



# Welcome to The Trail!

**Dr. George Marek Marshall, Principal**

**School Leadership Team**

Ms. Katelyn Eagle, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Shannon Reed, Assistant Principal  
Dr. Alfred Williams, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Brittny M. Meekins Ervin, Dean of Student Leadership

**Mission Statement**

The mission of STMS is to work with parents and our community; provide a safe environment which promotes both academic excellence and self-esteem. Our goal is for our students to achieve their maximum potential and become adaptive 21st Century learners in a global environment.

**STMS STEAM Vision**

STEAM students have the skills, knowledge, and thinking strategies that ensure their preparedness to be innovative, creative, and systematic problem-solvers in STEAM fields of study and work.

**2024-2025**

**School Improvement Council Members**

Ex Officio School Members:  
Marek Marshall, Principal  
Brittny Ervin, Faculty  
Susan Hopper, Teacher  
Parents/Community Member(s):  
Samie Clowney, Parent (Chair)

**School Improvement Council**

The mission of the STMS School Improvement Council (SIC) is to serve as an advisory council for the school. It is comprised of parents and community members. As well as students and staff members. Members of the SIC can either be appointed or elected. Each year this SIC has goals that they work on that align to the schools improvement plan.



# *It is our goal to...*



## **Promote Academic Achievement**

Collaborate with school leadership to develop and support initiatives that enhance student learning and academic success.



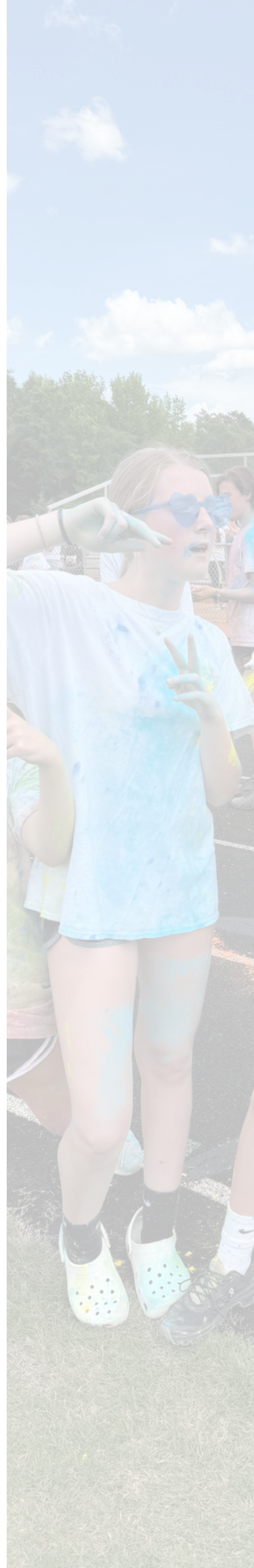
## **Engage Families and the Community**

Foster strong partnerships between the school, families, and the community to support a positive learning environment.



## **Advise School Leadership**

Provide input and feedback on school policies, improvement plans, and goals to help guide decision-making and drive continuous improvement.



# About Saluda Trail

Saluda Trail Middle School is committed to providing a learning environment where students feel safe and secure and experience academic success. In addition to our comprehensive core content area instructional program, the growth and development of World Class Skills for all students is a priority at Saluda Trail. Students have the unique opportunity to engage in Related Arts courses such as Sculpture, Robotics, Engineering, Digital Piano, Chorus, Band, Theatre, Journalism, and Web Design.

The instructional staff effectively works in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to design, implement, assess, and reflect on the effectiveness of instruction students receive daily. Through PLCs, teachers identify strengths and opportunities for growth for all students. Our Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) strengthens students' academic and social skills. Saluda Trail challenges all students to excel in academics, arts, and athletics.

The faculty and staff of Saluda Trail continue to integrate world-class skills strategically through our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) program. Targeted professional development, focused on a structured framework, supports the design of effective and engaging STEAM units of instruction. Saluda Trail is certified by the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Institute. This certification allows our students more opportunities to excel in the arts due to funding provided by the Institute, the SC Arts Commission, and support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Using the arts as a platform to grow and develop skills, this program encourages students to find their voice through self-expression and integrates with our STEAM components.

