

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

*The state will not release new report card ratings until the 2017-2018 school year.

Congratulations

Lara Hayes,

Teacher of the Year

Megan Stauch,

**Rookie Teacher
of the Year**

Natalie Hilton,

Star Performer



ACCOLADES

- * Alston earned a 2014 absolute rating of **Excellent**.
- * AMS placed third overall at the Dimension U competition and qualified for the national finals.
- * Students placed 2nd for Level I Social Studies in the Quest Competition at Trident Tech.
- * Mr. Woods was awarded the MET Opera grant to expose students to the performing arts.
- * Two students placed "Superior" in the SCMEA piano solo and ensembles; one student was selected to play at the SC Educators Honors Conference.
- * Six students made the Region 4 Honor Band; one of the students was selected to play 1st chair.
- * Two students earned first place in literature and visual arts at the district level Reflections competition.
- * We expanded our food pantry and clothing closet for those in need.
- * The AMS baseball team won first place in the district playoffs.
- * Facility improvements included: a new, more secure front office area, a new arts wing to house Fine Arts classes, a new roof, and we are breaking ground on the new ball fields and courtyard areas.
- * Our 7th and 8th grade Symphonic Band received their first "Superior" rating at SCCP in ten years.
- * Our Health and Wellness Committee ran several health related events and programs.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARENTS
2016-2017

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

Adopting and nurturing a growth mindset within the school community has been the driving force behind Alston Middle School's continual advancements and successes. By embracing the belief that an individualized, well-rounded education is critical for each child to reach his or her full potential within a nurturing, secure environment, our school stakeholders have been able to inspire students to be life-long learners and productive community members.

Built in 1910, the original Alston campus was one of the first African American schools founded in the county. In order to preserve this historical landmark, Alston has had many facility improvements over the last couple of years. In addition to the newly renovated front office area, an entire new arts wing has been added to house our exceptional Fine Arts classes. Founded upon the district's pillars of quality, tradition, and vision, our school strives to utilize its rich history and facilities to provide exceptional, relevant, and individualized academic and character education.

Keeping with the spirit of constant improvement, our teachers applied for and received over \$20,000 in grants this year. These funds provided a wide variety of supplies such as classroom tablets that allow our students to gain 21st century skills and desks that allow students to work while standing.

In addition, Alston has implemented a new "House System" where students and staff are placed into three Houses: Balica, Corbetti, and Sumatra. This system focuses on building positive relationships, character, school spirit, and advocacy for all students. This program has also created many leadership opportunities for students, such as the new Student Council, and has placed a new focus on philanthropy.

The 2016-2017 AMS SIC goal was to further develop relationships with the community. AMS brought on and collaborated with new Partners in Education including Colgate Bright Smiles, who provided free dental cleanings for our students. We partnered with the SC Chamber of Commerce to offer a parent seminar that focused on career preparation and opportunities.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, CONTINUED

Alston has also recently partnered with Engaging Creative Minds, a program that trains teachers to incorporate fine arts instruction in all classrooms. In addition, Crayola has partnered with AMS to provide extra writing support.

Lastly, our school community has fully embraced a growth mindset. As a result, we have been able to watch that vision come to fruition in our classrooms and on the various performing arts stages. The diversity of our population, programs, and instruction paired with our SC Absolute Rating of "Excellent," Palmetto Gold Award, and our numerous Fine Arts and athletic achievements affirm the continual growth and success of our school. Looking toward the future, Alston Middle School will continue evaluating our programs as part of the school's reaccreditation and renewal process next year.



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 are 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

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

- * Continued to build a sense of community in the classroom and school pride
 - * Increased parent involvement through parent workshops and events
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2016-2017 SIC Members

- * Thad Schmenk, Administrator
- * Shannon Raglin, Parent (Secretary)
- * Amanda Hodges, Teacher (Chairperson)
- * Kelley Smith, Teacher
- * Lynn McClary, Community Member
- * Tanya Timmons, Parent
- * Wende Kintner, Parent

FAST FACTS

- * Grades: 6-8
- * School Enrollment: 786
- * Number of Certified Staff: 55
- * Percentage of Certified Staff with Advanced Degrees: 53%
- * Average Number of Year of Teaching Experience: 10.3
- * Percentage of Students Receiving Subsidized Meals: 49%