

## School Improvement Council Members

2011-2012

Raven Legette, President  
Julie Mahn, Principal, Ex-officio Member  
Bobby Aistrop, Parent  
Joseph McLain, Parent  
Susan Beattie, Community Member  
Shelley Gainey, Teacher  
Brandy Benjamin, Teacher  
Ellen Blackwell, Teacher  
Michelle Brand, Teacher  
Cathy McQueen, Teacher  
Stacey Johnson, Teacher  
Mary Thomas, Guidance Counselor  
Tara King, PULSE Facilitator  
Drew Sansbury, Paraprofessional

# Report to the Parents

2011 to 2012



## Thornwell School for the Arts

437 West Carolina Avenue  
Hartsville, South Carolina  
843-383-3127

<http://tes.dcsdschools.org>

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 2011-2012, the enrollment at Thornwell School for the Arts is approximately 370 students. This is an increase of about 12% from the previous school year. The magnet program has a waiting list for the first time in the history of the program's nine year existence.

**Notable Highlights for the 2011-2012 school year:**

- The Thornwell Players presented, *Disney's Aladdin*.
- The Thornwell cafeteria received a grant for fresh fruit from the South Carolina State Department of Education. All of the students and staff enjoyed fresh fruit daily.
- Students at Thornwell took part in the Universal Breakfast Program.
- Many students were involved in afternoon art club and choir.
- Thornwell students, staff and parents continued with year two of the Comer School Development Model.
- Thornwell received a Teacher Incentive Fund Grant. This grant allowed teachers to take part in weekly staff development and ongoing best practice instructional techniques.
- Thornwell families enjoyed the Fall Arts Festival in October.
- 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.
- Parents attended many 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.
- The visual arts program received a special projects grant and students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade took part in a study of photography.
- 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.
- The school received an ABC Grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Currently about 70% of our students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> read on grade level according to the PASS Test. To accomplish this goal we are:

- following Darlington County School District's Balanced Literacy Model
- focusing attention on the instruction in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- using data to drive instruction
- providing interventions for students who need extra assistance

**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. 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.

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**