



**RIVERSIDE ROYALS**  
Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow

# Riverside Middle School

*Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.*

## Report to the Community 2014-2015



**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 (100% 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 baseball field and batting cage, 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/riversms](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/riversms)

**AWARD WINNING MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

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 2014-2015

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.

I am excited and honored to be part of your family's journey through middle school. The faculty and staff of Riverside Middle School strive to provide the highest quality education possible to our students and over the years, have developed an extraordinary reputation for success, as individuals and as a school-community.

We work to incorporate research-based practices in teaching and learning, use technology appropriately to enhance the educational experience, and create a balanced middle-school experience that prepares our students to be well-rounded individuals capable of leading in a global society.

Again, I welcome you to our school and invite you to contact our staff at any time if you need assistance. Parents are always welcome at Riverside Middle School.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine A. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Principal**  
**Riverside Middle School**



Meredith Jones

RMS Student Council President 2014-15

*"RMS is very diverse, but we all work together to be successful, whether that's in the classroom or in the community. Students, teachers, and parents coming together is what makes RMS a special place."*

Kevin Styles

RMS Teacher of the Year 2014-15

*"We have good students who want to achieve at a high level. Our parents provide the resources and support necessary for our students to be successful. Our faculty, staff, and administration make sure our students can be competitive on local, state, and national levels."*



Kelle Corvin

PTSA President 2014-15

*"RMS is the best middle school family in Greenville County! Our students, families, faculty and administration all work together to make it a true community school. As a parent, you feel secure that your child is in a safe environment, getting academically prepared."*

Andrew Batman

RMS Assistant Principal

*"I think we have the best students in the state! It is a joy and a pleasure to work at RMS. It is a very special place to work and watch students grow into young adults."*





## ACADEMIC

- **Accelerated Math Classes**
- **Gifted and Talented Language Arts**
- **High School Credit Courses** including English 1 Honors, Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors, Desktop Publishing, French 1 and Spanish 1
- **“Bridging the Gap”**
- **Academic Assistance Program/Skills Class**
- **Gateway to Technology** courses in Design, Automation & Robotics
- **Before-school Extra-Help Computer Lab**
- **Related Arts Electives**
- **Special Education Classes**
- **Promethean Boards**, which allow for interactive learning
- **Multiple Computer Labs and Google Chromebook Carts**
- **Six-period day**
- **Media Center** with **12,000+** volumes, one **full-time certified librarian**, one **full-time library clerk**

## ENRICHMENT

- **Beta Club**
- **Character Education Program**
- **Cultural & Performing Arts**
  - Art
  - Band
  - Chorus
  - Drama
  - Guitar
  - Jazz Ensemble
  - Orchestra
  - Strings
- **Running Club**
- **Greenville Remembers**
- **Interscholastic Sports**
- **Intramural Sports**
- **Writers Block**
- **Model United Nations**
- **Peer Mediation**
- **Reflections Art Contest**
- **Royal Rewards - A/B Honor Roll program**
- **Service Learning**
- **LevelUp - MakersSpace**
- **Speech & Debate**
- **Student Council**
- **Writer’s Block**
- **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**
  - ◆ **Lacrosse**

## HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

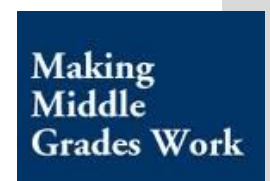
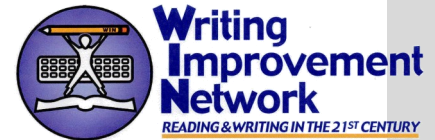
- Active School Improvement Committee (SIC)
- Active PTSA
- Making Middle Grades Work
- Rising Sixth Graders Tour & Orientation
- Back-to-School Orientation
- Open House
- Curriculum Night
- Breakfast with Moms
- Breakfast with Dads
- Community Service projects and events
- Fine Arts Performances
- Student 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
- Weekly School Messenger

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Award-winning PTSA Organization
- SC PTA Award Winning Communication Tools
  - RMS eBlast
  - PTSA website [www.rmsptsa.com](http://www.rmsptsa.com)
- Community Service projects
- iMove 5K Fun Run
- Fundraising campaigns for technology, materials, supplies and providing teacher support
- Talent Show
- Ice Cream Sundae
- Lunchroom Friends
- Red Ribbon Week
- Reflections Art Contest
- Family Fiction Fright Night
- Community Fest
- Royal Pride Donation Campaign
- School Store
- Volunteer tutors
- Volunteer opportunities
- Coffee with the Counselors

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- "A" Federal Accountability Rating
- Excellent/Excellent State School Report Card Rating
- Palmetto's Finest Award 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
- 465 Gifted & Talented Students
- Board Certified Teachers
- Safe Routes to Schools—Silver Partner
- Nationally Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### MATH

- Offered **broad range** of math courses to meet the needs of students at **every achievement level**, ranging from **inclusion** and **skills** classes to **grade-level** and **accelerated** courses, including **Algebra I** and **Geometry**
- **Highest PASS** scores of any middle school in Greenville County, based on Spring 2014 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

### 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**.
- **Designated four times** as **Exemplary Writing School**
- **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
- **Virtual field trips**
- **Roper Mountain Science Center field trips**
- **Fossil Dig** and Geologic Time/Pangaea project
- Student-driven **Recycling** Program
- Students were winners at **Science Fair** and **Soil and Conservation essay contest**



*Achievement  
beyond  
mere  
participation  
is  
stressed.*

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- Highest 2014 PASS scores of any Greenville County Middle School
- PASS scores approximately **12% higher** than the district average
- **Award-winning** Model United Nations
- **Model UN** Festival of Nations
- **Greenville Remembers**
- **Art in History**
- **Geography Bee**

## BAND

- Nine 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> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands - **Superior Rating (perfect score)** - 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/GUITAR

- **Spring Sing** 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
- **Local musicians as guest instructors**

## STRINGS/ORCHESTRA

- **Superior Rating** - Concert Festival for 7th, 8th, and Full **Orchestra**; Orlando Concert Festival for 7th, 8th, and Full Orchestra.
- Ten 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**



## 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)
- 20.5% free and reduced lunch
- Gymnasium (seats 350)
- Baseball field
- Batting cage
- 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

## RMS: FAST FACTS

### ESTABLISHED

August 1999

### ENROLLMENT

1,180 Students

### GRADES

6-8

### ATTENDANCE RATE

97.5%

### STUDENT:TEACHER RATIO

21:1

### SCHOOL MASCOT

Riverside Royals

### SCHOOL COLORS

Blue & Silver



**Wired Minds**  
TUTORING

**Want Better Grades?  
We can help!**

- Tutoring for ALL Subjects
- Academic Summer Camps
- Group Academic Workshops
- After School Programs
- SAT/PSAT Boot Camps

**Call for a Tour & Consultation**

ACROSS FROM  
**RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL**

**1271 South Suber Road Greer 244-2420**  
[www.wiredmindstutoring.com](http://www.wiredmindstutoring.com)

## RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Kate Malone,**  
Principal

Debbie Goulart,  
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

Andrew Batman  
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

Cindy Bush  
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

Anthony Bennett,  
SIC Chair

Kelle Corvin,  
PTSA President 2014-2015

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