

School Improvement Council Report to Parents 2018-19



OUR SCHOOL

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

School Population – **845** students with an attendance rate of **95%**

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 2018-2019:
Ms. Michelle King (librarian)

First Year Teacher of the Year 2018-2019:
Ms. Alicia Parks (Science)

GEM (Giving Even More) Award Winner 2018-2019:
Ms. Contina Hall (paraprofessional).



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.

84 eighth-grade students took the PSAT in the fall.

97% of eighth-graders passed the Algebra 1 and

100% English 1 End of Course exams (2018).

11 students were accepted into the Aiken Scholars Academy and **4** waitlisted for Aiken Scholars Academy. **7** are receiving Celebration of Character.

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 March 2018.

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

99% of eighth-graders completed Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs).

100% of sixth graders and **77%** of seventh-graders completed Individual Learning Plans (ILPs).

84 students were recipients of the Presidential Academic Excellence award.

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

GRANTS

A **Read 180** teacher won the Target Field Trip Grant. She has received this grant for the past 10 years.

The **yearbook sponsor** received an anonymous donation of two DSLR cameras from an anonymous donor. She also received a Smart Keyboard and an Apple pen through a Donor's Choose project.

A **Special Education** teacher won the SRNS grant.

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 3:45 p.m. second Mondays. Visitors are welcome.

2018-2019 SIC Members:

Kimberly Aycock, Teacher (Chairperson)
Teresa Mitchem, Principal
Jamie Byrne, Assistant Principal
Jeffrey Harting, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Cady, Teacher
Blakely Williams, Teacher
Theresa Tobin, Community member
Jason Hall, Community member
Sylvette Holston, Parent
Rebecca Sanders, Parent
Melissa Patterson, Parent & PTO President

Achievements

KMS BAND

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

5 pep band performances, **8** performances (Winter and Spring concerts; Fall Festival; Veteran's Day program; Black History Month program; Open House; Concert Performance Assessment; and attended OrlandoFest).

1 student selected for All State Band; **4** selected for All State callbacks.

12 band students were selected for Region Honor band **21** made Aiken All County Band.

10 "Superior" ratings and **5** "Excellent" ratings at Solo and Ensemble

2nd place at OrlandoFest ("Excellent" rating)

Rating of "**Excellent**" on Concert Performance Assessment (State Band Assessment)

Performed at pep rallies, KMS football games, the Concert Performance Assessment, and OrlandoFest



KENNEDY ON STAGE

The Show Choir, Kennedy On Stage, is comprised of ten 7th graders and twenty-five 8th graders who auditioned to be in this year-long class. During the 2018-19 school year, they attended 3 Saturday clinics with two Choreographers, Antonio Scales & Tifany Palmer, to prepare for their performances. This year KOS performed for the Mayor's "State of the City" address, as well as the United Way Celebration. In addition to performing for community functions, they traveled to OrlandoFest Music Competition and won first place with a Superior rating.

CLUBS

- **Beta Club** – with 252 members – participated in several service projects including "Be a Bunny, and "Operation Christmas Child" for children in the community. They also attended the State Convention and competed. The members placed fourth in the state and qualified for Nationals.
- **Art Club** students painted art for the Black History Month program.
- The **Serteen Club** was involved in a wide range of school and community service projects.
- **Student Council** consisted of 43 representatives and 6 officers. The club collected recyclable materials and sponsored a canned food drive.
- The **Lego League/Robotics Club** had two teams compete at both the Regionals and State Qualifiers. Awards received at Regionals were Aiken Qualifier Champion Award, Aiken Qualifier Robot Design Award. Awards from the State Qualifiers were Gracious Professionalism Award and the Programming Award.
- **Future City** had four teams compete in the Future City Regional Competition in January 2019. Awards won were Environmental Awareness, "Thinking Outside the Box", Best Energy System, Excellent Grid Resilience, and Best Land Surveying Practice.
- One student won the **Kennedy spelling bee**, as well as the Aiken County district spelling bee. She will compete in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, DC in May 2019.
- **Battle of the Books** consisted of 63 student participants. For the second year in a row, the Kennedy team came in second place at the district competition.
- The **Math Counts** team competed in the district Competition and won first place. Two students placed In the top ten in individual competitions.
- The **Buddy Club** consists of **120** members in grades six, 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.
- The **FCA** was awarded the FCA Leadership Award for participation in a leadership role.

Our PTO

This year, the KMS Parent Teacher Organization:

- Provided KMS t-shirts for the first day of school
- Helped purchase 47 laptops for math teachers.
- Purchased/maintained the Reading Counts reading incentive program
- Assisted in funding school beautification
- Funded 250 new chairs for use in assemblies
- Sponsored the 6th grade field trip
- 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
- Lowe's
- Couchton Fire Dept.
- Cold Creek Nursery
- The Quest Zone Afterschool Program



ATHLETICS

- The girls' volleyball team celebrated a **10-4** record and were Conference Champions.
- The boys' basketball team finished the season with a **10-5** record. They reached the first round of basketball playoffs.
- The girls' basketball team finished the season with a **16-0** record and were Conference Champions and Aiken County Champions.
- The golf team finished the season with a first place win, three second place wins, one third place win, and fourth place overall at the conference tournament.
- The football team finished the season with a **6-1** record and were second place in the county.