

2015 SCHOOL REPORT CARD

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



CONGRATULATIONS!

Gina Causey, **Teacher of the Year**

Christin Clark,
Rookie Teacher of the Year

Terry Miller, **Star Performer**

Gayna McNeish,
Guidance Counselor of the Year

ACCOLADES

- * Third year recipient of the \$75,000 grant from Boeing
- * An AMS student was recognized at the state level for the annual Geography Bee
- * An AMS student was recognized at the district for the annual Spelling Bee
- * The Fine Arts Department was awarded an Art Curricular Innovation Grant for \$18,000. This is the third year in a row
- * Gayna McNeish, Director of Guidance, was recognized as Dorchester School District Two's "Guidance Counselor of the Year"
- * Ladonna Davis, Guidance Counselor, was awarded "2016 Trident Region SC CATE Counselor of the Year"
- * Continued a food and clothing pantry for those in need, including a record of 28 holiday meals for families
- * 2015 Facility Improvements: new security lobby, addition of the Fine Arts wing, a new roof, and the A.C. units being added to the gym
- * Recognized as a Palmetto Gold Award Recipient by the South Carolina Department of Education for Academic Performance
- * Recognized by the Boeing/MUSC Wellness Center as a model school

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARENTS
2015-2016

ALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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[HTTP://WWW.EDLINESITES.NET/PAGES/
ALSTON_MIDDLE_SCHOOL](http://www.edlinesites.net/pages/alston_middle_school)



Thad Schmenk, Principal
Jennie Simons, 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 prides itself on serving as a pillar of the Summerville community. Through historical ties and strong community connections, active parental involvement, and a distinguished staff, AMS works to provide each individual child with the tools needed so that he or she will become a productive citizen. This vision is brought to life on a daily basis through the diversity of our programs and through the quality of our teachers. As we look to the future, AMS is prepared to take on the challenges that the new SCREADY state testing system 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 2015-2016 school year, Alston stakeholders worked together to provide rigorous standards in all four core areas as well as in Fine/Related Arts classes. We provided these with the goal to foster career and college readiness. Gifted and Talented Education classes were offered in all core subject areas in all grade levels. In order to promote high school graduation, students were able to take Algebra 1, Geometry, English 1 Honors, Spanish, and Fine Arts classes, providing them with high school credits. In addition, Read 180, Math 180, and Academic Core Extension (ACE) were utilized as tools to support students in core classes. The Alston guidance department met with eighth grade students to create Individualized Graduation Plans (IGPs), focusing on the college and/or career path of each student.

Alston students also consistently displayed the world class skills that make them globally competitive. Alston students displayed creativity and innovation by participating in Fine Arts performances, competing in the Reflections contest, anchoring the student news broadcast (WAMS), and taking Gateway to Technology classes. Students also demonstrated critical thinking and problem solving skills which were fostered through competitions such as Quest, MathCounts!, Dimension U, Robotics, First Lego League, the AMS Spelling Bee, and the AMS Geography Bee. Many students earned placed positions in these competitions and continued on the district and state levels! In addition, students utilized the PathBlazer program to facilitate computer-based differentiated instruction and Document-Based Questions (DBQs) to assist in higher-order thinking.

The AMS team of parents, students, teachers, administrators, community members, and business partners epitomize the power of successful collaboration. Through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), teachers and

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, CONTINUED

administrators met to ensure the best education for each child. AMS students were supported by the surrounding community in athletic and academic events. The teamwork of Alston stakeholders continued with committees such as the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) committee, the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), the School Improvement Council (SIC), and the Health and Wellness Committee.

Communication continued throughout the 2015-2016 school year through the avenues of newsletters, media, and technology. AMS students utilized WAMS to update the student body on school events. In addition, Alston's new website Edline was utilized to provide stakeholders electronic copies of the monthly newsletter, school updates, and classroom happenings. Parents were kept informed via Remind (text messaging service), school emails, and the AMS phone messages.

Alston Middle School congratulates its faculty for providing students numerous opportunities to develop metacognitive skills. The guidance department worked as a cohesive unit providing classroom lessons, small-group and individual counseling, and trainings for students on how to take an active leadership/mentorship role with new and incoming students. Alston continued character building and goal setting with all students through its PBIS program. Teachers at AMS provided tutoring opportunities in addition to the after school Tiger Time program. Our media specialist worked with classroom teachers to provide lessons for students on specific standards and test taking skills.

Developing life and career characteristics is essential for all Alston students to become productive citizens. That is why AMS strived to instill integrity and self-direction in students through its character development program and career speakers, who were specifically geared toward the desires of each student. Alston displayed a global perspective through providing Spanish classes joining stakeholders in "Coffee with the Principal" meetings, hosting a food pantry for community members, and participating in the "Principal for a Day" program. Perseverance and work ethic was rewarded through academic ceremonies and rewards. Students were honored with Gold Club memberships for excelling in academics and character.

The Alston Middle School team feels confident that each child has demonstrated growth in the areas of academics and character. Our SC Absolute Rating of "Excellent", our Palmetto Gold Award, and our numerous Fine Arts and athletic achievements confirm the commitment given by all stakeholders to ensure the success of all students. The School Improvement Council congratulates Alston for another successful year and looks forward to what 2016-2017 has in store.

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.

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
- * Exceptional students require special resources and support

SIC GOALS

- * Continued to build a sense of community in the classroom and school pride

2015-2016 SIC Members

- * Thad Schmenk, Administrator/Principal
- * Shannon Raglin, Parent (Secretary)
- * Amanda Hodges, Teacher (Chairperson)
- * Sarah Gavin, Teacher (Co-Chairperson)
- * Kim Lifrieri, Parent
- * Kelley Smith, Teacher
- * Tanya Timmons, Community Member

FAST FACTS

- * Grades: 6-8
- * School Enrollment: 856
- * Number of Certified Staff: 55
- * Percentage of Certified Staff with Advanced Degrees: 54.5%
- * Average Years of Teaching Experience: 9.2
- * Percentage of Students Receiving Subsidized Meals: 49%