

Annual Report to the Community 2017 - 2018

School Mission

The mission of League Academy of Communication Arts is to prepare students to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society through rigorous, arts-focused, standards-based instruction.

Principal: Mary Leslie Anderson
Assistant Principal: Cynthia Fowler
Administrative Assistant: James Bertollo

Purpose of the Report: "This Report is issued by the League Academy School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."

School Profile

League Academy is located in a quiet neighborhood, two blocks south of North Pleasantburg Drive, near downtown Greenville. Originally built in 1965 as a junior high, League was approved to be a Communication Arts Magnet Academy by the School Board in 1995. League's communication arts program provides students the opportunity to explore many art forms and to learn at least one art form well through advanced course offerings. Students can select intermediate and advanced studies in drama, dance, band, strings, choral music and the visual arts. Additionally, students can select communication arts electives, including computer technology, video production, speech and debate and journalism.

Our student population is unique because we do not follow a normal feeder school pattern. Students come to League from about 25 of our district elementary schools, and they leave us after 8th grade to attend almost every high school in our district.

Capturing Kids Hearts

League Academy was designated in 2017-18 as a National Capturing Kids Hearts Showcase School only 2 years after adopting the program. This program is designed to enhance the learning process by improving the relationship skills of the students with each other and between the faculty, staff and students. <https://flippengroup.com/downloads/ckh-nss/2017-2018-Showcase-School-List.pdf>

Extended Day Program

League Academy initiated an afterschool program to provide another resource for our students and families. The mission of the program is to provide a safe and engaging after-school environment offering help with homework, tutoring, physical activity and enrichment in the arts and technology.

Arts in the Basic Curriculum Advancement Grant

League received the Arts in the Basic Curriculum (ABC) Grant. These funds will be used toward promoting arts in the classroom, professional development and facilities improvements.

Schools to Watch

League Academy has been re-designated as a National School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform in January of 2017. The goal of the forum desires to make every middle school academically excellent, responsive to the development of the middle school student, and social equitable. The four criteria include academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, organizational structure, and social

equity. League Academy has implemented the following programs and activities as a result of going through the Schools to Watch re-designation process:

- Continue to increase rigor in all classes through arts integration techniques, professional development, and student engagement in the curriculum.
- Increased use of technology for students through the purchase of Chromebooks for classroom use, and wrote a Bring Your Own Device Policy for students to have more access to technology.
- Restructured the guidance department to address the guidance of the whole child; thus focusing the counselors more on the students than administrative tasks.
- Increase involvement and partnership with the PTA to fundraise for initiatives such as health and wellness, increased activities for student involvement, and technology needs.
- Developed a partnership with Mentor Greenville to address students of need either socially, behaviorally, or academically.

Outstanding Features and Programs

- Magnet Program with Communication Arts Focus
- High School Credit (Carnegie Units) for Honors Algebra I, Honors Geometry,
- Honors English I, **Spanish I & II**, Digital Media Arts I, Art I, Theatre I.
- Gifted and Talented Language Arts Program
- Advanced Studies in Dance, Drama, Music, and the Visual Arts
- **Capturing Kids Hearts**
- National Junior Beta Club
- Student Government Association
- Peace Center Partnership for Staff Development
- Peace Voices Program
- SmartArts “Artist in Residence” Program
- Metropolitan Arts Council Art Educator of the Year
- STEAM Trained Science and Math Teachers
- Awards Days/Student Recognition Programs
- Cultural and Educational Field Trips
- Boys and Girls Athletic Teams for All Middle School Sports
- Girls on the Run Running Club
- Intramural Sports Program
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- School Improvement Council (SIC)

Achievements and Honors

- **Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase School**
- A top performing middle school in the District and State
- Palmetto Gold and Silver Award for Student Achievement and Closing the Achievement Gap
- First Greenville County School to be Named a “National School to Watch”
- SC Duke TIP Scholars/SC Junior Scholars
- Gilder Lehrman American History Affiliate School
- All-State and All-Region Orchestra Winners
- Region Band Students
- Superior Scores at Orchestra Festivals and Competitions
- Superior and Excellent Ratings for Choral Festivals and Competitions
- **Excellent Ratings for Band Festivals and Competitions**
- SC Theatre and Speech Association State Awards

