

**BLUE RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
REACHING, TEACHING, INSPIRING
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
2012-2013**

Each year our School Improvement Council (SIC) releases to the community a report detailing progress and plans the school has made to establish a quality program for all students. We recognize that one essential component of that effort is a strong partnership with the community. We value your input and appreciate your support. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning this report, please contact the school at 355-1900.

ACADEMICS

- ❖ Course syllabi based on state standards for each subject area have been developed and revised. Syllabi are published and available to parents.
- ❖ Benchmark exams are given 4 times a year in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- ❖ Each teacher has a website accessible through the school district site and a direct phone line to assist in communication with parents.
- ❖ Daily lesson objectives and Student Learning Maps are posted in each classroom to focus learning.
- ❖ PASS practice tests and help sessions are more widely available.
- ❖ In an effort to boost PASS scores, a mentoring program using Compass Learning and instruction on test taking skills is available to students who meet certain criteria.
- ❖ The PTSA funded grants of \$100 for individual teacher's classroom use.
- ❖ Various strategies and assessment tools are used to evaluate student learning.
- ❖ BRMS is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Greenville County earned Nation Accreditation. Read more about this on the school's website.
- ❖ During the 2012-2013 school year, we have begun educating our stakeholders about the possibility of moving to a more uniformed dress code policy. Informational sessions have been scheduled and held during the school year to ensure the community is aware and well educated on the new dress code. The changes to the new dress code were released to students and families at the end of the 3rd quarter.
- ❖ We were awarded the Gold Award from the state for improvement.

SCHOOL SAFETY

- ❖ BRMS has increased the number of emergency lock-down drills conducted each year.
- ❖ Hall labels are posted outside on the wings of the building to direct emergency personnel.
- ❖ Classroom labels are now posted outside a window on each classroom to help identify classrooms from the exterior of the building.
- ❖ Key pads have been placed at outside entrances on all wings and at the bus entrance.
- ❖ Emergency Evacuation routes have been updated for every area of the school.
- ❖ Blue Ridge Middle has a total of 32 security cameras to enhance school safety.
- ❖ Administrators and front-end staff have received enhanced safety training from the district and outside sources.
- ❖ We have begun the process of implementing a new safety / father involvement program for the 2013-2014 school year (Watch D.O.G.S.)
- ❖ All student classroom doors now have line-of-sight barriers installed.
- ❖ In addition to exterior doors being kept locked at all times, this year, all student area are kept locked within the building and are checked daily for proper operation.

SPORTS and ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Teams include baseball, softball, boys' and girls' soccer and basketball, and girls' volleyball.
- ❖ Blue Ridge Middle was well represented on High School Athletic Teams.
- ❖ Students were given the opportunity to audition for and participate in a school-wide theatrical performance.
- ❖ BRMS began an afterschool Scholastic Chess program and plans to continue and expand the program next year.
- ❖ Performing Arts students participate in concerts and shows in the winter and spring.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ A "Who's Who Teacher of the Month" (selected by our teachers).
- ❖ Encouraging physical health continues to be a priority:
 - Participants, working in teams of 2, competed in three "Faculty Meltdown" activities to see who could lose the most weight.
 - A watchdog team continues to monitor sugar content in food and drinks made available to students during school hours (10 grams per serving is the preferred maximum.)
- ❖ Beta Club-Beta Club members have logged over 800 service hours in the community this year. As a group, we helped with the Down's Syndrome Walk at Furman, the Area 4 Special Olympics, the fall carnival at Skyland Elem, and the spring carnival at Mountain View Elem. We collected items to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville. We raised over \$2000 for the Leukemia Society through our annual Pennies for Patients campaign. We were well represented at the State Convention in Myrtle Beach. The Quiz Bowl team placed second in the state; Tommy Williams placed second in cross-stitch; Jordan Grissop placed third in watercolor; Brason Haney placed third in sculpture; and Maddy Moreland was a Top 8 Finalist in Special Talent. And we had the biggest dance party on the Grand Strand at the fabulous Beach Colony Resort.
- ❖ The Blue Ridge Middle School Academic Team competed in the 2012 National Academic Competition in Chicago, IL last June. They will be competing in the National Academic Competition in New Orleans this coming May.
- ❖ BRMS had a number of students in All State Band.
- ❖ BRMS had a number of students participate in the Greenville County School District "Spring Sing".
- ❖ Our Art Classes had a number of pieces that won District Awards, and were posted on the school website.
- ❖ SIC goals were evaluated and revised.

SIC MEMBERS:

Becky Greene
Rod Storm
Lynn Gates
Mary Gibson
Bill Tyler

Shae Boyce
Cindy Batson
Wendy Roach
Cheryl Herman

Don Kauffman
Chad Butler
Charlie Kendrick
Lisa Lynn

Becky Greene, Principal

Wendy Roach, Chair

Rod Storm,
SIC Ex- Officio