

April 30, 2016



Kennedy Middle School
274 East Pine Log Road
Aiken, SC 29803
Ph: 803.641.2470 Fax: 803.641.2405
Teresa Mitchem Principal
Jamie Byrne Assistant Principal
David Hanna Assistant Principal

2015-2016 School Improvement Council Report to Parents

2015-2016 General Information:

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

School Population – 932 students with a student attendance rate of 95.4%

Kennedy Middle School received a **B** rating from the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grading system.

Structured reading time held school-wide daily for 20 minutes.

Ms. Jennifer Cady (Special Education Teacher) was selected as our Teacher of the Year for 2016.

Ms. Blakely Burch was selected as our First Year Teacher of the Year for 2016.

Student Achievement Recognition & Programs:

- 73 students qualified for Duke Tip, 43 enrolled and 39 tested.
- Eight students qualified for State Recognition, five students qualified for Academy for Summer Studies and four qualified for Center for Summer Studies.
- 20 8th grade students were recognized as South Carolina Junior Scholars
- 99% of our 8th graders passed the Algebra 1 and English 1 End of Course exams.
- KMS chorus students attended the All-County Middle School Chorus at Midland Valley High School.
- One hundred and ninety students participate in the band
- KMS band completed 13 public concert performances during the 2015-16 school year for audiences numbering over 3,500 with school and community members. Performances included pep rallies, football games, the annual Veteran's Day assembly, awards day, 6th grade orientation, after school concerts, and an upcoming competition at the Southern Star Music Festival in Atlanta, Georgia
- 19 student musicians auditioned for South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) state and regional band events. Seventeen students were selected for Aiken All-County band. Five were selected for Region 2 honor band, and one was called back for the second round all-state audition. One of our students ranked first tuba player in all of region 2.
- 10 KMS beginning band students were selected for Aiken County's Da Capo ensemble.
- Seventeen student ensembles composed of 35 musicians performed for ratings at the SCBDA Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- KMS offered Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced band classes, a solo and ensemble mini course, pep band, Honor Concert Band, and Jazz band to its students.
- Both 7th and 8th grade performed music up through grade 3 on their spring concert.
- KMS students and parents raised \$8,947 through various fundraisers between October 2015 and February 2016 to directly benefit music instruction at KMS.

Student Club Information:

- Beta Club school-wide membership of 334 students.
- Our Beta Club participated in several service projects including Be a Bunny, MS Walk, Baseball Buddies, Operation Christmas Child, and a food drive for Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS).
- Our Set Design students painted a background for the winter concert, multicultural show and a time machine project in the cafeteria.
- Our Serteen Club was involved in a wide range of school and community service projects.
- Science Club collects recyclable materials.
- Future City teams competed in the region competition held at USC Aiken

Athletics:

- The football team finished the season with a 5-2 record.
- The girls' volleyball team finished the season with a 19-0 record. They were also County and Conference champions.
- The boys' basketball team finished the season with a 14-2 record. They were also County and Conference champions.
- The girls' basketball team finished the season with a 11-4 record. They were the Conference champions.
- The golf team finished the season with a 10-1 record. They were the County champions.

Guidance & Career Counseling Department:

- Mini Courses (with over 39 local sponsors) were held in February 2016.

April 30, 2016



Kennedy Middle School
274 East Pine Log Road
Aiken, SC 29803
Ph: 803.641.2470 Fax: 803.641.2405
Teresa Mitchem Principal
Jamie Byrne Assistant Principal
David Hanna Assistant Principal

- Sponsored STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Night during the spring semester.
- Sponsored a Multicultural Fair for all 7th graders during the spring semester.
- Conducted classroom guidance sessions on student success, test-taking strategies, and study skills.
- Conducted classroom career guidance sessions.
- Sponsored “Right Choices” workshops with Devon Harris of Full Refuge Circle Ministries.
- Sponsored the 6th grade “Meet and Greet” for our rising 6th graders.
- Completed Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs) on 100% of the 8th grade students.

PTO News:

- Donated \$576 to rent a piano from Turner’s Keyboards for the visit by international pianist Gil Sullivan.
- Donated \$676 toward Mrs. Blizzard’s “Have a Seat, Take a Stand” fundraiser through DonorsChoose.org.
- Contributed \$150 for T-shirts for the KMS Project Unity Flag Football Tournament with Special Olympics.
- Continues to assist our faculty with additional funds to help purchase school items throughout the year.
- Spearheaded fund raising efforts to provide additional resources for the school. (Technology, etc.)
- Events sponsored by PTO: open house, student dances, teacher appreciations, Accelerated Reader store

Grants:

- The band teacher participated in a “Have a Seat, Take a Stand” fundraiser through DonorsChoose.org. Funds donated within the first week of the effort were matched by a Disney Creativity grant to purchase 60 chairs and 48 music stands for the KMS music program. The donation paired with those by parents, teachers, and others finalized the fundraiser in one week. Chairs and stands were assembled by volunteers and are now in use by students.
- A math teacher received funding through DonorsChoose.org with the help of parents, teachers, and others. She received 35 Texas Instruments calculators to use within her classroom
- One teacher received a Whole Foods Grant.

School Renewal Plan:

Kennedy Middle School recently completed the Five-year School Renewal Plan for the 2013-2018 school years.

The School Renewal Plan is a collaborative effort and involved the following stakeholders: faculty and staff, parents, community members, School Improvement Council, and PTO representatives.

The purpose of the renewal 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

School Improvement Council (SIC)

A school cannot reach its full potential without the support of its parents, friends and community. Please contact a member of the School Improvement Council (SIC) or **Kennedy Middle School** at **803-641-2470** to find out how you can help.

Our SIC generally meets the 2nd Monday of each month during the school year at 3:15 p.m. Visitors are always welcome!

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.

2014-2015 SIC Members:

Whitney Ray, Teacher (Chairperson)

Theresa Tobin, Community member

Lynn Goss, Parent and PTO officer

Shana Pearsons, Teacher

Mary Frances Hendrix, Parent and PTO officer

Teresa Mitchem, Principal

Jamie Byrne, Assistant Principal

Monica Neumar, Parent

Matthew Kenamer, Teacher