted into the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Odyssey Summer Program. A Hillcrest student received the Sumter Evening Optimist Club Award.

Wildcat Family:

Hillcrest Middle school is located at the intersection of Old Camden Hwy and Highway 441 in Dalzell, South Carolina. The school serves a population of approximately 356 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from Dalzell, Shaw Air Force Base, and surrounding communities. Our population includes: 54.5% Black or African American, 35.7% White, 3.7% Hispanic/Latino, 5.3% Mixed Race, 0.6% Asian, 0% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 0.3% Native American/Alaska Native.

We take pride in our Wildcat family. We encourage parental participation, and provide quarterly teacher and administration led "Parent Universities" to keep parents educated on school policies, programs, and content area learning specifics. Parents are kept updated on their child's progress through quarterly academic conferences, interims, progress reports, and personal contact as needed. We have a full-time school counselor and career specialist who work with students to plan their future path and to help with present educational and supportive needs.

We have several community partners that work with Hillcrest Middle School. The Sumter School district has been designated as a Purple Star district, and at HMS we have a Shaw Air Force Base liaison that holds monthly Military Child support group meetings on our campus. Becton Dickinson boosts our school spirit with teacher and student incentives. They also send representatives to speak with students on preparing for career choices. Alice Drive Baptist church and the Sumter Combat Veterans Group also encourages our teachers and staff by providing incentives. The Sumter Evening Optimist Club provides special incentives for teachers and hosts an Outstanding Youth Male and Female Award each year.

The HMS faculty is comprised of 100% qualified paraprofessionals, and 95.1% highly qualified teachers. Our teachers hold advanced degrees including, Masters and Masters plus 30. We have 4 staff members with Post Graduate degrees. Several of our teachers have been nominated for the Air Force Aero Space Education Award, and we had an AASE teacher of the year in our science department! We also have teachers that have been nominated for the Sumter's Best and Sumter Chamber of Commerce Educator Award. Our math department has Math Nation Builders and presenters. We have a teacher that was selected as a USC Noyce Teaching Fellow and a National Board-Certified Teacher. The Social Studies department brings history alive with virtual museum tours and interesting lessons of the past. We currently have a Grant writer, Alicia Timmons, and two published authors, Rodrekous Hunter, *The Write Way to Heal*, and Jamie Gore, *So You're a Coach Now What*, among our staff. HMS faculty and staff readily participate in Relay for Life and the American Heart Association fundraisers. The combination of administration, faculty, staff, students, and community partners has launched Hillcrest Middle School to Palmetto Silver status two years in a row.