

# School Improvement Council Report to Parents 2019-20



## OUR SCHOOL

Kennedy Middle School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

School Population – **697** students (7-8 grades)

## OUR PURPOSE

Kennedy Middle School educates all students to achieve at their highest levels.

## OUR DIRECTION

Students will apply the acquired knowledge and skills to become life-long learners who are productive citizens.

## OUR STARS

Teacher of the Year 2019-2020:  
**Ms. Nicole Stansell** (Math)

First Year Teacher of the Year 2019-2020:  
**Ms. Briante Perkins** (Science)

GEM (Giving Even More) Award Winner 2019-2020:  
**Ms. Dorothy Robinson** (custodial staff).



## By the numbers

### ACADEMICS

**79** students qualified as Duke TIP recipients. Among these, **36** were enrolled and **33** tested. **5** students qualified for state recognition, **21** students qualified for Academy for Summer Studies and **15** qualified for Center for Summer Studies.

**16** eighth-grade students were recognized as South Carolina Junior Scholars.

**75** eighth-grade students took the PSAT in the fall.

**95%** of eighth-graders passed the Algebra 1 and **97%** English 1 End of Course exams (2018).

**8** students were accepted into the Aiken Scholars Academy.

**KHAN Academy** accounts are available to students.

**French, Spanish, and German** are offered as foreign language options.

### GUIDANCE & CAREER COUNSELING

More than **38** local sponsors participated in Mini Courses to expose students to a range of topics from careers to hobbies in February 2020.

Classroom guidance sessions on student success, test-taking strategies, and study skills were conducted.

**98%** of eighth-graders completed Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs).

### GRANTS

The **Library** won a \$100 for books for the Battle of the Books from Aiken Council of the International Reading Association (ACIRA).

The **Buddy Club** received a grant from Special Olympics to be a unified school.

### COMMUNITY Matters

Kennedy Middle School is grateful for the numerous contributions of our community partners including Millbrook Baptist Church (landscaping, feeding our teams on game days, mentoring), the Quest Zone Afterschool Program, and to the many volunteers who assist as science fair judges, PTO helpers, and more. Our school is better because of our community.

Kennedy Middle offers community members and students a Blessing Box as well as a Mini Library that are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

### SCHOOL RENEWAL PLAN

Kennedy Middle School recently completed the Five-year School Renewal Plan for the 2018-2023 school years. The School Renewal Plan is a collaborative effort and involved faculty and staff, parents, community members, School Improvement Council, and PTO representatives. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Evaluate the school's adherence to the standards
- Review school test results for the purpose of implementing improvement strategies
- Provide high quality feedback with clear attainable goals and objectives

The **School Improvement Council (SIC)** is an advisory council whose yearly mandate is to create goals closely aligned to the school's 5-year plan and to create an "Annual Report to Parents." The SIC meets at 5:30 p.m. every second Tuesday. Visitors are welcome.

#### 2019-2020 SIC Members:

*Kimberly Aycock*, Teacher (Chairperson)  
*Ryan Ashley*, Principal *Jamie Byrne*, Assistant Principal  
*Jeffrey Harting*, Assistant Principal  
*Jennifer Cady*, Teacher  
*Theresa Tobin*, Community member  
*Jason Hall*, Community member  
*Sylvette Holston*, Parent  
*Michelle Staub*, Parent & PTO President

# Achievements

## KMS BAND

Our band program includes **160** students, consisting of beginning and intermediate musicians, who in one year performed:

**Due to COVID-19 pandemic** no competitions were able to be attended.

Performed at pep rallies, KMS football games, Christmas program, and the Black History month program.



The Show Choir, Kennedy On Stage, is comprised of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who auditioned to be in this year-long class. During the 2019-20 school year, two students made it into the South Carolina Honors Choir. **Due to COVID-19 pandemic** no competitions were able to be attended.

## CLUBS

- **Beta Club** – participated in several service projects including “Be a Bunny, and “Operation Christmas Child.” Further service projects were limited due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- **Art Club** consisted of 25 members. It was set-up in a cafe-theme where students were encouraged to make/share art and build friendships in a “safe” and positive-vibes-only environment.
- The **Serteen Club** was involved in a wide range of school and community service projects.
- **Student Council** consisted of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade members. The club collected recyclable materials and sponsored a canned food drive.
- The **Lego League/Robotics Club** had 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade members. No competitions were able to take place due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- **Future City** had 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade members. No competitions were able to take place due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The **Math Counts** team consisted of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. No competitions were able to take place due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The **Buddy Club** consists of **100** members in grades seven and eight. The club sponsored the Red Carpet Dance for middle school students with special needs and invited students from two local high schools as well.

## Our PTO

This year, the KMS Parent Teacher Organization:

- Provided KMS t-shirts for the first day of school
- Purchased/maintained the Reading Counts reading incentive program
- Assisted in funding school beautification
- Provided cupcakes for monthly birthday celebrations
  - Sponsored quarterly “good behavior” incentives
  - Operated concession stand at football and basketball games
- Helped manage two book fairs
- Spearheaded fund raising efforts to provide resources for teachers
- Sponsored events: open house, teacher appreciation (holiday lunch, gift cards), Fall and Spring school dances, Back-to-School Bash, Family Fun Nights, and clubs and extracurricular activities

### THANK YOU to the following sponsors:

- Millbrook Baptist Church
- Levels Baptist Church
- Aiken Co-op
- SRNS
- Lowes
- Coughton Fire Dept.
- Cold Creek Nursery
- The Quest Zone
- Afterschool Program



## ATHLETICS

- The girls' volleyball team celebrated a **undefeated** record and were Conference Champions.
- The boys' basketball team finished the season with a **successful** record.
- The girls' basketball team finished the season with an **successful** record.
- The golf team was unable to hold tournaments due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The football team finished the season with a **successful** record.