

Bluffton Middle School
School Improvement Council

Report to the Parents

April, 2015



*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, tech 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 commit 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 promote and support 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

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.



Building Enrollment & Capacity					
Capacity		14-15 Enrollment		%Capacity Usage	
1035		1040		99.5%	
2014-2015 Demographics					
% White	% Hispanic or Latino	% Black or African American	% Asian	% Other	% Subsidized Meals
48.7%	32.9%	14.6%	.9%	2.5%	48.6%

REPORT CARD RATING

Bluffton Middle School's 2014 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 at or above district and state averages in Writing, English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies at both grade levels.

PASS – Writing Performance			
% Met and Above			
2013-2014	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	74.3%	74.6%	80.8%
Grade 7	73.7%	73.4%	83.2%
PASS – English Language Arts Performance			
% Met and Above			
2013-2014	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	69.3%	64.9%	71.2%
Grade 7	68.1%	67.1%	73.9%
PASS – Mathematics Performance			
% Met and Above			
2013-2014	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	67.7%	74.1%	80.2%
Grade 7	69.1%	68.7%	70.6%
PASS – Science Performance			
% Met and Above			
2013-2014	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	65.7%	60.4%	65.8%
Grade 7	73.5%	72.4%	79.2%
PASS – Social Studies Performance			
% Met and Above			
2013-2014	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	79.3%	79.9%	80.1%
Grade 7	67.4%	67.4%	74.6%

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

125 Duke Tip Student Candidates
Advanced Studies Program
After School Interscholastic Sports & Clubs
After School Tutoring Program
Art Club
Active PTO and SIC
All County Orchestra participants
6th and 7th Grade Awards Ceremonies
Black History Month Trivia Competition
Career Day
Chess Club
Choice School Fair
Compass Learning
Dell Device 1 to 1 Student Initiative
Dr. Seuss Day
Drama Club
ESOL Parent Nights
Evening of the Arts
Family Challenge
Field Trips
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Fundraising Drives/Donations for Service
Projects
Grandparents Day
Health Fair and Screening
Honors Choir
Informational Parent Meetings
Intramurals
Ladies and Gentlemen's Club Induction
Live Morning News shows
Math Assist
Mentor Program
Moby Max
Purple Up Military Day
Mustang of the Month

Mustang Camp
National Geographic Bee
National Junior Honor Society Induction
Naturalist Club
Organizational Support Groups
Open House
Outdoor Nature Trail "Mustang PATH"
PATH time
PBIS Incentive Days
Peer Tutoring
Pi Night
Pizza with the Principal
PTO Cookie Dough Fundraiser
Rain Garden Water Shed Model
Read 180
Rising 6th Grade Transition Events
River of Words
Robotics (First Lego League)
School Volunteers
Scholastic Book Fair
"Stang" Student Council
Science Fair
Spirit Days
S.T.E.A.M. Night
String & Band Performances
Student Dances
Student Store
System 44
Thanksgiving Luncheon
Vex Team
Virtual Summer School
World Math Day
Yearbook

2014-2015 MUSTANG HIGHLIGHTS

102 new National Junior Honor Society members were inducted into the BLMS Chapter of the NJHS.

1 to 1 Dell Device implementation was initiated in August 2014. Teachers and students continue to use devices as a tool to enhance learning in the classroom.

BLMS Chorus students participated in the BCSD Honor Choir

25 BLMS students recognized at All County Band competition. Two students made All Region Band. BLMS Band received a superior rating with distinction at the Beauty County Concert Performance assessment. BLMS band participated in the South Carolina State Completion in Charleston and the Carowinds Festival of Music.

Robotics team competed at the State Competition in Charleston. Their mentor coach received recognition for her efforts. The Vex team advanced and competed at the State Level in Columbia, South Carolina

BLMS is a Palmetto Silver Award Winning School for 2014-2015 and was recognized for closing the achievement gap.

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

The continued coordination of the Outdoor Classroom enhanced and improved the BLMS curriculum and campus.

10 Duke Tip Finalists – 10 received State Recognition

6th and 7th Grade P.E. classes enjoyed lessons and activities on the new BLMS Sports Field Complex during this school year.

500 participants in the BLMS Science Fair and a first place and second place winner at the Regional Sea Island Science Fair in Physics & Engineering and two 3rd place winners in Zoology and Chemistry.

BLMS Student Council participated in a fundraising hygiene drive with the proceeds donated to Bluffton Self-Help. The student council sponsored local families during the holiday season.

31 students contributed art and poetry in the district 2015 "River of Words" publication

105 BLMS students participated in sports teams at HEMMS and BLHS

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 2014-2015 members are as follows:

Pat Freda	Principal	843-707-0776	pat.freda@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Stephanie Sutay	Chairperson	843-384-3723	sutay@gmail.com
Sue Champion	Vice Chairperson	843-263-6829	brasuk@hargray.com
Dana Zendzian	Secretary	843-540-9177	dwz@dmzs.com
Susan Hannegan	Teacher	843-707-0716	susan.hannegan@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Deborah Birkett	Teacher	843-707-0768	deborah.birkett@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Kristen Sulak	Parent	843-368-6715	kidzplay@hargray.com
Steven Jeffcoat	Parent	843-540-5721	swibuild4u@aol.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.us
Francina Dantzler	Assistant Principal	843-707-0758	francina.dantzler@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Sharon Brown	Community Member	843-707-0716	sharon.brown@beaufort.k12.sc.us
David Johnson	Community Member	843-263-5928	windtreedave@hargray.com

Generally, our SIC needs to annually elect two parents to serve a two-year term. Elections for 2014-2015 SIC members will be May 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School Media Center.

**Congratulations
Bluffton Middle School Mustangs
for a great 5th year!**