

Bluffton Middle School
School Improvement Council
Report to the Parents
April, 2011



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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.

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:

Res**P**onsibility

Academic Excellence

Respec**T**

Honesty

Our Pledge Against Bullying

As a school bonded together we work toward a better place for everyone:

I pledge to help end bullying everywhere. I pledge to ask for help if I am ever faced with a situation where I feel bullied or taken advantage of. 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.

On March 31, 2011 Governor Nikki Haley joined us by signing our pledge against bullying.



Student PASS data

Although BLMS students have not taken PASS as a collective body, subgroup comparisons based on performance at previous schools were used to determine students' test performance for African American, Hispanic, Disabled, Free/Reduced Lunch, and Limited English Proficient are shown in the next table. The table shows the percentage of students scoring at the met or above level on the 2010 PASS test.

	Number of Students	Writing	ELA	Math	Science	Social St.
African American	161	68.8%	71.1%	64.1%	44.3%	61.4%
Hispanic	230	61.3%	69.6%	66.5%	50.0%	67.8%
White	442	86.8%	88.0%	88.5%	79.7%	84.0%
Disabled	82	28.9%	45.3%	34.7%	30.4%	54.8%
Free/Red.	387	67.4%	74.2%	70.2%	52.5%	62.4%
Pay	484	83.4%	83.8%	82.1%	73.5%	86.4%
LEP Levels 1-5	172	49.4%	62.4%	56.4%	39.3%	58.0%
Levels 6-9	698	83.3%	84.0%	82.2%	70.4%	80.1%

*Percentages shown are BLMS 6th and 7th grade students scoring at the met and above levels on 2010 PASS test.

Based on these data, the LEP (1-5) subgroup has been selected for specific attention to closing the achievement gap as outlined under Goal 1.

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.

MAP Data

	6 th grade			7 th grade		
	Math					
	BLMS	BCSD	USA Norm	BLMS	BCSD	USA Norm
Fall 2010	222.6	220.4	218.3	229.1	226.9	224.1
Winter 2011	226.2	223.9	221.4	231.8	229.4	226.4
Spring 2011	229.2	Testing not completed at time of report	223.8	235.4	Testing not completed at time of report	228.3
	Reading					
	BLMS	BCSD	USA Norm	BLMS	BCSD	USA Norm
Fall 2010	212.5	211.9	211.6	215.9	215.4	215.4
Winter 2011	215.4	214.0	213.8	219.0	217.8	217.3
Spring 2011	218.1	Testing not completed at time of report	214.8	221.6	Testing not completed at time of report	217.9

As evidenced by our MAP data, our students are performing better than their peers nationally and across our district. In addition, our students are showing excellent growth. For example, nationally 7th graders improve an average of 2.5 points in reading, whereas BLMS 7th graders have improved 5.7 points in reading.

School Sponsored Student Activities and Opportunities

- 6th grade dance
- 7th grade dance
- ACES Program
- After school basketball program
- Artist in Residence Grant
- 95 Duke Tip students
- Active PTO
- All County Orchestra participants
- Arts Reach Grant
- Awards Ceremony
- Beach & Museum field trips
- Bingo and BBQ
- Bluffton Christmas Parade Participant
- Brick fundraiser
- Canned food drive
- Charleston Aquarium field trip
- Chess Club
- Christmas Service projects (Carolina House, Community First, Family Promise)
- Coat Drive
- Coffee Mornings
- Coin Drive
- Drama Club
- Drama Production of "Beauty and the Beast"
- ESOL Parent Night
- Extreme Home Makeover donation
- Geography Bee
- Greek Day
- GT Program
- Health Screening
- Honor roll lunch at Giuseppi's Pizza
- Horseshoe Crab Project
- Informational Parent meetings
- Incentive Days
- Interscholastic sports
- Kids in Kayaks
- Library Appreciation Week
- Main Entrance reconstruction
- Make a Wish Foundation donation
- MAP/PASS Informational Parent meeting

- Medieval Day
- Multi-Cultural Club
- Mustang of the Month
- Night of the Arts
- Open House
- Outside Physical Activities
- Parent – Teacher conferences
- Parent Visitation Day
- PATH time
- Pi Day celebration
- Poetic Power
- Red Ribbon Week
- Relay for Life
- Rising 6th grade events
- River of Words
- Robotics Club
- School Volunteers
- Shoe Drive
- Soccer Club
- Softball
- SOUL Food Lunch – Black History Month
- South Carolina Governor visit
- Spelling Bee
- Spirit Week
- “Stang” Student Council
- State level participant in National Geographic Bee
- Stepper Dance Club
- String Performance
- Student Store
- Talent Show
- Thanksgiving Lunch
- Tuesdays - Eat out for Bluffton Middle
- Veteran’s Day celebration
- World Math Day
- Yearbook Club

The beginnings of a wonderful tradition are being built!

Congratulations Mustangs on a great 1st 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 2010-2011 members are as follows:

Dr. Dereck Rhoads	Principal	843-707-0700	Dereck.rhoads@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Loretta Kefford	Chairperson, Parent	843-757-0855	lfkefford@hotmail.com
Brandi Lowe	Parent	843-290-2666	schawk@hargray.com
BJ Silver	Secretary, Teacher	843-707-0700	Barbara.silver@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Lenora Grayson	Parent	843-684-9230	Gbon34@aol.com
Joshua Appel	Teacher	843-707-0711	Joshua.appel@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Denise Cherry	Teacher	843-707-7022	Denise.cherry@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Timothy Mischik	Community Member	843-757-1316	timmischik@hotmail.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
Marcia Ramsdell	Counselor, Ex-officio	843-707-0759	Marcia.ramsdell@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 2011-2013 SIC members will be May 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School Media Center.