

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL – SIC Annual Report 2023 - 2024

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Dr. Ryan Ashley, Principal
Ms. Nicole Stansell, Assistant Principal
Mr. Thurston Williams, Assistant Principal
Ms. Lea Carter, SIC Chair



Mission

The mission of Kennedy Middle School is to provide a safe and nurturing environment as we guide, prepare, and motivate students to show academic and social growth towards high school readiness.

Community

The Consolidated School District of Aiken County is the sixth largest district in South Carolina. Here, students achieve at high levels in every realm of education. Educating nearly 25,000 students enrolled in 41 schools, Career & Technology Center, Freedman Early Learning Center, Aiken Innovate Online 6-12 Program, and the Center for Innovate Learning, the district has continued its path of excellence to include prestigious honors and noteworthy accomplishments. ACPD truly has a focus to prepare students for their future, regardless of what that may be.

School and Accreditation

Kennedy Middle School, originally named Kennedy Junior High, is located close to one of the busiest intersections in Aiken County, Pine Log Road and Whiskey. Kennedy was ready for occupancy for the 1958-1959 school year. The building was to be constructed mainly of steel, but a steel strike caused more concrete to be used. The cost of the building was \$750,000 and it was constructed for 475 students and 17 teachers. In the 1960's an additional wing was added. Originally, grades seven through nine were housed at Kennedy; grades seven and eight in 1970; and from 1979-2020, grades six through eight. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, Kennedy became a school for only grades seven and eight with the opening of Aiken Intermediate.

In 1995 construction began to completely remodel the school because it had outgrown the current building. After about two years of construction, the new additions and updates were complete in 1997 with the addition of a new wing and complete interior renovation. The school is built around four enclosed courtyards which can serve as outdoor classrooms and provide each grade level with a separate wing. The exploratory classes, cafeteria, and gym are located in a separate building.

The school has been accredited through Cognia for the past 50 years and just received its re-accreditation

during the 2022 – 2023 school year for the next five years.

Kennedy Middle – SIC Members

Ms. Lea Carter	SIC Chair
Dr. Ryan Ashley	Principal
Ms. Nicole Stansell	Asst. Principal
Mr. Thurston Williams	Asst. Principal
Ms. Alexis Hines	Teacher
Ms. Kelsey Tarrance	Teacher
Ms. Bianca Otterbein	Parent
Mr. Jeremiah Otterbein	Parent
Ms. Reagan Otterbein	Student
Mr. Brian Parr	Parent
Ms. Sharon Johnson	Community Member
Mr. Ahmad Mikell	Business Rep
Ms. Christa Turner	PTO Rep

Math Curriculum

Realizing a significant change in the delivery of math instruction was paramount to student success, Kennedy Middle School changed to the Illustrative Math Curriculum during the 2023 – 2024 school year. Illustrative Math uses a conceptual form of teaching math rather than just teaching procedures. Students are given scenarios during class and use peers and group collaboration in order to critically think through problems. Teachers then follow-up with instruction and checking for understanding.

Exploratory Offerings

The school offers a comprehensive curriculum in elective classes in order to expose students to as many learning experiences as possible before they enter high school. KMS has added numerous elective offerings over the last few years. Below is the latest list of elective classes at Kennedy Middle:

Fundamentals of Computing	Kennedy on Stage
STEM-Cyber	Theater
Financial Literacy	Physical Education
Advanced Art	ProTeam
General Art	Spanish
General Music	German
Band	NJROTC
Percussion	Clay/Ceramics
Chorus	

2023 – 2024 Career Reality Fair

Kennedy Middle School enjoyed its 3rd Annual Career Reality Fair on March 20th. The school hosted 29 businesses from the Aiken Community to speak with students regarding career opportunities. The KMS School Improvement Council organized the day, and students enjoyed a fair-style event in which they got to walk around from table to table gathering information regarding potential income, education requirements, and other workplace and life skills requirements of each profession. Prior to the Reality Fair, students took a career inventory through Kennedy Middle School Career Facilitator, Larry Milstead, to research their potential career interests. As a culmination and follow-up, students were then given their “life expenses” such as mortgage payment, car payment, credit card debt, etc. in order to subtract from their overall income. That’s when reality kicked in and students saw how expensive life can really get. The Career Reality Fair continues to provide students with the realities they will face once they are out of school. All of them move to high school next school year, and it is never too early to begin thinking about they want to do in life.



Aiken County School uses NWEA MAP to measure student progress over the course of a school year. MAP Growth is the standard bearer for measuring academic achievement and

growth in the areas of reading and math. By dynamically adjusting to each student’s performance, MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures achievement – whether the student performs on, above, or below grade level.

See www.nwea.org/map-growth



Clubs and Student Organizations

Kennedy Middle School offers a plethora of clubs and student organizations on campus. Generally, these clubs and student organizations meet twice per month on campus and offer a variety of different experiences to students over time. The student organizations also offer students the opportunity to give back to the community in the form of service. Below are some examples of current and past clubs.

- Diamond Art**
- Running Club**
- Walking Club**
- Friendship Bracelet Club**
- Puzzles and More**
- Film Club**
- Archery Club**
- Flag Football**
- Future City**
- Interact**
- Art Club**
- Aviation Club**
- Beta Club**
- Nitrotype**
- Soccer**

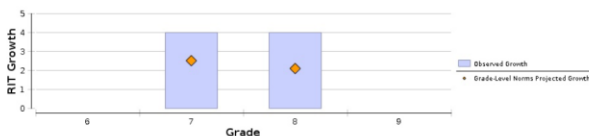
- Dance Club**
- Taylor Swift**
- Pickleball**
- Eagle Ambassadors**
- Gardening**
- Basketball Club**
- Harry Potter Club**
- Student Council**
- Hoopers**
- Trash to Treasure**
- Ukelele Club**
- Student Council**
- Crochet Club**
- Minecraft Club**
- Steppers**

Winter to Spring MAP Growth 2023 - 2024

Kennedy Middle
Math: Math K-12

Grade (Spring 2024)	Winter 2024			Spring 2024			Growth		Growth Evaluated Against					
	Total Number of Growth Events	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Standard Deviation	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Grade-Level Norms	Number of Students Who Met Their Growth Projection	Number of Students Who Met Their Growth Projection	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile	Student Conditional Growth Percentile	
6	11	217.7	17.0	217.4	17.0	28	4	0.4	2.6	1.41	52	274	100	53
7	318	224.7	15.5	225.4	15.4	61	-6	0.4	3.4	1.87	91	318	100	56
8	5	224.7	15.5	225.4	15.4	61	-6	0.4	3.4	1.87	91	318	100	56

Math: Math K-12



Kennedy Middle
Language Arts: Reading

Grade (Spring 2024)	Winter 2024			Spring 2024			Growth		Growth Evaluated Against					
	Total Number of Growth Events	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Standard Deviation	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Grade-Level Norms	Number of Students Who Met Their Growth Projection	Number of Students Who Met Their Growth Projection	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile	Student Conditional Growth Percentile	
6	9	217.7	17.0	217.4	17.0	28	4	0.4	2.6	1.41	52	274	100	53
7	275	215.3	15.5	217.0	15.7	46	2	0.6	1.3	1.33	91	275	101	59
8	121	215.3	15.5	222.0	17.0	52	-1	0.6	1.4	1.25	90	321	104	57

Language Arts: Reading

