

J. PAUL TRULUCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Lighting the Way to Palmetto Gold"



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Ned Blake, Principal

Jeanette Altman, Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

J. Paul Truluck Middle School, in partnership with its families, students, and the community, began the school year by promoting the theme, "Committed to Excellence." All students, faculty, and staff signed a banner that pledged their commitment to academic excellence. The banner currently resides in the foyer of the school. Students are reminded daily of the mission statement in order to keep them focused on achieving academic success in all endeavors. We dedicated all of our resources, instructional programs, and efforts to upholding this mission.

Throughout the school year, students at J. Paul Truluck Middle School have been honored with numerous awards of merit. Fifteen students from grades seven and eight were selected to attend the Clemson Biology Merit Examination this spring. Two of these students earned 1st Honorable Mention awards, which placed them in the top 3% of students who took the exam, and another student earned a 2nd Honorable Mention award, which placed him in the top 10% of other test takers. Again, 100% of Algebra I students passed the End of Course exam at the end of last school year. Our school yielded two South Carolina Junior Scholars this year and we look forward to increasing the number of recipients in the future. Additionally, USC Sumter recognized our top 15 eighth grade students as Junior Scholars. In addition to awards of merit, one of our students won the Regional Subway Fresh Fit contest and received a visit from the national Subway spokesperson. We continue to conduct quarterly awards programs to recognize our students for outstanding academics and character.

In an effort to educate well-rounded students, we continue to focus on our character education program. Through this program, students and staff participate in *Khaki Wednesdays*, during which students "dress for success" and *Writing Wednesdays*, during which teachers send congratulatory postcards home to students who have demonstrated outstanding character and/or academic performance throughout the week. Through community service projects such as *Breast Cancer Awareness* fundraisers, "adopting" senior citizens at Christmas, *Pennies for Patients*, and a year-long recycling initiative, students are learning the importance of giving back to their community as well as preserving the environment.

J. Paul Truluck Middle School is very proud of receiving the *Palmetto Silver Award of Merit* based on our continuous growth on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards. One of the contributing factors in attaining this award was the continued implementation of the TAP System for Teacher and Student Advancement. Through on-site professional development, tracking individual student growth on our data wall, and differentiating instruction for individual learners through single-gender classes and intervention blocks, student achievement continues to increase. Moreover, we will continue to collaborate with parents, community members, district staff, and other stakeholders in order to promote a safe and rigorous learning environment where students strive to maintain a high level of academic excellence.

Sincerely,

Ned Blake, Principal
Rodney Poston, SIC Chairperson

"Educating and Inspiring all Students to be Successful in Order to Achieve Palmetto Gold"