

Bluffton Middle School
School Improvement Council
Report to the Parents
April, 2012



*A Tradition of Cherishing and
Challenging Every Student*

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Bluffton Middle School Vision and Mission Statement

VISION STATEMENT

We envision the Bluffton Middle School community working together to build a tradition of cherishing and challenging every student.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bluffton Middle School, established in 2010, seeks to promote a tradition of academic excellence through exploration and discovery, technology awareness, and rigorous student-centered learning that inspires intellectual curiosity in a safe, caring, and supportive environment where students develop the ability to think, be responsible, respectful, and honest to achieve their role as effective citizens in our global society.

PHILOSOPHY

At BLMS, we seek to provide each student with a learning environment that is both challenging and rewarding; one that encourages discovery and the development of special talents, abilities, and interests; one in which the teacher serves as a facilitator and catalyst to learning as well as a source of knowledge.

OBJECTIVES

The vision, mission, and philosophy of Bluffton Middle School makes it imperative to implement the following objectives:

1. To provide a safe environment.
2. To provide academic excellence by incorporating widely accepted effective practices and programs.
3. To develop in each student the ability to think, be responsible, respectful, and honest.
4. To encourage stewardship of the environment.
5. To stimulate each student's creativity and problem solving ability.
6. To encourage students to respect the attitudes, values, and culture of others as well as their own.
7. To provide students with experiences that promote meaningful relationships, and the development of social problem-solving skills.
8. To develop a positive self-image and self-efficacy in students by providing them with individual acceptance, encouragement, and recognition when appropriate.

SCHOOL RENEWAL PLAN GOALS

GOAL 1: Increase student achievement to exceed state and national levels with specific emphasis on closing the student achievement gap within the Limited English Proficient subgroup of Bluffton Middle School.

GOAL 2: Ensure best practices and resources in learning, teaching and leadership, consistently and equitably across the school.

GOAL 3: Actively engage community and stakeholders in schools.

GOAL 4: Provide resources for appropriate learning environments.

GOAL 5: Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.

GOAL 6: Develop practices, processes and technologies for open, frequent, transparent, and effective communication, both internally and externally.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The BLMS Character Education program strives to reinforce universal values in all students. The Mustang PATH provides a model for proper behavior that is based on the BLMS mascot, the Mustang. Students meet with a caring adult each day to discuss character related issues during the *Path Time* period. Specific lessons and discussion topics are posted on our webpage so that parents can know the topics under discussion and hold supportive conversations with students at home.

THE MUSTANG PATH

Provides a model for proper behavior that is based on the BLMS mascot, the Mustang. The Mustang Path includes four core behaviors essential to a student's development as a citizen. The four aspects of the Mustang Path are the following:

ResPonsibility
Academic Excellence
Respect
Honesty

OUR PLEDGE AGAINST BULLYING

As a school bonded together we work toward making our school environment “bully resistant” for all. Our pledge:

I pledge to help end bullying everywhere. I pledge to ask for help if I am ever faced with a situation where I feel taken advantage of or bullied. I pledge not to be a bully at home, at school, or the community. I also pledge that if I see any type of bullying I will report it and/or try to help the people that are involved. I have read the pledge and understand it. This is my personal commitment to making my school and community a safe place.



6th grade Most Creative – Ms. McCann’s PATH Time with the slogan “We create the climate around the world”



6th grade Best Message - Ms. Klink’s class displaying on their poster the end to various kinds of bullying.



