

School Improvement Council

Leland Cave, Chair/Parent

Tony Signorino, Vice-Chair/Comm. Member

Tiffany Shull, Secretary/Teacher

Guy Smith, Principal

Darlene Jackson, Assistant Principal

Margaret Schilit, Assistant Principal

Jennifer Cammann, Teacher

Joan Conger, Teacher

John Cromer, Student Council

Vareer Gray, Parent

Maxwell Highsmith, Parent

Mihaela Livingston, Teacher

Terrence McLean, Parent

Melisa O'Connor, Parent

Jon Purvis, Community Member

Taylor Shull, Student

D'Asia White, Student

Ammishav Zimmerman, Student

Tammy Wise, Staff Member



Purpose of the Report

South Carolina Act 135 of 1993 requires each of the state's local School Improvement Councils (SICs) to publish and distribute a Report to the Parents by April 30th of each year highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of its five-year School Improvement Plan and the SIC's annual goals. This Report is unique to each school and is developed by the SIC with input of the principal to share the challenges and successes of the school, students, parents, and teachers for the current school year.

White Knoll Middle School

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White Knoll Middle School

Report to the Parents

2016



The mission of White Knoll Middle School is to prepare our students for success at high school and to instill habits of scholarship which will serve them well in high school, college, career, and life.

The mission of Lexington County School District One — where caring people, academics, the arts, and athletics connect — is to prepare 21st century graduates while serving as the center for community learning.

We are SOARING TO SUCCESS at WKMS!

Greetings

White Knoll Middle School embarked on a blended learning initiative in the spring of 2015. Our goals were to improve differentiation and personalization of instruction and to more fully engage all students in learning. As we complete our first full year of blended learning implementation in our ELA and math classes, we are seeing great results. Students are actively engaged in class through interaction with their peers in collaborative work, use of excellent digital content, and involvement in personalized teacher-led instruction. Many of our other core and exploratory teachers are also working to implement blended learning principles in their classes. Our goal is to develop true 21st century classrooms that meet the needs of all students. As we prepare for the 2016-17 school year, we are looking to implement blended learning in all subject areas.

In addition to our core classes, we offer students an array of opportunities in fine arts and performing arts including art, band, chorus, dance, drama and orchestra. Three-fourths of our students participate in our arts programs. We are proud and honored to be an Arts in Basic Curriculum site. Through this initiative, and with support from our district, we have worked to improve our arts equipment and facilities and increase student and community access to and appreciation of the arts. We have upgraded music instruments and classroom equipment, installed a new dance floor, and improved our theater experience.

Across the curriculum and throughout the school day, we have focused on student leadership. Our Student Council, and other student organizations, were active this year in school activities, leadership, and fundraising. Our school newsletter and yearbook were student produced. Students also took the lead in all of our major gatherings including awards programs, orientations, and arts events. As we look to the future, we are excited about even more student voices being heard at White Knoll Middle School.

Together we are **SOARING TO SUCCESS AT WKMS!**

We are proud that...

- Our blended learning initiative is established and is moving into all curriculum areas for the 2016-17 school year.
- Our Fine Arts department has worked to earn our school recognition as an Arts in Basic Curriculum Site.
- Five eighth graders qualified as Junior Scholars.
- Our WKMS teacher of the year is Elizabeth Goodwin. Mrs. Goodwin teaches 8th grade history.
- Fifteen WKMS teachers are National Board Certified.
- Our staff and students continue to be involved in service projects including Pasta for Pennies, Relay for Life, and food drives.
- Our volleyball, football, basketball, and cheer teams performed well this year. Approximately 20% of our students participate in interscholastic athletics on campus and at White Knoll High School.
- Over 90% of parents attended 8th grade conferences.
- The White Knoll PTSA is in good standing with the state and national organization and is working to support students and teachers at WKMS.

Innovative School Programs

- **In collaboration with other Lexington 1 middle schools, WKMS has embarked on a blended learning initiative. Students are actively engaged in class through interaction with digital content, collaborative work, and personalized teacher-led instruction. Our goal is to develop true 21st century classrooms that meet the needs of all students.**
- **WKMS has focused on “Soaring to Success” this year through use of student and faculty data notebooks. Students meet regularly in small homeroom groups to set goals, track progress, and plan for the future. We have worked to make “every room a data room” at WKMS.**
- Leadership opportunities are provided for both staff and students. Students develop leadership skills in sports, clubs, school organizations, classroom activities, and competitions. Many teachers are working on advanced degrees and are taking on significant leadership roles at WKMS.
- High School credits are offered in Algebra, English, Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish.
- As part of our core curriculum, students learn a world language, selecting from Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish.
- Our fine arts program is strong and active. Almost 75% of students are presently involved in a fine arts class. Offerings include Art, Band, Chorus, Dance, Drama, and Orchestra. Our fine arts department has applied to become an Arts in Basic Curriculum site.



