

# Indian Land Middle School

## Programs

National Junior Honor Society  
Service Learning  
Full-time Nurse  
Five Computer Labs  
All Teachers Provide Free Tutoring  
Keyboard Labs For Music Instruction  
Open House  
"Meet in the Middle" Transition Program  
Science Kit-Based Instruction  
PTO Sponsored School Dances  
Honor Roll Awards  
Essay and Poster Contests  
Grade Level Awards Day Recognition  
Summer School  
Team and Department Planning Times  
GT Infused Curriculum  
FCA/Student-Led Ministry Group  
Yearbook  
Media Center Flexible Scheduling  
Band and Chorus  
School-wide Dress Code  
Differentiated Instruction Training  
Lancaster County Youth Art Month  
School and District Science Fair Competition  
School and District Spelling Bee Competition  
Staff Member of the Week Program  
Rotary Teacher of the Month  
Teacher of the Year  
Support Staff Member of the Year  
Student and Staff Recognition Program—Bucket Fillers  
Participation in Red Ribbon Week  
Annual Mix It Up at Lunch, National Program  
Middle School Athletic Programs  
Annual Veteran's Day Program  
Coffee Morning with Parents  
Student Council  
Professional Learning Lab  
One Book, One School Program, Year 6  
Middle School 101  
Club Time for All Students  
Grants Earned  
Warrior Advisory Time  
Uniform Expectations of Behavior  
Champions of Character  
Character Counts Week  
Random Acts of Kindness Week  
Classworks!  
Marching Band  
iLead @ ILMS—Leadership & Volunteer Program  
News Studio for Morning Announcements  
High School Sports for 7th and 8th Grade Students  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Kindle Fire Lab (1), Galaxy Tablet Lab (1)  
Chromebook Lab (4), Laptop Lab (2)  
Academic Challenge  
Daily Scheduled Remediation & Enrichment Time  
Character Development Infused with Sean Covey's  
*7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*

## Overview of ILMS

**SCDE Rating: A**  
**Student Enrollment: 734**  
**Number of Certified Staff: 50**  
**Number of Advanced Degrees: 18**  
**Average Years of Experience: 11 years**  
**Percent of Free/Reduced Lunch: 25%**  
**Average Class Size: 22**  
**Student Average Daily Attendance: 97%**  
**Teacher Average Daily Attendance: 95%**  
**National Board Certification**  
Kay Sehorn, Phedrian Alexander  
Curwood Dillingham, Angela Cossin,



### A Note from the Principal:

I am thrilled to serve as principal of Indian Land Middle School. The community has displayed tremendous support and concern for our students and staff which makes our time as educators and learners more productive and successful.

The students of ILMS are diverse in background, experiences, interests, and academic performance. We celebrate this diversity and work to ensure every learner is provided opportunities to explore, learn, and develop into a young adult with character and a solid educational background.

As our enrollment continues to climb we will be ever mindful of our need to maintain partnerships in our community. Donations of time, talent, or financial resources are always greatly appreciated—regardless of the size of the contribution. Please keep in mind that as a whole, we are a dynamic school; however, we do have students and families in need. If you have time to serve as a mentor or tutor, please let us know!

Our doors are always open and we would love to show you around our school. We look forward to building or maintaining a partnership with you!

Christopher D. Thorpe  
Principal, ILMS

# Indian Land Middle School

## National School To Watch

Promising Practice Awards  
State School of Character  
Palmetto GOLD Award  
Red Carpet Award  
S.C. State Dept. of Ed., A Rating



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## Our Mission:

*An innovative community inspiring excellence!*

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## We Believe:

### *Creating academic excellence by insisting our...*

Learners are provided with a rich academic environment; utmost priority is student learning and achievement; faculty implements curriculum, instruction, and assessment strategies that are aligned with high expectations; students participate in learning opportunities that support inquiry and advancement through achievement; learners and teachers analyze data and utilize that information to impact student learning and achievement.

### *Establishing a culture of school equity by ensuring our school...*

Provides opportunities for growth and has high expectations for all learners; works to support, understand, and celebrate diversity; aspires to know every student well; is a system where we value citizenship, service and leadership.

