

LAURENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT TO PARENTS 2016/2017

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A learning community where students are empowered for success.

Purpose

This Report is issued by the Laurens Middle School School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.

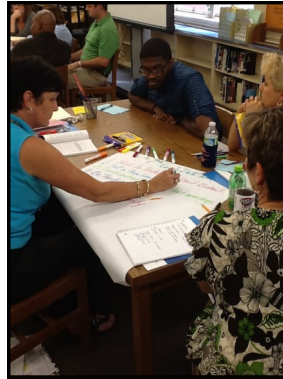
Goals and Progress

Two key goals that are outlined in our School Improvement Plan were the focus of much of what was discussed in School Improvement Council (SIC) this year. The first of these was increasing the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the standard of passage on state assessments in all content areas. Because reading is the key predictor in success across all content fields, a program introduced in our district by our Superintendent, "30 for 30," was a focal point this year in improving test scores. Students reading a minimum of thirty minutes at school and home each day should pay dividends on state tests this year. We have already seen growth in Math and ELA on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests and believe this is a positive predictor for upcoming end of the year state tests. Other strategies such as teacher made compacts designed to focus instruction more effectively, pinpointing and addressing the needs of students who need an extra push to obtain passing status on state tests and making data a focus of all instructional efforts will help us to realize the goals we have set. A second goal found in our School Improvement Plan centers on increasing teacher, student and parental satisfaction with the learning environment. The Superintendent's call for "all hands on deck" fit squarely within this goal's focus. This year, LMS welcomed parents to our building on multiple occasions in an effort to secure more involvement and make them full partners

in the education of students. Our "Parent Day" was one example that was a huge success. Parents came to school throughout the school day at a time suitable for them and were able to visit classes that were in session, have lunch with their child and visit with teachers during their planning periods. For students, we have worked hard to make classes more relevant to them, to differentiate instruction to meet every child's needs and to recognize the good work of students on a regular basis. For our teachers, we have provided quality professional development throughout the year, made guarding instructional time a priority, supported them with quality coaching and demonstrated a willingness to protect the learning environment consistently.

SIC Members:

- **Caroline Barker** Parent/Chair
- **Rhett Harris**, Principal/Ex-officio
- **Karon Dailey** Assistant Principal/Ex-officio
- **Chris Hughes**, Ex-officio
- **Barbara Robertson** parent
- **Gabrielle Cilluffo**, parent
- **Tina Childress**, teacher
- **Cathy Little**, parent
- **Carol Epps**, parent
- **Brian Harlan**, community
- **Johnathan White**, teacher



Challenges and Accomplishments

LMS is committed to helping students develop the characteristics and skills that encompass the “Profile of the SC Graduate.” The challenge of equipping students with world class knowledge and skills while developing in them critical life and career characteristics is a task we welcome and take very seriously. The student body at LMS has become more and more diverse over the last several years and we expect that trend to continue. We will need to prepare ourselves by obtaining more and more skills in differentiating instruction and adopting innovative techniques to reach all learners regardless of background or circumstances. Aiming for test results that meet or exceed state averages is a goal being realized in some areas but not all. We will challenge our staff and students to display and practice the type of work ethics that will make attainment of high academic goals a certainty instead of a possibility.



Special Recognition



LMS honors a teacher each year as our Teacher of the Year (T.O.Y.). Mrs. Rebecca Miller has served this year as T.O.Y. and Mr. Nick Cox will be our incoming choice. These teachers represent the excellence that we have in our classrooms at LMS. Our athletic teams competed and represented our school very positively this year. We are appreciative of the efforts of coaches, athletes and the parental support that was shown. Our Academic and Robotics teams also did well in their preparations and competitions. The leadership they received made for very positive experiences for students. Each year, Band, Strings and Chorus students contribute their talents to programs and assemblies at LMS. Again this year, these students made memorable contributions through their performances under the dynamic leadership of their teachers. LMS also had a Regional Science Fair winner that came from our 8th grade class. We appreciate the tremendous job from those

students and their sponsoring teacher. LMS has students recognized annually by the state as Junior Scholars. This prestigious academic achievement was attained this year by four outstanding 8th grade students. We also had one 7th grader recognized by the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). This recognition is one of the highest academic honors that can be attained by middle school students across the nation.



Special Programs

LMS offered effective after school programs this year for at-risk students. The 21st Century grant provided opportunities for students to receive academic support in the afternoons as well as extra help and guidance in school life. GEAR UP grant funds provided opportunities for after school tutoring several days per week. Many of our students took advantage of these offerings provided and improved academically as a result. The AVID program, run during the regular school day, continued this year and was aimed at preparing more students for higher education and beyond. We anticipate growing this program to all grades next year and continuing incorporating AVID strategies into all classrooms and content areas. This is a program recognized nationally for its’ positive impact on students and their development of the skills necessary to be successful through college. Our Power Reading teacher accomplished much in the area of growth for struggling readers. LMS continued a program of very strong support for our students and their possible career choices through our Career Development Facilitator (CDF). This facilitator provided many opportunities for students including “Lunch and Learn.” This effort brought in a wide array of community professionals to share experiences and information with 8th graders. Our partnership with McDonalds of Laurens provided rewards for students through “Be In To Take Out ”which focused on demonstrating good attendance in school. LMS had several winners throughout the year in our “Score Big, Win Big” initiative aimed at high classroom achievement and good behavior. LMS students and staff gave back to the community through various fund raisers for those in need or less fortunate.

- Academic Team
- Academic Homework Center
- Athletics (Basketball, Football, Cheerleading, Volleyball)
- CHAMPS
- Linx program for Science
- LMS Shining Stars
- Montessori program
- National Junior Honor Society
- Score Big/Win Big
- Service Learning opportunities
- Student Council
- Terrific Tigers