

Bluffton Middle School
School Improvement Council

Report to the Parents

April, 2014



*A Tradition of Cherishing and
Challenging Every Student*

Ms. Pat Freda, Principal
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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: We will maintain and communicate a purpose and direction that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

Goal 2: We will provide governance and leadership that promote student performance and school/system effectiveness.

Goal 3: We will provide evidence-based curriculum and instructional methods that foster achievement for all students.

Goal 4: We will provide the human, financial, and physical resources and services necessary to support our purpose and direction to foster achievement for all students.

Goal 5: We will provide a comprehensive assessment system that monitors and documents performance and uses these results to improve student performance and school and district effectiveness.

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		13-14 Enrollment		%Capacity Usage	
1035		1096		106%	
2013-2014 Demographics					
% White	% Hispanic or Latino	% Black or African American	% Asian	% Other	% Subsidized Meals
49.3%	31.8%	14.7%	.8%	3.4%	50%

REPORT CARD RATING

Bluffton Middle School's 2013 Absolute Index was 3.24, with a School Report Card Rating of Good. Our 2013 Growth Index was 101.38, with a School Report Card Rating of Average.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA

Students scored at or above district and state averages in Writing, English Language Arts, Math and Social Studies at both grade levels.

PASS – Writing Performance %Met and Above			
2012-2013	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	74.7%	76%	83.5%
Grade 7	76.5%	74.9%	80.4%

PASS – English Language Arts Performance %Met and Above			
2012-2013	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	74.4%	75%	80.0%
Grade 7	73.2%	71.6%	73.2%

PASS – Mathematics Performance %Met and Above			
2012-2013	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	71.3%	74.1%	80.2%
Grade 7	68.3%	68.7%	70.6%

PASS – Science Performance %Met and Above			
2012-2013	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	68.4%	65.5%	74.3%
Grade 7	75.5%	70.2%	74.3%

PASS – Social Studies Performance %Met and Above			
2012-2013	State	District	BLMS
Grade 6	78%	79.1%	83.1%
Grade 7	68.3%	65.2%	69.3%

SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

148 Duke Tip student candidates
911 Memorial Tribute
Advanced Studies Program
After school, interscholastic sports & clubs
After school tutoring program
Art Club
Active PTO and SIC
All County Orchestra participants
Awards Ceremonies
Black History Trivia Competition
Career Day
Chess Club
Compass Learning
Daytime Tutoring Program

Drama Club
ESOL Parent Nights
Evening of the Arts
Field Trips
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Fundraising drives/donation to service projects
Health Fair and Screening
Informational Parent meetings
Intramurals
Juvenile Diabetes Awareness Fundraiser
Ladies and Gentlemen's Club Induction
Live Morning News shows
MLK Day celebration participation
Math/Science/Technology Night
Mustang of the Month

Mustang Registration Day
National Geographic Bee
National Junior Honor Society Induction
Open House
Outdoor Nature Trail "Mustang PATH"
PATH time
PBIS Incentive Days
Peer Tutoring
Pennies for Patients
Pi Day
Planetarium
PTO Cookie Dough Fundraiser
Race for Ellie
Rain Garden Water Shed Model
Read 180
Rising 6th grade events
River of Words
Robotics
School Volunteers
Scholastic Book Fair
"Stang" Student Council
Science Fair
Spirit Days
String & Band Performances
Student Dances
Student Store
System 44
Tail Waggin' Tutors
World Math Day
Yearbook

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 2013-2014 members are as follows:

Pat Freda	Principal	843-707-0776	Pat.freda@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Gina Dunn	Chairperson	843-368-0004	gmd@hargray.com
Sue Champion	Vice Chairperson	843-263-6829	brasuk@hargray.com
Evva Anderson	Parent	843-683-0680	evvaanderson@hargray.com
Sherri Shropshire	Secretary	843-815-2283	shropshirefam@gmail.com
Nancy Klink	Teacher	843-707-0700	nancy.klink@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Henry Woloszyk	Community Member	843-247-7386	hwoloszyk@gmail.com
Sharon Brown	Community Member	843-706-8803	sharon.brown@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Emily Bierman	Parent	843-290-0457	emabiergal@aol.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
Carlos Chacon	Parent	843-290-0804	cchacon@coastaldiscovery.org
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 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School Media Center.

**Congratulations
Bluffton Middle School Mustangs
for a great 4th year!**

2013-2014 MUSTANG HIGHLIGHTS

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

1 to 1 iPad implementation was initiated in August 2013. Teachers and students continue to use iPads as a tool to enhance learning in the classroom.

Band awards at All-County Competition, Carowinds Music Festival, and Atlanta Star Music Festival.

Robotics team competed at the Regional Competition in Charleston and received honorable mention recognition.

BLMS is a Palmetto Silver Award Winning School for 2013-2014 and was recognized for closing the achievement gap.

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

The completion of an Outdoor Classroom enhanced and improved the BLMS campus.

11 Duke Tip Finalists – 10 received State Recognition, 1 received Grand Recognition

BLMS Sports Field Complex was completed this year and will open for the 2014-2015 school year.

375 participants in the BLMS Science Fair and a first place winner at the Regional Sea Island Science Fair.

BLMS Student Council participated in “Pennies for Patients”, “Race for Ellie”, “Laps for Leo”, and Diabetes Awareness for community service fundraisers.

11 students contributed art and poem entries in the district 2014 “River of Words” publication

150 BLMS students participated in sports teams at HEMMS and BLHS