



"CHALLENGE - CREATE - COMMUNICATE!"

Annual Report to the Community 2012

2011-2012 School Profile

Through the years at League Academy, we have worked together as a collaborative group of students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents and community members, combining our talents, passions and expertise to create and maintain an environment for learning that has produced exceptional results. Being named as a National School to Watch in February of 2011 reaffirms our belief that we are doing many things right for middle level students. It did not happen accidentally, however – our staff worked hard studying best practices, analyzing data, and asking and answering hard questions. We believe that integrating the arts throughout our curriculum helps all kids learn.

Merry L. Cox, Principal, League Academy

Schools to Watch®



League Academy of Communication Arts has been recognized by the "National Schools to Watch" program, which honors the work of middle schools whose programs show high academic achievement and organizational supports that put them on the road toward excellence. The honor is presented by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform following an extensive self-assessment and site visit to review the school's programs. "Our mission, 'Challenge-Create-Communicate!' is evident not only on the walls, but in the walls of League Academy," said Principal Merry Cox. "If the walls could talk, they would tell you how the students are challenged academically, artistically, and socially. They would tell you how the staff is challenged by high expectations and great students."

League Academy of Arts and Communications Magnet Information

League Academy's magnet program began in 1995 as part of the District's "Select Schools" initiative to increase enrollment in several city schools and to provide "school choice" options for parents seeking specialized programs for their children. League Academy's arts-focused magnet program is based on the beliefs that 1) the arts are an essential component of every child's education and 2) the arts and technology are valuable tools that connect and enrich all areas of learning. In addition to a rigorous academic curriculum and athletic program, League offers Greenville County's most comprehensive middle school arts program. Students may explore many art forms in beginning, intermediate, and advanced level courses. Communication arts electives include Band, Choral Music, Computer Graphics, Dance, Debate/Public Speaking, Drama, Exploratory, Spanish, General Music, Journalism, Keyboarding, Strings, Video Production, and the Visual Arts.

Approximately one-third of League's students are typically admitted through the magnet application process and two-thirds are home base students who live in League's attendance zone and do not need to apply for admission. For over fourteen years, League has maintained lengthy waiting lists of applicants who met admission criteria but were not admitted because the school's enrollment had reached capacity. In 2012, enrollment was 776 students.

For more information about the magnet program or the magnet application process, contact Elaine Donnan, Magnet Coordinator, at 864-355-8112 or edonnan@greenville.k12.sc.us.

League Academy Features and Programs

Advanced studies in Art, Dance, Drama and Chorus
Advanced studies in Journalism
Arts focused curriculum
Awards Program
Band, Chorus, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama,
Journalism and Strings
Beta Club
Book Bowl
Book Fair
Challenge Program (Gifted and Talented in Language Arts)
Classroom Computer Lab
Computer Graphics lab
Duke TIP Scholars
Early Bird Learning Opportunities
EEDA Career Development Program
8th Grade Job Shadowing

Geography Bee
Honors Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish and English
(High School Credit/Carnegie Unit)
IGP Conferences for 8th Grade
Keyboarding Lab
Mocha with Merry
Multi-Media Capabilities
SC Junior Book Award Program
SIC/PTA Parent Information Nights
Self Selected Reading Initiative
South Carolina Junior Scholars
Student Newspaper/Yearbook/Literary Magazine
Student Led Conferences
Video Production Classes
Weekly School Messenger Year-Round Artist-in-
Residence Program

Student Led Conferences

For the third year, League students have taken the responsibility of sharing samples of their course work, discussing interests and goals, and working together with their parents on a preliminary plan for middle school and beyond. Student-led conferences are designed to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- students accept personal responsibility for their academic performance
- students reflect and use a process of self-evaluation on their achievement and goals
- students use presentation and communication skills to conduct the conferences
- students, parents, and teachers engage in open and honest dialogue
- parent involvement increased

Personal Pathways to Success



Personal Pathways to Success is a state-wide legislative initiative designed to promote career exploration in middle schools. Personal Pathways to Success helps students choose future occupations based on their strengths, their interests, and labor market information. Information about the Pathways to Success initiative is available at www.scpathways.org.

At League, the career exploration program is called "Focus on the Future", and consists of lessons during advisory on career topics, presentations by guest speakers, interest assessments, virtual and on-site job shadowing, and the integration of career information into all classes. All 8th grade students and their parents meet individually with the Career Specialist and the 8th grade Guidance Counselor to develop Individual Graduation Plans before entering high school.

During 2011-12, all students completed an interest assessment, using either the Career Cluster Interest Survey (6th), SCOIS (7th), or EXPLORE (8th). All 8th grade students had the opportunity to participate in on-site job shadowing, and 95% visited a business while an additional 14% participated in a day of virtual shadowing at League. All 7th grade students participated in a virtual shadowing activity. All students benefited from a school-wide emphasis on career exploration, as teachers guided students to recognize the connection between academic success and career success.

