

School Improvement Council Members



Julie Mahn, Principal
Latisha Mallory, Parent
Farrah Wilson, Parent



Lisa Fagan, School Social Worker
Elayne Mahn, Community Member
Tonya Spell, Grade 1 Teacher
Sheryl Cutler, Grade 2 Teacher
Brandy Benjamin, Grade 3 Teacher
Michelle Brand, Grade 4 Teacher
Melinda Brown, Grade 5 Teacher
Stacey Johnson, Related Arts Teacher
Spencer Gaither, Exceptional Education Teacher
Raven Legette, Parent Liaison
Citronella Smith, Guidance Counselor
Talia Dukes, PULSE Facilitator
Lori Lowe, Paraprofessional

Report to the Parents

2013-2014



Thornwell School for the Arts

437 West Carolina Avenue
Hartsville, South Carolina
843-383-3127
Julie Mahn, Principal

"Setting the Stage for Excellence"

2013-2014 Title 1 Reward School of Progress

2013 – 2014 Title 1 Reward School Honorable Mention



(Arts in Basic Curriculum) ABC Site



The mission of Thornwell School for the Arts is
*"Excellence in education and learning
through the arts for a successful future."*

- This report is based on data from the 2012-2013 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.



The population of TSA is currently 390 students. This is a slight decrease of about 20 students from the previous school year. The magnet program and expanded choice both have waiting list for the third consecutive years. This report provides a view of Thornwell School for the Arts, notable highlights, data, families, and progress. The report also addresses the goals and objectives currently being focused on during the 2013-1014 school year.

Notable Highlights:

- Thornwell School for the Arts, was awarded a Title 1 Reward School for Progress Award for Pass test scores and also recognized as a Title 1 Reward School Nominee. Members of the school received a \$5000.00 grant in order to attend and present at the South Carolina Title 1 Conference in Myrtle Beach. The school was recognized at the conference and received an Honorable Mention.
- The Thornwell Players presented, the musical, *Pinocchio, Jr.* in three shows at Center Theatre, downtown, for over 2000 audience members, in attendance total.
- Darlington County Education Foundation awarded over \$7,000 in an arts grant to provide artist in residence throughout the year.
- A first grade teacher received over \$16, 000.00 to provide literacy training in the Fountas and Pinnell Assessment Kits and Guided Reading materials.
- Four classrooms piloted the one to one IPAD roll-out for the District and the teachers received training throughout the year.
- Many students were involved in afternoon art club, Girl Scouts, Boy scouts, Good News Club, and choir.
- Thornwell students, staff and parents continued with year four of the Comer School Development Model from YALE University.
- Thornwell students worked with mentors weekly throughout the year.
- 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 Friendship Dance held in February where the Comer King and Queen were crowned along with the prince and princess from each grade level.
- Families attended many PTO nights with workshops including math, reading and curriculum information while children enjoyed integrated arts activities.
- Dads were delighted by donuts and moms were content with muffins during the year while receiving information about helping their children in school, the importance of fathers and tips mothers could use to de-stress at the end of the day. Grandparents received guidance on assisting with homework.
- The strings students held two concerts; one in the winter and one in the spring as well as attending Concert Festival and solo and ensemble.
- Quarterly awards programs were held to highlight student achievement in academics, leadership, the related arts, character and attendance.
- Coker College School of Education sent interns to work in the classrooms and three student teachers trained in grades two, three and art.

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:

- using guided reading groups effectively in grades one and two
- implementing Common Core Curriculum Standards in all grades
- using and updating student data frequently to drive instruction
- providing interventions for students who need extra assistance in all grades
- 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. The TAP Leadership Team meets in the summer to develop a long range plan for learning. All faculty and staff members receive on-going training in an area of need based on data. 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. Staff members work in committees to meet the needs of the adults and the students in the building in order to provide a safe and happy learning environment for all. From incentives to curriculum and concerns to procedures all of the planning in the school takes place in one of the working committees. This has given everyone sense of ownership and belonging. Our school survey data represents this positive school climate.

South Carolina Accountability Information:

Thornwell's South Carolina report card rating was average for absolute rating and average for improvement rating. The school's ESEA grade is a 92.9/A on the Federal Accountability Waiver up from a 73.7/C the previous year.

The staff and administration are committed to academic excellence in all areas for all children!