

# 2024-2025 SIC Report to the Parents

## Merriwether Middle School

430 Murrah Road  
North Augusta, SC 29860  
803-279-2511

#WeAreMMS

#MustangPride

#GrowingGreatness

## Special Events

- Mustangs on Parade
- Battle of the Books
- Miss MMS Pageant
- Pep Rallies
- School Dances
- Positive Behavior Celebrations
- Field Trips
- Yearbook Signing
- Spirit Weeks
- Veterans Day Program
- Black History Month Program
- Band/Chorus Concerts
- 12 Days of Christmas
- Family Game Night

Merriwether Middle School was named a **School of Excellence** on the 2024-2025 School Report Card.

**C. Wiggins** (8th Grade) won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Rotary Bowl Art Competition.

Fifteen 8th grade students were newly inducted into the **Beta Club**.

Our **Mock Trial** team competed at the regional level this year.

**Ms. Kayla Frails** was the MMS Distinguished Teacher of Literacy and was named the **ECSD Distinguished Teacher of Literacy** for all secondary schools in Edgefield County.

Increased participation in Band, Honor Choir, and Battle of the Books

Daily **advisory** meetings focused on strengthening students' math skills are led by every teacher in our building.

We believe that celebrating students is an important part of the MMS culture. We want our students to be recognized for their achievements and celebrated for their contribution to our school community as well as academic and behavioral performance.

Some of these celebrations include: **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**, **Honor Roll**, **iReady Achievement**, and **School of Excellence**.

For the second year in a row, Merriwether Middle School hosted fourteen **German exchange students** for a week. Events included: day trip to Charleston, visiting classes at MMS, visit to Edgefield and Strom Thurmond High School, kayaking on the Savannah River, and a traditional American Thanksgiving meal provided by PTO.

The **Student, Teacher, and Support Staff of the Month Programs** highlight and celebrate individuals that embody the Mustang Way and demonstrate the characteristics of the Profile of the Edgefield County Graduate and Edgefield County Teacher.

Students, parents, faculty, and staff are involved in the **Good, Problem, Solution (GPS)** process which promotes student and parent voices and encourages feedback for school improvement.

MMS Teacher of the Year:  
**Mrs. Nicole Dorsey**  
(Read 180 Teacher)

In addition to Band Clinic, a special Pre-CPA Concert, and the Fine Arts Festival, these students participated in **Region Band**:

**C. Coaxum** (7th grade)  
**K. Sayman** (7th grade)  
**J. Elliott** (8th grade)  
**A. Joiner** (8th grade)  
**T. Johnson** (8th grade)  
**F. Kyler** (8th grade)

The winners of the 4th annual Battle of the Books competition are **The Book Breakers, Vol. Awesome** (all 7th grade):

R. Key  
M. Koon  
A. Miller  
G. Ryals  
H. Terwilliger

**A. Shirey** (8<sup>th</sup> grade) won third place in the SC Junior Book Award Contest for the middle school Book Trailer Contest.

**S. Rahman, A. Joiner, and B. Williams** (all 8<sup>th</sup> grade) won first place in the SC Junior Book Award Banner Contest for all middle schools in South Carolina.

Author **Landra Jennings** (*The Whispering Fog* and *Wand*) met with students, provided writing feedback, explained the publication process, and signed books.

**High School credit** course offerings for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students:

- English I
- Algebra I
- German
- Advanced Art

Administration has an **open door policy** to meet with students and routinely make themselves available to address student concerns.

Support Staff of the Year:  
**Mrs. Sarah Tew**  
(School Nurse)

### Athletics at MMS:

- Football
- Cheerleading
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Volleyball

The boys and girls basketball teams each placed in the top 5!

Eighth grade students can volunteer to read the Morning Announcements over the intercom.

We had 130 students recognized for **Honor Roll achievement** during the first quarter, 135 students for the second quarter, and 128 students for the third quarter, averaging 38% of the student population.

Students in 7th and 8th grade are eligible to participate in **Strom Thurmond High School Athletic Programs**. This year our students participated in softball, baseball, basketball, swim, golf and marching band.

All students provided free breakfast and lunch.

### Student Council

- 22 members, 18 Homeroom representatives
- President: **C. Just** (8th Grade)
- Vice President: **C. Timmons** (7th Grade)
- Treasurer: **A. Shirey** (8th Grade)
- Secretary: **C. Page** (6th Grade)
- Sponsored by **Ms. Kirk** and **Mrs. Kenrick**
- Sponsored free Family Game Night event

1 : 1 with chromebooks for all students, faculty, and staff

MMS Band received an **Excellent Rating** at Concert Performance Assessment (CPA).

**W. Redding** (7th grade), **E. Schwarz** (6th grade), **Kylee Jarrett** (6th grade), and **L. Willis** (6th grade) participated in Mary Poppins, Jr. through the Strom Thurmond High School Fine Arts Program.

Increased efforts to promote awareness and accountability relating to bullying prevention and to provide resources and tools for students (and their parents) who experience bullying

School Counselor, Mrs. Sharon Corbin, works with the student body through the **ReThink Ed program**, focusing on topics of social-emotional learning.

Seventeen contestants in this year's **Miss Merriwether Pageant**

Following the results of a parent survey and to improve communication between the school and parents, a **weekly email** is sent to all parents on Sunday nights about school events.

### Thriving Library Program

- Book Speed Dating Activities
- Book Fair
- Battle of the Books
- Bi-weekly book checkout
- Library Trivia

Active and engaged **PTO**

**Guidance Counselor Helpers** conduct tours for new students and assist with Individualized Graduation Plan Days.

### Large FCA program led by students

Following Hurricane Helene, MMS students and staff donated a truckload of critical needs items for families in western North Carolina that were deeply affected and in great need.

**ProTeam** is offered as a Leadership and Teacher Education class for students, similar to middle school teacher cadet.

### Musical Opportunities:

- Percussion
- Guitar
- Piano
- Voice
- Band

### Clubs

- Art Club\*
- Game Club\*
- Pep Club\*
- CyberPatriots\*
- Student Ambassadors
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Student Council
- Yearbook Staff
- Honor Choir
- Beta Club
- Mock Trial

\* indicates a new club

**MEMBERS OF  
2024-2025  
MMS SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT  
COUNCIL**

Amanda Shirey, Parent (Chair)  
Leah Rocheleau, Parent  
Antwaun Hillary, Assist. Principal (Ex-officio)  
Mindy Clark, Principal (Ex-officio)

Victoria Braddock, Parent/Staff  
Katie Krempf, Teacher  
Nicole Dorsey, Teacher of the Year  
Kristen Taylor, School Librarian