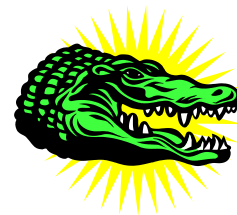




From the desk of the Principal, Synetria L. Hawkins

Estill Middle School Report To The People



“Home of the Junior Gators”

APRIL

2014



“Success and Nothing Less”
“Community, Collaboration”

Congratulations on being SC 2013-2014

Palmetto Silver Award Recipient

EMS MOTTO:

EMS, a school, where we are educating every child by any means necessary.

Our Mission

Our mission is to prepare students to be successful, healthy and responsible citizens by providing challenging educational experiences in a safe and positive environment.

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The mission of Estill Middle School is to prepare students to be successful, responsible citizens by providing challenging educational experiences in a safe, positive environment. We are definitely making strides to ensure that all our students are well-rounded in all areas of academia. As we reach the end of a great year this feels like a great time to reflect on some of the many positives regarding our school and community while highlighting a few areas of opportunity.

First and foremost, all of us here at EMS; students, faculty and staff, genuinely appreciate the generosity and support for our school and our community. In many communities, where education is viewed as a luxury, and not an investment, schools and teachers don't enjoy the tremendous support that we do here in our community. For this, we are most grateful. This has been a good year as the vast majority of our students worked hard and took advantage of the educational opportunities provided for them. It has been impressive to walk into classrooms and see creative teaching strategies being utilized in order to provide opportunities for students to interact with each other and become engaged in the learning process.

This year we have continued to modify our approach to instruction in keeping with the expectations outlined in the Common Core Curriculum, which essentially recommends that students spend more time learning fewer concepts but at a much deeper level of rigor and cognition. (For more on the Common Core visit: <http://www.corestandards.org/>) At all levels, from sixth through eighth grade our students have benefited from access to essential technology tools. While there are those who bemoan the incursion of technology into our lives there is no doubt it is here to stay, and it's therefore incumbent on us to provide our students, and their teachers, with technological resources aimed at enriching their learning experiences. Our students continue to have access to a wide range of tech tools, from iPads and laptops to smartboards, to study buddies and Kindles.

It's worth mentioning that at no time have we envisioned utilizing technology as a substitute for good teaching, but rather as an essential component of 21st century education, a critical life skill. For teaching to be considered effective in 2014 technology simply needs to be part of the picture, and not viewed as an add-on. I do believe that it is time to move away from viewing technology as a supplement, and rather as part of the core of how we teach. Of course, while it's great to have a wonderful, up to date facility with some of the latest technology, at the end of the day a school is only as good as its people: faculty, staff, administration, students, parents, families and friends, all of whom provide the essential components of a great community school. We recognize that we're always a work in progress, and will continue to strive toward excellence at all levels.

Thanks again for your continued support of our school!

Please find below many examples of how EMS is in line with the district's strategic plan (GOALS 1, 3 & 4) to make Hampton 2 a district of community, collaboration, and creativity!

Synetria L. Hawkins, Principal
Mary Stokes, SIC President

HAMPTON 2 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

GOAL 1: INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Students worked diligently toward comprehension and application of the S.C. Curriculum Standards in Science and Social Studies and the Common Core State Standards in ELA and Math. Standards were posted, acknowledged and discussed daily in each classroom.
- The district and school focused on speaking the same language as we implemented a curriculum

HAMPTON 2 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

GOAL 4: IMPROVE HUMAN CAPITAL

- Teachers met weekly in Professional Learning Communities to collaborate, plan, and assess student learning.
- Teachers used PD360 as a tool for professional development.
- Professional development sessions focused on curriculum development, Common Core Standards implementation and deconstruction of standards.
- Bernard Sanders served as the Lead Science Teacher. He instructed and coordinated activities students in preparation for

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framework model for instruction.

- Students were provided opportunities to practice reading at their designated independent reading level using the Direct Instruction model to target student weaknesses in reading. Students attended classes daily working on reading skills from phonics, word attack, and decoding.
- Students participated in the Columbia Blowfish Reading Challenge, a Family Reading Night, and a school-wide Book Character Parade.
- It's Your Game Health Education for all 7th grade students taught by Coach Threatt.
- Intervention classes were maintained within the master school schedule to address the instructional needs of each student. Teacher Cadet students from EHS came over and worked with students.
- Estill Middle School received recognition by the S.C. Department of Education as a **Closing the Achievement Gap Palmetto Silver Award** winner.

the school Science Fair.



