

GOLD HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL



2023-2024 School Improvement Council Report to Parents

GOLD HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Tega Cay, SC 29708 (803) 548-8300

Principal - Richard Eppes • Assistant Principals • Dave Cheske, Angie Harms, and Caryn Scroggs

EXCELLENCE IS OUR CORNERSTONE, OUR TRADITION, THE BULLDOG WAY!

Gold Hill Middle School, distinguished as a school of excellence, is centered on student learning that focuses on academic, social, and emotional growth that bridges the transition for students between elementary and high school.

The mission of Gold Hill Middle School is to continually provide learners with a rigorous education where all students are valued, and the faculty exhibits academic excellence by advancing knowledge through high expectations, collaboration, and engagement.

WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL

- Gold Hill was awarded the Blue Ribbon Schools Lighthouse Award.
- We celebrate our outstanding teachers with a special Teacher of the Month recognition selected by students.
- Lindsay Weaver was announced Fort Mill School District Teacher of the Year.
- Our school community raised \$17,875 for Special Olympics, placing us first in the FMSD contest for Polar Plunge fundraising.
- We recognized over 75 students for our Student of the Quarter program.
- We had several former Bulldogs return to our school as Teacher Cadets from the local high school to learn what its like to be a teacher.
- Each week, our 7th grade teachers recognize Students of the Week and award a prize (thanks to donations from our community).
- 7th Grade students learn about the impact of the Holocaust from a current student's surviving family member.
- Our Special Setting students successfully ran Coffee Café which provides coffee and a treat once a week to teachers.
- Our general settings music classes and band classes put on multiple performances showcasing the talents of our students.
- Gold Hill hosted the district-wide dodgeball tournament to raise money for Polar Plunge and were, once again, champions.
- Bulldogs were awarded for outstanding behavior with Paw Point celebrations throughout the year.
- Teachers participated in STEAM professional development led by GHMS STEAM Leaders.
- GHMS became an official Winthrop Partner School and we welcomed multiple student teachers.
- Students across grade levels participated in career events; Sixth graders: Career Day; Seventh Graders: Career Fair (hosted by GHMS for the district); Eighth Grade: Job Shadow.
- Seventh and Eighth Grade Science classes hosted Science Nights to showcase projects created in class.

2023-2024 SIC GOALS

Increase family engagement through social activities hosted on campus.

GHMS hosts BFF Night (Bulldog Family Fun) on campus with outdoor games, and food for families to attend.

Recognize excellence in teaching through longevity awards for teachers.

We want to recognize teachers for their years of service and loyalty to the Bulldog family and community. Awards are being given to recognize specified years of service to education and especially GHMS.

SIC MEMBERS

Aaron Duda
(Co-chair)
Christy Tolentino
(Co-chair)
Richard Eppes
(Principal)
Caryn Scroggs
(Assistant Principal)
Angie Harms
(Assistant Principal)
David Cheske
(Assistant Principal)
Liz Haen
(Parent)
Alicia Dasch
(Community Member)
Tracey Schorsch
(PTO Representative)
Maggie Bowers
(SRO)
Lindsay Weaver
(Teacher of the Year)
Anna Lineberger
(Teacher)
Scot Kiggans
(Teacher)

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

SC Ready Data	GT Participation	Honor Roll (A's/B's)
83.8 % Met or Exceed in ELA <small>*77.6% FMSD Met or Exceed in ELA **52.2% SC Met or Exceed in ELA</small> 69.6% Met or Exceed in Math <small>*67.7% FMSD Met or Exceed in Math **33.1% SC Met or Exceed in Math</small>	58% of our students participate in GT level coursework	59% of our students are on the A or A/B honor roll

- Thirty-two GHMS students were inducted into the South Carolina Junior Scholars program.
- GHMS BETA Club inducted 89 new members. These students displayed academic excellence.



ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- GHMS Girls Track team placed first in the conference championship.
- GHMS Girls Soccer team placed first in the conference championship.
- GHMS Girls Soccer Team finished the regular season ranked number 1 in the conference.
- GHMS Dance team placed either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at all 3 dance competitions they competed in this year.
- GHMS Cheer got 1st in the York Cougar Classic competition.
- GHMS 7th Grader, Abi, received MVP award and All Region team for the Fort Mill High School tennis team.
- Many 7th and 8th graders competed on the State Championship winning Fort Mill High School Swim Team.
- 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Team made it to the championship of the SC Regional Tournament.
- GHMS Special Olympic Athletes brought home a number of ribbons from the games.

