



Castle Heights MS

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SIC Annual Report to Parents 2013-2014

June 1, 2014

K. Kane, Principal

School Improvement Council Members:

Becky Strickland	Greg Krystyan	Tara Burgess	Tracee Burden
Carie Hucks	Ronnie Robinson	Frederic Campbell	Debbie Ochoa
Cynthia Robinson	James Strickland	Atlantis Showalter	Patricia Grawe
Richard Ball	Zane Krystyan	Candi Showalter	

The 2013-2014 school year was a time of challenges and recognition for Castle Heights Middle School. We set high goals for continued academic achievement for all students while we implemented a range of district-wide initiatives. The instructional program was based on the newly state-adopted Common Core standards. We fully implemented the iRock program by distributing iPads to all students, and the challenge was for both teachers and students to learn to use that technology effectively to continue to make academic gains. The school also began Challenge Based Learning Projects, in which students used research, peer review, and writing skills to explore community-based projects such as our involvement with the Humane Society, the city's recycling system, and National History Day. We continued service projects with the Catawba Nation Food Bank, the Wounded Warrior assistance program, and the collection and decoration of shoes for children in Nicaragua through the Tiny Toes program initiated by a former student. Within the school we continued revisions of our health and physical education programs to serve the students, and we began a whole new health-based approach to fundraising through our Castle Color Run. We also began new approaches to serving the students' academic needs through a revised Homework Center program and Catawba Nation cultural awareness group. The following goals to structure much of our effort were reviewed and approved by the School Improvement Council.

Goals and Progress:

- **Data analysis protocols will be learned and practiced by instructional staff for instructional improvement.**

Professional development in this area for all teachers was held and documented. Teachers gained information from student and parent surveys, attendance data, and PASS and MAP results. This information was studied and used to target instruction for improvement on PASS 2014.

- **Professional development will be held for all instructional staff members to improve knowledge and skill in the areas of Common Core standards and technology integration.**

Teachers planned units and lessons to meet the requirements of the Common Core standards. Using the iPads issued to all students, teachers began new techniques and programs so that students could effectively use technology to learn content and skills. The school hopes to work toward continuing the Palmetto academic achievement award it has received for the past two years.

- **Castle Heights will apply for recertification as an outstanding middle school through the state and national Schools To Watch award program.**

The school applied for this prestigious award in October 2013, was evaluated by a team of educators that visited the school in January 2014, was proud to be notified that it had received the award, and held a school-wide student celebration with state and local officials in May 2014. It is an honor to receive again an award which requires excellence from students, parents, and our staff.