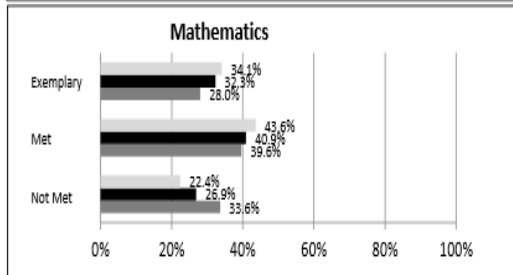
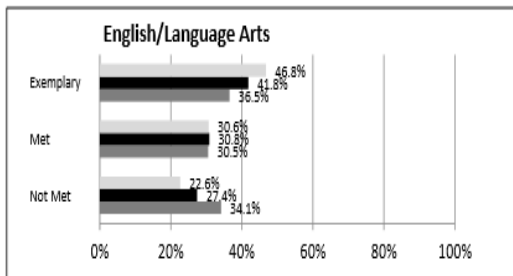


2014 SCHOOL REPORT CARD

- ◆ 2014 Absolute rating of Excellent
- ◆ 2014 Growth rating of Average
- ◆ 100% of students passed the Algebra 1 EOC
- ◆ 95.9% of students passed the English I EOC

SC PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School
 Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
 Middle Schools Statewide



Teacher of the Year

AJ Glover

Rookie Teacher of the Year

Linard McCloud,

Star Performer

Felicia Whetsell

Guidance Counselor of the Year

David Simmons

ACCOLADES

- * 2014 Absolute rating of **Excellent**
- * Continued in the second year of a \$75,000 grant recipient from Boeing to implement Gateway to Technology courses next year, which allows students to explore engineering
- * AMS placed third overall at Trident Tech Annual Quest in Level II; Placed first in the Level II Math; Placed second in Level II Composition
- * A student was recognized at the state level for the annual Geography Bee
- * AMS staff was awarded first place in the Tri-County area for Boeing/MUSC's Health and Wellness Initiative
- * The Fine Arts Department was awarded Art Curricular Innovation Grant for \$18,000
- * Gayna McNeish, Director of Guidance, was recognized by the Summerville Journal of Scene as one of ten "Women to Watch"
- * Improved 18 of 30 categories on PASS test
- * Faculty raised over \$1,000 for the United Way campaign
- * Expanded a food and clothing pantry for those in need
- * The AMS team participated in the *Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure*
- * Students from AMS placed 1st, 2nd, and received Honorable Mention in the 2014 Holocaust Creative Arts Competition
- * 2014 Facility Improvements: restrooms renovations, new stage curtain, and improved security cameras

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARENTS
2014-2015

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

AMS Mission

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Alston Middle School takes exceptional pride in the diversity of programs offered and in the quality of our teachers. Furthermore, we recognize that the contributions and the support from our families, students, and community stakeholders are essential to our success. As we look to the future, AMS is prepared to take on the challenges that a new state testing system (ACT ASPIRE) and the transition to the new SC State Standards will bring. We embrace the need to develop a curriculum and school structures that will prepare students to be both college and career ready, as well as provide them the knowledge, skills, and personal characteristics needed to be successful in the 21st century.

During the 2014-2015 school year, our staff members and stakeholders concentrated on creating and expanding our instructional programs and practices which directly assist students to obtain world-class knowledge. Enrollment in rigorous courses (Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry 1 Honors, and English 1 Honors) reached record highs. Local stakeholders partnered with AMS, focusing on increasing opportunities for students to develop science, technology, and mathematics skills. Boeing and the University of South Carolina enhanced our pre-engineering program by purchasing computers and 3-D printers for our STEM classroom. In addition, our students competed in a trebuchet contest at the Citadel and participated in computer programming courses offered through SPAWAR and Google.

Alston staff and school partners also worked endlessly to help students obtain the world class skills necessary to compete globally. Our students were challenged to work collaboratively and creatively within their fine arts courses to create and perform in fine arts productions. Chick-fil-A partnered with our special education program to establish a real-world employment opportunity for our students with special needs. Our students' teamwork skills were put to the test on the various athletic fields and courts. Students also learned to compete academically as teams in the First Lego League, Quest, and Dimension U contests. Finally, our students enhanced their communication skills by participating in our WAMS morning show, our SIC committee,

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, CONTINUED

by participating in our WAMS morning show, our SIC committee, and in our Tiger Pride student team.

Furthermore, AMS students, teachers, and counselors concentrated on developing important life and career characteristics. Students developed a sense of self-direction through Individualized Graduation Plan meetings with counselors. They took career interest inventories using SCOIS software and attended presentations by a variety of career speakers throughout the school year. Our teachers, Tiger Time mentoring program, and guidance department scheduled field trips to local colleges and industries. AMS staff helped students gain a global perspective through our annual International Coffee Hour and German Teacher Exchange programs. Our various character education initiatives wove interpersonal and soft skills practices into our activities, curriculum, mentoring programs, and sports.

We congratulate our faculty, students, parents, coaches, mentors, and business partners for another outstanding year. Our SC Absolute Rating of Excellence, our 1st place MUSC/Boeing Wellness award, our 3rd place overall finish at Quest, and our numerous fine arts and athletic achievements attest to the commitment our stakeholders have. The AMS School Improvement Council looks forward to another successful school year in 2015-16.

AMS BELIEFS

- * 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.

AMS VISION

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 or her full potential within a caring, secure environment.

SIC GOALS

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

2014-2015 SIC Members

- * Shannon Raglin, Parent (Secretary)
- * Daniel Dickerson, Community Member
- * Carrie Bovender, Community Member
- * Kristen France, Teacher (Chairperson)
- * Thad Schmenk, Principal
- * Amanda Hodges, Teacher
- * Kim Lifrieri, Parent
- * Thu-Thao Ayers, Parent

FAST FACTS

- * Grades: 6-8
- * School Enrollment: 931
- * Number of Certified Staff: 66
- * Percentage of Certified Staff with Advanced Degrees: 57%
- * Average Number of Years of Teaching Experience: 6.7
- * Percentage of Students Receiving Subsidized Meals: 53%