

School Improvement Council Members

2012-2013

Julie Mahn, Principal,

Bobby Aistrop, Parent

Joseph Gardner, Parent

Lisa Fagan, School social worker and
Community Member

Sheryl Cutler, Grade 1 Teacher

Wendy Gregory, Grade 2 Teacher

Sutton Kingsley, Grade 3 Teacher

Michelle Brand, Grade 4 Teacher

Melinda Brown, Grade 5 Teacher

Evie Miller, Related Arts Teacher

Raven Legette, Parent Liason

Citronella Smith, Guidance Counselor

Tara King, PULSE Facilitator

Report to the Parents

2012-2013



Thornwell School for the Arts

437 West Carolina Avenue

Hartsville, South Carolina

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Julie Mahn, Principal

“Setting the Stage for Excellence”



The mission of Thornwell School for the Arts is to support the overall growth of students in an atmosphere of academic and artistic excellence.

This report is based on data from the 2011-2012 school year in accordance with the Education Improvement Act of 1999.

Thornwell School for the Arts is accredited by the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The Report to the Parents is a document that all public schools are required to provide to parents and the community.

This report provides a view of Thornwell School for the Arts, its students, families, staff and the community. The report also addresses the goals and objectives we are working to achieve.

In 2012-2013, the enrollment at Thornwell School for the Arts is approximately 418 students. This is an increase of about 12% from the previous school year. The magnet program has a waiting list for the second time in the history of the program's nine year existence.

Notable Highlights for the 2011-2012 school year:

- The Thornwell Players presented, the musical, *Seussical, Jr* in three shows at Center Theatre downtown for over 2000 in attendance total.
- The Thornwell cafeteria received a grant for fresh fruit and vegetables from the South Carolina State Department of Education.
- DCEF awarded over \$2200 in non-fiction books to grade one reader.
- Students at Thornwell used Ipads and new technology to learn daily.
- Many students were involved in afternoon art club, Girl Scouts, Boy scouts, Good News Club, Drumming Circle and choir.
- Thornwell students, staff and parents continued with year three of the Comer School Development Model from YALE University.
- Thornwell students worked with over 60 mentors weekly at school.
- Students' art work was displayed at the Black Creek Arts Council in March. An opening was held and many visitors from the community admired the students' work.
- Over 200 students enjoyed the Sweetheart Dance held in February.
- Families attended many PTO nights with workshops including math, reading and Comer Training.
- Dads were treated to donuts and moms were treated to muffins during the year while receiving information about the Comer Pathways.
- Thornwell School was awarded a Byerley Foundation Grant that was combined with PTO fundraiser funds to build a new playground, tripling the size of the play area.
- The strings students held two concerts while all students participated in the winter concert and a Black History Month Program.
- Awards Programs were held each quarter to highlight student achievement in academics, leadership, the related arts, character and attendance.
- The school received a Special Projects Grant from the South Carolina State Department of Education.
- Coker College School of Education send interns to work in the classrooms and two student teachers worked in grades two and three.
- HHS Beta Club students painted a rainbow reading mural in the first grade hallway.

Three main goal areas:

Student Achievement: The best indications of a school's success are the accomplishments of its students. Our goal is for 80% of our students to read on grade level by 3rd grade. Currently about 70% of our students in grades 3rd – 5th read on grade level according to the PASS Test.

To accomplish this goal we are:

- following Darlington County School District's Balanced Literacy Model
- implementing Common Core Curriculum Standards in Grades 1-2
- using and updating student data frequently to drive instruction
- providing interventions for students who need extra assistance
- challenging students who are performing above grade level expectations

Teacher/Administrator Quality: Quality staff development is embedded throughout the year for all staff members at Thornwell. All faculty and staff members receive on-going training in the balanced literacy model. Common Core Curriculum trainings, guided reading workshops as well as hands on math instruction were offered. Staff members meet regularly to plan, use data to formulate groups and individualize learning while assessing students' academic achievement.

School Climate: Building relationships and providing a safe learning environment is key to learning. At Thornwell, we are implementing the Comer Child Development Model. This model was developed by Dr. James Comer. Ongoing staff development has been and will continue to be provided to the staff as we support the development of the whole child, and recognize the important roles all stakeholders play in the children's' lives. Students learn in all grades about developing their social, psychological, cognitive, physical, ethical and emotional pathway so they are better equipped to be lifelong learners.

Thornwell's South Carolina report card rating was average for absolute rating and average for improvement rating. The school made 9 out of 13 categories for AYP. The staff and administration are committed to academic excellence in all areas for all children.

2012 Silver Award Winner

