

SEVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Focused. Challenged. Prepared.

School Improvement Council Annual Report 2013

Dear Parents and Supporters:

The School Improvement Council of Sevier Middle School is proud to report this year's highlights and accomplishments.

Sevier continues to focus on exemplary practice, academic literacy, advocacy for the best in each student, and attention to results. We hope you enjoy this Falcon's eye view of our school.

Robin Broumas, SIC Co-Chair

Janet Grabowski, SIC Co-Chair

Karen M. Kapp, Principal

Be A Falcon —

A fierce fighter with speed and courage. In swift and graceful flight, this powerful hunter maneuvers with ease and evident enjoyment. Falcons have keen eyesight — far sharper than man. This majestic bird is known for its alertness, regal carriage, and noble tradition.

Commitment to Results

Raise the academic challenge and performance of each student



2012 Palmetto Silver Award **4 out of 5 years!**

State Report Card ratings: Absolute - **AVERAGE**
Improvement - **GOOD**

2013 End of Course (EOC): English I - **100%**
Algebra I - **100%**

2012 NCLB Federal Accountability (AYP): **82.9, "B"**
Consistently **meets or exceeds** the MAP standard for target growth.

"Sevier has a strong sense of community, where parents and students take tremendous pride in their school."

-Sevier Parent



2013-2014: Extending the School Day to Support Excellent Academics

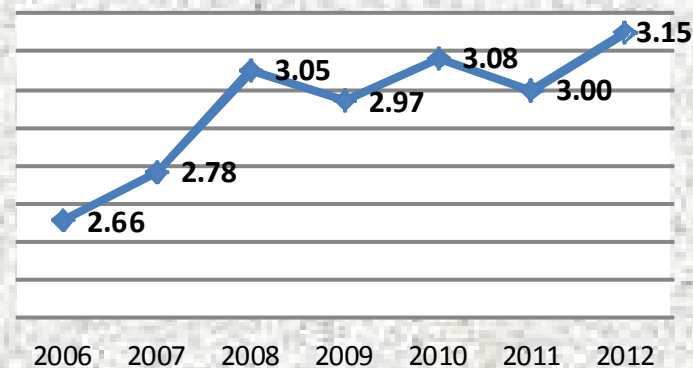
All children educated for a competitive future must learn at high levels. Middle level learners must engage in activity that adds to their intellectual strength and creativity or develops their unique interests. Such an education is desired for every student and the success of our communities depends on it.

Next school year, Sevier will lengthen the school day by **10 minutes**, starting at **8:30 daily** and **dismissing** students beginning at **3:25**. The added time will be used for extra time and help and enrichment opportunities. The typical school day will run 63 minutes per core academic and 50 minutes per related arts class. On 27 days distributed through the year, we will adjust the schedule to add an extra period for help or enrichment. When students need extra time or help, they will work with teachers to improve understanding. Enrichment beyond the standard curriculum will be available in cycles of 3 to 9 sessions focused on a special topic or experience, such as academic competition, service learning, or writing for publication. These opportunities will challenge students to their highest achievement, preparing each of them for success at the next level.

Note: This schedule will NOT affect bus transportation times.

"My son comes home excited every day. The learning environment at Sevier is super." *- Sevier Parent*

Sevier MS State Report Card Absolute Performance Index



The Absolute Performance Index is a calculated average of all students' achievement on **PASS** Reading & Research, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Writing is included at all grade levels.

Sevier Middle School Mission Statement

We provide a safe, high-quality learning environment where all students become competent, self-reliant, curious, and creative citizens who pursue personal excellence and contribute meaningfully to their community.

Commitment to Academic Excellence

Raise the academic challenge and performance of each student

Academic Excellence — The primary mission of the teachers and staff at Sevier is academic excellence. Our programs prepare students for success in high school and beyond. Through a challenging curriculum and engaging student development activities, our faculty motivates the personal best in each child. School structures and strategies ensure academic excellence, contribute to student growth, and provide equal access to high levels of learning.