Additionally, our students continue to experience success in academics, the arts, and athletics as follows: Multiple students placed at the Regional National History Day (NHD) contest and competed at the NHD State competition; six students were recognized as South Carolina Junior Scholars; one of our students made it to the State level with his artistic photography and was recognized by ArtField; nine students participated in the SCBDA Solo & Ensemble Festival.

Due to the consistent work of all stakeholders in our school community, our students and faculty have been recognized for their amazing work and achievements. Our unique STEAM program allows students to complete STEAM projects in their core content area courses and take specialized Related Arts courses. As we continue our partnership with the Arts in the Basic Curriculum Institute, students will participate in musicals, learn from artists in residences, and receive specialized instruction from local poets in our school community. As a school community, Saluda Trail continues to serve our students with excellence, providing multiple opportunities for our students to demonstrate success in academics, arts, and athletics.



## Wildcats Student Body

Current Enrollment (as of May 6, 2025) = 751



Grade 6 = 224

Grade 7 = 278

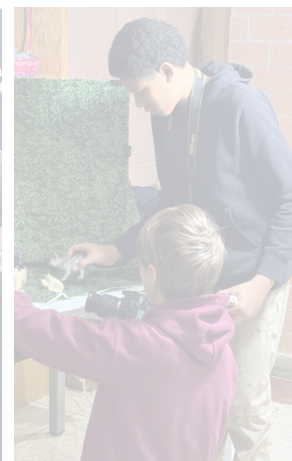
Grade 8 = 249

Our student body is comprised of STEAM-educated students. A STEAM-educated student is an innovative, self-reliant problem solver, a logical thinker, and a technologically literate individual who is able to relate their own culture to the learning.

The STEAM-educated student develops competencies in applicable life skills and becomes a lifelong learner. The ARTS in STEAM allows students to express themselves creatively and encourages students to find balance in their lives.

### Student Body Achievements

- Saluda Trail has over 80 students registered with the National Beta Club.
- Saluda Trail Band earned the State Outstanding Performance Award (OPA) distinction (by the South Carolina Band Directors Association).
- Twelve 8th-grade students have been recognized as South Carolina Junior Scholars.
- Our Digits Arts students had 90 pieces of art displayed in the South Carolina State Fair's Student Art Contest. 12 students' submissions received ribbons.
- The Saluda Trail Wildcat Band has earned its first-ever Outstanding Performance Award (OPA) from the SC Band Directors Association
  - 8th Grade Football, Conference Champs
  - 7th Grade Football, Conference Runner-up
  - 8th Grade Basketball, Conference Champs
  - Track & Field, City Competition Champs
  - Boys Track & Field, Conference Runner-up
  - Girls Flag Football, Champs





## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (Continued)

- 49.9% Met or Exceeding Rate for students on the SC READY for English Language Arts.
- 29.1% Met or Exceeding Rate for students on the SC READY for Mathematics.

**Overview - SC School Report Card ([screportcards.com](https://screportcards.com)) - (2023-2024)**

## CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Step Team  
Bass Fishing  
Kappa League  
Anime Club  
Gaming Club  
Spanish Club  
GEMS

Battle of the Books  
Dance Club  
Jewelry Making Club  
Library Club  
Academic Challenge  
Ambassadors  
Jr. Beta Club  
Student Council (6th: HR Reps)  
Art Warriors



