



**Castle Heights Middle School  
School Improvement Council Report to Parents 2020-2021**

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What is a School Improvement Council (SIC)?

A SIC is an advisory council to the principal and school on issues related to school improvement. SICs need to gather data, assess school and school community needs, establish realistic SIC goals and evaluate how the successful completion of those goals has positively impacted the school and students.

**Mission Statement**

"If we all build positive, nurturing relationships, and sustain a welcoming culture.... Then, we will create, design, and collaborate in a safe, secure learning environment where all students and staff reach their highest potential.

**Core Value**

Building a better world, one student at a time

**Schools to Watch**



Castle Heights was designated as a National Forum Schools to Watch in 2011. The school has maintained that designation through the year 2022.

- Schools To Watch criteria:
1. The school is a learning organization that establishes norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their trajectory toward excellence.
  2. The school is academically excellent. It challenges all students to use their minds well.
  3. The school is sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence.
  4. The school is socially equitable, democratic, and fair. It provides every student with high-quality teachers, resources, learning opportunities, and supports. It keeps positive options open for all students.

## Academics

Our students take four core classes (ELA, math, science, social studies) and two related arts classes. Students are provided with challenging and engaging lessons that help cultivate the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the SC Graduate. Canvas is our learning management platform. Our parents can 'pair' with their child's Canvas course. This pairing serves as another level of communication with parents and school. As part of their related arts classes students are exposed to chorus, orchestra, and band. Our students perform in various concerts and community events throughout the year. Our students are 1 to 1 with access to HP laptops. Teachers use Clear Touch and Promethean Panels to enhance classroom instruction.

## Reading 10 Books or more



Castle Heights is a Project Lit School. Our students are involved in book clubs, and sustained reading in the classroom. We have a school goal that all students read 10 or more books every year.

## Diverse student population

The Catawba Indian Nation is the only federally recognized tribe in South Carolina, with modern day tribal lands located in York County. Castle Heights is only middle school that serves this population.



## SIC Goals 2020-2021

This year our focus was on supporting students and families in their various learning models whether virtual or face to face. Several virtual parent workshops were held to provide parents with strategies on how to assist with their child's new way of learning.

## Strategies to Tackle Learning from Home

Support for Castle Heights family members serving as Learning Coaches to their students.

## Organize

- ✓ **Supplies are at arm's reach- paper, pencils, charged laptop, power cord, colored pencils, etc.**
- ✓ **Weekly schedule and daily schedule**
- ✓ **Virtual folders per content- a math, ELA, science, social studies, elective one, elective two**
- ✓ **Good lighting**
- ✓ **No distractions- cellphone in a different room**
- ✓ **Resources: phone-a-friend, reliable informational sites(Khan Academy, scholar.google, etc)**

## ARMOR

Castle Heights Knights positive behavior system. Knights are: Accountable, Responsible, Motivated, Observant, Rational. Students receive an ARMOR card every nine weeks. Students receive stickers and stamps on their ARMOR cards for displaying knightly characteristics. Student voice was instrumental in selecting ARMOR as code. Students receive various incentives and rewards as the school focuses on recognizing positive behaviors.