

BELIEFS:

WE BELIEVE THAT...

- Students' learning needs should be the primary focus of all decisions impacting the work of the school.
- Educational decisions should be data based.
- The commitment to continuous improvement is imperative if our school is going to enable confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.
- Student learning is the **chief** priority for this school.
- Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.
- Students need a safe and physically comfortable environment to promote learning.
- All students can learn.
- Students need to apply their learning in meaningful contexts.
- Curriculum and instructional practices should incorporate a variety of learning activities to accommodate differences in learning styles.



Academic
Athletics
Achievement

OUR MOTTO

Educator's Forging a Future
for **ALL** Students



Great Falls Middle/High School

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE



Brenda Fort, Principal

Glenda Brunson, Assistant Principal

David Spencer, Assistant Principal

Glen Ross, SIC Chairman

School Year 2012 — 2013

Great Falls Middle/High School



located in the Southeast corner of Chester County, and bordered by the Catawba River, Stumpy Pond, and Fairfield County, is a combined campus of grades 6-12.

The school shares a media center, Little theatre, gym, lunch room, JROTC Program, ISS room along with teachers in fine arts, ELA, social studies, PE and health, and a media specialist.

Demographics:

The school is composed of 438 students. African-American students comprise 37.9% of the student population, while Caucasian students represent 60.3% with other 1.8%. Free and reduced lunch students are 62.8 of the population.

Annual School Statistics:

HSAP Passage Rate by spring 2012
92.3%

Annual dropout rate -4.5%

Middle School EOC tests:

Algebra I—100% ELA—100%

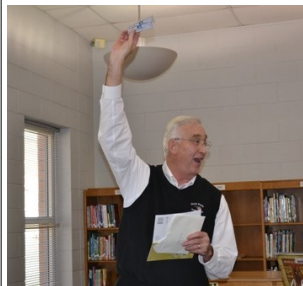
Grant Awards—J. Marion Sims Foundation for \$47,000 for S.O.S. for a Literacy Coach, after school, and summer program for transitioning students to high school and middle school.

Great Falls Middle/High Advantages:

- Great Falls 9-12 successfully completed its 6th year in the *High Schools That Work Initiative Program*.
- The middle school grades (6-8) is now in its 3rd year of the *Making Middle Grades Work Initiative Program*.
- The **Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Program**, supported financially by a partnership with Arrowpoint Federal Credit Union offers rewards for following school rules and exhibiting positive behaviors.
- Dual credit courses from USCL are available to our juniors and seniors.
- Students can recover grades during a summer program using PLATO internet based courses.
- Seniors must complete Senior Projects based on service learning, community outreach, and student initiative which adds rigor to their courses and prepares them for college, the military, workforce training, or work.
- High school students continue to participate in the Advisor/Advisee Program with bi-monthly meetings with their mentor.
- Great Falls 9-12 must participate in and graduate from the **Alive at 25** nationally recognized car safety program in order to drive on campus.

Annual Summary Report:

⇒ John Smith, Great Falls High School Basketball Coach for 44 years, won his 900th game during



the 2012-2013 Basketball Season. He was recognized by the South Carolina State Legislature, SCHSL, the Chester County School Board, and the faculty for his accomplishment.

⇒ 30% of our graduating seniors will qualify for LIFE Scholarships.

⇒ 18 juniors will be Jr. Marshals with a 3.75 GPA.

- ⇒ 24 seniors qualify as Honor Graduates.
- ⇒ One senior was recognized as an Academic Scholar based on high SAT/ACT scores.
- ⇒ Grades 6-12 collaborated on the **High School Musical Jr.** musical **play** for the first time.
- ⇒ GFM/HS maintains its partnership with Winthrop University and the NetSCOPE and NetLEAD network and training programs.
- ⇒ The combined school offers a summer JUMPSTART Program for transitioning 5th to 6th graders and 8th to 9th graders.
- ⇒ The JROTC Program maintains its **Honor Unit with Distinction** Award.
- ⇒ Great Falls Middle/High School teachers have completed extensive training in working and planning for the Common Core. They completed a book study: **Path Ways to the Common Core: Accelerating Achievement**.
- ⇒ 47% of the student body participate in athletic activities at the school.
- ⇒ The Great Falls Varsity Golf Team was #1 as a 1A Public School in State Competition and 1 player made the All State Team.
- ⇒ 3 Great Falls Junior Scholars were recognized for their outstanding academic success on the PSAT by the **Old English Consortium**.
- ⇒ The school maintains an excellent website with a Parent Portal available 24 hours a day : <http://gtfh.chester.k12.sc.us>
- ⇒ A "Pro Team" course was initiated in grades 6-8 in collaboration with Winthrop University.
- ⇒ All of the 8th grade boys are part of a new mentoring program for middle school males.