

ACT ASPIRE RESULTS

The percentage of Laing students scoring at or above grade level exceeded all schools in the state of South Carolina that have comparable demographics.

Absolute Rating: Excellent

Course Offerings:

High School Credit

- ◆ Algebra I
- ◆ Geometry
- ◆ Spanish I
- ◆ Keyboarding/Computer Apps



Science and Technology

- ◆ Forensic Science
- ◆ Pre-Engineering
- ◆ Marine Science
- ◆ Medical Detectives
- ◆ STEM & Entrepreneurship

Fine Arts

- ◆ Drama
- ◆ Chorus
- ◆ Band



HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2016

- ◆ Absolute Rating- Excellent
- ◆ Rated Top Ten STEM schools in the nation and Top Three Middle Schools by the Future of Education & Technology Conference for a second straight year
- ◆ One of five schools selected as a finalist for the SIC Riley Award
- ◆ Celebrated the 150th anniversary of Laing
- ◆ One of three finalist for News 2 "Cool School of the Year" award in Charleston County School District
- ◆ A one-to-one technology school (iPad per student)
- ◆ 39 Junior Scholars
- ◆ 232 students qualified for Duke TIP
- ◆ First Lego Robotics winners
- ◆ SeaPerch competition winners-Competed in the national championship
- ◆ Odyssey of the Mind competition winners-competed in the world championship
- ◆ Palmetto Gold Award winner for the past five years
- ◆ Superior rated Orchestra Program
- ◆ Superior rated Band Program
- ◆ Superior rated Choral program
- ◆ Presentations to three national audiences
 - ◆ Future of Education & Technology, Orlando, FL
 - ◆ International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, Washington, D.C.
 - ◆ Integrated STEM Education Conference, Princeton, N.J.



Comprehensive Guidance Program:

- ◆ Classroom Guidance /Small groups
- ◆ Career Guidance
- ◆ Advisory Program
- ◆ Overcoming Obstacles curriculum
- ◆ Digital Citizenship

LAING MIDDLE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



2015-2016
ANNUAL

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

The Mission of Laing Middle School of Science & Technology is to prepare and inspire generations of learners to meet the challenges of our 21st century society by fostering academic achievement through technological literacy, innovation, collaboration and creative problem solving.

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## School Improvement Council Goals and Progress for 2015-2016

Meeting the needs of a rapidly growing area and diverse student body has been a welcome challenge for the Laing SIC. The SIC is dedicated to being a strong advocate for public education and to offering strong support for our Whole School STEM Initiative – ensuring that Laing not only prepares students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, but also prepares them to be community citizens. A few highlights:

**Advocacy** – 2015 was an election year for the Mt. Pleasant Town Council. With growth and schools at capacity, the Laing SIC hosted a debate with the 12 candidates running for 4 open seats. Over 200 people attended to become informed voters regarding the vision of our town and schools.

**Citizenship** – A shredding event was organized free to the community. The NJHS students loaded boxes to be shredded from car to truck for community service hours. The SIC and students also organized a sock and underwear drive for Low-country Ophan Relief.

**STEM** – A celebration luncheon was held in May to reach out to business partnerships and share the success of our STEM Initiatives throughout the year. A tour of STEM at work in the classroom, followed by lunch, culminated with the reading of a Resolution for our National accomplishments, presented by Senator Larry Grooms.



## Laing Middle School's Whole- School STEM Initiative

Laing is transforming the way children learn by helping them become “STEM Thinkers” who know how to use tools of science, technology, engineering and math to solve a variety of real-world problems in all academic subjects.

Hands-on experiences with technological tools and engineering appear in every class; soldering irons, solar panels, and digital fabrications are just as likely to be seen in English or Social Studies classes as in Science labs.

Laing students learn to be problem-solving, out-of-the-box thinkers who have skills that employers seek for the 21st century workforce. Using real tools to solve real problems is interesting and fun. As a result, students are highly engaged in their classes; and that translates to improved academic performance. In addition to mastering the academic curriculum, Laing students are also expected to become technologically literate, which means they understand the roles of technology in human societies, and have basic abilities to use ten different kinds of technology.

Besides preparing our students to be successful 21 century citizens, Laing’s Whole-School STEM program can significantly impact our nation’s supply of scientist and engineers who are the key to global competitiveness.



## Core Beliefs

The Laing faculty is committed to...

- ◆ Facilitating student learning by encouraging innovation through independent and collaborative problem solving
- ◆ Implementing collaborative ideas that promote openness to ask questions and take risks while seeking solutions
- ◆ Developing professionally by setting goals and seeking growth opportunities
- ◆ Creating assessments that address a variety of modalities so all students may achieve success



Students are successful when...

- ◆ Content is relevant, engaging, and revolves around real world problem solving
- ◆ Given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge utilizing a variety of modalities
- ◆ Multiple learning styles and creativity are recognized and appreciated by the teacher
- ◆ There is meaningful collaboration amongst teachers
- ◆ They work effectively, respectfully, and collaboratively
- ◆ They take ownership of their learning

CCSD

“Where Excellence is Our Standard”

Core Values:

Results, Access, Partnerships, &  
Diversity