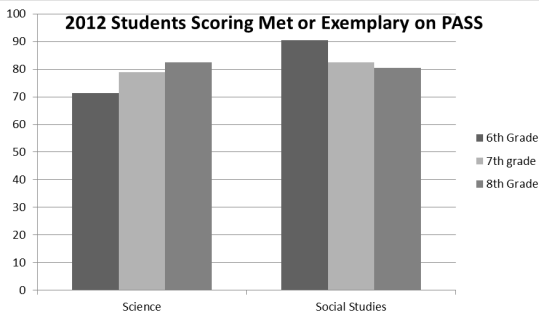
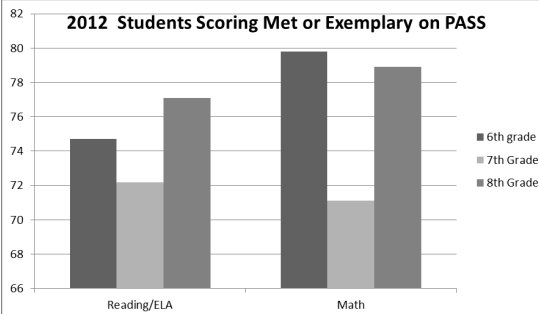


## 2012 SCHOOL REPORT CARD

- ◆ 2012 Absolute rating of Good
- ◆ 2012 Growth rating of **Excellent**
- ◆ 100% of students passed the Algebra 1 and English 1 end of course test



## CONGRATULATIONS

Claire Dixon, Teacher of the Year

Meghan Timmons, Rookie Teacher of the Year

Angie Cartin, Star Performer

Gayna McNeish, Guidance Counselor of the Year

Angie Kelley, Genie Shaughnessy, Adam Weiner were recognized as National Board Certified Teachers

## ACCOLADES

- \* 2012-2013 Palmetto Gold Award for student achievement
- \* 2012 Excellent growth rating on the annual school report card
- \* \$75,000 grant recipient from Boeing to implement Gateway to Technology courses next year, which allows students to explore engineering
- \* Offers the CHEFS program for students to teach students about healthy eating and living habits
- \* Received a \$3,000 Farm to School grant to help fund the school garden
- \* Received a \$450,000 grant from South Carolina to fund the after school program, Tiger Time, to provide students additional help and resources over the next four years
- \* Faculty raised over \$5,000 for the United Way campaign
- \* Started a food pantry this year and donated over 1,000 cans of food to the Lowcountry Food Bank
- \* Was awarded 1st place for team participation in the elementary and middle levels in the Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure"
- \* 9 award winners in the district PTSA Reflections Contest, including three first place winners
- \* Received a \$58,000 grant to incorporate arts across the curriculum

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARENTS  
2012-2013

# ALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

500 BRYAN STREET  
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483  
843-873-3890 (MAIN OFFICE)  
843-821-3978 (FAX)

[HTTP://DORCHESTER.AMS.SCHOOLFUSION.US](http://DORCHESTER.AMS.SCHOOLFUSION.US)



Thad Schmenk, Principal  
Robert King, Assistant Principal  
Natasha Prosser, Assistant Principal  
Rachel Van Damme, Administrative Intern

### AMS Mission

Alston Middle School aims to provide all students with the skills and opportunities to become productive students.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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As one of the oldest schools in Dorchester District 2, Alston Middle School has a long history of excellence, and we feel the 2012–2013 school year was no exception. With an “All Hands on Deck” mindset, teachers, parents, business partners and volunteers worked to develop true relationships with students and with each other. Rallying around a re-commitment to excellence in academics and to meeting the needs of all students, AMS realized many notable achievements this past year.

First and foremost, students and teachers focused on instructional goals which resulted in AMS earning the Palmetto Gold Award as well as an Excellent rating for school improvement on the SC school report card. Our students also performed well at Quest, bringing home the 2nd place award for overall performance (Level 1) for the second year in a row. Teachers, the PTSA, the SIC, and several community organizations worked hard to increase security measures, to start a food pantry, and to offer meaningful after school programs for students and parents. Students demonstrated their fine arts talents via numerous performances, with the musical *Fame* and the special theatrical production of “Edgar Allen Poe’s House” being two exceptional highlights. Our Fine Arts department wrote and received a grant for over \$18,000. And our coaches and athletes performed well on the athletics courts and fields demonstrating both athleticism and sportsmanship.

This year, Alston Middle School also renewed its commitment to be a community school. During this school year, we contributed to our community’s needs by providing baskets of food and supplies in November and December to our local food bank and families in need. Contributions to charitable organizations included donations to the United Way, Leukemia Society, and the H.E.N. project. We participated in community events such as the Komen Race for the Cure, the Summerville farmers’ market, the Citadel’s Trebuchet contest, and the “Scarecrows on the Square” festival. As a community school, we are committed to developing successful, productive citizens who understand the needs and goals of our local area. We also know and understand that involvement and support from our families, students, and community stakeholders is essential to our student’s success and achievement.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, CONTINUED

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As we look to the future, AMS is prepared to take on the challenges that a new state testing system and the transition to Common Core Standards will bring. We embrace the need to develop a curriculum and core set of instructional strategies which will prepare students to be both college and career ready as well as provide them the life skills necessary to be a productive citizen in the 21st century. Our recent partnerships with Junior Achievement to provide career speakers, with SPAWAR to provide support for our Robotics/Lego team, and a grant of \$75,000 from Boeing to bring pre-engineering courses to our campus will surely give AMS a wonderful boost to taking on these challenges.

In summary, we take exceptional pride in the strength and diversity of the programs we offer, of the quality of our teachers, of the participation of our parents, and especially of the accomplishments of our students. We will continue to demonstrate a committed effort toward communicating our school’s vision, improving student achievement, and exhibiting pride in accomplishing our goals. The 2013-2014 school year promises to be one of continued growth and successes. With your help, I know we will reach all of our goals.

## AMS BELIEFS

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- \* Education is our top priority
- \* A safe environment is essential to the learning process
- \* Individuality is to be respected
- \* Active participation and communication between school, parents, and the community is essential
- \* Cultural diversity enhances understanding and enriches life
- \* Success comes from setting high expectations in a positive environment
- \* Exceptional students require special resources and support

## AMS VISION

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Alston Middle School aims to provide, in partnership with parents and the community, a quality education so that each child is able to reach their full potential within a caring, secure environment.

## SIC GOALS

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- \* Continue to build a sense of community in the classroom and school pride
- \* Increased parent involvement through parent workshops and events

## 2012-2013 SIC Members

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- \* Jessica Alspach, Teacher (Secretary)
- \* Sarah Davis, Parent
- \* Paul Johnson, Parent
- \* Laura Perdue, Community Advisor
- \* Anna Prinic, Teacher (Chairperson)
- \* Jaxen Salam, Student
- \* Jennifer Schlette, Community Advisor
- \* Thad Schmenk, Principal
- \* Rachel Van Damme, Administrative Intern

## FAST FACTS

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- \* Grades: 6-8
- \* School Enrollment: 896
- \* Number of Certified Staff: 67
- \* Percentage of Certified Staff with Advanced Degrees: 57%
- \* Average Number of Years of Teaching Experience: 9.6
- \* Number of National Board Certified: 4
- \* Percentage of Students Receiving Subsidized Meals: 49%