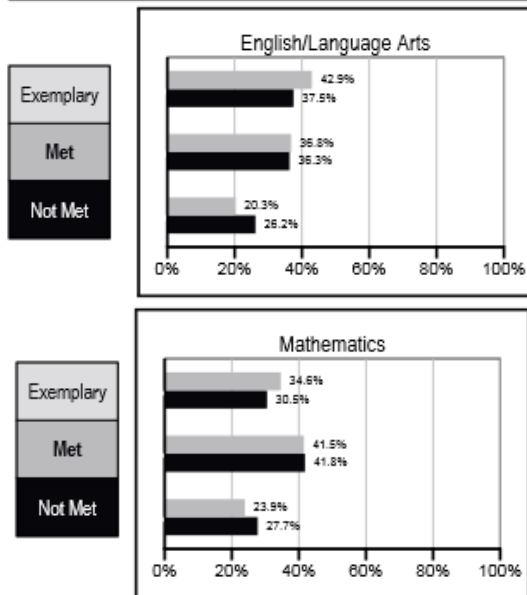


## 2013 SCHOOL REPORT CARD

- ◆ 2013 Absolute Rating of Good
- ◆ 2013 Growth Rating of Average
- ◆ **Federal Accountability Report Card Grade "A" (92.4)**

### Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)



### Pren Woods

Teacher of the Year and Finalist for District Teacher of the Year

### Kimberly Krauklis and Amanda Nelson

Rookie Teachers of the Year, Finalists for District Rookie Teacher of the Year

**Pat Pursley** - Star Performer

**Sheryl Staszewski** - Counselor of the Year

## ACCOLADES

- \* Placed second overall at Trident Technical College's annual Quest Competition for Level II; Placed first in Level II Math; Placed first in Level I Composition
- \* Three students were recognized at the state level for the annual PTSA Reflections Contest which recognizes outstanding performance in the fine arts
- \* Four 7th grade students were recognized as Duke Tip Scholars and seventeen 8th grade students were recognized as South Carolina Junior Scholars
- \* Students from AMS won 1st Place, 2nd Place, and Honorable Mention in the 2014 Holocaust Creative Arts and Writing Competition
- \* AMS received \$75,000 in grant funding from Boeing to implement the "Gateway to Technology" course
- \* AMS 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
- \* Fine Arts received an Arts Curricular Innovation Grant for \$18,000.00 which promotes the arts across the entire curriculum at AMS
- \* AMS faculty raised over \$1,600 for the United Way campaign and over \$1,400 for the American Cancer Society
- \* Our AMS food pantry donated over 1,000 cans of food to the Low Country Food Bank and provided over 50 school families with much needed supplies
- \* AMS was recognized by Count on 2 News as a *Cool School*

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARENTS 2013-2014

# ALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Thad Schmenk, Principal  
Robert King, Assistant Principal  
Natasha Prosser, Assistant Principal



### AMS Mission

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



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

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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From day one of the 2013-2014 school year, Alston Middle School focused on accomplishing two main objectives; first, improve our school's programs and instructional practices with the goal of helping all students obtain the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed to become college and career ready; second, deepen our commitment to be a community school. The following are some highlights of the action steps taken by all stakeholders to accomplish these two objectives. We are extremely grateful to our business partners, community leaders, and parents who worked side-by-side with our faculty and staff this past year. With a "together we are strong" mindset, we were able to create wonderful programs, supports, and opportunities for all of our students.

First and foremost, our staff and stakeholders focused on instructional programs and practices which directly assist students to become college and career ready. AMS rolled out a new "blended learning" program which allows students to earn high school credits in keyboarding and computer application from home. Boeing, the University of South Carolina, and AMS cooperated together to establish a new pre-engineering program, Gateway to Technology (GTT), here at Alston. USC trained several teachers to teach this new course. Boeing's funding supplied the computers and other materials needed to support the GTT lab. Our students and teachers worked hard pioneering this new course. Chick-fil-A partnered with our special education program to establish a real-world employment opportunity for our students with special needs. This program afforded our students a chance to work on career skills, as well as career-related soft-skills. Additionally, it helped them raise the funds to be able to take other career-oriented field trips to local businesses. Google, a new business partner, offered an after-school program to teach students how to program computers and write applications for a variety of devices. Virginia College and the Citadel opened their doors to over one hundred of our students who elected to visit their campuses to learn more about post-secondary opportunities. Subway partnered with AMS to challenge our students to live healthier lifestyles. They rewarded our students with a special visit from Jared himself! Additionally, our own PTSA donated over \$1750 to teachers to support instruction in the classroom. These funds were used to purchase software, technologies, and other supplies needed to enhance and enrich instruction.

Next, our stakeholders rallied to provide our students with the social and emotional supports necessary to be successful socially and academically. AMS partnered with the Boeing/MUSC Health and Wellness program with the goal of creating new practices and policies that will improve the overall health and well-being of students and faculty while at school. For example, healthier vending options were instituted; a faculty wellness program was initiated; our school gardens were expanded; and a new school-wide health curriculum was implemented. Numerous volunteer coaches and staff members volunteered countless hours supporting our athletic teams. All of our teams demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and determination throughout the entire athletic season. Our boy's football and basketball teams each made it to the finals, and our boy's wrestling team ended the season as undefeated champions! With the help of several churches and the Big Hearts of the Low Country, AMS was able to support local families in need with our own food pantry, clothing closet, and school supply depot. Plus, our Tiger Touch program, which aims to mentor at-risk students, significantly expanded this year by adding additional volunteers and by enrolling more students.

Lastly, AMS made a concerted effort to give back to our community. Our faculty raised over \$1400 for the United Way. Students donated over 1000 canned-food items to local food banks. The Tiger Pride Committee sponsored community outreach activities at Doty Park. Students provided the local community two opportunities to enjoy fine arts performances, with the musical *Aladdin* and a haunted house tribute to Edgar Allan Poe. AMS participated in community events such as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, the Summer-ville farmers' market, Miracle League, and Relay for Life. With the help of Mrs. JuJu's Gourmet, AMS also sponsored a series of parent workshops focused on preventing and ending bullying both in our school and in our community. The School Improvement Committee also offered a book study on the book *Parenting Teens with Love and Logic* for parents.

In summary, we take exceptional pride in the diversity of the programs we offer, in the quality of our teachers, in the participation of our parents and community members, and in the accomplishments of our students. We know and understand that involvement and support from our families, students, and community stakeholders is essential to our success. The 2014-2015 school year promises to be one of continued growth and success. With your help, I know we will reach all of our goals.

## 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 his/her 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
- \* Increase parent involvement through parent workshops and events

## 2013-2014 SIC Members

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- \* Charlotte Dakin, Parent (Secretary)
- \* Tim Harrison, Community Member
- \* Ron Mason, Parent
- \* Kristen France, Teacher (Chairperson)
- \* Jennifer Schlette, Community Advisor
- \* Thad Schmenk, Principal
- \* Amanda Hodges, Teacher
- \* Kim Lifrieri, Parent
- \* Laura Perdue, Community Member

## FAST FACTS

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- \* Grades: 6-8
- \* School Enrollment: 913
- \* Number of Certified Staff: 61
- \* Percentage of Certified Staff with Advanced Degrees: 45%
- \* Percentage of Students Receiving Subsidized Meals: 56%