

# School Improvement Council

## Report to Parents 2017-18



### OUR SCHOOL

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

School Population – **858** students with a student attendance rate of 95 percent

### 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 2017:  
**Ms. Whitney Ray** (social studies)

GEM (Giving Even More) Award Winner:  
**Ms. Bonnie Gibbons** (secretary). Ms. Gibbons was also on the District Honor Court for the GEM Award



## By the numbers

### ACADEMICS

**81** students qualified as Duke TIP recipients. Among these, **44** were enrolled and **37** tested. **6** students qualified for state recognition, **12** students qualified for Academy for Summer Studies and **2** qualified for Center for Summer Studies.

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

**88** students took the PSAT in the fall.

**100%** of eighth-graders participated in the PSAT 8/9.

**100%** of eighth-graders passed the Algebra 1 and

**99%** English 1 End of Course exams (2017)

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

**20** minutes of structured reading time is held school-wide daily.

### GUIDANCE & CAREER COUNSELING

More than **37** local sponsors participated in Mini Courses to expose students to a range of topics from careers to hobbies in February 2017.

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

**100%** of eighth-graders completed Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs).

**100%** of sixth- and seventh-graders completed Individual Learning Plans (ILPs).

Sponsored the "Meet and Greet" for our rising sixth-graders and their parents.

Held Lunch and Learn sessions where community members share knowledge and experience with small groups of students.

Participated in a district wide "career fair"

### GRANTS

A **Read 180** teacher won the Target Field Grant. She has received this grant for the past 8 years.

The **yearbook sponsor** received an anonymous donation of 4 digital cameras. She also received an iPad Pro through DonorsChoose.org.

An **English teacher** received a class set of the novel Wonder through DonorsChoose.org

A **STEM teacher** received a trip to a STEM conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

The **chorus teacher and Kennedy on Stage** received funding for field trip through DonorsChoose.org. This funding allowed KOS to perform at the Middle School Conference

### 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), our QuestZone coordinators and students (for our garden) and to the many volunteers who assist as science fair judges, Lunch and Learn leaders, PTO helpers and more. Our school is better because of our community.

### 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** 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 3:30 p.m. second Mondays. Visitors are welcome.

### 2016-2017 SIC Members:

*Whitney Ray*, Teacher (Chairperson)  
*Teresa Mitchem*, Principal  
*Jamie Byrne*, Assistant Principal  
*Jeffrey Harting*, Assistant Principal  
*Jennifer Cady*, Teacher  
*Blakely Burch*, Teacher  
*Theresa Tobin*, Community member  
*Jason Hall*, Community member  
*Leslie Keifer*, Parent  
*Rebecca Sanders*, Parent  
*Melissa Patterson*, Parent & PTO President

# Achievements

## KMS BAND

Our band program includes **188** students, consisting of beginning and intermediate musicians, who in one year performed:

**3** pep band performances,  
**7** concerts (winter concerts: 3 during school, 1 after), a holiday concert, a Veteran's Day concert, and a spring concert (including field trips to local elementary schools)

**5** band students were selected for Region 2 Honor band

**22** made Aiken All County Band, (3<sup>rd</sup> most for Middle Schools in Aiken County)

- Performed at pep rallies
- Performed at KMS football games
- Performed at Concert Performance Assessment
- Performed at South Star Music Festival



## KENNEDY ON STAGE

The Show Choir, Kennedy On Stage, is comprised of twenty-two 7<sup>th</sup> graders and sixteen 8<sup>th</sup> graders who auditioned to be in this year-long class. During the 2017-18 school year, they attended 4 Saturday clinics with Choreographer, Antonio Scales to prepare their show for competition where they brought home a Gold and two Silvers at Southern Star Music Festival. They also prepared music for the Veteran's Day Celebration at Millbrook Elementary and at Kennedy Middle, the Holiday Concert and the Spring Concert. KOS received two very special invitations to represent Aiken County Schools this year; the Mayor's "State of the City Address" at the Performing Arts Center and the South Carolina Middle Level Conference in Myrtle Beach.

## CLUBS

- **Beta Club** – with 305 members – participated in several service projects including "Be a Bunny," MS Walk, Secret Santa for children in the community, Yarn Collection for Red Cross/Knitting group, Operation Christmas Child, and a food drive for Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS).
- **Art Club** students painted art for the Veteran's Day assembly, winter concert, Black History Month, the KMS talent show and the multicultural show. Art was also displayed at Fort Gordon.
- The **Serteen Club** was involved in a wide range of school and community service projects.
- **Student Council** collects recyclable materials.
- The **Lego League/Robotics Club** competed at the state competition.
- **Future City** won at the district level and competed at the national level in Washington, D.C.
- One student advanced to the district spelling bee.
- The **Math Counts** team also competed.
- The **Buddy Club** is the largest in Aiken County with 80 members. The club sponsored the second annual district-wide middle school dance.



## ATHLETICS

- The girls' volleyball team celebrated a **10-2** record and were third place champions.
- The boys' basketball team finished the season with a **9-2** record. They were runner-up County champions.
- The girls' basketball team finished the season with a **10-6** record
- The golf team finished the season with a **14-3** record. They placed third in the region. A student also won second place in the region tournament.
- The football team finished the season with a **6-2** record and were County Champions

## Our PTO

This year, the KMS Parent Teacher Organization:

- Provided KMS t-shirts for the first day of school
- Raised \$5k for school technology
- Purchased/maintained the Reading Counts reading incentive program
  - Operated concession stand at football and basketball games
- Helped manage two book fairs
- Provided t-shirts for the Math Counts team
- Helped fund Lego League at competition
- Spearheaded fund raising efforts to provide resources for teachers
- Sponsored events: open house, teacher appreciation (holiday lunch, gift cards, coffee club), and school dances
- Sponsored KOS' trip to Myrtle Beach

*THANK YOU to the following sponsors:*

- Millbrook Baptist Church*
- Levels Baptist Church*
- Aiken Co-op*
- SRNS*
- Lowe's*
- Coughton Fire Depart.*
- Cold Creek Nursery*