

## School Improvement Council Members

### Parents

Latoya Covington  
Timothy McNeal  
Marion Moore  
Kelley Summer  
Chanta Zeigler

### Students

Isabella Depperman

### Teachers

Monica Fountain  
Suzette Hawkins  
Bria Martin

### Community Members

Roger Allen  
David Ford  
Larry Nordone  
Jay Webb

### Administration

Don Hardie  
Margaret Schilit  
Angela Thom  
Daniel Bailey

WKMS SIC meets the fourth Tuesday of the month via ZOOM. If you wish to attend, simply email Mr. Hardie at [dhardie@lexington1.net](mailto:dhardie@lexington1.net)

### **WKMS Mission**

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

### **WKMS Vision**

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

## Special School Programs

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 only two Code to the Future middle schools in the district.

Our AVID program began its first year at WKMS in 2020–2021. The program continues to grow as we advance towards AVID school-wide next school year. We will pair the AVID School-Wide strategies with 6 sections of the AVID elective which will house 2 classes per grade level. AVID interviews took place in March for new candidates and they went fantastic! We will send 7 staff members to AVID training this summer in Orlando to learn the program. This program will then continue into WKMS for our students.

Our Fine Arts department has earned the Arts in the Basic Curriculum (ABC) certification for the third cycle to integrate the Arts in our core classes. Teachers across the school have done training on how to use Arts standards to teach core standards.

### **Athletic Achievements**

White Knoll Middle is 1 of 3 schools (12 in the Conference) that has 7th grade only athletic teams for football, volleyball, girl's basketball, and boy's basketball. This has allowed a lot more student athletes to get valuable playing time as a 7th grader!

The inaugural White Knoll War Hawks Dance Company had an amazing 1st season. They placed 3rd at the 2023 Dorman Dance Invitational. We are excited for the 2023–2024 season.

The WKMS Archery team had another great season and has Emory Roberts won states and is preparing to compete at the NASP Eastern national competition in Louisville, KY.

# White Knoll Middle School

## 2022–2023 Report to Our Parents



**WKMS is  
SOARING to  
Success!**

116 White Knoll Way  
West Columbia, SC 29170  
803.821.4300

[https://schools.lexington1.net/  
WKMS](https://schools.lexington1.net/WKMS)

[https://www.facebook.com/  
wkmswarhawks](https://www.facebook.com/wkmswarhawks)

Twitter — @WKMSHawks

Instagram —  
@whiteknollmiddlewarhawks

## Greetings

At White Knoll Middle School (WKMS), our vision is to empower EACH child to design the future. To see that vision become reality, we focus on two key priorities: to build relationships with students and parents 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 continue to use 7 mindsets in Flight, build social contracts, celebrate together, and affirm one other. We believe that a high level of student engagement is critical to learning. All of our teachers have worked to implement an instructional model that incorporates focused direct instruction, individual and collaborative student work, teacher conferencing, small group instruction, and the use of quality digital resources.

## Service Projects

During the month of February, WKMS had our first annual "Love Our Community" Food Drive. Flight classes collected 1,250 individual items for our local community and Harvest Hope. Each Flight class collected a particular item and were in competition for the grade level to collect the most items. 6th grade collected the most individual items as a grade level and as a result, Mrs. Schilit was pined in the face at our March pep rally!

This year all students received a free Junior Book Award Nominee book of their choosing to read and treasure to help continue to foster a love of reading.

## Library Updates

Over the 2022-2023 school year, WKMS Library has had a complete physical change. The fiction section has been genrefied (fantasy, historical fiction, etc) for better student access, use, and interest. The non-fiction section has been aligned with SC College and Career Ready Standards. Due to the volume of materials that were outdated and otherwise in need of updating, over 1,200 new titles and materials were added this year.

## We are proud that...

- **Twenty-eight percent** of our students achieved "Honor Hawk" status by making all A's or all A's and B's.
- Four of our 8th grade students qualified as Junior Scholars. We would like to congratulate Kennedy Eddings, Alyah Edwards, Julie Lee, and Victor Zhang for scoring 550 or higher in Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing or 530 or higher in Mathematics on the PSAT.
- Six WKMS teachers are National Board Certified Teachers and 65% of our teachers have advanced degrees.
- Our teachers have utilized numerous grant opportunities to purchase resources for their students. If you wish to help we can be found on Donors Choose.
- Our PTSA assisted in funding teacher grants and teacher appreciation. If you wish to join our PTSA, please email Mr. Hardie.
- Our Student Council meets all year and worked on school culture and dances. It was great having student leaders voice their perspectives in improving the school.
- Our Positive Behavior Referrals outnumber our Discipline Referrals. Students and Teachers have written over 1,840 Positive Behavior Referrals this school year.
- Students participated in volleyball, football, basketball, cheer, dance, and archery teams on campus as well as on numerous sports teams at White Knoll High School. Approximately 20% of our students participate in interscholastic athletics and/or the WKHS Marching Band.
- Many teachers are incorporating trending edutools like Pear Deck, Hapara, Canva, Jamboard, Classroom Screen, and more into their daily instruction.

## Building Success

- WKMS offers a diverse offering of World Languages, including French, Spanish, Chinese, and Latin for exploratory and high school credit.
- All ELA classes have large classroom libraries with diverse books that meet the needs of a variety of reading levels and interests.
- Every WKMS student received a free book from the SC Junior Book Award Nominee list this school year. We also awarded gift cards to students who responded to our Book Recommendation drawings to inspire more student engagement with reading.
- Our teachers model themselves as readers by participating in a schoolwide book club, posting book badges outside their doors, and recording book talks to drive students' interest in books.
- Library book circulation has increased 297.4% since 2021-2022.
- This year WKMS offered three electives to students daily to increase consistency and exposure to World Languages, the Arts, STEM classes, and Academic Connections.
- Next year, WKMS teachers will continue participating in Professional Learning Communities to establish student-driven, ongoing instructional goals.
- WKMS offers our striving students tutoring programs, such as Cognition and Rise Up, to improve basic skills in Mathematics and ELA. We also offer extended school day to all students struggling in ELA. We are also offering a pull-out class for our students who have been identified as needing intervention at the highest level. There is a class for math and one for ELA that students have during one of their academic connections classes.
- We offered a new gaming club this year that was very well attended by all grade levels and led by Mr. McManus, Mr. Cole and Mrs. Gambrell.