Parents participated in the "Focus on the Future" program in several ways. They were invited to participate as classroom speakers or to provide information about their careers, and to be workplace mentors for 8th grade job shadowing. For more information about the "Focus on the Future" program, contact , Career Development Facilitator, Gwynne Huff, at 355-8104 or via email at ghuff@greenville.k12.sc.us

School Goals 2011-2012

SCHOOL GOAL AREA 1: Raise the Academic Challenge and Performance of Each Student

MATHEMATICS

PERFORMANCE GOAL 1: The percentage of students scoring Met on the PASS Math test will increase from 74% in 2010 to 99% in 2012-13.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

PERFORMANCE GOAL 2: The percentage of all students scoring Met on the PASS ELA Reading/Research test will increase from 80% in 2010-11 to 99% in 2012-13.

League Academy Awards, Achievements and Scores

Public Education Partners-"Professional Learning Communities" Grant
National School to Watch Award
National *Invent America!* Winners
Red Carpet Award Winner
S.C. Arts Commission Grant Winner

Exemplary Writing Award-Hall of Fame
State and National PTA Reflections Winner
2003 TIAA-CREF Principal of the Year
2004 TIAA-CREF Support Staff Member
2007 Assistant Principal of the Year
2007 Emerging Teacher of the Year

PASS Results: 2011

Subject	Exemplary	Met	Not Met
English Language Arts	54.5%	25.3%	20.2%
Writing	53.1%	30.4%	16.5%
Mathematics	41.6%	38.3%	20.1%
Science	36.1%	45.2%	18.6%
Social Studies	43.8%	34.4%	21.8%

MAP Results: Fall 2011 to Spring 2012

Fall 2010 to Spring 2011	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Subject	% Growth	% Met Growth	% Growth
Reading	57.0%	49.4%	57.5%
Mathematics	53.9%	51.9%	58.4%

Annual School Report Card Rating:

2011 Absolute Rating: Excellent

2011 Growth Rating: Excellent

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):

AYP Not Met 2011

Palmetto Gold Award:

January 2012

Special Awards to Students and Faculty for 2011-2012

National Art21 Educator Award:

Joanna McCauley

District Science Teacher of the Year 2011

Rex Smith – 6th Grade Science

District Top Ten Finalist for Teacher of the Year 11-12

Rex Smith – 6th Grade Science

SC PTA State Reflections Award Winner

Sophie Pavia

Photography - 1st place and honorable mention; Dance Choreography - 2nd place

Duke Tip Winners: 16 students

Junior Scholars: 45 students

League Academy and Metropolitan Arts Council's SmartARTS Program

What is SmartARTS?

"SmartARTS is a partnership between Greenville County Schools and the Metropolitan Arts Council that connects students, artists and teachers to deeper learning and self-awareness through integrating the arts with all areas of education. SmartARTS provides training and support for teachers and artists in the use of successful arts integration methods. The partnership is built on the collaboration between teacher and artist and is focused on becoming a model and resource for this innovative work that has brought academic and behavioral success for many undeserved students. SmartARTS programs focus on standards-based arts integration and are designed to meet the objectives of the No Child Left Behind Act and the school district's Arts Education Plan." <http://www.greenvillearts.com/education/smartarts.aspx>

League Academy SmartARTS Teachers

2008	2009
Jamie Harvey and Tracy Beach	Chris Sloan, Carina Lilly, Gloria Gray
2010	Spring 2011
Michelle OMalley, Melanie Patton, Jennifer Bailey, Sarah Monson	Alissa Moore, Leila Moore, Teresa Blankenship, Sandra Hunt
Fall 2011- Spring 2012	
Donna Coker, Teresa Blankenship, Sandra Hunt, Trinice Bowens, Jen Bailey, Carina Lilly, Melanie Patton	

Outreach Beyond and Around our Campus

Faculty

This year League Academy faculty and staff donated money and supplies to the Cancer Society, Project Host, Santa Fund, Sheppard's Gate, Ronald McDonald House, March of Dimes and Safe Harbor. League faculty members also worked with several of the local community centers that serve our students.

Students

During the 2011-2012 school year League Academy students raised money for the Heart Association (Dodge Ball for Heart) and March of Dimes.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 2011-2012

League Academy's Techno Night/Dance-a-thon, School Dance(s), Spirit Week Events, Chocolate Sales, Tervis Tumbler Sales and League Academy Student Store to raise funding to support League Academy teacher grants and purchase school supplies that were cut from the budget.

School Improvement Council (SIC) 2011-2012

League Academy's SIC 2011-2012 efforts focused on three main areas: Legislative Advocacy, Traffic Safety and Parent University 101. This Year's SIC members were: Chairman: Carolyn Henry, Co-Chair: George Lipscomb, Secretary: Nell Stewart. Members: Merry Cox, Jack Dill, Elaine Donnan, Teresa Gray, John Kaup, Susan Mitchell, Megan Mitchell-Hoefer, Toni Norris, Mike Pope, Heathe Provost and Becky Walters

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