

OAKBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL'S ANNUAL 2013-2014 REPORT TO PARENTS



286 OLD FORT DRIVE LADSON, SC 29456 WEBSITE: [HTTP://DORCHESTER.OMS.SCHOOLFUSION.US/](http://dorchester.oms.schoolfusion.us/)
(P) 843-873-9750 (F) 843-821-3931

MESSAGE FROM HEAD PRINCIPAL BRION RUTHERFORD

Dear Parents,

Unbelievable! That is the only word that comes to mind when I reflect on how we have built upon the success of last year. It is a true honor for me to serve as your child's principal. I am equally honored to be a part of an educational system with such student-centered educators.

Oakbrook Middle School enjoys tremendous support from the Dorchester Two school board and district leadership. This support allows us to continue to strive to impact our students with innovative, relevant programs designed to prepare our children for the academic opportunities that await them at Ashley Ridge

and Fort Dorchester High Schools. During the 2013-2014 school year we have increased that commitment with the re-introduction of the Gateway to Technology Pre-Engineering course, the addition of French I as a course option, and the creation of additional sections of English I in 8th grade and Algebra I in 7th grade. We will continue to push the envelope in terms of relevant course options available to our students.

In addition to providing advanced pathways of academic studies, teachers at Oakbrook Middle School have tackled the complex question of how to provide meaningful opportunities for remediation within an already busy bell schedule.

The answer we have developed is called Raptor Time. During Raptor Time teachers pull small groups of specific students to remediate specific skills. This effort now works in conjunction with Courtyard Tutoring (for make-up work, retesting) and tutoring that is offered before and/or after school.

The result of all these efforts and many more has been an increase in the number of students qualifying for honor roll each quarter and a significant decrease in the discipline incidents at Oakbrook Middle School. OMS is taking aim at being the top neighborhood middle school in South Carolina.

The purpose of this report is to provide vital information about our school to all of stakeholders so that we can be informed collaborators in making Oakbrook Middle School the best school in the state of South Carolina.

Our Vision Statement:
Oakbrook Middle School desires to be recognized as a world class middle school, expecting each student to achieve at his/her optimum level in all areas, and providing all members of our Eagle family with an environment that permits them to do their personal best.

OAKBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL DATA

Enrollment as of 4/2014: 970

PASS ELA Met/Exemplary

6th-82.5% 7th-83.8% 8th-74.6%

PASS Writing Met/Exemplary

6th-88.0% 7th-88.7% 8th-89.5%

PASS Math Met/ Exemplary

6th-80.9% 7th-79.5% 8th-78.0%

PASS Science Met/ Exemplary

6th-78.7% 7th-84.8% 8th-83.0%

PASS Social Studies Met/ Exemplary

6th-88.8% 7th-79.8% 8th-78.2%

WE ARE CONNECTED!

Students and parents connect with us at Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/omseagles>

Twitter: OMS_Eagles

Students and parents receive text alerts at

Remind 101: text @ruthe to 978-319-4176 or send and email to ruthe@mail.remind101.com

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

- ◆ Sharon Kerley
- ◆ Danielle Kafina
- ◆ Brandon Pitcher

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- ◆ Jamie Frank-O'Connell
- ◆ Lowanda Jamison
- ◆ Shawn Davis

2013-2014 Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement:

Goal 1: Increase opportunities for parents to be involved in school activities

The OMS SIC was interested in assisting the school with developing specific opportunities for parental involvement. The goal was two pronged: opportunities during the school day and opportunities after school. SIC collaboration led to the development of the monthly "Eat Lunch with your Child" day that has been tremendously successful. We have tied business partners to this effort to provide meals for purchase to parents and students. In the evening our approach was more strategic. We planned and implemented first and third quarter report card pick up opportunities. These evenings allowed parents to get a peek at OMS Fine and Performing Arts groups,

sign up for parent conferences, and participate in important informational sessions about the school.

Goal 2: Improve school wide communication.

Communication between members of the OMS family is always a high priority. With this in mind we have been specific in the requirements laid out for teachers on what types and how often regular communication with parents should be occurring. A focus on increasing the amount of communication amongst teachers and between teachers and administrators has also been a priority during grade level, team, and content planning PLC time. In an effort to increase our students connection to the Ladson, Summerville, and North Charleston communities we have also gone to lengths to improve our communication with business partners.

Additional Strategies to Promote Student Success:

- ◆ Google computer coding camp was offered to interested students free of charge, including transportation.
- ◆ A teacher leadership team developed RtI strategies to promote higher order reading and analysis skills.
- ◆ Teacher teams at each grade level manipulated time during courtyard, lunch, and related arts to provide additional academic support for students.
- ◆ Under the direction of our School Psychologists, OMS has continued the "Check In/Check Out" program for behaviorally at-risk students.
- ◆ Algebra I Boot Camp was coordinated through Ms. Lemon for students in Alg I in 7th or 8th grade.

Special Honors and Awards:

- ◆ Laurie Waterhouse - Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Gillian Caudle - Rookie Teacher of the Year and District Honor Rookie Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Cristy Truesdale - Rookie Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Randy Staley - Star Performer of the Year

A Taste of Our 2013-2014 School Achievements:

- ◆ Oakbrook Middle School was awarded a "Gold" award by the State Department of Education for overall performance. OMS was also recognized with a "Silver" award for Closing the Achievement Gap.
- ◆ Oakbrook Middle School students have successfully participated in a variety of academic events and competitions, including Quest, Math Counts, Math is Cool, several writing contests, Citadel's Trebuchet Competition and Robotics.
- ◆ Through our service clubs and organizations, OMS students have participated altruistically in such events as Relay for Life, Make-A-Wish and SPCA.

- ◆ Oakbrook Middle School continued its Leadership class with great success focusing on improving the hallways at OMS, providing ideas for different celebrations, and creating a fun and exciting yearbook.

Athletics:

- ◆ Eagle Football finished third in the DD2 Football league.
- ◆ Eagle Boy's Basketball finished second during league play and made it to the semi-finals of the district tournament.
- ◆ Eagle baseball won its first playoff game in the history of the program, an extra inning affair versus RMSA that spanned two days.

Fine Arts:

- ◆ Chorus, Piano, Strings, Dance and Band achieved a variety of Superior and Excellent Ratings in the Spring Festival events.

- ◆ The Fine Arts Department collaborated on a production of the musical *Charlie Brown.*, incorporating singing, dancing, and acting.
- ◆ OMS Fine and Performing Arts students performed at a number of public events including Summerville DREAM's Third Thursday event and the N. Chas. Fine Arts Festival.

Career and Technology Education:

- ◆ OMS continues to be a district leader amongst middle schools in the use of the DoD online gaming program DimensionU, combining complex gaming strategy with math skills.
- ◆ The Oakbrook Middle School Gateway to Technology program garnered many honors this year including State Champions in the USC Design and Modeling competition.

SIC Members

Gary Wolf, SIC Chair
Brion Rutherford, Principal
Brandon, Assistant Principal
Heidi Herron Ex-Officio (PTSA Rep)

Parents:

- ◆ Tomova Attles-Robinson
- ◆ Joane Clark
- ◆ Gary Wolf
- ◆ Tracie Archie
- ◆ Betty Cheeseright

Faculty:

- ◆ Tim Pierce
- ◆ Betty Avinger
- ◆ Debbie Runyon
- ◆ Vincent Joy