



**RIVERSIDE ROYALS**  
Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow

# Riverside Middle School

*Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.*

## Report to the Community 2013



**WITH A MOTTO of,**  
“Learning Today.  
Leading Tomorrow,”  
our diversity is our  
strength at Riverside  
Middle School. We've  
brought together  
many different  
backgrounds, talents,  
and ways of thinking  
to create one of the  
finest middle school  
environments  
imaginable.

Located in the foothills of the Piedmont in Greer, South Carolina, Riverside Middle School opened its classrooms to students in the fall of 1999. The school contains 137,000 square feet of space that accommodates our current enrollment of 1,125 students. There are 50 classrooms (70% of which are equipped with state-of-the-art Promethean Boards), 14 labs, classrooms for fine arts and vocational education, along with a cafeteria for special performances and assemblies. Our physical education and sports facilities include a gymnasium, two softball fields, a football/soccer field, a track, four paved basketball courts, and four tennis courts.

The vision for our school is that every student will be provided diverse opportunities to experience

success academically, socially, emotionally, and physically, and for them to be encouraged to take responsibility to become active learners. Ultimately our vision is for our students to experience success in future educational endeavors and to be productive members of society.

In reaching that vision, many accomplishments (see side bar and page 5) have been realized, among them, RMS being named winner of the **Palmetto's Finest Award**. RMS students' academic achievement has been well documented by a Good or Excellent rating every year (including the pilot year) on the State School Report Card. Students participate and excel in local, state and national competitions that represent all aspects of school life including

**RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
615 Hammett Bridge Rd.  
Greer, SC 29650  
**864.355.7900**  
[www.greenville.k12.sc.us/riverms](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/riverms)

**AWARD WINNING MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- **Palmetto's Finest Award Recipient**
- **Red Carpet School**
- **Exemplary Writing School (4 years)**
- **Palmetto Gold**
- **“Excellent/Excellent” Rating on School Report Card 2 years in a row**
- **“A” Rating on Federal Account Report**

academics, the arts and athletics.

Though always proud to discuss our successes, the faculty, staff, parents and students of Riverside Middle School realize that excellence is the *vision* and not the *destination*. Working together, we continue to identify and set goals that must be attained in order to continue to provide the best possible educational community.



*Riverside Middle School, in cooperation with the home and community, will provide opportunities which prepare students intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically to become productive and responsible members of society.*

**OUR MISSION**



*"...this  
is  
indeed  
an  
amazing  
place  
for  
learning."*

# Riverside Middle School:

*Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.*

## Report to Parents 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Riverside Middle School! We are looking forward to an exciting year full of excellent learning opportunities. In cooperation with the home and community, the mission of Riverside Middle School is to provide opportunities which prepare students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically to become productive and responsible members of society.

During my time here, I have experienced first-hand why RMS continues to lead the way in Greenville County. The cooperation between parents, community members, staff and students is the key to our success. As we look forward to this school year, we will continue to improve in an effort to offer our students an even more exceptional learning environment.

Dr. William Pollard once said, "The arrogance of success is to think that what we did yesterday is good enough for tomorrow." I am extremely grateful for your tremendous support this year and I look forward to working together to educate our children. I welcome your input as we work to move RMS forward. If you have ideas or suggestions feel free to stop by the school or contact me.

*Eric L. Williams,*

**Principal**

**Riverside Middle School**



Unshu Biyani

RMS Student Council President 2012-13

*"Riverside Middle School redefines school in every aspect. RMS offers more opportunities in education, socializing, and extra-curricular activities than any other school in the state.*

*Our school has only grown and continues to grow for the better of its students."*

Erin Greiner

RMS Teacher of the Year 2013-14



*"I am grateful to serve the families in the same community in which I grew up. Being a part of the Riverside Family is an honor."*



Cherell Harris & Tammie Pinson

PTSA Co-Presidents 2012-13

*"It's the hard work of our students and teachers in the classroom, the involvement of our parents at school and at home, and the contributions and support of our local community that make RMS special."*