A Focus on College and Career Readiness — A focus on college and career readiness means that all content areas involve purposeful reading, discussion and collaboration, and writing to defend a claim.

Academic Literacy — Literacy is the skill to understand and engage in advanced reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Examples include:

- Thematic units in ELA integrate relevant non-fiction print with video, music, poetry, and literature to solve real-world problems and build academic skills
- Mathematics: real-life scenarios, error analysis, writing to justify answers
- Science: Reflections on inquiry; journal through scientific process; analysis of reporter's purpose in various text
- Social Studies: primary source documents, multiple source research, and writing in the voice of historical figures; analysis of author's point of view and textual evidence
- Close reading with discussion, annotation, note-making and writing based on evidence in all academic areas
- Students publish to numerous web based services, — Tween Tribune, Kizoa, etc.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS is a state-led initiative developed to prepare students for college and career. These standards include rigorous content and a focus on the application of knowledge as a true measure of understanding.

- Our teachers implement instruction that supports CCSS guidelines and students have multiple opportunities to practice this type of deeper, higher level thinking and performance.
- At Sevier, teachers continue to focus on authentic literacy, argumentative writing, and strengthening vocabulary across the curriculum. This school wide focus prepares students not only for state wide testing and for the rigors of Common Core expectations, but also provides necessary skills for college and career.

Learn more about the Common Core State Standards and what it takes for your child to be "college and career ready" at <http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3552>.



Veterans Day

Our annual Veterans Day celebration, "A Return to Camp Sevier" honors veterans and active duty military personnel in a vibrant ceremony. Students interact with veterans in the classroom and numerous organizations come together to make this day a hallmark event in our school year.

Our school is built on the site of Camp Sevier, a U.S. Army training camp built toward the end of World War I. Over 100,000 soldiers trained here before entering the war in Europe. Camp Sevier's 30th division, "Old Hickory", received more honors than almost any other division in World War I.

Flight of the Falcon

Flight of the Falcon is our introduction to Sevier for rising 5th graders. This is a night where they can explore classrooms, meet future teachers, try out a locker, learn about classes that will be offered and gain confidence for the transition to middle school. 5th graders and their families go on a 'scavenger hunt' through classrooms in search of "falcon feathers" which reveal content related facts about subjects offered in 6th grade. Each year the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to our next group of incoming Falcons.



"Love the focus on character as well as academics."
- Sevier Parent



"They have shown a personal interest in my daughter's academic advancement and teaching her independence."
- Sevier Parent

"Our kids are learning academic skills, life skills, how to interact with others, how to set goals to succeed, and how to be a productive member of our society."
-Sevier Teacher



"Our School is all about high expectations, diverse experiences to enhance success and caring for the child's well being."
-Sevier Teacher



"Teachers are interested in students. Education and school activities are exciting and fun."
-Sevier Parent



Commitment to the Needs of Young Adolescents

Provide a school environment supportive of learning

Sevier faculty, parents, and community volunteers create opportunity for students to earn recognition, belong to a group, exercise choice, earn respect, fulfill their purpose, and affirm their sense of progress toward personal goals.

• ACADEMIC

Challenge Language Arts
Advanced Math
Media Center with 9,500+ volumes
HS Credit Courses: Eng I Honors, Alg I, Spanish I
Computer Labs
30 Media Center computers for student use

• CAREER EXPLORATION

Virtual Shadowing
Parent-sponsored Job Shadowing
ACT/Explore Testing
Engineers Week
Career Day
Junior Achievement

• ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Greenville Drive Reading Challenge
Book Bowl - 2011 GC Champions
Youth In Government (YIG)
Battle of the Brains

• STUDENT ACTIVITIES & CELEBRATIONS

PBIS, Quarterly Incentive
Crazy Sock Day
Awards Days
Robotics Club
School Dances
Field Days
Boys, Girls & Anime Book Clubs
Spirit Days

