

## **Report of Principal and School Improvement Council**

The mission of St. Matthews K-8 School, united with parents and community, is to provide a conducive learning environment that challenges all students to reach their potential for success in a rapidly changing global society.

St. Matthews K-8 offers a diverse instructional program designed to prepare students to become viable, responsible and intelligent citizens. The instructional staff provides “hands-on”, technology-based instruction that is meaningful, relevant, and prompts critical thinking skills. Staff development sessions and academic workshops in the content areas focusing on standardized testing were conducted. Tutorial sessions and after school tutoring were offered to all students. Reading initiatives were introduced, and writing across the curriculum was embraced. During school-wide and grade-level presentations, students were presented with academic and behavioral data, as well as noted accomplishments, to keep them aware of the overall performance of our school and the areas of concern.

We had many accomplishments to be proud of; Writing Essay Winners; Science Winners; Math Fest Winners, Consortium of the Arts members; Educational Talent Search through Claflin University; FFVP Grant; Duke Scholars and R.I.D.D.E Winners.

Our students were provided an array of academic, club, and athletic opportunities beyond the traditional classroom such as: Accelerated Math; Accelerated Reading; Student Council; National Junior Beta Club; Science Fair; Character Education Program; After-School Enrichment; Black History Month Celebration; Veteran’s Day Recognition; Field trips; Job shadowing; Special Olympics; Gentleman’s Club; Mentoring Program; Just Say No Club; Recycling Club; Yearbook; Montessori Arts and Crafts Club; Math Madness; DARE; Wee Deliver Mail System; Book Club; Read Across America; and Middle School athletics of cheerleading, football, and basketball.

Every teacher was afforded a lap top, smart board, projector, and document camera. The teachers utilized various instructional technologies to enhance student learning such as: Think Link, Study Island, USA Test Prep, Waterford, Achieve 3000, Education City, Brain Pop, Math, Renaissance Learning, and Quiz Hub. The faculty and staff undertook the transition well from SASI to Power Teacher and Power School.

Here at St. Matthews K-8 School, we were fortunate to have active community involvement and outreach programs such as: School Volunteer Program, March of Dimes; Relay for Life; canned food drive; Adopt a family; Community Thanksgiving Dinner; St. Jude Research Hospital Fund Drive; Family partnership; Teacher Cadets from Calhoun County High School; and finally but not least of all, our community involvement and support from our School Improvement Council and PTSA were excellent.

In closing, we would like to extend a special thanks to our district, school volunteers, faculty and staff, community, and students for their continued effort and support. St. Matthews K-8 could not have been successful without our stakeholders.

Barry Charley, Principal  
Eloise Guinyard, School Improvement Council, Chair