Randy Counts

RMS Assistant Principal



*"In my opinion, we are the best school in the state! Wonderful teachers, great students, awesome parents - what a special place to be!"*





## ACADEMIC

- **Accelerated Math Classes**
- **Challenge Language Arts**
- **High School Credit Courses** including **English 1 Honors, Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors, French 1 and Spanish 1**
- **“Bridging the Gap” Academic Assistance Program/Skills Class**
- **Before-school Extra-Help Computer Lab**
- **Related Arts Electives**
- **Special Education Classes**
- **Promethean Boards**, which allow for interactive learning
- **Multiple Computer Labs**
- **Six-period day**
- **Media Center** with **12,000+ volumes**, one **full-time certified librarian**, one **full-time library clerk**, **19 computers** for student use

## ENRICHMENT

- **Book Bowl**
- **Beta Club**
- **Character Education Program**
- **Cultural & Performing Arts**
  - Art
  - Band
  - Chorus
  - Drama
  - Guitar
  - Jazz Ensemble
  - Orchestra
  - Strings
- **Friday Focus** student news show
- **Greenville Remembers**
- **Interscholastic Sports**
- **Intramural Sports**
- **Knightly News** student newspaper
- **Math Counts** Team
- **Model United Nations**
- **Peer Mediation**
- **Reflections Art Contest**
- **Royal Rewards - A/B Honor Roll program**
- **Service Learning**
- **Speech & Debate**
- **Student Council**
- **Writer’s Block Club**
- **Yearbook Staff**
- **Class field trips**
  - 6th: **US National Whitewater Center**
  - 7th: **Dollywood, Festival of Nations**
  - 8th: **Washington, DC**

## ATHLETICS

- **Baseball**
- **Boys Basketball**
- **Girls Basketball**
- **Boys Soccer**
- **Girls Soccer**
- **Softball**
- **Volleyball**
- **High School Sports**
  - C/D Team Football**
  - Cheerleading**
  - Cross Country/Track**
  - Golf**

## HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

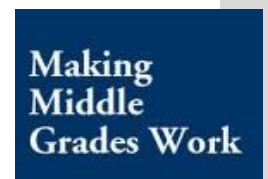
- Active School Improvement Committee (SIC)
- Active PTSA
- Making Middle Grades Work
- Rising Sixth Graders Tour & Orientation
- Back-to-School Orientation
- Open House
- Curriculum Night
- Breakfast with Moms
- Breakfast with Dads
- Community Service projects and events
- Fine Arts Performances
- Student Agendas provided by PTSA
- Parent Portal
- Classroom phones & voice mail for communication
- Faculty websites
- Faculty email
- Red Carpet School Award for creating a family-friendly school atmosphere



**Writing Improvement Network**  
READING & WRITING IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Award-winning PTSA Organization
- SC PTA Award Winning Communication Tools
  - RMS eBlast email updates
  - Royal Report newsletter
  - PTSA website [www.rmsptsa.com](http://www.rmsptsa.com)
- Community Service projects
- iMove 5K Run/Walk
- Fundraising campaigns for technology, materials, supplies and providing teacher support
- Family Fun Night & Talent Show
- Ice Cream Sundae & Iced Tea Sales
- Red Ribbon Week
- Reflections Art Contest
- Royal Pride Donation Campaign
- School Store and After School Concessions
- Volunteer tutors
- In-school and at-home volunteer opportunities



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Palmetto's Finest Award 2010
- Red Carpet School 2010
- Exemplary Writing School 1999-2011
- Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards
- Making Middle Grades Work School
- National PTA
- Parent Involvement Award
- S.C. PTA Outstanding Secondary School Award
- National PTA Honor Unit
- National Beta Club Convention Winner
- PTSA Reflections Winner
- Project Citizen State Champion
- United Way Campaign Award
- SC Letters about Literature Award
- Carl Sandburg Poetry Award
- Inez Tenenbaum Essay Winner
- 286 Gifted & Talented Students
- Board Certified Teachers
- Accredited by the SC Department of Education
- Nationally Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### MATH

