

School Improvement Council

Evelyn Tutherow, Chair/Parent

Tracey Hagerty, Vice-Chair/Teacher

Tiffany Shull, Secretary/Teacher

Guy Smith, Principal

Darlene Jackson, Assistant Principal

Margaret Schilit, Assistant Principal

Tanya Attarwala—Parent

Davin Gaulder—Student

Leland Cave—Parent

Joan Conger—Teacher

Shanta Cook—Parent

Clay Crawford—Teacher

Seniqua Griffin—Parent

Maxwell Highsmith—Parent

Alison Hood—Parent

Amanda Huggins—Parent

Kelley Hurrle—Parent

Bria Martin—Teacher

Crystal McLean—Parent

Melisa O'Connor—Parent

Kaley Propst—Student

Jon Purvis—Community Member

Salena Robinson—Student

Taylor Shull—Student

Tony Signorino—Community 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

2017



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

At WKMS our mission is to prepare students for success in high school and to instill habits of scholarship which will serve them well in high school, college, career, and life. To work towards that goal we have established three key priorities. These are to provide excellent and engaging instruction in all classes with a focus on blended learning, to continue to improve school climate, and to strive for continuous improvement.

White Knoll Middle School embarked on a blended learning initiative in the spring of 2015. Our goals were to improve personalization of instruction and to more fully engage all students in learning. As we complete our second 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. All 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.

In all our interactions, we have worked to build relationships, act responsibly, and be respectful. We have made this a key part of our daily language, our communication strategy, and our core beliefs. We believe that strong relationships are necessary for effective teaching and learning.

Across the curriculum and throughout the school day, we have also 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 2017-18 school year.
- Our Fine Arts department has worked to earn our school recognition as an Arts in Basic Curriculum Site.
- Ten eighth graders qualified as Junior Scholars.
- Our WKMS teacher of the year is Lisa Hartman. Mrs. Hartman teaches special education.
- Thirteen WKMS teachers are National Board Certified.
- Our staff and students continue to be involved in numerous service projects including Pasta for Pennies, Relay for Life, Lexington County Foster Family Christmas party, and food drives.
- Students participated in volleyball, football, basketball, and cheer teams on campus and in numerous sports at White Knoll High School. Approximately 20% of our students participate in interscholastic athletics.
- 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.
- The most recent South Carolina Department of Education Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards recognized White Knoll Middle School as a Silver Award winner for both General Performance and for Closing the Achievement Gap.

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. Our core values are:**
 - Success for all**
 - On time and on task**
 - Academically engaged**
 - Relationships, responsibility, and respect**
- 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.



