

School Achievements

- We were awarded the **Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Grant**, which provides leadership to achieve quality, comprehensive arts education (dance, music, media arts, theatre, visual arts, and creative writing) for all students in South Carolina. Our award annual amount is \$11,871.
- We were awarded the **Distinguished Arts Program (DAP) Grant**, which assists schools and districts in developing and implementing arts initiatives that support quality arts education programs. Our annual award amount is \$18,000.
- Five PSM students were selected for Berkeley County School District's All-County Honor Band and four students were designated as Junior Scholars.

Philip Simmons Middle School SIC Members

Chair Person: Anne-Magill Payne, *Parent*

Vice Chair Person: Christian Petit, *Parent*

Secretary: Amanda Gabriel, *Parent*

Charla Groves, *Principal*

Chris Thurman, *Assistant Principal*

Flashette Johnson, *Instructional Coach*

Julie Creel, *Teacher of the Year*

Amanda Gemmell, *Teacher*

Suzette Coors, *Teacher*

Donna Fortenberry, *Community*



Purpose of the Report:

“This report is issued by the Philip Simmons Middle School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school’s progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.”

Philip Simmons Middle School

Annual
School Improvement Council
Report to Parents
2020—2021



Vision:
Create a future we dare to
imagine and make a positive
difference.

CHARLA GROVES, PRINCIPAL
CHRISTOPHER THURMAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

<http://www.bcstdschools.net/psm>

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What's going on at PSM?

Philip Simmons Middle School continues our pursuit of excellence in education through STEAM instructional practices. Students participate in grade-level STEAM projects to address real-world problems in area/community. The Covid-19 pandemic caused us to make many changes to our daily operations in order to keep students and staff healthy and safe. Many students elected to remain at home for a large portion of the school year to participate in virtual learning. Problem-solving became a real-world, daily occurrence for students and teachers alike. Despite the challenges of the year, our students continued to pursue their passions and academic achievement. We received the distinction of becoming a Special Olympics Unified School, and our special services teacher received a grant from Special Olympics South Carolina to fund a unified classroom and a tandem bicycle.



The Arts, Clubs and Awards

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our school clubs and teams were unable to meet and compete as we have in

past school years. PSM had Junior Beta Club, Student Council, Yearbook, girls and boys basketball teams, and girls volleyball team. Our Iron Horse Band held an outdoor spring concert featuring both traditional and contemporary musical selections. Eighth grade students enrolled in Art I designed and painted 3 new murals located in various areas of the school.

Awards: PSM inducted 15 new members in the National Junior Beta Club, and 4 students identified as Junior Scholars. Our 6th grade recreational volleyball team won their division, and our Trident League Junior Girls' basketball team won their division as well.



Teachers of the Year

PSM Teachers

56.5% of PSM teachers have advanced degrees and 100% of our teachers have received professional development in STEAM. We proudly celebrated our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Julie Creel, and our Rookie Teacher of the Year, Killeen Schmitz.

School Goals

- Promote teacher and student collaboration to set measurable short term goals aimed at growing students' behaviors and achievement.
- Support teachers in providing targeted, effective in-class interventions.
- Promote teacher and parent collaboration, as well as collaborating with the community.
- Increase the involvement of strategic partnerships in developing a sustainable positive school climate.

PSM Mission Statement:

To create, implement, and publish units that utilize STEAM processes that ignite and excite students to develop creativity, collaboration, and community in solving real-world problems.



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