

# KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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[www.acpsd.net/kms](http://www.acpsd.net/kms)

Dr. Ryan Ashley, Principal  
Ms. Nicole Stansell, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Thurston Williams, Assistant Principal



## 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. ACPSD 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 received its last accreditation through Cognia during the 2018-2019 school year and is scheduled to be reaccredited during the 2022-2023 school year through the same organization.

## School Highlights

ACPSD Football District Champions	2022
Battle of the Books – District Runner Up	2022
Math Counts District Winner - 1 <sup>st</sup> place	2021
Battle of the Books – District Runner Up	2021
Future City – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place in Region	2021
Student's Published 2 books – <i>School Life with COVID-19 &amp; Be Kind</i>	2020-2021
Most Giving Middle School in ACPSD – United Way Campaign	2019 - 2021
ACPSD District Volleyball Champions	2019-2020
ACPSD Girls Basketball District Runners Up	2020-2021
ACPSD Girls Basketball District Champions	2018-2019

## Curriculum

Kennedy Middle introduced the SpringBoard curriculum during the 2021-2022 school year with an initial beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and math. It was added to 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and math classes during the 2022-2023 school year. SpringBoard is made by teachers, for teachers, and serves as a pre-AP curriculum for rising high school students. The curriculum is embedded in all ELA and math classes and helps to prepare students for the rigors of advanced academic work, regardless of class placement.

## 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	

2022 South Carolina State Accountability – Aiken County Middle Schools

School	Overall Score		Academic Achievement		Preparing for Success		English Language Learners		Student Progress		School Climate	
	BA	33	B	12.03	BA	3.63	N/A	N/A	BA	12.51	BA	4.99
AL Corbett	BA	33	A	12.03	BA	3.63	N/A	N/A	BA	12.51	BA	4.99
Aiken Intermediate	A	46	A	14.03	A	4.47	G	6.67	A	15.3	A	5.82
Jackson	A	47	B	12.87	U	3.18	N/A	N/A	G	25.4	BA	5.26
Kennedy	A	38	A	14.32	N/A	NA	E	8.6	BA	8.6	A	6.37
LBC	A	48	A	13.25	A	4.59	G	6.26	A	18.2	A	6.14
Leavelle	A	44	A	12.3	A	4.67	A	4.63	A	16.47	A	5.45
New Ellenton	E	59	A	15.9	A	5.57	G	7.67	G	22.08	E	8.14
North Augusta	G	54	A	16.42	A	5.58	A	5.61	A	18.48	E	8.21
Paul Knox	A	44	A	14.76	BA	4.02	G	6.34	A	13.38	BA	5.4
Ridge Spring	A	37	B	8.93	U	3.16	A	4.35	A	14.06	G	6.72
Schofield	A	37	B	10.34	N/A	NA	G	7.86	A	14.91	U	4.27

E = Excellent G = Good A = Average BA = Below Average U = Unsatisfactory



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](http://www.nwea.org/map-growth)



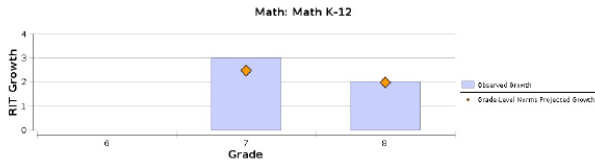
**Clubs and Student Organizations**

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.

**Winter to Spring MAP Growth 2022-2023**

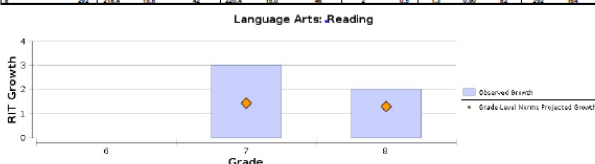
Kennedy Middle  
Math: Math K-12

Grade (Spring 2022)	Winter 2022			Spring 2023			Growth		Growth Evaluated Against							
	Total Number of Growth Events	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Achievement Percentile	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Projected Growth	School Conditional Growth Index	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Number of Students Who Met Growth Projection	Number of Students Who Met Growth Projection	Student Conditional Growth Percentile		
6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
7	291	222.9	18.1	40	222.8	18.4	41	3	0.4	3.6	0.88	11	256	100	54	50
8	292	224.7	15.8	59	224.4	16.4	51	2	0.3	3.9	0.71	48	406	100	51	51