- **Highest PASS** scores of any middle school in Greenville County, based on Spring 2011 PASS scores
- **Offered Seven sections of honors high school credit math classes** (five Algebra 1 and two Geometry)
- **100% pass rate** on the Algebra 1 **End of Course Examination** since 2003
- **Award-winning Math Counts Team**, one of the top teams in South Carolina
- Highest **PASS** scores of any middle school in Greenville County for second year based on spring 2011 and 2012 scores

### ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

- Offered **broad range** of ELA courses to meet the needs of students at **every achievement level**, ranging from **inclusion** and **skills** classes to **grade-level** and **accelerated** courses, including **Gifted and Talented** classes in every grade and **English I Honors** for eighth-grade students who excel in language arts
- **Consistently ranked among the top schools** in the district, based on PASS scores in both ELA (reading and research) and Writing
- English I Honors students posted **exceptional scores** on the state's **End of Course Examination**. In 2011, Riverside's mean score was 97%; more than 80% of the students made an A on the test. For 2012, the mean score was the highest of any middle school in Greenville County, including charter schools and the district's school for the gifted.
- **Designated four times as Exemplary Writing School** (every year of eligibility, since the school opened in 1999)
- **Students awarded** for achievements in writing through **local, state, and national competitions** including **South Carolina Young Writers' Conference**, **Civitan Club's Essay** contest, **Letters about Literature** contest (sponsored by the **Library of Congress** and the **SC State Library's Center for the Book**), **NCTE's Promising Young Writers** program, **Inez Tenenbaum Essay Writing Contest** and the **Carl Sandburg Poetry Writing Contest**

### SCIENCE

- **Achievement beyond mere participation** is stressed
- Computer-Based Laboratory (**CBL**) activities and projects
- **Research projects** with class presentations and debates
- Engineers from Fluor visited during "**Engineering Week**" to discuss career options with students and present a hands-on construction activities
- **Dissection Labs**: 8th graders - cow or sheep eyes; 7th graders - frogs
- **Field trip** to Georgia to climb Stone Mountain
- **Virtual field trip** presented by "Rock Man" for students to experience mining for minerals and gems
- **Roper Mountain Science Center field trip** on light and astronomy
- **Fossil Dig** and Geologic Time/Pangaea project
- Student-driven **Recycling** Program
- Students were winners at **Science Fair** and **Soil and Conservation "Soil to Spoon" essay contest**



*Achievement  
beyond  
mere  
participation  
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stressed.*

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- PASS Scores approximately **12% higher** than the district average
- **Award-winning** Model United Nations
- **Model UN** Festival of Nations
- **Greenville Remembers**
- **Holocaust** Remembrance Event
- **Geography Bee**

## BAND

- Ten students participated in **Riverside High School Marching Band**
- Numerous students selected by audition for **All-State Band, Region All-State Band** and **Greenville All-County Band**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band - **Excellent Rating** - State Concert Band Festival.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band - **Superior Rating (perfect score)** - State Concert Band Festival
- Awarded seventh **Outstanding Performance Award**, May 2012; **only 10%** of middle school band programs across the state receive this award

## CHORUS/MUSIC

- **RMS Chorus** achieved **Superior Ratings** at state events
- **All-County** chorus participation
- **Only middle school** in Greenville County that offers beginner guitar courses to grades 6, 7 and 8
- Two-time recipient of the **Art Innovation Curriculum Grant** which funded purchase of guitars
- **Community service** performances at area nursing homes, businesses and events in the community

## STRINGS/ORCHESTRA

- **Superior Rating** - Concert Festival for 7th and 8th Grade **Orchestra**
- Two students accepted into **Governor's School Summer Program**
- Two students participated in **Region Orchestra**
- Numerous students participated in extra curricular orchestras including **Carolina Youth Symphony** and **Greenville County Youth Orchestra**
- **All students** participated in **Artist-In-Residence Program** with nationally acclaimed **Electric Violinist, Mark Wood**



