



**"CHALLENGE - CREATE - COMMUNICATE!"**

## **Annual Report to the Community 2013**

### **2012-2013 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-Creat-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  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Job Shadowing

Geography Bee  
Honors Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish and English  
(High School Credit/Carnegie Unit)  
IGP Conferences for 8<sup>th</sup> 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  
Watch DOGS  
Weekly School Messenger  
Year-Round Artist-in-Residence Program

## **Student Led Conferences 2013**

For the fifth 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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents meet individually with the Career Specialist and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Guidance Counselor to develop Individual Graduation Plans before entering high school.

During 2012-2013, all students completed an interest assessment, using either the Career Cluster Interest Survey (6<sup>th</sup>), SCOIS (7<sup>th</sup>), or EXPLORE (8<sup>th</sup>). All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to participate in on-site job shadowing, and 98% visited a business while the remaining 2% participated in a day of virtual shadowing at League. All 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade job shadowing. For more information about the "Focus on the Future" program, contact , Career Development Facilitator, Stevie Greene, at 355-8113 or via email at [scgreene@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:scgreene@greenville.k12.sc.us).

## School Goals 2012-2013

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

#### MATHEMATICS

**PERFORMANCE GOAL 2:** The percentage of all students scoring *met* and *above* on the PASS MATHEMATICS Test will increase from 79% in 2010-11 to 81% in 2011-12 and 83% in 2012-13.

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**PERFORMANCE GOAL 2:** The percentage of all students scoring *met* and *above* on the PASS English Language Arts (ELA) Reading/Research test will increase from 79% in 2010-11 to 81% in 2011-12 and 83% 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: 2012**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
English Language Arts	55.1	27.5	17.3
Writing	58.6	24.9	16.5
Mathematics	44.3	36.2	19.5
Science	41.1	44.6	14.4
Social Studies	57.5	28.7	13.8

#### **Annual School Report Card Rating:**

**2011 Absolute Rating: Excellent**

**2011 Growth Rating: Excellent**

#### **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):**

**AYP in Met 2012**

#### **Palmetto Gold Award:**

**January 2013**

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### Special Awards to Students and Faculty for 2012-2013

#### **National Art21 Educator Award:**

Joanna McCauley

#### **Ace Award Nominees**

Skylar Hicks and Wynn Cross

#### **League 12-13 Teacher of the Year**

Patti Cochran, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math

#### **SC PTA State Reflections Award Winner**

Sophia Pavia, 1st place and Honorable Mention Photography, Honorable Mention Dance; Ashley Pavia, 1st place Visual Arts and 3rd place Literature; Hannah Patskoski, Honorable Mention Literature; Nicole Pavia, Honorable Mention Literature

**Duke Tip Winners:** 10 State Recognition, 1 Grand Recognition students

**Junior Scholars: 56** 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**

**League has more than 20 SmartARTS teachers that have participated from 2008-2012.  
The 2012-13 SmartARTS teachers are: Teresa Blankenship and Michelle O'Malley**

### **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, 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 2012-2013 school year League Academy students raised money for the Heart Association (Dodge Ball for Heart) and March of Dimes.

#### **Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 2012-2013**

League Academy's Techno Night/Dance-a-thon, School Dance(s), Spirit Week Events, Chocolate Sales, Mixed Bags and League Academy Student Store to raise funding to support League Academy teacher grants and purchase school supplies that were cut from the budget. We are also working to replace our school marquee with an electronic one for better communication.

#### **School Improvement Council (SIC) 2012-2013**

League Academy's SIC 2012-2013 efforts focused on three main areas: Traffic Safety, Parent University 101 and Community Connections. 2012-2013 SIC Membership: Officers: Co-Chairs - Carolyn Henry and John Kaup and Secretary - Nell Stewart. Parents: Elizabeth Gordon, George Lipscomb, John Kaup and Carolyn Henry; Teachers: Teresa Gray and Rex Smith. Community Members: Jack Dill, Rob Hall, Megan Mitchell-Hoefer and Nell Stewart. League Representatives: Merry Cox, Elaine Donnan, Lorraine Holeman, Susan Mitchell, Toni Norris and Wendy Pavia (PTA President).

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