

Bluffton Middle School
School Improvement Council

Report to the Parents

April, 2016



*A Tradition of Cherishing and
Challenging Every Student*

Ms. Pat Freda, Principal
Dr. Beth Bournias, Assistant Principal
Ms. Francina Dantzler, Assistant Principal
Mr. Steven Schidrich, Assistant Principal

Bluffton Middle School
30 New Mustang Drive
Bluffton, SC 29910
843-707-0700 (phone)
843-707-8117 (fax)

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

Beaufort County School District

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



Bluffton Middle School Vision and Mission Statement

VISION STATEMENT

We envision the Bluffton Middle School community working together to challenge every student to perform at an internationally competitive level in a learning environment that is safe, nurturing, and engaging.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE BELIEFS

The vision and mission 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 researched-based effective practices and rigorous programs.
3. Through high expectations, develop in each student the ability to think, be responsible, respectful, and honest in order to positively impact academic achievement.
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 promotes 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: Purpose and Direction: Bluffton Middle School maintains and communicates a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commits to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

GOAL 2: Governance and Leadership: Bluffton Middle School operates under governance and leadership that promotes and supports student performance and system effectiveness.

GOAL 3: Teaching and Assessing for Student Learning: Bluffton Middle School's curriculum, instructional design and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

GOAL 4: Resources and Support Systems: Bluffton Middle School has resources and provides services that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

GOAL 5: Documenting & Using Results for Continuous Improvement: Bluffton Middle School implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

THE MUSTANG PATH

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 in 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.



2016 DICK AND TUNKY RILEY AWARD FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL EXCELLENCE - HONORABLE MENTION

Bluffton Middle School was recognized on the 2016 SIC Honor Roll as a semi-finalist for the Dick and Tunky Riley Award. This award was created by the SC-SIC Board of Trustees in honor of former SC Governor and US Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and his wife, Tunky, in 2002. The annual award recognizes School Improvement Councils for outstanding achievement and civic engagement on behalf of their school. The finalists were selected from a group of 10 local SIC's which were named to this year's SIC Honor Roll in January.

Building Enrollment & Capacity					
Capacity		15-16 Enrollment		% Capacity Usage	
1035		932		90%	
2015-2016 Demographics					
% White	% Hispanic or Latino	% Black or African American	% Asian	% Other	% Subsidized Meals
43.5%	39%	12.3%	1.1%	3.8%	54.8%

REPORT CARD RATING

Bluffton Middle School's 2015 ESEA accountability rating was a grade of B indicating performance exceeds the state's expectations. Our School Report Card reflected an absolute rating of Good with a growth rating of Average.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA

Students scored above district and state averages in 6th grade Social Studies and Science PASS and above the district level in 7th grade Social Studies and Science. Students scored at or above the district and state averages in Math, English and 7th grade Writing on the ACT aspire and above the district in Reading.

ACT aspire – Writing Performance			
% Exceeding and Ready			
2014-2015	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	36.1%	39.0%	37.4%
Grade 7	28.1%	26.7%	32.1%
ACT aspire – Reading Performance			
% Exceeding and Ready			
2014-2015	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	36.9%	33.9%	36.6%
Grade 7	36.9%	33.0%	33.9%
ACT aspire - English Performance			
% Exceeding and Ready			
2014-2015	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	66.3%	65.8%	70.2%
Grade 7	70.2%	64.6%	70.2%
ACT aspire – Mathematics Performance			
% Exceeding and Ready			
2014-2015	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	53.2%	58.6%	66.3%
Grade 7	36.4%	37.4%	43.7%
PASS – Science Performance			
% Met and Above			
2014-2015	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	63.6%	61.5%	70.0%
Grade 7	68.2%	65.6%	66.3%
PASS – Social Studies Performance			
% Met and Above			
2014-2015	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	77.5%	76.4%	78.1%
Grade 7	67.9%	63.8%	64.6%

For more information, please visit our website at <http://blm.beaufort.k12.sc.us>
or contact our main office at 843-707-0700.

SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

119 Duke Tip Student Candidates	National Geographic Bee
Active Athletic Booster Club	National Junior Honor Society
Advanced Studies Program	National Run at School Day
After School Tutoring Program	Naviance
Anime/Pokemon Club	Neighborhood Outreach Center
Art Club	Organizational Support Groups
6 th and 7 th Grade Awards Ceremonies	Open House
Back Pack Buddies Fundraiser	Outdoor Nature Trail "Mustang PATH"
Black History Month Trivia Competition	PATH time - RTI
Brennen Elementary School Flood Relief	PBIS Incentive Days
Business Club	Peer Tutoring
Career Day	Pizza with the Principal
Chess Club	PTO Cookie Dough Fundraiser and Craft Fair
Chinese New Year Celebration	"Purple Up Day" - Month of the Military Child
Choice School Fair	Read 180
Dell Device 1 to 1 Student Initiative	Read Across America Day
Dance Team	Rising 6 th Grade Transition Orientation
District Student of the Month	River of Words
Drama Club Production	Robotics Club
ESOL Parent Nights	Robotics (First Lego League) Regional and State Competition
Evening of the Arts	School Store
Family Challenge	School Volunteers
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Scholastic Book Fair
Fundraising Drives/Donations for March of Dimes and Palmetto Animal League	"Stang" Student Council
Student Health Screening	Science Fair
Heroes on Horseback	Special Olympics
Honors Choir	Spirit Days
Hour of Code	Summer Reading Program
Intramurals	Summer School
Live Morning News Show	String & Band Performances
Math Assist	Student Dances
Mentor Program	System 44
Moby Max	Thanksgiving Luncheon
Mustang of the Month	Veterans Day Assembly
Mustang Camp	Vex Team
Mustang Messenger Newsletter	Yearbook
Mustangs Run the Nation	

2015-2016 MUSTANG HIGHLIGHTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLMS students meeting criteria submitted applications for the Bluffton Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 12.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 1 Dell Device implementation for all students and teachers. Teachers and students continue to use devices as a tool to enhance learning in the classroom.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 Bluffton Middle School band students scored Superior with Distinction at the Beaufort County Concert Performance Assessment. BLMS Band participants received a Superior Rating at the Orlando Music Festival and a Superior Rating at the State Performance Assessment. One BLMS student participated in the Region 4 Honor Band
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iRobots, FIRST LEGO League competition team competed at the SC FIRST LEGO League Championship in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Geographic Bee contestant qualified to compete at the state level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex VEX kids competed at the SC VEX State Championship in Lexington, South Carolina.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Duke Tip Finalists – 4 received State Recognition – 1 Grand Recognition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th and 7th grade P.E. classes enjoyed lessons and activities on the new BLMS Sports Field Complex during this school year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 400 students participated in the BLMS Science Fair. 4 Bluffton Middle School students advanced and placed at the Sea Island Regional Science Fair receiving two 2nd place awards, 1 3rd place award and 1 Honorable Mention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLMS Mustang Leadership League participated in fundraising for the Brennen Elementary Flood Relief. The BLMS Student Council sponsored service projects raising funds for the March of Dimes and Palmetto Animal League.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 students contributed art and poetry in the district 2015 “River of Words” publication.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle School Intramural Soccer Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC Academy of Science MESAS Statewide Competition – Certificate of Merit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 103 BLMS students participated in sports teams at H.E. McCracken Middle School and BLHS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips to the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Coastal Discovery Museum, Port Royal Sound, Koger Center for the Arts, Trustees Theatre in Savannah, Boeing Plant in Charleston, SC, University of South Carolina College and Super Internacional Mercado.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th grade participation in the Youtube Incentive Video Production.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLMS Chorus and Orchestra performed at the South Carolina Music Educators Association receiving a Performance Award.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLMS Chorus and Orchestra both participated in Beaufort All County events.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s History Month Celebration – BLMS Ladies Tea

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 2015-2016 members are as follows:

Pat Freda	Principal	843-707-0776	pat.freda@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Stephanie Sutay	Chairperson	843-384-3723	sutays@gmail.com
Steven Jeffcoat	Vice Chairperson	843-540-5721	swjbuid4u@aol.com
Kathy Toney	Secretary	843-815-6500	kathytony82@yahoo.com
Donna Floyd	Teacher	843-707-0722	donna.floyd@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Deborah Birkett	Teacher	843-707-0768	deborah.birkett@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Claudia King	Parent	843-707-0704	Claudia.king@beaufort.k12.sc.u
Orchid Paulmeier	Parent	843-816-6363	opaulmeier@hotmail.com
Nancy Klink	Community Member	843-681-8366	reknmk@hargray.com
Dr. Beth Bournias	Assistant Principal	843-707-0774	beth.bournias@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Steven Schidrich	Assistant Principal	843-707-0988	steven.schidrich@beaufort.k12.sc.
Francina Dantzler	Assistant Principal	843-707-0758	francina.dantzler@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Sue Campion	Community Member	843-263-6829	brasuk@hargray.com
Jonathan Rivera	Community Member	843-715-6754	mund2wireless@gmail.com

Generally, our SIC needs to annually elect two parents to serve a two-year term. Elections for 2016-2017 SIC members will be in the fall of 2016.

**Congratulations
Bluffton Middle School Mustangs
for a great 6th year!**