

# 2019-2020 School Improvement Council Report to Parents

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Beechwood Middle School (BMS) is committed to fulfilling the vision and mission of Lexington County School District One to empower each child to design the future and cultivate a caring community where ALL learners are extraordinary communicators, collaborators, creators, and critical thinkers.

## Commitments to Our Students



BMS opened its doors as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) candidate school with a focus on computer science essentials through our partnership with Code to the Future.

The rigorous, inquiry-based, global, and holistic course of study we provide students will prepare them for any of Lexington

District One's multiple college and career readiness pathways.

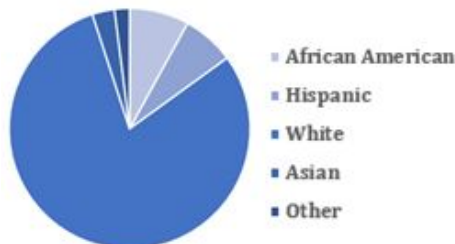
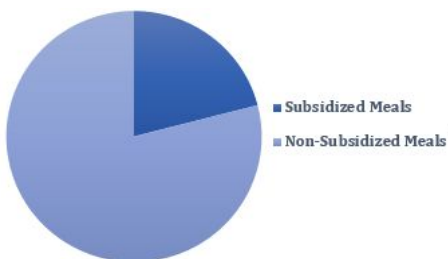
Through the IB's Approaches to Learning skills and Learner Profile traits and an experiential curriculum that includes exploratory course offerings in the areas of world language, design, arts, and physical education, BMS cultivates the real-world connection and application of skills to guarantee continuous relevant learning.

IB service learning enables Beechwood to function as a service-oriented center of learning, which builds strong family and community partnerships. Students are empowered to research significant local and global issues and take action, resulting in young people who are creative and reflective citizens.

We believe that relationships are at the core of student success. Consequently, students are provided with a teacher advocate to support them on their learning path and to design units of study that develop perseverance, critical thinking, and the ability to communicate and collaborate toward a common goal.

## School Statistics

Enrollment: 907 (Grades 6-8)





## SIC Annual Goals

**Increase student safety:** The SIC strategized with school administration to develop systems to improve traffic flow in the mornings and afternoons. This included implementing a zipper line, strategic signage, and clear communication to parents regarding traffic procedures. Additionally, the SIC engaged the South Carolina Attorney General's office and South Carolina

Occupational Information System (SCOIS) to plan an evening program for students, parents, and the community focused on cyber safety and the dangers of vaping. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, school was closed, and this event could not be held. The SIC will plan this event for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Foster empathy in our students:** SIC members began to study the book, *Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World*, led by our School Counseling Director. Due to COVID-19, in person meetings were suspended. Consequently, SIC will continue this book study in the 2020-2021 school year.

**Enhance school environment:** SIC members acquired and selected key pictures to print and display in the main entrance foyer detailing the construction of BMS. The main entrance display case now captures a special time in history for BMS as it depicts our facility construction from groundbreaking to the finished building. Additionally, the SIC began to research ideas that would allow our first class of 8th graders to leave its mark. Similarly, the SIC discussed plans to document the first classes of BMS 6th, 7th, and 8th graders by having a drone photograph taken of the students spelling out B-M-S on the football field. Again, COVID-19 required postponement of these plans.

## SIC 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.*



### Members

#### **Parents**

Joeli Mulligan, Chairperson  
Todd Garrick, Vice Chair  
Jamie Campbell, Secretary  
Gary Lane  
Yolanda Lewis  
Reese McCurdy  
Lee Stewart  
Allyson Straczek  
Ashley Streett  
Rosalind Thompson

#### **Teachers**

Jennifer Garrick-Teacher  
Lauren LaVenia-Teacher

#### **Community Members**

Gregg Jennings-Community Member  
John Stirewalt-Community Member

#### **Ex-officio**

Gloria Jenkinson, Principal  
Katrina Ritchie, PTO President



## Honors & Achievements

### Academics

- Fifteen South Carolina Junior Scholars
- Three Sertoma Club of Lexington Essay Winners
- Two Duke TiP State Recognition Recipients
- One Duke TiP Grand Recognition Recipient
- Three AMC8 Outstanding Achievement Recipients
- One hundred seventy-seven BMS Junior Beta Club Inductees

### Athletics

- Volleyball-Undeclared Season, Lex10 Conference Champions

### Arts

- Six students selected-Lexington District One Honor Band
- Eight students selected-SC Band Educators Association Region Band
- Fourteen students selected-Lexington District One Honors Orchestra
- One student selected-SC Music Educators Association (SCMEA) All State Orchestra
- Three students selected-SCMEA Region Orchestra
- Two Superior Ratings-SC American String Teachers Association Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival
- One Excellent Rating-SC American String Teachers Association Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival
- 8th Grade Orchestra Superior Rating-SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment
- Thirty-five students selected-Columbia Metropolitan Airport AirSafe 2019 Exercise
- Ten students selected-Tri-District Arts Consortium

## Community Service & Advocacy

### Service Projects through Clubs and Student Groups

In our first year, our students started a tradition of service through giving, participation, and outreach making a positive impact in many areas of our community.

- Anti-Vaping Presentation for Students
- Australia Bush Fire Relief Drive
- Coats for Kids Drive
- Happy Wheels Coin Drive
- Harvest Hope Food Bank Canned Food Drive
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Collection
- Linking Lexington Cancer of Many Colors
- Mission Lexington Pet Food Drive
- North Central High School Mobile Library Drive
- Pinkies for Polio
- Red Cross Blood Drives
- Special Olympics

### Research on Policy Change

Our Project Citizen students engaged in research, debate, and advocacy around the topics of school and district dress code and year-round school.

### BMS 2019 Design Expo

Our Design students engineered, innovated, coded, and showcased projects focused on solving real-world problems facing nature, using microprocessors to engineer their own inventions Shark Tank style, and designing games and assistive technology for their peers with special needs at BMS. With over 80% of our students and parents attending, participation was phenomenal.