• COORDINATED APPROACH TO CHILD HEALTH (CATCH)

Wellness Break
Health instruction for all grades
Awareness of "Go, Slow, & Whoa" foods
Integrated Wellness instruction

• STUDENT TALENT & INTERESTS

PTA Reflections
All County Band
Spring Sing
PTA Talent Show
Solicitor's Anti-Drug Poster Contest
Choral and Orchestra concerts
Symphonia
Middle School Juried Art Show
Student Art Show/Gallery Sale

• ATHLETICS

Volleyball
Soccer
Intramurals
Basketball
Softball
Baseball
Student-Faculty games
Dodgeball
Football

• LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SERVICE

National Junior Beta Club
Breathe Better Air Patrol
Falcons Responsible for the Outdoor Garden (FROG)
Student Council
Recycling Matters

Congratulations SC PSAT Junior Scholars!

Johnathan Bailey
Camryn Bruner
Taylor Harris
Emily Hernandez
Claudia Li
Javin Paluch
Brittany Plumlee
Aaron Sedler
Jonathan "Bradley" Stevens
Kaitlyn Taylor
Ethan Williams



*"It is a family oriented and diverse school.
I feel proud to be a Sevier mom
and feel welcomed."
-Sevier Parent*

Student Awards & Accomplishments

PTA Reflections: **Eleni Tsiatsios** - Visual Arts, 1st place in School / NW Council / HM District;
Alexandria Goss - Visual Arts, 2nd place; **Abby Potter** - Video, 1st place in School / NW Council / District / NM State;
Abbey Hudson - Photography, 1st place in School / NW Council, 3rd place in State; **Lainey Hege** - 2nd place, Photography;
Zoie Poole - Literature, 1st place School / NW Council, HM District; **McKenley Webb** - Literature, 2nd place School / HM State

GCSD Middle School Art Show winners: **Nhu Le** - Drawing, 1st place; **Karson Bryant** - 3D Art, 2nd place

Greenville Drive Reading Challenge: 131 students read 5 books in 5 weeks.

Top Media Center Patron: **David Taylor Smith, Meghan Birtch**

Perfect Attendance, 3 years: **Gabbie Brower, John Haynes, Gary McBee, Andrew Stake, Courtney Wagner, Jacob Wilson**

Symphonia: **Stephanie Rivera, Josue Mateo** **All-County Band:** **Kaytlin Taylor, Eva Phillips**

Spring Sing: **Christopher Banks, Jihad Blue, Jasmine Briceno, Karson Bryant, Cole Cartee, Caitlin Chantron, Taylor Cheros, Hannah Childs, Tina Dang, David Diez, Caitlin Garrison, Brian Hauf, Haley Hickman, Briana Hodges, Kendria Hyder, Luke Jackson, Nytasha Jones, Claudia Li, Hailey McCoy, Courtney Owens, Devon Perry, Sloan Rhohrbaugh, Vanessa Rodriguez, Hannah Royals, Bailey Russell, Abby Smart, Bryce Stambaugh, Anbrianna Sullivan, Antwann Walden, Amius Williams**

School Record in Pacer and Mile Run: **Haley Hutson**, Pacer - 3 year record

Youth In Government: **Courtney Weber, Rachel Broumas**

National Geography Bee: **Seth Dawkins**, School Award / Top 100 in State

ACE Awards: **Ashley Loftis; Logan Jackson**



Commitment to the Needs of Young Adolescents

Improve public understanding and support of public schools

Community Involvement and Impact

Event attendance and participation are continually increasing at Sevier. Numerous events are at standing-room-only and volunteer and visiting adults enrich the landscape as models for student success on a daily basis.

Sevier **Volunteers** and **Business partners** support an engaging school experience for our students! Our students and staff work alongside "weekend warriors", business owners, government officials, military veterans, and professionals with a variety of expertise. Each brings a unique perspective on the real world, expanding student understanding of the lifelong benefit of an excellent education.

