



# Castle Heights Middle School

Annual Report to Parents April 2023

## Our Mission

To provide high-quality classroom instruction within a safe and nurturing learning environment where students and teachers collaboratively work together to inspire one another to achieve their highest potential.

## Our Vision

We will intentionally create and deliver data-driven, rigorous instruction to meet the learning needs of each CHMS scholar.

---

## School Improvement Council Members



Marquetta Massey, Parent  
Takesha Zambrano, Parent  
Marion Funderburk, Parent

Ann Whisonant, Community Member

John Price, Teacher

Kenneth Gaither, Assistant Principal

Susan McNally, Assistant Principal

Will Tonks, Assistant Principal

Cynthia Robinson, Principal

---

# Schools to Watch Re-Designation #4

Yes, another one! We received our fourth designation as a Schools to Watch in November 2022.



## Schools | SCAMLE | West Columbia, SC

South Carolina Association For Middle Level Education " Schools All of the SC Schools to Watch welcome visitors who want to see firsthand what a successful middle school program looks and feels like. Contact the principals at each of these schools and arrange visits.

🔗 [scamle.org](http://scamle.org)

---

## Our 2021-2022 School Year

Our enrichment program provides opportunities for students to receive remediation instruction, enrichment activities, and to participate in clubs they have individually chosen. During these times, teachers collaborate to adapt curriculum, instruction, and scheduling to meet the diverse and changing needs of our students. Clubs and extracurricular activities, such as Math Counts, Battle of the Books, Academic Challenge, Knight's Council , and Catawba Youth Council are offered, in addition to our athletic programs so students with varying interests have equitable access to an assortment of programs.

Enrichment is a period in which teachers and students are able to connect through mentorship, shared experiences and individual instruction. During this time students are given the opportunity to choose clubs based on their interests. The variety of clubs include everything from anime to kickball and etiquette. While we have participated in this process for a number of years, this year's experience is more focused on 1:1 instruction and student choice. IXL is used during this time for individual remediation and enriching support. One Book, One School; a program in which every person in the building is reading the same book at the same time, also happens during the enrichment block. The daily enrichment period is used as a time to provide social/emotional instruction and care; however, it is also used to address student academic issues and provide opportunities for student clubs. This allows equitable access to various opportunities while taking away transportation and financial constraints.

Our school is also participating in a Read Around the World program. In this program students are given a "passport" for reading. Students are required to read five books focusing on specific genres. After which, they receive a stamp. Each month a different country is highlighted in the library and through library lessons. The focus is centered around our Heritage Month celebration. At the end of the program students with a completed passport are entered into a drawing for a free pair of shoes which they get to design themselves.

We have implemented blended learning strategies, such as station rotations, choice boards, flipped classroom assignments, edpuzzle video assignments, and mastery pathways. Additionally, our teachers provide a studio of learning for our students by providing students with hands-on learning in science and math through dissections and experiments. Other instructional strategies we use to engage and challenge our students is instructional/collaborative grouping. Many teachers implement the workshop model and gradual release model in all classes. Both models allow the teacher to model a lesson, then the students work in groups to complete a task. To engage through technology, our school is one-to-one with laptops and all classrooms have an interactive whiteboard.

The programs and instruction at Castle Heights Middle School are rooted in and designed around data. MAP, SCReady, SCPass, benchmarks, formative, and summative assessments are all used to instruct, enrich, remediate, and place students. Students at Castle Heights have advanced placement options including GT, Algebra 1, and English 1. Data is analyzed to determine direction for classroom instruction, and individualized need. Students have an opportunity to work at their own pace during enrichment on skills in ELA and math. Students have study plans which are created based on the student's MAP score.

## Where I'm From Heritage Festival

## Read Around the World

## Reading Literacy



**Cynthia Robinson**

Cynthia is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters