

## School Improvement Council Members

- Penny Montgomery, Chair/Parent
- Nicole Donaghy, Vice chair/Parent
- Laura Flowers, Secretary/Teacher
- Aliyah Andrade, Student
- Crystal Baker, Parent
- Jack Burger, Student
- Brett Cassan, Student
- Adriana Chism, Student
- Lakisha Cook, Assistant Principal
- Alayah Guess, Student
- Brian Hewitt, Community
- Mark Hodowanec, Teacher
- Tyler Hook, Teacher
- Jennifer McPherson, Parent
- Autumn Moore, Student
- Jon Purvis, Community
- Janet Riddle, Community
- Margaret Schilit, Assistant Principal
- Guy Smith, Principal
- Kelly Sumner, Parent

## 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 each year highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of its five-year School Improvement Plan and the SICs 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.

**WKMS Vision**  
**Empower each child to design the future.**

*The mission of White Knoll Middle School is to cultivate a caring community where ALL learners are extraordinary communicators, collaborators, creators, and critical thinkers.*

# White Knoll Middle School

**2019-2020  
Report to Our  
Parents**



**WKMS is  
SOARING to  
Success!**

Guy Smith, Principal,  
Margaret Schilit  
Assistant Principal,  
Lakisha Cook,  
Assistant Principal

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## Greetings

At White Knoll Middle School, our vision is to empower EACH child to design the future. To see that vision become reality, we focus on two key priorities. These are to build relationships with students and parents with a focus on Capturing Kids' Hearts, and to provide excellent instruction and student engagement in all classes every day.

At WKMS we believe that relationships are the foundation of all learning. We are working to "capture kids' hearts" by getting to know each other, building social contracts, celebrating together, and affirming each other. We have also worked together to build a culture of kindness throughout our building through the use of a kindness curriculum in our extended homeroom "SOARING" time. In addition, we welcome all opportunities to work together with our parents and community.

We also believe that a high level of student engagement is critical to learning. Towards that end, all of our teachers have worked to implement an instructional model that incorporates focused direct instruction, individual and collaborative student work, teacher conferencing, and the use of quality digital resources.

Like all schools across the state, our resolve, resources, and talents have been put to the test this spring as our school has been closed. We, of course, miss our students tremendously and we look forward to being together again in the fall. I am however, happy to report that thanks to a good foundation of resources and skills, support from Central Services, the creativity and care provided by our teachers, the support of our parents, and the diligence of our students we are working together for a successful fourth quarter of school in an E-Learning environment.

We will meet this challenge as we have others in the past, empowering EACH child to design the future, because we are ONE.

## We are proud that...

- Approximately one third of our students achieved "Honor Hawk" status by making all A's or all A's and B's. Students are recognized at student-led "Honor Hawk" awards programs and also at "Super Hawk" reward activities.
- Seven of our 8th grade students qualified as Junior Scholars.
- Ten WKMS teachers are National Board Certified Teachers.
- Our staff and students continue to be involved in numerous service projects including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser, Relay for Life, a food drive for Mission Lexington, and Kids' Heart Challenge.
- Students participated in volleyball, football, basketball, cheer, and archery teams on campus and on numerous sports teams at White Knoll High School. Approximately 20% of our students participate in interscholastic athletics.
- Our teachers have utilized numerous grant opportunities to purchase resources for their students.
- Our PTSA is active and supports students and staff throughout the year in academics, athletics, and the arts.
- Our Student Council has taken on significant leadership roles throughout the school.
- We are completing our third year of participation in the Dynamic Learning Project, a partnership with Digital Promise, Google for Education, and EdTech Team.
- Our Fine Arts program has worked to earn recognition as an Arts in Basic Curriculum Site.

## Innovative School Programs

- With support for additional staff, and with a change in our schedule, we increased student time in each core class by 30 hours this year while retaining all of our exploratory, fine arts, and World Language offerings.
- Through our partnership with Code to the Future, our students are exploring coding in our Computer Science and Gateway to Technology classes. WKMS is one of two Code to the Future middle schools in Lexington One.
- Through our continuing partnership in the Dynamic Learning Project, and our district's support for literacy and digital literacy coaches, our teachers have access to extremely high quality coaching and support.
- We added to our instructional coaching support this year with the addition of a math coach.
- During the summer of 2019, WKMS implemented an on campus summer school/enrichment program that served 25 students helping to keep them on track to progress through middle school on time.
- Leadership opportunities are provided for both staff and students. Students develop leadership in classroom activities, competitions, sports, and school organizations. Many teachers are working on advanced degrees and are taking on significant leadership roles at WKMS.