Over 200 members of the community, all students and all staff responded to an AdvancED survey in December. Later, members of the SIC and PTA reviewed the results of those survey results in the self-assessment phase of the accreditation process. That self-assessment will assist action planning and school improvement.

Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students)

WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads of Great Students) is an innovative father involvement, educational initiative that has brought hundreds of thousands of fathers and father figures into our nation's classrooms and hallways. Our initial meeting brought 127 interested family members. Sevier WATCH D.O.G.S. are currently helping in the car/bus line, proctoring during testing, monitoring school entrances and assisting in the cafeteria. The presence of the enthusiastic WATCH D.O.G. volunteers and their positive interaction with students helps us strengthen the community involvement in our school.

How Can You Make A Difference For Sevier

The school and PTA have ongoing activities throughout the year for which volunteers are needed. We value our connection and relationship with our families and community. We are partners in educating our students and welcome parent involvement. Here are a few examples of ways you can help strengthen the communities involvement in our school. For more information, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Karen Hege at jkhege@gmail.com.

Classroom Speaker
PTA Box Tops
Veterans Day
General Volunteer

Talent Show
School Store
Fundraising
Dances

Book Fairs
Spring Fling
Hospitality
Front Office

Co-sponsor a student club
Watch DOGS®
Field Trips

Sevier PTA

PTA provides volunteers and raises dollars to support student academic incentives, teacher grants and appreciation, family activities, and technology purchases. All families are encouraged to join and participate in the many events provided for our students.

President, *Kelly Betsill*
Vice-President, *Tasha Darnell*

Secretary, *Rita Kirven*
Treasurer, *Tara Whitmire*

School Improvement Council

School Improvement Council meets the second Friday on each month, from 1:30 - 2:30. This year, we focused on building support for our community school and participated in the accreditation process and action planning. We welcome new members, and all are invited to participate.

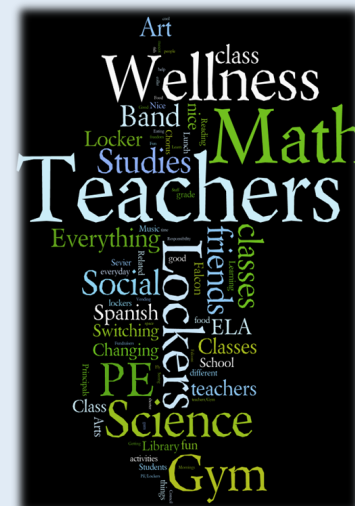
Janet Grabowski, Co-Chair • *Robin Broumas*, Co-Chair, *Muriel Ellenburg*, *Cathy Furtick*, *Karen Joseph*, *Rita Kirven*, *Danielle LaTourette*, *Janice McClure*, *Corie Misko*, *Helen Schiller*, *Vickie Sims*, *Darcy Storm*, *Pam Tyree*, *Bert Watts*, *Karen Kapp*, Principal



"The genuine, caring attitude of faculty and staff. They want each student to be the best they can be now and in the future."
- Sevier Parent



Why 6th graders love Sevier!



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

2012-13 Teacher of the Year:

Ginger Barbare

2 babies and 3 weddings this year!

National Board Certified Teachers:

Ginger Barbare, Cheryl Cruell, Sarah Evanson, Anne Lawrence, and Marilyn Murphy

100% Faculty PTA Membership

Staff contributes over \$6,000 annually to the United Way

PTA Teacher of the Year: *Avis Bowman*

PTA Volunteer of the Year: *Karen Hege*

Outstanding Science Teacher:

Tobi Pirola

"Sevier is based in community and togetherness. No matter what your need, we're all in this together."

-Sevier Teacher

Sevier Facts 2012-2013

Enrollment: 623

Average Student Attendance: 96.2

8th graders taking HS Credit: 36%

Average Class Size: 26.1

National Board Certified Teachers: 5

Library Circulation: 11,107 check-outs



Sevier Middle School

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