

# OAKBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL'S ANNUAL 2014-2015 REPORT TO PARENTS



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## MESSAGE FROM HEAD PRINCIPAL BRION RUTHERFORD

Dear Parents,

Our year is coming to an end and with it comes time for celebration and reflection as we acknowledge our accomplishments and recognize our areas for continued improvement.

### World Class Knowledge

Oakbrook Middle School continues to maintain rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness. We continue to scour data and past student performance in searching for any and all students capable of achieving in GATE or other advanced coursework. This results in a larger number of students working in GATE and advanced coursework. To meet this classroom

challenge we provide structured PLC planning time for all of our grade level content area teachers twice per week. For the third year in a row we have increased enrollment in English I Honors, Algebra I Honors, and Geometry H, while simultaneously adding Carnegie unit credit opportunities in Spanish, French, Steel Drums, Band, Chorus, Visual Art, Piano, Keyboarding/BCA, Orchestra, Dance, and Musical Theater. In addition to our focus on increasing upper level opportunities for students, we also recognize that some of our Oakbrook Middle School family need some skill remediation and acceleration to compete in college and career readiness

programs at the high school level. To meet the needs of these students we have renewed our commitment to the READ180 program and added a Math180 program. Quarterly data meetings between administration and the teachers in this program insure that enrollment is fluid and based on demonstrated student need. The Oakbrook Middle School Special Education department continues to be a regional leader in its approach to meeting individual student needs through creative scheduling based on ability and performance related data.

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 4/2015: 998

#### PASS ELA Met/Exemplary

6th-79.1/51.4 7th-75.1/44.7 8th-75.8/47.4

#### PASS Writing Met/Exemplary

6th-86.1/41.8 7th-83.2/42.2 8th-81.8/38.6

#### PASS Math Met/ Exemplary

6th-75/30 7th-75.4/41.4 8th-75.8/24.5

#### PASS Science Met/ Exemplary

6th-80.4/26.4 7th-80.4/37.4 8th-79.6/49.3

#### PASS Social Studies Met/ Exemplary

6th-89.6/44.2 7th-74.8/51.4 8th-77.9/50

### WE ARE CONNECTED!

Students and parents connect with us at

Facebook:

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

Twitter: [OMS\\_Eagles](#)

### ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

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

### GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

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

## World Class Skills

At Oakbrook Middle School we understand that to be college and career ready our students need to explore skills and talents beyond the core classroom. In an effort to provide this environment we offer many classes and skill development opportunities to our young Eagles. Through support from the DD2 school board and some creative scheduling we are able to offer both Spanish and French coursework, with the option for working toward a high school credit in one or the other. We continually work with our master schedule to maximize the number of students who have the opportunity to take Keyboarding and Business Computer Apps. Amy Baldwin, PLTW teacher continues to develop and lead our Gateway to Technology program, introducing the biomedical engineering course Medical Detectives to the 8th grade curriculum. Our Fine and Performing Arts department continues to stretch the limits of our students' creative talents through high school credit coursework and after school performance teams. Oakbrook Middle School was recently awarded a grant for an afterschool robotics camp. Students in this camp explored a variety of STEM related careers and activities. They sponsored an FLL Robotics Team that claimed second place in robot performance at the local competition. We continue to host Google computer programming camps and, through a partnership with Google and our ITS Betsy Hare, have initiated a Girls in Tech club, allowing our young ladies to explore career fields and interests in STEM. Our students compete in various competitions that require not only strong academic knowledge, but also skill in communication and collaboration such as DimensionU, Math Counts, Quest, USC Modeling and Design, Math is Cool, FLL Robotics, maintenance of a school garden and Trebuchet Competition. Our students experience with communication and collaboration is also extended in our OMS News Show, our video chats with a middle school in Port Royal, Kenya, Yearbook class, modeling from teachers who function in grade level PLC teams, the TALONS student leadership board, the Peacekeepers Team, and our overall school focus on altruistic charities in the community. Building student capacity to learn and benefit from all of these programs happens in many ways - PBIS expectations reviews for the first ten days of school, administrative visits to classrooms, classroom counseling lessons, Raptor Time (RTI) and scheduled in tutoring time for all core classes.

## Life and Career Characteristics

At Oakbrook Middle School we recognize and appreciate that students need to be taught and have experience demonstrating successful life and career characteristics. Our students participate in volunteer activities through Beta Club and National Junior Honor Society throughout the year. OMS has partnered with a local company, Addressing Basic Conflict, and established a Peacekeepers team to monitor OMS student culture and make recommendations for improvement. Students who show need for additional adult intervention are referred to an adult mentor as a part of our Check In/Check Out program. Our school family introduces students to a global perspective through our

recycling program, our video chat/collaborative partnership with a middle school in Port Royal, Kenya, our Steel Drums program, and our world culture program in Spanish and French. In an attempt to support high achievement in all of the areas previously mentioned we understand that both intrinsic and extrinsic awards need to be present to draw students in the right direction. We have quarterly honor roll ceremonies, SOAR + behavior cards, Positive Referrals (600+ for 14-15), our Positive Referral Wall of Fame (by grade level), No Discipline celebrations, and, beginning in 14-15, our 8th Grade Passing Up Ceremony. All of these programs contribute to the development of a culture of caring at OMS that

culminates in our efforts to teach students how to get along with one another. This instruction occurs through our Peacekeepers team, the use of the Socratic Seminar teaching strategy, frequent use of class presentations and speakers, book clubs, peer mediation with school counselors, classroom counseling lessons, and the manner in which adults model this behavior within the building.

Oakbrook Middle School will continue to rise to and meet the challenge of being World Class through hearing the voice of its students, teachers, parents, and community. This tireless effort is always supported by our DD2 School Board and district office team.

## Special Honors and Awards:

- ◆ Elisabeth Vella- Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Caswell Adams - Rookie Teacher of the Year and District Honor Rookie Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Bobbi Handy - Star Performer of the Year
- ◆ PTSA Volunteer of the Year—Randy Staley
- ◆ PTSA Admin of the Year—Brandon Pitcher
- ◆ PTSA Teacher of the Year—Deb Runyon
- ◆ PTSA Support Member of the Year—Chrissy Payseur
- ◆ PTSA Student of the Year—Michael Flynn-Pickett

## SIC Members

James Thornley, SIC Chair  
Brion Rutherford, Principal  
Brandon Pltcher, Asst. Principal  
Sharon Kerley, Asst. Principal  
Danielle Kafina, Asst. Principal  
Heidi Herron Ex-Officio (PTSA Rep)

### Parents:

- ◆ Sundae Cora
- ◆ Gary Wolf

### Faculty:

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