

REPORT OF SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

We, at Andrew Jackson Middle School, continue to move forward with academic success and school-wide improvements. As a school, we seem to always be just a few points or only one goal/performance away from making AYP. Our state report card of a "C" is not where we want to be and we will continue to work to make improvements. We recognize the need to target those weak areas and to continue our efforts, but at the same time we have reason to celebrate our progress. We continue to evaluate all programs and practices for insight and growth with the hope that this will help us meet the elevated state standards for AYP in 2014 and beyond. Our school and district initiative in streamlining programs and policies through professional learning communities and schools has created an atmosphere of coherence and determination at every level and function. Collectively we are putting children first as we strive to succeed for them and their future. With the curriculum changes coming via the Common Core Standards, our teachers are beginning the process of integrating those changes into their teaching. This has been a challenging year for our teachers but they have all responded in a very professional and positive way.

We continue here at AJMS to embrace the ideology of teaching and learning together in and through the Arts. Our students and staff continue to create and cultivate a community of learners and a climate of learning that is rich in family and service. Our signature programs in the arts reach many students and give the community and school a point of common interest that touches all facets of our daily lives. The Veteran's day program brought in nearly 150 county veterans to be honored by students' performances directed at upholding veterans, their families, and their contributions to our freedom. Our Black History program did the same with respect to the diversity and unity in our school community. Our chorus and dance groups had a winter production of the musical, "Alice in Wonderland" which proved to be an exciting evening for our school and community. Our spring production of our theatre department included the play, "A 3 Course Dinner" with all grade levels participating. It was a very entertaining evening. Our goal at AJMS is to provide academic and arts-focused opportunities that align with our mission of creating life-long learners.

Our faculty continues to seek new ways to reach our students and with that thought in mind have started a program that intentionally targets those struggling students. We have visited other schools in an effort to make our program better by learning from others. We are also in the early stages of implementing a program with our local University, the University of South Carolina at Lancaster that is intended to target those students with academic struggles and those in need of a mentor. Hopefully this will help both our students and the university students as we seek to build community involvement.

Daryl Hinson, Principal and Deborah Griffin Chairperson School Improvement Council