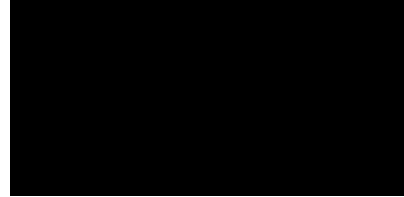


UBUNTU
I AM...BECAUSE WE ARE



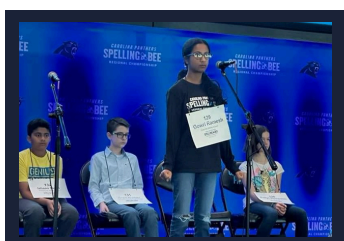
ARTISTIC SUCCESS

- Our Art Club has continued to develop and install murals along the related arts hallway and back hallway.
- Our Band and Choral programs were nationally recognized by the NAMM Foundation by receiving the Support Music Merit Award.
- BOTH 8th Grade Honors Chorus AND 7th Grade Honors Chorus received a 'Superior with Distinction' rating at the annual Choral Performance Assessment with the Choral Division of the South Carolina Music Education Association - a FIRST for GHMS to have a choral ensemble receive this designation... and we received NOT one but TWO of them!
- Five Singing Bulldogs were selected out of almost 2,000 students from 11 states to represent GHMS in the Southern Region Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Louisville, KY.
- Five students selected to participate in South Carolina Choral Directors Association Honor Choirs
- Our Special Settings General Music class was invited to perform for the Unified Schools Rally held at the State House in Columbia.
- Our 8th Grade Symphonic Band participated at the SC Band Directors Association Concert Performance Assessment and earned a superior rating.
- Twenty-three students were selected for the SC Region 3 Honor Band.
- Five students were selected for the All-State Band and participated in clinics, master classes, and performances with the top musicians in the state.
- The Finding Nemo Jr. cast performed for professionals at the Junior Theatre Celebration at the Belk Theatre in Charlotte. Two Bulldogs were awarded Star Performers.
- 7th Grade Band earned a superior rating at the Carowinds Music Festival.



EXTRACURRICULAR SUCCESS

- Bulldog Robotics teams competed in the Full Volume challenge in regional, state, and national competitions throughout the season and won numerous awards.
- We started our morning news show, DawgTV that is planned, filmed, and edited by our students.
- Our Battle of the Books team won the Middle Grades Battle of the Books County competition against 11 other teams.
- GHMS, once again, hosted the Regional Geography, History, and Science Bee.
- GHMS started a number of new clubs: Board Game Club hosted by Mrs. Bogucki and Mrs. Houck; Badminton Club hosted by Mrs. Harms and Mrs. Dwyer; Photography Club hosted by Mrs. Haen.
- Our student athletes represented GHMS at the Unified Games hosted by Nation Ford High School.
- Two GHMS teachers attended Special Olympics coaches training. Having a sports team is the final piece for us to become a Unified "Banner" School (already a Unified Champion School).
- We had our first ever Powder Puff game where the football team cheered and the cheerleaders played football.
- 6th Grader, Gowri, represented GHMS at the regional spelling bee.





ONE BOOK, ONE SCHOOL

Our school read *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling. *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* is a story of resilience and acceptance. Every Bulldog read chapters in each class and did a content-related lesson/activity.



PTO SUPPORT

Our Parent Teacher Organization works tirelessly to provide support for our academic programs as well as provide encouragement and recognition for our staff. They provided over \$35,000 in enriching curriculum programs and resources. Our teachers enjoyed spontaneous lunches, gift cards, and snack carts throughout the year. PTO Volunteers run the Dawg Pound, our school store, providing students a chance to shop two times per week during lunches.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 8th grade students competed in a Lincoln Douglas debate to respectfully argue with peers and had community members as judges.
- Beta Club students gave over 1,500 hours of community service.
- 24 students competed in the Bulldog Shake, a soft skills competition, judged by over 20 community members.
- The combined Honors Chorus classes performed the National Anthem at a Charlotte Checkers game.
- Tega Cay City Manager came to help our 7th grade mathematicians start a city planning project.
- Many students participated in our mentoring program, Bulldogs on Track, where community leaders come in and meet with and work with students.
- Students raised over \$4,000 for our sister school in Uganda.
- 7th and 8th Grade Science classes hosted Science Nights for families to see projects created related to Space Technology (8th) and Energy Skate Parks (7th).
- Tega Cay Fire Department helped students in 8th grade math (Barbie Drop) and 8th grade science (egg drop).