MRS. JARRELL



MRS. MONROE



MS. HOUSEY

Staff



MS. KAMEES



MS. MIXON



MR. WALDEN

HAMPTON 2 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
GOAL 3: CULTIVATE ENGAGEMENT

STUDENT/CLASS RECOGNITION

Volunteers and Partnerships

- Parents and community members served as classroom helpers, chaper-ones, testing monitors, and School Improvement Council. (SIC) members. Thanks to all of our parents that volunteered.
- Advisors from USC Beaufort and USC Salkehatchie came and met with students from all grade levels for “College Day”. They talked with students about the different college degrees, tuition, housing, and athletics programs.
- Speakers Mr. Green and Mr. White with “DJJ/C.H.O.I.C.E.S” also came on campus and worked with students on a six week curriculum. The focus of the curriculum was to help students make the right choices, follow rules, and citizenship. The curriculum consisted of ten weekly sessions lasting for an hour.
- Members from the “Operation Get Smart” team came and visited students. The team consisted of inmates from the state prison. They spoke with students about staying on the right track and the types of things can lead them to time behind bars. They told their own personal stories about the lives they lived prior to being sent to prison.
- Speakers with “The Choice Bus” came on campus and spoke to students about making the right choices about their education and their attitude. They had a bus that students went on that simulated what an actual jail cell looked like. Students could experience the tight spaces of a prison cell and what a typical day is like for an inmate.
- EMS partnered with Hampton1 on a math and science grant. Teachers received professional development in those areas.

Exemplary Writers

- 70 Students were recognized for their exemplary writing at the Night in White Awards Program on May 1, 2014
- Congratulations to Kevionna Owens, a sixth grader for winning the Hampton County Art Contest
- Science Fair Winners:

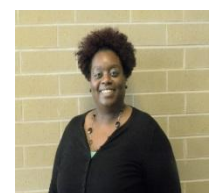
	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	Honorable Mention
Grade 6	Mecca Perkins	Quincy Robinson	Simeon Shiggs	Datron Duncan
Grade 7	Charlotte Johnson	Arrione Alston	Destiny Bostick	Tyshawn Bostick
Grade 8	DeAndre Walls	Santavia Smart	Saysha Burrison	Brian Garner



MR. DERS



MRS. GORDON



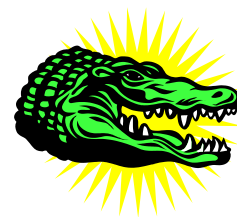
MS. JOHNSON

Staff



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- Eighth grade students had the opportunity on February 28, 2014, to go out and job shadow. Other eighth graders and sixth and seventh graders participated in virtual job shadowing. They went online and researched jobs that were of interest to them.
- The Lowcountry Food Bank’s School Pantry Program was here at EMS this year. Each month the food bank delivered food as part of their mission to help alleviate child hunger in America through the provision of food to children and their families at school. The school based pantry was intended to provide a more readily accessible source of food assistance to low-income students and their families.



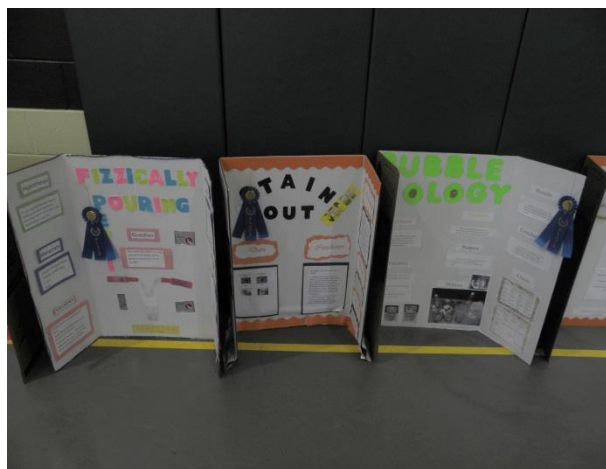
Family Involvement

Prospective parent meetings were held with the Guidance Counselor as well as on Parent-Teacher Conference days to share information, encourage conversation among parents, and answer questions about the new district Promotion & Retention Policy. Parents and students participated in the Box Tops for Education program and Souper Bowl of Caring Project.

MRS. HOPKINS

MRS. CAPERS

MR. SINGLETON



- ✚ MAY 1ST – NIGHT IN WHITE AWARDS PROGRAM
- ✚ MAY 6TH – INTERIM REPORTS
- ✚ MAY 7-10TH – SCPASS TESTING
- ✚ MAY 27TH – MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY



MR. THREATT



MRS. LING



MS. GREER



MRS. READY



MRS. POLITE

Staff

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“Home of the Junior Gators”

“EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT”

“Nothing can dim the light which shines from within.”-Maya Angelo

I ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO HAVE FAITH IN YOUR STUDENTS BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT ALL OUR STUDENTS HAVE A DESIRE TO LEARN, CAN LEARN, WILL LEARN, AND DO LEARN.



PLEASE JOIN HANDS WITH ME AND LETS WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR FUTURE.



Estill Middle School
Mrs. Synetria Hawkins, Principal
1450 Columbia Highway Suite B
Estill, SC 29918
Phone: 803-625-5207 Fax: 803-625-3388
Web site: <http://www.hampton2.k12.sc.us>