7th grade Most Creative – Ms. Tolly’s PATH Time group with the “Path 2 Regret”



7th grade Best Message – Ms. Cohen’s class displaying a message against Cyber Bullying

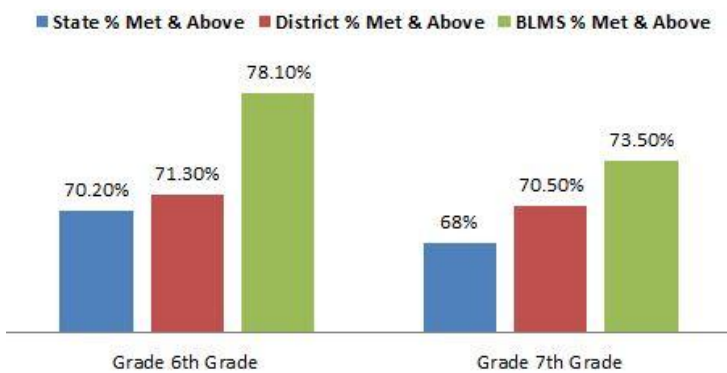
PROJECTED AND ACTUAL REPORT CARD RATING

Based on incoming student performance data, Bluffton Middle School's estimated Absolute Index was 2.88, with a School Report Card Rating of "Average". **Student performance exceeded projection calculations with an Absolute Index of 3.24 and School Report Card Rating of "Good".**

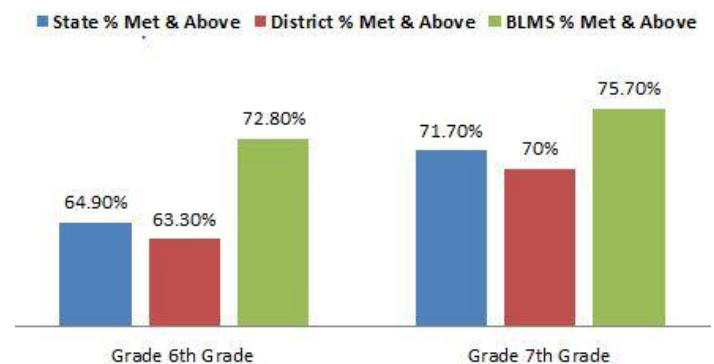
STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA

Our students scored above district and state averages on PASS testing in each academic area at both grade levels. In fact, our students earned the top score in the district on 6th grade English Language Arts, 6th grade science, and 7th grade science. On MAP testing our students also scored above district and state averages in terms of actual performance and growth calculations.

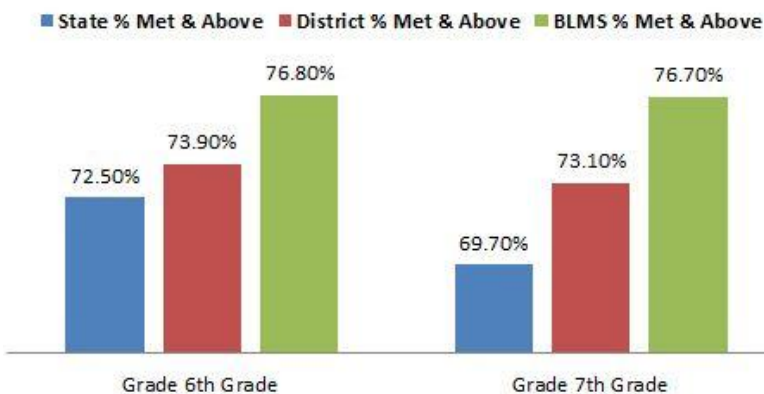
ELA Pass Performance 2011



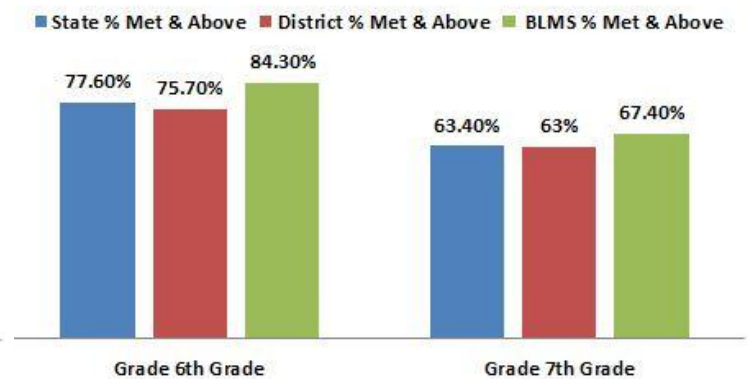
Science Pass Performance 2011



Math Pass Performance 2011



Social Studies Pass Performance 2011



TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Bluffton Middle School was awarded the Technology Innovative Program Award by the South Carolina Association for its sixth and seventh grade technology curriculum. All students at Bluffton Middle are enrolled in technology courses that focus on building skills in 21st Century communications, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

SUE WEST EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Lois Lewis, Bluffton Middle School Teacher of the Year, was the recipient of the prestigious Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Sue West Educator of the Year award. This award was presented at the Chamber's Annual Ball on February 4, 2012.

