



PAUL KNOX MIDDLE SCHOOL

Patriot Path To High School Readiness



2024-2025

School Improvement Council Annual Report to the Parents

OUR MISSION

Paul Knox Middle School commits to the development of life-long learners by providing a safe and nurturing environment where educators implement rigorous instruction to ALL students who will acquire the skills to become productive citizens and contribute to society.

OUR VISION

Paul Knox Middle School will embrace each member of our community and develop their highest level of personal excellence through innovative practice and hands-on learning opportunities within a thematic school of science.

SIC MEMBERS

*Kristin Risher, Principal
E. Thonea Grant, SIC Chair
Jenifer Williams, SIC Chair Co-Chair
Carrie Albion, SIC Secretary
Jenna Faircloth, Teacher
Beth Hardy, Parent
Rebecca Dover, Teacher
Darrell Curry, Parent
David Buck, Community Member
Ashley Miller, Parent
Wendy Jacobs, Inst. Coach*

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT?

South Carolina Statute (Act 135 of 1993) requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute an annual Report to the Parents highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the school's strategic plan. The report is developed by the School Improvement Council to share the challenges and successes of the school, students, parents and teachers for the current school year.

SCHOOL REPORT CARD DATA FROM 2023-2024

The South Carolina College and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY) program is a statewide assessment in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science administered to students in grades 3–8 as required by the Education Accountability Act (EAA). Grades 6-8 take the ELA and Math assessments, while grade 6 also takes the Science assessment. Schools are also measured on their students' academic growth, MLL learner proficiency, and school climate.

School Report Card Data 23-24	Category
Academic Achievement	Rating: Good ELA-- 61% Meets or Exceeds Math-- 38.2% Meets or Exceeds
Preparing for Success	Not Rated 2024 Science 6-- 47.7% Meets or Exceeds
Student Progress	Rating: Average 43.4% of Total Progress Points earned
School Climate	Rating: Excellent 7.9 out 10 points earned
Multilingual Learners' Progress	Below Average MLL-- 38.1% made progress toward proficiency

SIC GOALS FOR 2024-2025

The Paul Knox Middle School School Improvement Council's focus for the 2024–2025 school year is to strengthen family and community engagement while continuing to support student transition and academic success. With the help of our dedicated SIC members, we are excited to expand opportunities for families to connect with our school community and take an active role in their child's education.

Key initiatives include:

- Enhancing our Rising 6th Grade Transition Camp to better support both students and families as they prepare for middle school.*
- Launching family-centered academic events such as Pi Night (focused on ATSI math goals), Fall Literacy Night, and our community-wide STEM Fest.*
- Expanding communication efforts with a refreshed and more informative Patriot Press newsletter to keep parents and community members better informed and engaged.*

We look forward to a year of partnership, collaboration, and shared success as we work together to build an inclusive and thriving school environment. Thank you to our SIC members for their vision and commitment to making Paul Knox a place where all families feel connected and empowered to support student achievement.



ACADEMIC AND SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS 24-25

Paul Knox Middle School continues to foster student success through Patriot Progress Monitoring, where students set goals and receive targeted interventions from teachers using CAI. To celebrate their achievements, we host Semester 1 and Semester 2 recognition events for students meeting all criteria. We also recognize Students of the Month for students who exhibit the traits of P.R.I.D.E (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, Excellence)

Beyond the classroom, our students thrive in a variety of clubs and organizations, including Beta Club, Student Leadership, and Buddy Club, which promote leadership, service, and community involvement. Our fine arts programs continue to shine—our orchestra earned a Superior with Distinction, the band received an Excellent rating with Superiors in Sightreading, and our chorus proudly represented Paul Knox at the Carowinds Festival while also earning numerous spots in the prestigious Aiken All-County Chorus.

Our active PTO continues to play a vital role in school life—hosting dances, providing meals for faculty and staff, and organizing popular events like Pizza Fridays. Their support helps build the strong, connected community that makes Paul Knox Middle School such a special place to learn and grow.

In athletics, our girls' basketball team capped off an undefeated season by winning the Middle School County Championship, and academically, our district-champion academic team will represent us on the national stage in Chicago this May. We are especially proud of our Special Olympics athletes, who represented Paul Knox with pride, sportsmanship, and determination throughout the year.

Throughout the school year, we have hosted many events that showcase our students' talents, leadership, and commitment to the community. Our Christmas program highlighted both student performances and the generosity of our school family. Our Black History program brought us together in reflection and celebration of unity and inclusion. We honored our veterans with a heartfelt ceremony and energized our students through numerous pep rallies that celebrated those who proudly wear the PK uniform.

We are proud to celebrate Paul Knox Middle School as one of the highest academic achievers in the district, tied for the top school report card rating among middle schools, and honored with an Excellent rating in the school climate category. Looking ahead, our faculty has actively engaged in the school renewal planning process to continue this momentum.

Next school year, our instructional focus will center on extended learning opportunities and elevating high-quality instruction in every classroom. With intentional plans for teacher collaboration, targeted academic support, and expanded ELA and Math instructional time, we are excited for what the future holds for our students, staff, and the entire Paul Knox community.