### *Producing a developmental responsive culture in which our community...*

Creates an environment that supports intellectual, ethical, social, and physical environment; fosters curiosity, creativity, and development of the whole child; develops alliances with families, local businesses, and service organizations to support the well-being of all children; offers age appropriate activities and opportunities for all children.

### *Designing strong organizational processes and structures where our school...*

Is a community that values experimentation, time, reflection, and development to produce higher student achievement and professional learning; provides a safe, supportive learning environment that relies on families and the community to support our trajectory toward higher performance.

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## Our Motto:

*"What Happens  
Here Will Change  
The World."*

*Adopted by the  
student body, April 2009*



## Indian Land Middle School School Improvement Plan

- ◇ We utilized the following: Homework and academic enrichment programs, summer school, field trip opportunities, and service learning.
- ◇ English/Language Arts instruction will be provided to enhance higher order thinking and reasoning skills.
- ◇ Students will be given opportunities to explain the process for solving problems orally on a daily basis and weekly on written work.
- ◇ Teachers will develop grade level rubrics and provide feedback in the use of rubrics for evaluating student work in the core academic area.
- ◇ Technology will be used to enhance and extend learning (SmartBoards, internet research, etc.).
- ◇ Teachers will utilize grade level and departmental planning to develop and refine assessments to ensure alignment to standards, curriculum, and formal assessments.
- ◇ Vertical team and committee meetings will be utilized to provide for collaboration and sharing of ideas and best practices.
- ◇ Staff members will participate in book talks on relevant topics from current literature. Opportunities to attend subject and grade specific conferences will also be provided.
- ◇ Teachers will use MAP and PASS data, in addition to classroom assessments, to determine and implement appropriate groupings for remediation, extension and enrichment. Classrooms will reflect small group instruction opportunities (centers, workshops, etc.).
- ◇ Adult volunteers and high school students will continue to be enlisted to tutor individuals or small groups of students.
- ◇ Communication between home and school will be enhanced through daily Student Agendas through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, monthly newsletters, and automated calling and e-mail announcements.
- ◇ The Student Assistant Team (SAT) will be utilized to address the individual academic, behavior and emotional needs of students.
- ◇ To address the specific needs of the disabled population, an additional resource teacher has been added and class sizes have been reduced.
- ◇ One Book/One School was implemented during the 2009-10 school year.
- ◇ New technology such as tablets and Chromebooks will enhance the school by requiring each class to incorporate the technology throughout.



## Indian Land Middle School

**Designations & Partnerships:**

### *National School To Watch*

In January 2013 Indian Land Middle School was re-designated as a National School To Watch. Our school adopted the framework presented by the National Forum and has worked diligently to provide programs, academics, and offerings that will help every student succeed. The Schools To Watch framework focuses on four different areas: Academic Excellence, Development Responsiveness, Social Equity, and Organizational Structures and Practices. ILMS is pleased to have received this three year designation and to be recognized nationally as a School To Watch!

### *State School of Character*

ILMS has been named, for two consecutive years, a State School of Character. We are the first middle school to receive a three year designation.

### *Promising Practices in Character Education*

Our school earned this recognition based on our One Book, One School Program, Warrior Time Advisory Program, Think Big Program, You've Got Mail Program, Meet In The Middle: Focusing on Transitions, and Warrior Ambassadors.

### *Palmetto GOLD Award*

As a result of improved test scores, our students and teachers have earned the Palmetto Gold Award, two consecutive years.

### *S.C. State Department of Education Rating*

In recognition of test data, the South Carolina Department of Education issued an A Rating to ILMS. This data reflects our commitment to a rigorous curriculum for all learners.

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### *Instructional Partnerships:*

**Winthrop University Partner School  
Making Middle Grades Work, SREB,  
NASSP, SCASA, ASCD**

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### *What We Have Learned...*

Participation in such programs has allowed us the opportunity to evaluate our programs and make the necessary additions to ensure our students are getting the best education possible. It's great to be an ILMS Warrior!