



2024-25

School Improvement Council Report to the Parents

Beechwood Middle School

**1340 Highway 378
Lexington, SC 29072
803.821.5700**

<https://www.lexington1.net/BMS>



Commitments to Our Students

Beechwood Middle School (BMS) is committed to fulfilling our district's mission to guide all students to learn, grow, and excel. We believe that relationships are at the core of student success as we work together in preparing all students for the post-secondary opportunities they desire by providing a rigorous, inquiry-based, holistic, and globally-minded course of study that is enhanced by serving others. This is the essence of our motto, "Lead locally. Serve globally."



Lead Locally

Academic Achievements

- 21 South Carolina Junior Scholars
- 117 rising 7th grade students were inducted into the Junior Beta Club for the 2024-25 school year
- 10 Bengals earned a perfect score on the 2024 SC Ready end-of-year assessment
- 100% of 8th-grade students were enrolled in a high school credit-bearing course
- One student won the Granby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest
- More than 190 students qualified for the South Carolina Fireflies Reading Program

- The percentage of students who met their typical growth target in iReady Reading increased from 66.4% to 69.9% for the 2024-25 school year; the percentage of students who met their stretch growth target in iReady Reading increased from 30.8% to 33.8% in the 2024-25 school year
- The percentage of students who met their typical growth target in iReady Math increased from 59.4% to 62.7% for the 2024-25 school year; the percentage of students who met their stretch growth target in iReady Math increased from 23.4% to 24.6% in the 2024-25 school year

Arts Achievements

Dance

- Dance team earned first place in the Capital City and Wildcat Classic for the “Game Day” category

Orchestra

- Two students were selected to participate in the 2024 Midlands Region Orchestra
- One student was selected for SC All-State Orchestra, Percussion, earning a principal chair
- Orchestra earned Superior at Concert Performance Assessment (CPA)
- Seventeen students selected for district Honors Orchestra
- One student was selected for South Carolina All State Orchestra
- Three students participated in the SC Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
- Two students and one alternate were selected for Midlands Region 3 Orchestra
- Seven students selected for Tri-DAC

Band

- Nineteen students earned chairs in District Honor Band and 14 students earned chairs in the Region Two Honor Band
- Band earned Superior with Distinction at CPA
- Two students were selected for the SC All-State Band, both earning principal chair
- BMS Band earned straight Superior rating at the Charleston Music Festival
- One student received the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Middle School Musician Award
- Band won the SCBDA Outstanding Performance Award for the fourth consecutive year

Chorus

- Two students were accepted into the South Carolina ACDA Honor Choir
- Fourteen students were accepted into the Lexington One District Honor Choir
- Seven students were selected for the District Honor Choir
- Two students were selected for SC ACDA Honor Choir

Musical Theater

- Musical Theater students performed “Singin’ in the Rain” with more than 100 Bengals in the cast

Athletic Achievements

- BMS Special Olympians competed in four games and won 1st place in Basketball, Bocce, Corn Hole, and the 4 x 100 Relay
- Cheerleading earned second place in the Debbie Rogers Cheer Classic competition
- More than 60 Bengals participated in Run Hard
- Girls Track earned first place in the LexTen Track Championship, boys track earned 2nd place

- Six track athletes earned new school records in Track & Field
- Girls basketball team earned North Division Championship and the LexTen conference Championship
- Three girls basketball players were named “All Conference” players and three boys basketball players were named “All Conference”
- Four BMS archers qualified for the state archery competition and one archer earned a bronze medal at the Swamp Shootout
- 7th grade BMS Volleyball was first in the region and 8th grade BMS Volleyball second in the region
- Three volleyball players were named “All Conference” players
- Four football players were named “All Conference” players

Post-Secondary Awareness and Preparation

- 100% of 8th-grade students completed their Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) with a school counselor and a parent/guardian.
- 25 students attended the Midlands Education Business Alliance (MEBA) field trip to learn about career opportunities.

Teacher Recognitions and Special Accomplishments

- Jessica Oberly, Spanish teacher, was awarded the Best of the South Carolina Fellowship of Language Teachers & Advocates 2025 for her presentation with a colleague at the conference
- Anne’ Peterson, 6th grade Social Studies teacher, was accepted as a member of the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust Teacher Fellowship program
- Angie Kruger, World Geography teacher, presented at the inaugural Farm-to-School Summit
- Angie Kruger, World Geography teacher, and Leah Sarantopoulos, principal, were recognized as “Upstanders” by the Charleston Jewish Federation
- Gina Rawl, STEM teacher, earned her National Board Certificate of Teaching (NBCT) and Jennifer Garrick, US History teacher, renewed her NBCT
- April Beale, 6th grade science teacher, presented at the University of South Carolina 2025 Inquiry Matters conference

School, Student Organization, Teacher Grants, and Awards

- The BMS Robotics Team, BengalBots, earned 2nd place and were awarded for creativity and innovation in a regional tournament
- Green Steps Certified School (Conserving and Protecting)
- America’s Healthiest School 2024 award recipient
- Six PTO Grant winners
- Project Citizen’s garden, “Beechwood’s Bounty,” was named one of USDA’s Peoples Gardens
- Grant earned from the Lexington County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Grant earned from the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust for a 6th grade classroom library
- Grant earned from “Pets in the Classroom” for a gecko in a 6th grade science classroom
- Two teacher participated in the Lexington One Learning Designer cohort



