



H.E. MCCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

School Improvement Council 2020 - 2021

Purpose of this report: "This report is issued by the H.E. McCracken Middle School Improvement Council in accordance with the South Carolina Law to share information of the school's program in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC and other accomplishments during the school year.

Who we are: The School Improvement Council (SIC) is made up of parents, teachers, administrators and community members. Our main purpose is to work together with all of H.E. McCracken Middle School to create a positive learning environment and help our students be as successful as possible.

WHAT WE DO AS SIC:

- We meet monthly (currently via zoom) to hear from administrators and teachers and learn their accomplishments and challenges.
- We work with H.E. McCracken in the development of a 5-year School Improvement Plan.
- Each year, the SIC creates goals to support the 5-year plan or address any current school-wide issues (such as 2020-2021 is largely focused on the pandemic and how that affects learning).
- The SIC works together to find specific ways to meet these goals by incorporating staff, parents, and community members.

2020-2021 SIC GOALS:

GOAL 1: IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS & COMMUNITY

- One of the School Improvement Council's continuing goals is to improve communication with HEMMS parents and community supporters.
- Involving community members has been more difficult during the Covid year as volunteers are allowed in the school. However, our SIC has a standing community member on our council.
- During the 2020-2021 school year, the HEMMS SIC improved our communication by increasing the school's Facebook posts about our meetings and the school's accomplishments and community involvement. We also began emailing and texting HEMMS parents with reminders about the monthly meetings along with the zoom link inviting anyone interested to attend.
- HEMMS administrators also included information about the SIC and how parents can be involved during their weekly email updates.

GOAL 2: SCHOOL SAFETY

- Keeping our children safe is always a priority at H.E. McCracken Middle School. This year, safety has certainly been at the top of our list as staff and teachers continue to offer the highest level of education in a Covid environment. The SIC has supported the school in all of its Covid protocols and have been in constant communication with staff to see how we can all continue to support our students and parents during this social distancing reality.
- Besides the students' physical wellbeing, the SIC has also focused on the students' and parents' emotional health. We have added one of the school counselors as a contributing member of our SIC so she can speak to the specific social and emotional needs of HEMMS students.
- One idea that came from our meetings was helping the counselors write encouraging postcards to the students. The SIC is helping the school staff do "whatever it takes" to keep our students moving forward during this difficult year.
- One of the best ways the SIC merged our goals of communication and overall well being of our students, was our parent survey. The SIC sent a short survey to HEMMS parents asking input about the academic, social, and emotional needs of their children, and any concerns about the upcoming school year.
- From this survey, the HEMMS staff and teachers gained valuable insight about their students from a parent point-of-view. The survey also gave the SIC a list of several parents who were interested in getting involved with school.

MISSION

THE H.E. MCCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION IS TO BUILD ON THE ACADEMIC FOUNDATION OF DIVERSE LEARNERS AND ESTABLISH HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR CONTRIBUTING, INDEPENDENCE, AND COLLABORATIVE NEW MEMBERS OF AN EVER INCREASING TECHNOLOGICALLY DRIVEN SOCIETY.

VISION

THE H.E. MCCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION IS TO PROMOTE:

- HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL LEARNERS
- CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS
- AUTHENTIC REAL WORLD APPLICATIONS
- LITERACY
- THE STRENGTH OF OUR DIVERSITY

ARTS INFUSED

The HEMMS Art Mission is to provide authentic and complete education for diverse learning across all content areas through the universal language of the arts. This program helps students use their unique talents and skills to reach their artistic and technical goals through visual arts, drama, dance, music, and other forms of creative expression.

HEMMS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ms. Kristen Stevenson (math) named HEMMS Teacher of the Year 2020.
- 21 of our 8th Graders were recognized as Junior Scholars - highest in the district.
- We recognize a teacher and a staff member of the month every month.
- We reward and recognize students of the month, ensuring teachers have an opportunity to highlight an amazing student

INITIATIVES

- We have a school-wide free tutoring program.
- Continuing with the campus-wide beautification initiative aiming to create a learning space we can be proud to call home!
- Inventing new ways to recognize students and teachers during this Covid environment.