

OAKBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2012-2013



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MESSAGE FROM HEAD PRINCIPAL BRION RUTHERFORD

Dear Parents,

Wow! To say that this year has flown by would be an extreme understatement. I am certainly humbled and honored to serve as your child's principal and look forward to continuing to improve our service to our children in the coming school year.

With tremendous support from our school board and district office team, the leadership at Oakbrook Middle School will 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. In keeping with

this we look forward to the return of the Gateway to Technology pre-engineering course. This course fits in with the district vision of providing students with academic learning opportunities that enable them to be college or career ready at the conclusion of their high school studies and provides a base for our implementation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education throughout OMS.

Support from the district and school board level also will allow us to introduce steel drums to our Fine Arts Department. A steel drums program will provide yet another entry point into the arts for students who wish to pursue a study of the arts

in conjunction with their academic studies.

Although challenges emerge during the course of our work, I can say with full confidence that the children of Oakbrook Middle School are second to none. We will continue to collaborate with families, the community, district support, and teachers to ensure that Oakbrook Middle School takes its rightful place as one of the best middle schools 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 Mission Statement:

The Mission of Oakbrook Middle School is to educate students to become proficient, responsible and caring citizens by creating a nurturing environment where staff, parents and community work together to provide challenges and opportunities for students to reach their maximum potential.

OAKBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL DATA

Enrollment as of 4/2013: 947

PASS ELA Met/Exemplary

6th-81.5% 7th-78.5% 8th-75.4%

PASS Math Met/ Exemplary

6th-85.1% 7th-85.1% 8th-76.9%

PASS Science Met/ Exemplary

6th-80.0% 7th-86.8% 8th-80.5%

PASS Social Studies Met/ Exemplary

6th-79.1% 7th-76.5% 8th-85.8%

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 to join.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

◆ Sharon Kerley

◆ Danielle Kafina

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

◆ Jamie Frank-O'Connell

◆ Lowanda Jamison

◆ Shawn Davis

2012-2013 Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement:

Goal 1: Identifying and breaking down barriers to parent involvement.

The SIC tackled the task of identifying and breaking down barriers to parent involvement at Oakbrook Middle School. The number one identified barrier was communication of need. The PTSA shared that email addresses of all members were collected, but they needed assistance with putting the addresses into a workable format. Most parents in SIC shared that they were interested in participating in school events but simply did not know the need. A focus for 2013-2014 will be the promotion and use of Remind101 to share important information with parents, including volunteer opportunities.

Goal 2: Improve school wide communication.

The OMS SIC was also interested in pursuing an examination of the school wide communication plan. Parents shared that the communication experience was dependent solely on the team of teachers that students ended up on and they felt that particular system could be improved upon. We collected best practices from the parents whose students were on highly communicative teams to develop a school wide plan for sharing assignments, grades, etc. with parents in a consistent and timely fashion. This plan will be finalized with team captains at the summer leadership meeting with the ultimate goal of providing a consistent, 6-8, communication system for parents.

Additional Strategies to Promote Student Success:

- ◆ Specific students identified by teachers were supported in grade level after school tutoring led by Mr. Peters.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Student improvement plans are developed quarterly to provide direction for students to increase their grades.

Special Honors and Awards:

- ◆ Shawn Davis - Guidance Counselor of the Year
- ◆ Erin Craddock - Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Rachel Beebe - Rookie Teacher of the Year and district finalist
- ◆ Elisabeth Vella - Rookie Teacher of the Year
- ◆ Tempora Reynoso - Star Performer of the Year

A Sample of Our 2012-2013 School Achievements:

- ◆ Oakbrook Middle School was one of 19 Dorchester District 2 schools to be awarded "Gold" status by the State Department of Education. The other 2 schools in the District earned "Silver."
- ◆ Oakbrook Middle School students have participated in and been successful in a variety of academic events and competitions, including Quest, Math Counts, Math is Cool, several writing contests, and Robotics.
- ◆ Through our service clubs and organizations, OMS students have participated altruistically in such events as Relay for Life, fund raising for the SPCA, Hoops for Heart, and Jeans for Troops day.

- ◆ Oakbrook Middle School began its first Student 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 won the DD2 Middle School Championship, finishing 8-0 on the season.
- ◆ Lady Eagle Basketball capped off an undefeated season with the DD2 Middle School Championship in January.
- ◆ Eagle Wrestling went undefeated in dual matches, capturing the DD2 Middle School Championship with a decisive, year end victory over DMS.

Fine Arts:

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

tival events.

- ◆ The Fine Arts Department collaborated on an \$18,000 grant that supported the production of the musical *Annie Jr.*, incorporating singing, dancing, and acting.
- ◆ Beginning in 2013-2014, Oakbrook Middle School will be offering a Steel Drums program.

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.
- ◆ Beginning in 2013-2014, Oakbrook Middle School will be adding a Gateway to Technology program that will eventually feed into the Pre-Engineering programs at FDHS and ARHS.

SIC Members

Betsy Cheesright, SIC Chair
Brion Rutherford, Principal
Dan Lee, Assistant Principal
Bethany Henderson, Ex-Officio (PTSA Rep)

Parents:

- ◆ Sundae Cora
- ◆ Joane Clark
- ◆ Gary Wolf
- ◆ Tracie Archie
- ◆ Robert Grant
- ◆ Kimberly Thompson
- ◆ Michelle Howard
- ◆ Rick O'Hara

Faculty:

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

