

2013 – 2014 Goals

Goal #1

Improve student achievement by refining instructional and managerial practices.

Our teachers have grown professionally. Sixty-one percent of our teachers have advanced degrees, Master's Degree or higher.

Administration and teacher leaders have provided professional development to help teachers acquire knowledge in the Common Core State Standards, Learning Objectives, Essential Questions, Writing Across the Curriculum, Classroom Management, collaboration with the Education Department of USC Aiken Campus, and a variety of topics including literacy, mathematics, and technology.

Teachers group students according to their needs determined by individual RIT score ranges from Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing (A test that measures what level individual students are in Language, Reading and Mathematics.)

Our school has one full time Reading Interventionist, two Math Interventionists, one Instructional Coach, and one part-time math tutor.

Our school offers two 4-K classrooms as well as a Preschoolers Acquiring Language Skills (PALS) class.

Our school has a **Compass Computer Lab** for extra support learning skills in Math and Reading as well as **USA Test Prep for Science and Social Studies**.

Our school is growing in its use of technology as students have access to **I-pods** daily (each grade level is provided with an I-Pod cart) to motivate and engage learning as well as a Synergistic Lab which is a hands on computer-based program for Middle School students funded by PEP (Public Education Partners).

Instruction has moved to more project based learning such as activities highlighted in our newsletters including **Geobots** and the first two **Social Studies S.T.E.M.** (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) **labs!**



Goal #2

Increase parental involvement in educational decisions by strengthening communication and developing a parent/teacher organization.

A Parent Teacher Organization has been established with expansion still underway. Our current PTO officers are Amy Berry, President, Misty Wright, Vice-President, Michael Moyer, Treasurer, and Becky Hughes, Secretary. The current membership includes 40 parents and teachers. Future anticipated projects include a Read-a-Thon and projects to promote positive behaviors.

Teachers have conferenced with 94% of parents this year! Our goal is 100% by the end of the year. Our school has an open-door policy, and we welcome all families to visit and provide feedback.

Our school sponsored many after school events: **Learning Fest (Cookin' on the Ridge)**, **Gang Awareness**, **RS-M Beauty Pageant**, **Christmas Concert/Art Show**, **Spring Fling**, and a **Spring Concert/Art Show**.

The **Good News Club**, sponsored by local church members, hosted an after school class for our students on Tuesdays in the Fall and Spring.

Our school publishes a bi-weekly newsletter informing parents of events going on within the school and often includes many helpful tips for parents. In addition to being sent home with students, the newsletter is sent electronically and is archived on the school website.

Goal #3

Enhance the bullying prevention program by providing training to staff and interventions for students.

Administration and Guidance Counselors trained staff on the proper protocol for incidents of bullying. Parents are informed using the school's website and newsletters of what to do if there is an incident of bullying.

Our school developed an incentive program called the **Trojan Trading Post** for good behavior where students earn Trojan points to spend at the post.

Our school hosts two **Trojan Pride Celebrations** for students who have no suspensions at the end of the First Semester and at the end of the school year.

Our school rewards "**Terrific Kids**" and "**Terrific Teachers**" each month for demonstrating respect, gratitude, responsibility, self-control, caring, fairness, friendship and honesty.

School Achievements

Our school received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service and the State Department of Education to participate in the **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)**. Our elementary students have had a healthier school environment this year receiving many varieties of healthy snacks.

SNAP-ED is a nutritional program offered from Clemson University to our primary children to develop good eating habits.

Many local businesses and churches have donated supplies to our school as well as donated through **Laces of Love** and **Angel Tree!** Thank you, Community! You are making a difference!

Junior Scholar: **Alexandra Sterling (8th Grade)**

Students achieving this honor are invited to take the Preliminary SAT, a test usually given to tenth graders. Their scores are high enough to qualify them as Junior Scholars.



Gracie Holsenback won our school **Spelling Bee**.

Our students raised over \$3,000 for **Jump Rope for Heart** and **Hoops for Heart**.

Character Ed.

Character Education is a program that promotes good qualities in students such as fairness, caring, responsibility, honesty, respect and gratitude. A school committee chose three students to represent our school at the district level. Students selected are: Mikala Middlebrooks, Kanaan Ligons, and Robbie Barriereau.

We had 12 new inductees in the **Beta Club**: Symia Wilson, Jay Sterling, Alieaun Gilliam, Nancy Lopez-Reyes, Gina Garris, Tyler Stone, Conner Goss, Christian Key, Kenyon Ligons, Andie Cress, Colbi Sullivan, and Jasmine Cummings.

The **Beta Club** worked on the following endeavors this year: students provided treats for Teacher Appreciation Week, assisted in the Trojan Pride Celebrations, conducted club meetings, and participated in the Right Choices Rally at Schofield Middle School.

The **Student Council** assisted Guidance at the Trojan Pride Store, assisted in the Trojan Pride Celebration, and will be doing a canned food/clothing drive this spring, as well as helping out with the Eighth Grade Farewell Ceremony.

Ongoing Professional Development

We have teachers from all grade levels that serve on curriculum teams in ELA, Math, and Social Studies. These teachers meet once a month with other teachers across the district developing techniques and strategies to improve our classroom instruction. Middle School teachers are receiving training in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math).

RSM Elementary/Middle School Teachers of the Year

Our current **Teacher of the Year** is Sheila Matthews. She has represented our school at the District Level.

Our **Distinguished Teacher of Reading** is Miriam Hicks. She represents our school within the Aiken County International Reading Association.

Testing at RSM Elementary/Middle School

The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test is an online Math, Reading, and ELA diagnostic test used by teachers to determine student strengths and weaknesses. Students take the MAP Test three times a year: Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Spring MAP Results **

Grade Level	% Math @ or above grade level	% Math below grade level	% Reading @ or above grade level	% Reading below grade level
First	37.1	62.9	45.7	54.3
Second	31.9	68.1	26.1	73.9
Third	37.1	62.9	35.5	64.5
Fourth	31.0	69.0	29.3	70.7
Fifth	20.8	79.2	22.2	77.8
Sixth	10.3	89.6	26.6	73.3
Seventh	20.8	79.1	21.5	78.4
Eighth	26	74	33.3	66.6

** Data was taken March 2014. This data is used by our teachers to guide instruction in the classroom.

2013-14 School Improvement Council Members

Parent Members:

Libby Cockrell: lcockrell@pbtcomm.net
 Felicia Key: eandfk@pbtcomm.net
 Sharon Ligons: shell40L@yahoo.com

Teacher Members:

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 Amy Cooper (Asst. Principal)
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 Sylvia Gay (Asst. Principal)
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 Sheila Matthews (2012-13 Teacher of the Year)
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Purpose of Report

“This Report is issued by the RS-M Elementary/Middle School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.”

Ridge Spring-Monetta Elementary/Middle School

Annual School Improvement Council

Report to the Parents 2013-2014

Committed To Excellence



One Student At A Time

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Ridge Spring-Monetta Elementary and Middle School

Educational Mission

The mission of Ridge Spring – Monetta Elementary/Middle School is to provide a safe, cooperative learning environment to meet the developmental, emotional, and behavioral needs of students by preparing them to function productively in an ever-changing, multicultural, and technological society.