

Presents the

Report to the People



School Improvement Council 2013-2014

School Improvement Council 2013-2014 Members

Dr. Sandra Larson, Chairperson
Phyllis Barber
Daniel Barta
Kathi Christy
Cindy Cline
Laurie Curtin
Chris Erickson
Susan McCoy
Robert McKinney
Lori McKittrick
Tammy Moffett
Sherry Oates
Justin Smith
Laurie Tankersley
Tawanda Wells
Lucy Woodhouse
Dr. David D. McDonald, Principal

Join SIC

We are always looking for new members to join our team to determine ways to improve our school. If interested, contact us!



Proud to be an
authorized IB
Middle Years
Programme
School.



Greetings from the Principal...

It has been both an honor and a privilege to lead our school this year. We have worked hard to live up to our motto of “100% effort, 100% of the time.” Over the course of the year, we have strengthened our communication with families, increased student disciplinary accountability, added numerous technology upgrades, and are working to redefine the goals of our school. We have made numerous improvements, upgrades, and changes to our school to enhance the physical learning environment as well as the instructional program.

The community of Travelers Rest has taken a renewed interest in our school and we are working hard to rise to the expectations of our school stakeholders. We are so proud to serve the community and appreciate the hard work of our students this year. This document is designed to provide all stakeholders with an overview of the major projects over the course of the year.

If you haven't visited lately, please feel free to visit and see first-hand the many great things happening at Northwest Middle School.

Sincerely,

Dr. David D. McDonald, Principal



Facility Enhancements

This year started with major changes to the facility at Northwest Middle School. This included numerous projects to enhance and beautify our school.

Plaza Entrance

During the 2012-13 school year, a truck damaged the front entrance of the school. During the summer, major construction was done to provide a safer, more inviting entrance to the school that met ADA requirements and provided more space for students to wait on transportation.



Video Camera System

25 high definition video cameras now monitor the interior areas of the school to create a safer environment. Cameras are monitored by administrators, office staff, and our School Resource Officer.

Welcome Center

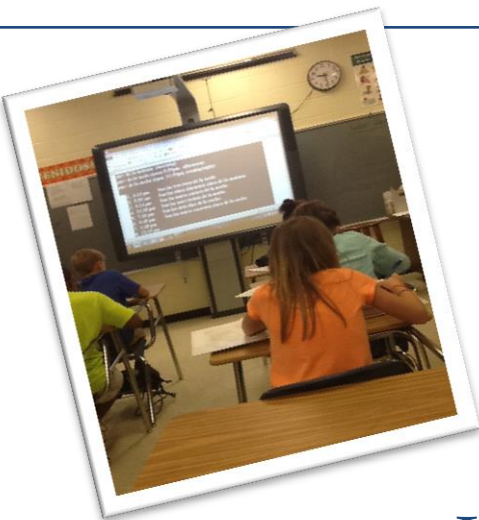
The Welcome Center underwent a major renovation to provide a more inviting, comfortable area to serve as the main entrance and waiting area of the school. New furnishings, parent use computer, and more school brochures provide a nicer area for visitors to the school. Additional safety measures create a new space.



Media Center Improvements

The Media Center is quickly becoming the centerpiece of the school. Numerous changes including new shelving, color change, computer changes, and the addition of nearly \$20,000 in new books have helped change our media center into a new space.





Improvement of the Student Learning Environment...

Northwest Middle School is proud to offer a variety of programs and opportunities to our students. One of the greatest accomplishments this year was receiving a grant from the South Carolina Department of Education for \$276,000 to provide support services to struggling learning. The grant included nearly \$50,000 to provide new technology, an after school program student support program, and a summer program for rising 6th grade students. These funds are transformational and will continue to provide support services for three years.

Additionally, the school has undergone a thorough review of data regarding student achievement, embraced a new focus on middle school best practice research, strengthened

assessment strategies, and received numerous professional learning sessions. Work on interdisciplinary teaching and teaming has provided more focus and support for students. More teachers are attending district and local professional development, work is being done to enhance questioning, literacy, and supporting student learning in the classroom.