PALMETTO SILVER AWARD



Bluffton Middle School was awarded the Palmetto Silver Award from the South Carolina Department of Education. The Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver program was created by the South Carolina General Assembly to recognize schools that attain high levels of absolute performance, high rates of growth and substantial progress in closing achievement gaps between groups of students. Schools receive awards for general performance based on both their absolute and growth ratings and the growth index found on state school report cards. These ratings are determined by PASS scores for elementary and middle schools.

SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. 140 Duke Tip students (up from 95 the previous year)
2. Advanced Studies Program
3. After school, Interscholastic sports & clubs program
4. Artist in Residence Grant
5. Active PTO and SIC
6. All County Orchestra participants
7. Awards Ceremonies
8. Bingo and BBQ Community Event
9. Bluffton Christmas Parade Participation
10. Coffee Mornings
11. Drama Production of "Cinderella"
12. ESOL Parent Nights

13. Field trips
14. Fundraising Drives and Donations to Service projects
15. Health Fair & Screening
16. Informational Parent meetings
17. Ladies and Gentlemen's Club Inductions
18. Library Appreciation Week
19. Live Morning News Shows
20. Math Fair
21. MLK Day Celebration Participation
22. Mustang of the Month
23. Night of the Arts
24. National Geographic Bee
25. National Junior Honor Society Inductions
26. Nature Trail & Outdoor Classroom Creation
27. Open House
28. Parent – Teacher conferences
29. Parent Educational Program
30. Parent Visitation Day
31. PBIS Incentive Days
32. PATH time
33. Pi Day
34. Red Ribbon Week
35. Rising 6th grade events
36. River of Words
37. School Volunteers
38. Scholastic Book Fair
39. "Stang" Student Council
40. Science Fair
41. Spirit Weeks
42. String & Band Performances
43. Student Dances
44. Student Store
45. Tail Waggin' Tutors
46. Technology Nights, Robotics Showcase & TEDx events
47. Tuesday Tutors
48. Veteran's Day celebration
49. World Math Day
50. Yearbook Club

The beginnings of a wonderful tradition are being built!

Congratulations Mustangs on a great 2st year!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Minutes are published and posted on the school website under the SIC link. The 2011-2012 members are as follows:

Dr. Dereck Rhoads	Principal	843-707-0700	mustang.principal@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Loretta Kefford	Chairperson, Parent	843-757-0855	lfkefford@hotmail.com
Lisa Priester	Parent	843-815-2075	elpriest@roadrunner.com
BJ Silver	Secretary, Teacher	843-707-0720	Barbara.silver@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Sherry Shropshire	Parent	843-815-2283	shropshirefam@gmail.com
Nancy Klink	Teacher	843-707-0735	nancy.klink@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Leslie Natoli	Teacher	843-707-0441	Leslie.natoli@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Douglas Bush	Community Member	843-757-2314	bush.douglas@ymail.com
Sharon Brown	Community Member	843-706-8803	Sharon.brown@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Rebecca Hale	Vice Chairperson, Parent	843-837-3000	rhale@haleandbolchoz.com
Dr. Beth Bournias	Assistant Principal, Ex-officio	843-707-0774	Beth.bournias@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Pamela Maddox	Assistant Principal, Ex-officio	843-707-0767	Pamela.maddox@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Carlos Chacon	Community Member	843-290-0804	cchacon@coastaldiscovery.org

Generally, our SIC needs to annually elect two parents to serve a two-year term. Elections for 2012-2014 SIC members will be May 29, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School Media Center.