## DRAMA

- **RMS Drama program** is **unique** in that **students** present **totally student-centric productions**; **students write their own plays, design their costumes and make-up**, and **critique fellow actors** during rehearsals
- Home of **Drama Mafia** and **Jr. Drama Mafia** - "Killing You with Comedy"
- Drama students have attended **SC Governor's School for Theatre, Fine Arts Center of Greenville County** and **Governor's School Summer Program**
- Students have performed with **Greer Children's Theatre, South Carolina Children's Theatre** and **Greenville Little Theatre**



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- **PE curriculum** includes **archery** and **lacrosse**
- **Comprehensive health education curriculum**
- Fall and Spring **dodge ball tournaments**; **intramural basketball** grade level **tournaments**



# RMS: FAST FACTS

## ESTABLISHED

August 1999

## ENROLLMENT

1125 Students

## GRADES

6-8

## ATTENDANCE RATE

97.0%

## STUDENT:TEACHER RATIO

21:1

## SCHOOL MASCOT

Riverside Royals

## SCHOOL COLORS

Blue & Silver

## CAMPUS FEATURES

- 137,000 square feet of space
- 22-camera security system
- Fifty classrooms
- Nine science labs
- Five computer labs
- Media Center (12,000+ books)
- Classrooms for fine arts and vocational education
- Cafetorium (seats 364 for dining and 444 for assemblies)
- 22% free and reduced lunch
- Gymnasium (seats 350) - New gym floor to be completed during Summer 2012
- Baseball field
- Two softball fields
- Football/soccer field
- Lacrosse Field
- Track
- Four paved basketball courts
- Four tennis courts
- Attractive school and campus with a functional and flexible design achieved through the skillful use of windows, open areas, color and arrangement of a landscaped courtyard, drives, sidewalks, walkways, and athletic fields

# RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Eric Williams,  
Principal

Mr. Randy Counts,  
Assistant Principal

Mr. James Gardner,  
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Meg Stovall,  
Assistant Principal

Pam Varner,  
SIC Chair

Tammie Pinson & Cherell Harris  
PTSA Co-Presidents 2012-13

**For more information  
or to schedule a tour  
of RMS, please contact  
the Main Office at  
864.355.7900**

# Improve Your Reading and Writing Skills

## The Super Duper® Way!

flashcard

hyper

267

illustration

key word part

word part meaning

two words using word part

two word definitions

hyper - over

hyperactive - very active, constantly moving in all directions.

hypersensitive - oversensitive to criticism; allergic to certain substances.

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3 Levels of Stories!

The Explorers

Last week, the students in Ms. Roy's fourth grade class gave speeches on great explorers. Ricky learned that Liuff Ericsson discovered North America in the year 1000. Liuff was on a return trip from Norway to Greenland and was blown off course. He found new lands, with grapes, wheat, and a species of trees called "mausur." No one is sure where he landed. Most people think it was either Nova Scotia or New England. Ricky drew a picture of Liuff and his ship. Mr. Roy gave him an A for his speech and extra credit for the picture.

Which list includes four correct details in this story?

A Liuff Ericsson, year 1200, found grapes and wheat. Ricky got an A

B Liuff Johnson, year 1000, found corn and wheat. Ricky got a B

C Liuff Ericsson, year 1000, found grapes and trees called "mausur." Ricky got an A

D Liuff Johnson, year 1000, found grapes and trees called "mausur." Ricky got an A

85

Reading for Details in Stories  
Super Fun Deck® with Secret Decoder



Side A

Class Field Trip

1. The students at **W**. Calvary School are going on a **h**ild trip.

2. **E**very **W**ay, students visit The National Art **M**useum.

3. **T**ur **h**as went on a **h**ild trip on **h**unday to the **h**rand **h**anyon.

100 Cards  
Capitalization • Overall Appearance  
Punctuation • Spelling

Side B

Class Field Trip

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class at **g**lenview elementary school is taking an overnight field trip to **h**. **h**ushmore. The class has been studying about this **h**andmark in class. Each student had to raise money to go on the trip. **h**e class will take a bus and stay overnight at the **h**ilton Hotel. They are excited to see the **h**lace they have been studying about.

Basic Editing and Proofing  
Super Fun Deck® with Secret Decoder

500 Prefixes, Suffixes, and Stems  
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