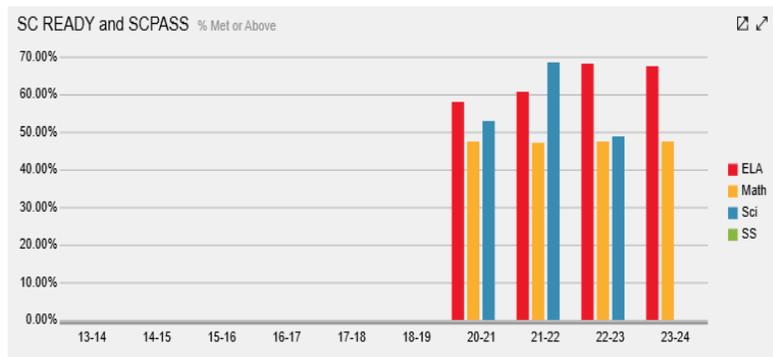
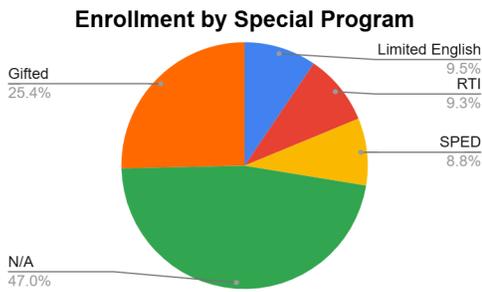
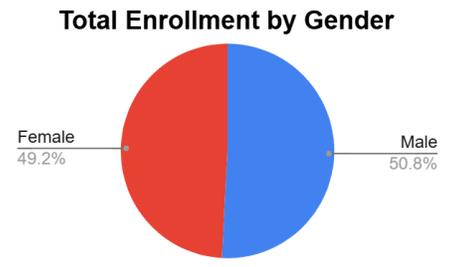
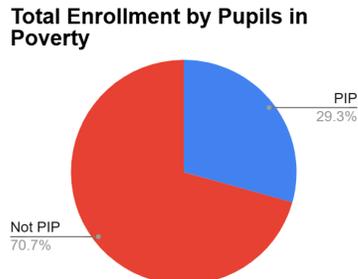
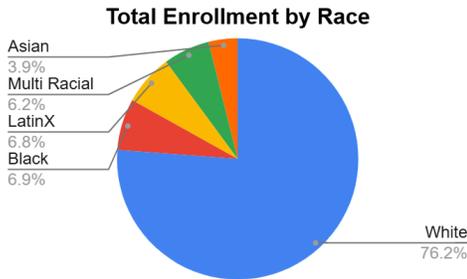
Serve Globally

Community Service and Advocacy Highlights

- Beechwood Middle School donated more than \$16,000, more than 900 books, more than 100 games, and countless writing journals to Cane Creek Middle School to support their recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene
- Donated more than \$700 to Linking Lexington to support cancer research and awareness
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) completed a food drive to support families in need at Thanksgiving
- Cheer Club partnered with Leeza's Care to provide more than 100 essential items to support families and caregivers
- Project Citizen partnered with Home Instead to support their "Be a Santa to a Senior" program
- Student Council donated requested items to Pawmetto Lifeline and Carolina Wildlife
- As part of our Read Across America celebration, BMS donated more than \$250 to "We are Creed" to support nationwide literacy
- Beechwood donated more than \$4,000 as a result of the Miss Beechwood Pageant to Sister Care, a non-profit that provides services and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence
- Hosted the first Holocaust Remembrance community event featuring a guest speaker and "Stars Without Heaven" panel display
- Hosted the first community Middle School Summit featuring Representative Paula Rawl Calhoon



School Statistics - Enrollment and Achievement



*Please note that Science was not scored in 2023-24

School Improvement Council (SIC) Annual Goals and Membership

BMS’s School Improvement Council is a family-school partnership that harnesses the energy created when parents and community members partner with their school to improve the education - and educational environment - provided by their school for ALL students.

2024-25 SIC Goal - Foster Positive School Culture

The SIC will recognize a student who exemplifies the Bengal Mission of “Lead locally, Serve Globally.” The committee revised the traditional award that was based on the school’s history as an International Baccalaureate school and amended the award to align with the school and district’s Profile of the Graduate. The award is bestowed upon an 8th-grade student and is based upon that student living out the characteristics of the Lexington One Profile of a Graduate and being an exemplar of the school’s mission/motto. This year, faculty and staff provided nominations based on specific criteria. At the time of this report, the SIC members will be meeting to review the submissions and select an award recipient who will be recognized at the BMS end-of-year awards event.

Purpose of the Report: This report is issued by the Beechwood 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.

2024-25 SIC Membership

We are grateful for the service and dedication of the following SIC members.

Rosalind Thompson, *Parent/Chairperson*

Margaret Asare, *Ex Officio, PTO President*

Leah Sarantopoulos, *Ex Officio, Principal*

Cortney Broadwell, *Parent*

Tamara Brown, *Parent*

Todd Morgan, *Parent*

Amber Conger, *Community Member*

Hope Derrick, *Community Member*

Jodi Gamell, *Community Member*

Sarah Jorgenson, *Community Member*

Clay Kemerer, *Teacher*

Sean Lafaye, *Teacher*

Casey Monette, *Teacher*