- National, State and District Visual Arts Award Winners
- National, State and District PTA Reflections Contest Winners
- Arts in the Basic Curriculum Grant Recipient
- LiveWell Greenville Grant
- LiveWell Healthy School Award
- School Safety Award
- Nationally Certified Athletic Director
- American Heart Association Recognition for Starting Dodge Ball for Heart Disease Program.
- Nationally Recognized Lego Robotics Team
- National School to Watch
- Multiple Donor's Choose Grants for Technology

SmartARTs and Arts Integration- Magnet Academy

League Academy's magnet program began in 1995 as part of Greenville County Schools Select School initiative. At League Academy our arts infused curriculum supports the belief that the arts are an essential component to every child's education and that the arts and technology are valuable tools that connect and enrich all areas of learning. Additionally, an arts-integrated curriculum supports an increased rigorous academic and student-centered curriculum. In addition to offering courses in all of the fine arts including advanced arts courses, League offers students the opportunity to take communications courses in computer technology, TV/video production, public speaking, speech and debate, creative writing, drama, and Google Apps. Students at League Academy can earn up to 7.5 units of high school credit in Art I, Spanish I & II, Google Apps, Financial Literacy, English I, and Algebra I, and Keyboarding.

League's Role in the Community

School Improvement Council

SIC Annual Goal AT-RISK STUDENTS: According to the ASCA School Journal: "At risk students create barriers to protect themselves from perceived threats. They build walls to hide family secrets (of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and shame) to protect their tender feelings from being disappointed again. They appear tough and unaffected but they are not." "In the classroom teachers create barriers to discourage students who are perceived to be lazy. At risk students can feel the barriers and express their anger and frustration by acting out or dropping out." GOAL: As SIC, our goal is to tear down these barriers and provide a safe, nurturing, educational environment to meet these students' needs.

League's School Improvement Council meets once a month to address needs of the school. The focus of the SIC is to work with the challenges that the school community faces. **This year, the SIC has chosen to focus on facility improvement/ repair in addition to the continued support of student needs in terms of achievement.** The SIC will continue this focus for the 20__ school year by implementing a school-wide tutoring initiative to assist struggling students with academic and behavioral needs, and creating an culture inclusive of all students and families (**Is this still going? Any thing done this year?**)

SIC Chair 2017-2018

Jennifer Medlock

SIC

Activities for **2017-2018 include continuing the** afterschool program with tutoring and transportation as well as continued focus on communication and engagement with parents *Host a family picnic to showcase all of the arts/projects; have music, art, drama on display;* Parent Boot Camp – include parent training Information from parent workshops on school website Continued support for Mentoring Program, physical school

improvement to reflect the emphasis of our school include arts, communication, and athletics. **Partnered with the PTA to improve our facility/ update signage by engaging a marketing/ad agency.**

Parent-Teacher Association

League Academy has an active PTA, who works hard for the students and staff. This year, our PTA was instrumental in raising funds to create an outdoor dining space for students and teachers. We will continue to work on beautifying our campus for our students and staff, by adding more outdoor space for students and staff to enjoy. Our PTA was also instrumental in leading our fall and spring fundraisers. In the fall, students sold magazines and were able to raise enough funds to purchase a set of Chrome Books for our students. In the spring our students and staff participated in RaiseCraze, which is a local fundraiser where students receive pledges for completing acts of kindness. We were able to raise enough finds to purchase another class set of Chromebooks for our students.

PTA President 2017-2018- Cady Johnson and Michael Middleton

Arts Partnerships

At League Academy it is important that we become as much a part of the arts community in Greenville as we can. We have formed partnerships with The Peace Center for the Performing Arts, The Greenville County Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Arts Council, The Fine Arts Center, and The Warehouse Theatre. These partnerships have afforded us quality arts integration professional development to enhance our instructional knowledge of arts integration into the core content areas. Additionally, they have come to League to work with our students in master classes, arts integration workshops, and seminars. Our students have also been able to take various field trips to experience performances and shows with these partners.