

# J. PAUL TRULUCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Lighting the Way to Excellence"



P.O. Box 1239, 319 Carlisle Street, Lake City SC 29560  
Phone: (843) 374-8685 Fax: (843) 374-7341

Ned Blake, Principal

Jeanette Altman, Assistant Principal

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April 30, 2013

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, J. Paul Truluck Middle School has placed significance on providing an atmosphere that promotes academic excellence. Twenty-one students were inducted into the J. Paul Truluck Middle School Junior Beta Club. Fifteen students from grades seven and eight were selected to attend the Clemson Biology Merit Examination this spring. Eighth grade students and TAG students participated in the National History Day research project. Again, 100% of Algebra I students passed the End of Course examination at the end of last school year. Our school yielded three South Carolina Junior Scholars this year and we look forward to increasing the number of recipients in the future. We continue to conduct quarterly awards programs to recognize our students for outstanding academics and character. This year we added another award "most improved." Each nine weeks teachers submit the name of a student who has shown the most improvement in academics and behavior.

To prepare students to be productive members of society in the twenty-first century a priority was placed on improving literacy during the 2012-2013 school year. An emphasis was placed on developing a "love" for reading by providing a wide variety of books and an allotted time for students to read during the school day. Reading Counts Field Trips were sponsored each nine weeks to reward those students who met their goals. Over three-hundred seventy children were able to participate in these fun events. Teachers in science and social studies classes emphasized the use of informational text to prepare students for the implementation stages of the Common Core State Standards.

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 the *Arbor Day*, *Breast Cancer Awareness* fundraisers, "adopting" senior citizens at Christmas, *Hoops for Hearts*, and *the March of Dimes*, students were taught the importance of giving to others and being involved in our community.

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

*"Educating and Inspiring all Students to be Successful"*