



Report to the People

Estill Middle School
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The mission of Estill Middle School is to prepare students to be successful, responsible citizens by providing challenging educational experiences; and we are definitely making strides to ensure that all our students are well-rounded in all areas of academia. At Estill Middle School, we have implemented several initiatives that have led to the improvement of both our school climate and our academic status. These initiatives have allowed us to be more successful in the classroom and have given us an increase in the number of students who have received academic awards throughout the year.

One of those initiatives has been the full implementation of Direct Instruction which has allowed us to see great improvement in our students' comprehension and reading levels. We also have a large percentage of our students that have been placed in our ninety percent club based upon their DI reading scores and improvement levels. The Direct Instruction classes are focused primarily on Reading and ELA skills that our students are expected to complete and master. It is evaluated daily as well as weekly at three different formats: exercise by exercise during lessons, day to day for completion of entire lessons and formally at five to ten lesson intervals based on their skill level using mastery tests and reading checkouts that are built in the program setup. Once the lessons are completed and mastered, the mastery assessment is used to determine the advancement of the student to accelerate to the next level in the curriculum. Our Extended-Day Café was also instrumental in helping to improve student learning and achievement. During the Extended-Day Café, students were allowed the opportunity to go to the library or to a tutorial session in the mornings before school started or at the end of the school day. Students participated in both acceleration and remediation programs during these times as well.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in our Literacy Luau, where we will be celebrating literacy with a parade and a variety of other activities where students will be given the opportunity to display their academic talents through technology by making commercials, electronic books, and power points; through art by creating several works of art; and through poetry by creating several poem books to display their individual talents.

We have also incorporated student job shadowing and virtual job shadowing for all grades to help students decide what field of interest they would like to participate in once they graduate. These two initiatives give the students a feel for the occupation that they are interested in and helps them to decide whether or not this is the occupation that they would like to pursue. Through our Gear-Up and Guidance departments, we have also had a number of Career Fairs at the school where students were allowed the opportunity to hear from representatives from various companies and occupations that may have been of interest to them. Each of these Career Fairs have been a success and has encouraged our students to want to do better academically so that they can achieve success in their adult lives; as well as greatly increasing our students' career expectations.

Synetria L. Hawkins, Interim Principal

Mary Stokes, SIC President



Special points of interest:

- * **PASS Testing**
May 7– 10, 2011
- * **Final Exams**
March 29—31, 2011
- **Literacy Luau**
May 24, 2013
- * **Student/Staff Holiday**
May 27, 2013
- * **Promotional Exercises**
June 5, 2013

Guidance News

The operation Get Smart Team visited Estill Middle School on December 7, 2012. The Get Smart team is a crime prevention/public awareness program sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Correction. The Get Smart Team travels throughout the state to



speak to students about the consequences of failing to follow rules and regulation and using hard drugs and alcohol. We also had a visit from Dr. A.V. Strong who educated our students on gang violence and prevention.

IGP's

Parents, it's that time of the year! Time to complete individual Graduation Plans (IGP's) for our 8th grade students. Each year the 8th grade student along with

their parent must complete a plan which will outline a list of high school courses that are required for graduation. These courses focus on the student's individual interests, their post-graduation plans and their professional goal. The IGP help students stay on target to graduate from high school and better define what career path the student need to take.



Our Students & Staff Participating in Various Activities

Gear UP News

GEAR UP has been busy with making our students aware of the numerous opportunities in academics and career fields. We have combined efforts with the Guidance/Career Department to present the several Career Parent Workshop as well as Career Fairs for the students once in October and again in March.. Eighth grade students will also participate in another college field trip to USC-Columbia this year and get the opportunity to tour several other institutes as a cultural lesson. We at GEAR UP, will continue to be on the move providing our students with opportunities that promote academics, career exploration, cultural awareness, character building, and team building.

February celebrates our Black History Month

“Those who don’t know history are doomed to repeat it” is a quote that has been said time and time again. Actually, it holds true in many parts of our lives. It has also been said that “We don’t know where we are going if we don’t know where we’ve been.” EMS GEAR UP, in conjunction with the EMS support staff presented 8th grade students, teachers, and staff a plethora of valuable historical and academic knowledge as well as cultural lessons encompassing enslavement, self determination, freedom, and economic empowerment of our people.

GO GAMECOCKS!!!!

Let’s hear it for the 2012 Capital One Bowl winners and 2010 & 2011 National Baseball Champions.....Garnet and Black- It’s A Tradition!!!!



Aiming High...On The Road To Excellence

Career News

Career Clusters are broad occupational groupings...an organizing tool defining education for post-secondary education and careers using 16 broad clusters of occupations and 79 pathways with validated standards that ensure opportunities for all students regardless of their career goals and interests.



Career Clusters are a tool for a seamless educational system that:

- blends rigorous academic/technical preparation
 - provides career development
 - offers options for students to experience all aspects of a business or
- Industry facilitates/assists students and educators with ongoing transitions

Career Clusters

- provide a framework for continuing contemporary, high-quality programs
- provide a framework for seamless education
- provide more career options for students
- provide a framework for organizing and reorganizing the delivery of career and technical education and needed 21st Century Skills

provide understanding of knowledge and skill transfer and verification of qualification

