



Annual Report to the Community 2015

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: David Goff

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.

Schools to Watch

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 2015. 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.

As a result of the Schools to Watch program League Academy has continued to thrive in academic excellence:

- 2013-14 Winner Palmetto Silver Award for Closing the Achievement Gap
- 2013-14 Winner Palmetto Gold Award for General Performance
- 2014 School Report Card Rating: Excellent Absolute Rating and Excellent Growth Rating

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 and Keyboarding)
- Gifted and Talented Language Arts Program
- Advanced Studies in Dance, Drama, Music, and the Visual Arts
- National Junior Beta Club
- Student Government Association
- Peace Center Partnership for Staff Development
- Peace Voices Program
- SmartArts “Artist in Residence” Program
- SC Middle Level Art Educator of the Year
- STEAM Trained Science 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)

- WatchDOGS Program (Dads of Great Students)
- National Top Ten School for Energy Conservation

Achievements and Honors

- 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
- Superior Scores at Orchestra Festivals and Competitions
- First place and Best Overall Awards at Choral 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 Warehouse Theatre Grants
- American Chemical Society Science Grant
- LiveWell Greenville Grant
- LiveWell Healthy School Award
- Nationally Certified Athletic Director
- American Heart Association Recognition for Starting Dodge Ball for Heart Disease Program.

Student Achievement

Goals:

GOAL 1: Raise the academic challenge and performance of each student.

GOAL 2: Ensure quality personnel in all positions.

GOAL 3: Provide a school environment supportive of learning.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards 2013 and 2014 (PASS)

Subject	Exemplary 2013	Exemplary 2014	Met 2013	Met 2014	Not Met 2013	Not Met 2014
English Language Arts	59.1	58.1	33	23.7	13.3	18.2
Writing	60.6	54.8	29.3	31.6	10.1	13.6
Mathematics	50.4	48.1	39.2	31.9	13.2	19.9
Science	35.5	43.7	51.2	38.3	13.2	18.0
Social Studies	57.7	59.1	28.7	26.6	13.6	14.3

Annual School Report Card Rating:

2014 Absolute Rating: Excellent

2014 Growth Rating: Excellent

Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards:

January 2013 Gold – General Performance

ESEA Federal Accountability Rating System:

Overall Weighted Points Total: 87.2

Overall Grade Conversion: B

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 if high school credit in Art I, Spanish I, Google Apps, Financial Literacy, English I, and Algebra I, and Keyboarding.

League's Role in the Community

School Improvement Council

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 the school report card data that indicates student needs in terms of achievement. The SIC will continue this focus for the 2015-16 school year by implementing a school-wide tutoring initiative to assist struggling students with academic and behavioral needs.

SIC Chair 2014- Elizabeth Gordon

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 2014-2015: Karen Weaver

Mentor Greenville

In January of 2015, League partnered with Mentor Greenville of the Frazee Center in downtown Greenville to find mentors for some of our students who struggle with academics, behavior,

socialization, or school, in general. Our goal was to set up 25 students with mentors and we have exceeded that number. We currently have 30 community members who have agreed to mentor League students, and will continue to grow this effort as we move into next school year.

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.

League Life

