

SEVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

School Improvement Council Annual Report

May, 2012

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.

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.

Karen Joseph, SIC Chair
Karen M. Kapp, Principal

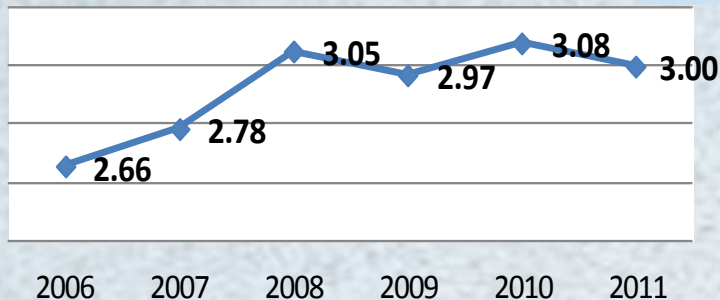
The Falcon —

A fierce fighter with speed and courage. In swift and graceful flight, this powerful hunter maneuvers with ease, grace, 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

A focus on results means that teachers work together to plan data-driven instruction for successful student learning.
—Sevier MS Faculty

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 grade 8.

- 2011 Palmetto Silver Award — **3 out of 4 years!**
- State Report Card ratings: Absolute — **AVERAGE**
Improvement — **AVERAGE**
- 2011 NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):
Met 20 of 29 Indicators
- 2012 End of Course (EOC) **English I — 98%**
Algebra I — 100%

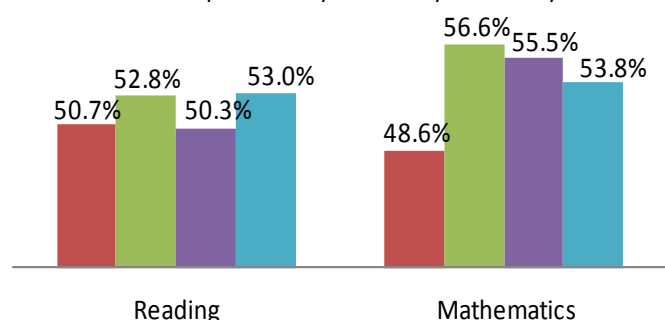


Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

The MAP test measures academic knowledge and marks progress from fall to spring. Student goals are personalized, and the school goal is to have at least 50% of all students meet their Growth Target.

MAP Testing 2009-2012

■ 08/09 ■ 09/10 ■ 10/11 ■ 11/12



SEVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Greenville County Schools
www.greenville.k12.sc.us/sevier



Commitment to Academic Excellence

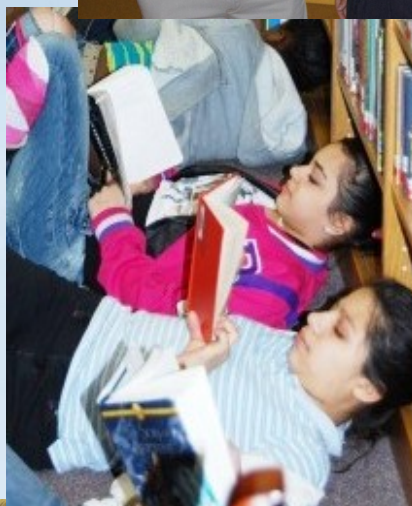
Academic excellence is the primary mission of the teachers and staff at Sevier. Our programs prepare students for success in high school and beyond. Through a challenging curriculum and engaging student development activities, our faculty motivates the personal best in each child. School structures and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



Authentic Literacy

Literacy is not just the ability to read and write. Today, it is the skill to understand and engage in advanced reading, writing, listening, and speaking. A focus on authentic literacy means that all content areas incorporate purposeful reading, discussion, and writing to defend or support the learning from print material and classroom conversation.

- Upstate Writing Project — English Language Arts (ELA), Science, and Social Studies
- Thematic units: Identity, Navigating Change, Leadership, and Legacy
- Mathematics: real-life scenarios, error analysis, justified answers
- Science: Reflections on inquiry; journal through scientific process
- Social Studies: primary source documents, multiple source research, and writing in the voice of historical figures
- Close reading with discussion, annotation, note-making and writing based on evidence
- PTA sponsored Author Visit — Booker T Mattison, author of *Unsigned Hype*
- Writers Night --“This I Believe”
- Students publish to *Tween Tribune*
- Literary Magazine, *SOARING*



Paper Dreams

Books.
Paper Dreams.
Images that tell stories.
That we draw to show independence.
They are us.
Something no one can take away.
A small part of someone's soul for the world to see.
Writers describe how **THEY** see a person.
Fantasy, Fiction, Realistic.
You can't take away our imagination. Paper dreams.
Books.
— Nola Propst, grade 7



Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS is a state-led initiative developed to prepare students for college and career. The common standards in K-12 English Language Arts and Mathematics focus primarily on Math and ELA standards (including authentic literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects). These standards include *rigorous content* and a focus on the *application of knowledge* as a true measure of understanding.

By being *aligned with college and career expectations*, the standards set the bar for appropriate knowledge and skills needed to succeed in education and training after high school. 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/4446.htm>

Commitment to the Needs of Young Adolescents

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.

- **Exploration of 16 Career Clusters:** Virtual Shadowing; Engineers Week; Parent-sponsored Job Shadowing; Career Day; ACT/Explore Testing; Junior Achievement
- **Academic Competitions:** Greenville Drive Reading Challenge; Book Bowl — 2011 GC Champions; Battle of the Brains — 2011 “Elite Eight”
- **Student Activities & Celebrations:** Quarterly Incentive; School Dances; Crazy Sock Day; Field Days; Awards Days
- **Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH):** Wellness Break; Walk Across America; Awareness re: Go, Slow, & Whoa foods; Wellness instruction integrated into class instructions
- **Student Talent and Interests:** PTA Reflections; Choral and Orchestra concerts; All County Band; Symphonia; Spring Sing; PTA sponsored Talent Show; Middle School Juried Art Show
- **Athletics:** Volleyball; Basketball; Soccer; Softball; Baseball; Football; Spirit Squad; Dodgeball; Student-Faculty games; Archery in PE



- **Leadership Development and Service:** National Junior Honor Society; National Junior Beta Club; Student Council; Breathe Better Air Patrol; Falcons Responsible for the Outdoor Garden (FROG); Recycling Matters



Abstract art opens my heart

My favorite utensils are pastels and pencils

— Chase Hudson, grade 6

Congratulations to our SC PSAT Junior Scholars!

Lori Blackwell •

Madilyn Johansen •

Johnathan Bradley • Joshua Carson

Antwann McCray • Landon Buff

Peyton Burns • Tyler Cossel



Awards and Accomplishments

NW Council PTA Reflections: **Zoie Poole**—2nd place, Literature; **Abbey Hudson**—1st place, Photography; **Bailey Phillips**—2nd place, Visual Art; **Abby Potter**—1st place, Video • District I PTA Reflections: **Abbey Hudson** — 1st place, photography • MS Juried Art Competition: **Ben Ly** — Honorable Mention, Drawing; **Janice Allas** — 3rd place, Design/Mixed Media • Book Bowl: **Dalton Acker, Sierra Gailey, Nola Propst, Donovan Greene, Taylor Johnson** • Greenville Drive Reading Challenge: 244 read 4 books in 4 weeks • Symphonia: **Aretrina Long, Devin Hadley, Abbey Hudson** • All-County Band: **Kaytlin Taylor** • Battle of the Brains: **Dalton Acker, Sierra Gailey, Brandon Gibbs, Ashley Loftis, Dawson Martin, Joey Tate** • Top Media Center Patron: **David Taylor Smith** • Spring Sing: **Akeila Blandin, Laura Cabanas, Sierra Gailey, Abigaile Gravely, Porsalin Irby, Trinh Le, Stephanie Lugosi, Jada Manning, and Juliet Stoddard** • Region Championships: **Girls Basketball Team, Baseball Team** • Tournament play for **Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Baseball, Boys and Girls Soccer** • School Record in Pacer and Mile Run: **Sierra Foster** • Perfect Attendance, 3 years: **Akeila Blandin, Landon Buff, Laura Cabanas, Patrick Childers, Lauren Emma, Ivonne Mendoza, and Karl Piepho** • Straight A's, 3 years: **Madilyn Johansen**



SEVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Community Involvement

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.

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.



CAMP SEVIER — 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.



Staff Highlights

- 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year: *Anne Lawrence*
- 6 babies and 2 weddings for Sevier Faculty and Staff this year!
- National Board Certified Teachers: *Ginger Barbare*,
 - *Cheryl Cruell*, *Sarah Evanson*, *Margie Howard*,
 - *Frank Hwu*, *Anne Lawrence*, and *Marilyn Murphy*
 - 100% Faculty PTA Membership
- Staff contributes over \$6,500 annually to the United Way
- *Jessica Webster*: Selected by The National Gallery, Washington, DC to Summer Seminar 2012
- PTA Teacher of the Year: *Jessica Webster*
- PTA Staff Member of the Year: *Chris Gregg*

Quick Facts 2011-2012

Enrollment: 624; Average Student Attendance 95.4

8th graders taking HS Credit 16%

Average Class Size 27:1

National Board Certified Teachers 7

- Library Circulation: 14,399 check-outs, 23 books/student
- Top Check-outs: *Unsigned Hype*,
Hunger Games, *Catching Fire*

The Sevier MS 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, *Lori Madeline*; Vice-President, *Kelly Betsill*;
Secretary, *Ashley Edwards*; Treasurer, *Tara Whitmire*

The Sevier Middle School Improvement Council meets the second Friday on each month, from 1:30 - 2:30. Currently, we are studying how parents can support Authentic Literacy. We welcome new members, and all are invited to participate.

Karen Joseph, Chair • *Danielle LaTourette*, Parent • *Rena Howard*, Counselor • *Robyn Gillis*, Community Representative • *Jody Webb*, Teacher • *Dave Gibbs*, Community Representative • *Tim Jones*, Community Representative • *Helen Schiller*, Instructional Coach • *Marilyn Murphy*, Media Specialist • *Vickie Sims*, Secretary • *Janet Grabowski*, Ex-Officio; and *Karen Kapp*, Principal

Sevier Middle School

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