Additional technology allows teachers to enhance the learning environment and make learning relevant. Teaming has been fully implemented in the school, a stronger learning focused schedule and new curriculum guides provide solid structure for all classrooms in our school.



Panther Success

This year Northwest Middle School received a grant from the South Carolina Department of Education for \$276,000. The funds will be provided to the school over a three year period to target and assist struggling learners, provide additional technology, enhance summer offerings to students, and support academic incentives for students. The grant allowed for the purchase of our first cloud based computers known as Chromebooks. The school received enough funding to provide 90 devices in the first year and an additional 90 in year two, and 30 Nooks to add to our collection. A new Panther Success Center has been added providing students with opportunities to receive extra help, coaching, and support. These funds are also providing professional development resources, materials, and overall classroom support to our most at-risk populations. The after school program proved to be a large success with around 75-80 students each day staying to receive extra help. See more about the grant on the last page.

School Support Services

Uniform Discipline Expectations

This year we introduced a new uniform system for discipline and consequences. By creating a school wide system, students better understand the rules and expectations of the school. A new redesigned student/family handbook also made provided better access to information and expectations for students.



Teacher Tutoring Times

All teachers at Northwest Middle School are required to offer 1.5 hours per week tutoring sessions for students to gain extra help. Students may come in early or stay afternoons to receive extra assistance from teachers. The implementation has been successful. The school averages over 100 students per day receiving extra help and support from teachers.

Character Education Program

The Rotary Club of Greenville has partnered with us to provide a new Character Education program called Early Act First Knight. Students receive 10 minutes of instruction daily in learning traits used by the Knights of the Round Table. The program allows us to recognize those students who are exhibit great character.



Community Engagement

Parent Teacher Association

The PTA this year held the most successful fundraisers in recent history and completed numerous projects to provide resources for classrooms in the school. One of the highlights was providing our first Nook lab. Projects included classroom donations, student resources, agenda books for all students, and numerous teacher appreciation events.



Communication

This year our school has worked hard to enhance communication with stakeholders including a phone message every Sunday night, making more information available on our newly redesigned website, implementing a new 24 hour return call policy, and using our marquees more often to update parents and the community. More media contact has been made to provide more information to the community.

Campus Clean Up Day

In the spring, nearly 50 volunteers helped us beautify our campus by providing shrubs and man power. Projects included spreading mulch, planting shrubs and trees, picking up litter, and much more. The event was well attended, and door prizes were donated by local businesses to provide incentives for students who attended.



Other things to celebrate.

ARTS

NWMS band students participated in local and state opportunities this year receiving high marks and scores. Several chorus students participated in numerous local opportunities to showcase their talent. The drama club held two plays during the year.

ATHLETICS

NWMS athletes again had outstanding seasons. All teams did extremely well in season play.



On the horizon....

Bring Your Own Technology
 New look in the Gym
 New clubs and offerings
 New high school credit course opportunities
 Much, much more....

Northwest Middle School Ratings...

Federal ESEA Rating: B
 State Absolute Rating: Average
 State Growth Rating: Average

Quick Facts About Northwest Middle School...

School Opened	1973
Teachers	46
Support Staff	17
Attendance Rate	96%
Student Teacher Ratio	25:1
Computer Labs	4
Tablet Labs	3
Classrooms	45
Video Cameras	26
Science Labs	6
Gyms	2
Weight Room	1
Interactive Boards	47
Soccer Field	1
Baseball Field	1
Tennis Courts	3
Basketball Courts	4
Track	1
Library Books	14,200

Northwest Middle School Administrative Team

Dr. David D. McDonald, Principal
 Ms. Julie Carlson, Assistant Principal
 Mr. Jeff Jenkins, Assistant Principal
 Dr. Heather Gordon, Instructional Specialist
 Ms. Cindy Poteet, Instructional Coach

Contact us for more information...

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