Kennedy Middle  
Language Arts: Reading

Grade (Spring 2022)	Winter 2022			Spring 2023			Growth		Growth Evaluated Against							
	Total Number of Growth Events	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Achievement Percentile	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Projected Growth	School Conditional Growth Index	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Number of Students Who Met Growth Projection	Number of Students Who Met Growth Projection	Student Conditional Growth Percentile		
6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
7	291	219.9	17.4	52	219.8	17.0	50	3	0.4	1.4	1.82	97	295	179	59	60
8	292	218.4	15.4	46	218.4	16.0	46	2	0.3	1.3	0.90	52	292	164	56	51



- Boxing Club
- Running Club
- Walking Club
- Friendship Bracelet Club
- Puzzles and More
- Chess Club
- Archery Club
- Flag Football
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Interact
- Art Club
- Aviation Club
- Beta Club
- Book Club
- Percussion Club

- Dance Club
- Dramatic Writing
- Theater
- Eagle Ambassadors
- Gardening
- Basketball Club
- Harry Potter Club
- Student Council
- Trash to Treasure
- Ukelele Club
- Student Council
- Crochet Club
- Minecraft Club
- Cooking Club

**Annual  
School Improvement Council  
"Report to the Parents"  
2022 – 2023**

**Purpose of the Report**

*"This Report is issued by the Kennedy Middle School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."*

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year our SIC met monthly to review school data, discuss goals and needs, and plan the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career and Reality Fair.



A weakness the SIC noticed and discussed in many meetings is the foundational weakness in math for many of the students. During the 2023-2024 school year, Kennedy will implement Illustrative Math as our curriculum to focus on conceptual versus procedural understanding of math concepts.

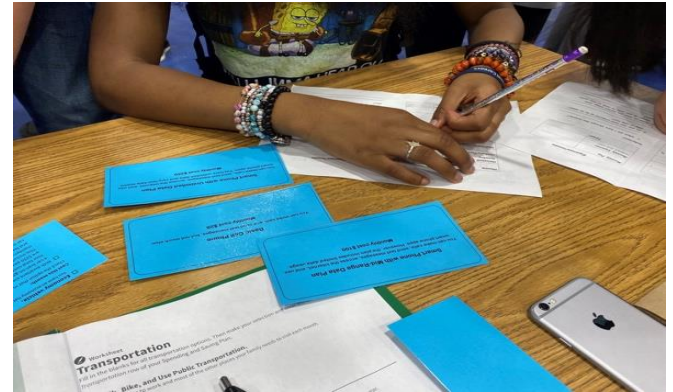
In reviewing data and setting goals, the SIC worked with KMS to develop and implement a Quarterly Monitoring Rubric for students to complete to encourage goal setting. Students can earn a Quarterly Celebration to include time to socialize with peers, play games, listen to music played by a DJ and enjoy food and treats from food trucks per quarter. We were able to successfully plan 2 celebrations to kick off this new program.

The SIC also planned and held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career and Reality Fair inviting members of the community to represent 13 of the 16 Career Clusters. Students worked with the Career Specialist at KMS, Ttifany Palmer to complete surveys identifying their career goals and paths for the future. Using this information, students met with volunteers to discuss different career paths, income, and necessary certifications/diplomas. Students also worked with additional volunteers to discuss bills, expenses - including emergency/unexpected expenses, savings, and family dynamics where they spent their income and discussed

real-life scenarios. With tons of community support, faculty & staff at Kennedy, and parent involvement, our Career and Reality Fair was a great success with primary feedback from students being that they wished they had more time to spend working through the career and reality tables.



The KMS Reality and Career Fair was held on **Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>** and attended by 250 + 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The fields represented for study included law, DNR, bank, engineer, medical, entrepreneur, graphic artist, plus more. Students also had to balance a checkbook at the end of the event.



**SIC Members:**

- Dr. Ryan Ashley, Principal
- Nicole Stansell, Interim Secretary (Assistant Principal)
- Sharon Johnson, Vice President (Community Member)
- Morgan Libby, Parent
- Lea Carter, President (Parent)
- Alexis Hines, Teacher
- Kelsey Tarrance, Teacher
- Ttifany Palmer, Career Specialist
- Vinh Nguyen, Parent