

Bluffton Middle School  
School Improvement Council  
Report to the Parents  
April, 2013



*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**

### **The S.A.B.E. PLEDGE (STUDENTS AGAINST BULLYING EVERYWHERE)**

As a commitment to having a safe school community, students and parents are asked to sign the Students Against Bullying Everywhere (SABE) pledge. 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.*

## **POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS (PBIS)**

PBIS is an approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions. The approach enhances academic and social behavior for all students. PBIS is not a packaged curriculum or scripted intervention. PBIS is a prevention-oriented way for school personnel to (a) organize evidence-based practices, (b) improve their implementation of those practices, and (c) maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. At BLMS, effective classroom management and preventive school-wide discipline are essential for supporting teaching and learning. PBIS emphasizes that effective classroom management and school-wide discipline must be integrated and working together with effective academic instruction in a positive and safe school climate to maximize success for all students.

## **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.

<b>Building Enrollment &amp; Capacity</b>		
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>12-13 Enrollment</b>	<b>%Capacity Usage</b>
1035	1010	97.5%

<b>12-13 Demographics</b>					
<b>% White</b>	<b>% Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>% Black or African American</b>	<b>% Asian</b>	<b>% Other</b>	<b>% Subsidized Meals</b>
49%	28%	18%	1%	2%	53%

### **REPORT CARD RATING**

Bluffton Middle School's 2012 Absolute Index was 3.34, with a School Report Card Rating of Good. Our 2012 Growth Index was 97.55, with a 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.

<b>PASS – English Language Arts Performance %Met and Above</b>			
<b>2011-12</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>BLMS</b>
Grade 6	69.7%	69.2%	76.6%
Grade 7	71.4%	71.1%	77.1%

<b>PASS – Mathematics Performance %Met and Above</b>			
<b>2011-12</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>BLMS</b>
Grade 6	73.6%	72.6%	80.7%
Grade 7	71.6%	72%	75%

<b>PASS – Science Performance %Met and Above</b>			
<b>2011-12</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>BLMS</b>
Grade 6	66.1%	61.6%	67.1%
Grade 7	74.8%	71.7%	79.9%

<b>PASS – Social Studies Performance %Met and Above</b>			
<b>2011-12</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>BLMS</b>
Grade 6	77.8%	76.4%	80.1%
Grade 7	68.7%	67.1%	72.3%

## SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

90 Duke Tip student candidates	Night of the Arts
911 Memorial Tribute	National Geographic Bee
Advanced Studies Program	National Junior Honor Society Induction
After school, interscholastic sports & clubs	Open House
After school tutoring program	Parent Teacher conferences
Art Club	Parent Visitation Day
Active PTO and SIC	PBIS Incentive Days
All County Orchestra participants	PATH time
Awards Ceremonies	Pi Day
Bluffton Christmas Parade Participation	PTO Spaghetti Dinner
Coffee Mornings	Rain Garden Water Shed Model
Compass Learning	Read 180
ESOL Parent Nights	Rising 6 <sup>th</sup> grade events
Field Trips	River of Words
Fundraising drives/donation to service projects	School Volunteers
Health Fair and Screening	Scholastic Book Fair
Informational Parent meetings	“Stang” Student Council
Ladies and Gentlemen’s Club Induction	Science Fair
Library Appreciation Week	Spirit Days
Live Morning News shows	String & Band Performances
MLK Day celebration participation	Student Dances
Math/Science/Technology Night	Student Store
Mustang of the Month	Tail Waggin’ Tutors
Mustangs on the Move running club	World Math Day
Mustang Registration Day	

For more information, please visit our website at

<http://blm.beaufort.k12.sc.us>

or contact our main office at 843-707-0700.

## 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 2012-2013 members are as follows:

Pat Freda	Principal	843-707-0776	<a href="mailto:Pat.freda@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Pat.freda@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Stephanie Sutay	Chairperson, Parent	843-384-3723	<a href="mailto:sutays@gmail.com">sutays@gmail.com</a>
Lisa Priester	Parent	843-815-2075	<a href="mailto:elpriest@roadrunner.com">elpriest@roadrunner.com</a>
Marcia Ramsdell	Secretary, Counselor	843-707-0795	<a href="mailto:Marcia.ramsdell@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Marcia.ramsdell@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Sherry Shropshire	Vice Chairperson	843-815-2283	<a href="mailto:shropshirefam@gmail.com">shropshirefam@gmail.com</a>
Nancy Klink	Teacher	843-707-0721	<a href="mailto:Nancy.klink@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Nancy.klink@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Leslie Natoli	Teacher	843-707-0987	<a href="mailto:Leslie.natoli@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Leslie.natoli@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Douglas Bush	Community Member	843-757-2314	<a href="mailto:Bush.douglas@ymail.com">Bush.douglas@ymail.com</a>
Sharon Brown	Community Member	843-706-8803	<a href="mailto:Sharon.brown@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Sharon.brown@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Brandi Lowe	Parent	843-290-2666	<a href="mailto:schawk@hargray.com">schawk@hargray.com</a>
Dr. Beth Bournias	Assistant Principal	843-707-0774	<a href="mailto:Beth.bournias@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Beth.bournias@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Steven Schidrich	Assistant Principal	843-707-0758	<a href="mailto:Steven.schidrich@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Steven.schidrich@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Francina Shack	Assistant Principal	843-707-0988	<a href="mailto:Francina.shack@beaufort.k12.sc.us">Francina.shack@beaufort.k12.sc.us</a>
Carlos Chacon	Community Member	843-290-0804	<a href="mailto:cchacon@coastaldiscovery.org">cchacon@coastaldiscovery.org</a>

Generally, our SIC needs to annually elect two parents to serve a two-year term. Elections for 2013-2014 SIC members will be May 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School Media Center.

**The beginnings of a wonderful tradition are being built!**

**Congratulations Mustangs on a great 3rd year!**

# 2012-2013 MUSTANG HIGHLIGHTS

1200 iPads were implemented in the fall of 2012. Teachers and students continue to use iPads as a tool to enhance learning in the classroom.

Band awards at All-County competition and Carowinds Music Festival.

Robotics team placed first at the regional competition.  
The team qualified to compete at the State level.

National Geographic Bee contestant qualified to compete at the State level.

Beautified and improved the BLMS campus with the design and implementation of a Rain Garden Pond.

Sports Field Complex currently under construction for the 2013-2014 school year.

400 participants in the BLMS Science Fair and an overall 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner at the Sea Island Science Fair.