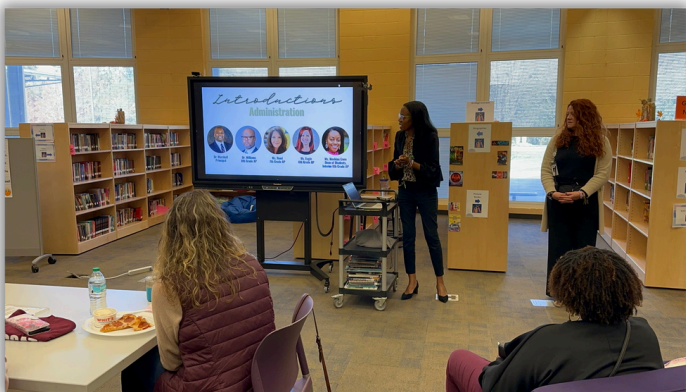
# 2024-2025 Highlights



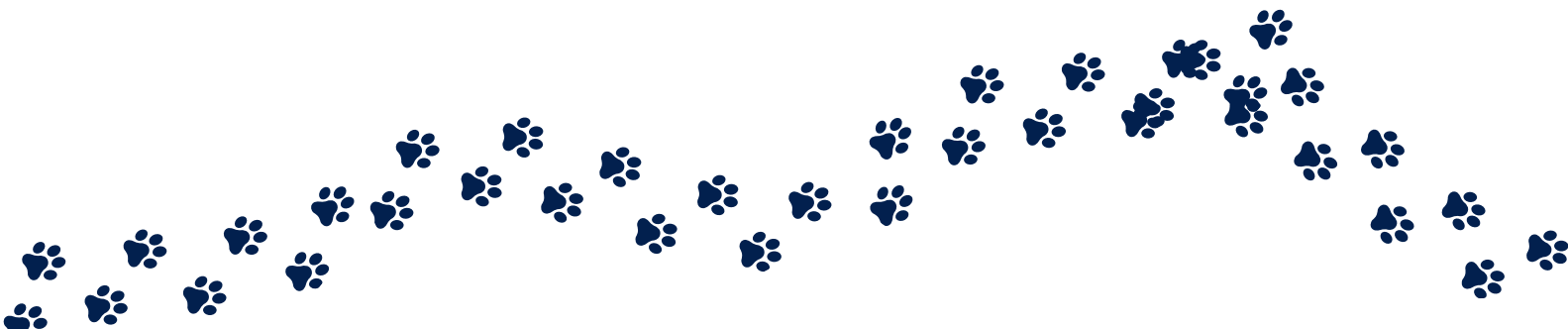
Monthly student recognition, based on Stephen Covey's The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People



Bi-weekly teacher recognition, based on faculty/staff submissions



Led by Dean Ervin, STMS introduced Parent University, where our Wildcats' parents/guardians/adults were shown and informed on how to remain "in the know". From Canvas Training to Parent Advocacy 101, we welcomed ALL to ensure our Wildcats' success in and away from school.





# 2024-2025 Highlights



Our first ever Color Run; grades came together to raise money to beautify Saluda as well as provide additional resources to support our Wildcats' academic growth. This year the student body (with tremendous support from PTO and the school community) raised: \$7,432.



The Trail presented Moana, Jr., for the school community and all local elementary schools.



In preparation for SC Ready, STMS' Student Body put together an SC Pep Up Pep Rally. Between each student vs. teacher quarter, students were given test taking strategies as well as trivia to help get them pumped and motivated for SC Ready.



# 2024-2025 Highlights



Mason Harrison provided his talents to the SC All-State Orchestra (February 2025). After earning a top seat in the All-State Band, Mason Harrison was selected as one of only 3 trombone players to perform with the All-State Orchestra. He's the first student from STMS to earn this honor and represent our school and band.



Students from Saluda Trail Middle School explored the world of custom cornhole manufacturing during a recent Business Expedition to All American Cornhole in Rock Hill, SC. The hand-selected students learned about the company's role in the economy, industry career paths, and what it takes to succeed in this unique field. Students also were able to see their designs come to life! Business Expedition connects students with local industries—building career awareness and occupational knowledge—while giving businesses a chance to engage with future talent and showcase job opportunities.





*Stay Connected!*

Saluda Trail Middle School / Homepage (rock-hill.k12.sc.us)

**Instagram:**

@STMSWildcats

@STMSwildcatsBand (School Band)

**X:**

@WildcatsStms (School Athletics)

@STMSWildcats