

School Improvement Council Members

Parents

Crystal Baker
Nicole Donaghy
Marion Moore
Kelley Summer
Chanta Zeigler

Students

Isabella Depperman

Teachers

Monica Fountain (SIC Chair)
Mark Hodowanec
Bonnie Slyce

Community Members

Terrance Harris
Jon Purvis
Janet Riddle
Jay Webb

Administration

Don Hardie
Margaret Schilit
Angela Thom

WKMS SIC meets the last Tuesday of the month via ZOOM. If you wish to attend, simply email Mr. Hardie at 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 and is off to a great start in developing future leaders. Students in this program will leave high school well-prepared for college and beyond. The program is growing by leaps and bounds. We had 85 students enrolled this year and even more students already enrolled for AVID next year as well. This program will then continue into WKMS.

Our Fine Arts department has earned the Arts in the Basic Curriculum (ABC) grant 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

For the first time ever WKMS had 7th grade only athletic teams for football, volleyball as well as boys and girls basketball. This opportunity allowed many more students than in the past to be a part of the team and get valuable playing time that is going to help them as 8th graders next year! The 7th grade football team played a full slate of 8th grade games going 6-2!

The boys basketball team finished their 3rd consecutive double digit wins season to have the most productive seasons in the history of WKMS boys basketball. The girls have fought hard and every game got better. We were proud how they competed in their playoff game.

The WKMS Archery team had another great season and has two archers preparing to compete at the NASP Eastern national competition in Louisville, KY.

White Knoll Middle School

2021–2022 Report to Our Parents



**WKMS is
SOARING to
Success!**

116 White Knoll Way
West Columbia, SC 29170
803.821.4300

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

[https://www.facebook.com/
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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 advocacy, building social contracts, celebrating together, and affirming each 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, and the use of quality digital resources.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued into the 2021–2022 school year, tremendous flexibility was required by everyone. Central Services made many adjustments to ensure the safety of students, educators, and the community. Students came back to school this year five days a week, though we had heavy student and staff quarantining occurring until early February. We are proud of our community and staff for overcoming the many difficult challenges created by COVID.

Service Projects

WKMS participated in several service projects this year. We raised money for Linking Lexington, Stockings filled by classes/teachers for the Holidays, Ukraine Support, and Fun Run. WKMS finished third in the district in money raised in Linking Lexington and raised almost \$2,000 for Ukraine.

We are proud that...

- **Over a quarter** of our students achieved “Honor Hawk” status by making all A’s or all A’s and B’s.
- Three of our 8th grade students qualified as Junior Scholars.
- Thirteen WKMS teachers are National Board Certified Teachers.
- Our teachers have utilized numerous grant opportunities to purchase resources for their students. So far this year our teachers have gotten over \$7,500 donated through Donors Choose.
- Our PTSA was not able to visit the school due to COVID protocol, but assisted in funding teacher grants and teacher appreciation. If you wish to join our PTSA, please email Mr. Hardie.
- Our Student Council met all year and worked on school morale 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 1,430 Positive Behavior Referrals this school year.
- 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 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. Our school librarian presented a session on podcast book clubs at this year’s SCASL conference.

Building Success

- WKMS offers a diverse offering of World Languages, including French, Spanish, Chinese, and Latin for exploratory and high school credit.
- This year, Lexington One offered a universal social and emotional resiliency screener to all students, revealing that 74% of WKMS students were in some level of distress. In the fall, a Mental Wellness Tips for Parents and Students workshop was held. We have also partnered with Lexington Mental Health to offer in-house counseling services Monday–Thursday. School counselors have met with countless parents to connect them with services.
- All ELA classes have large classroom libraries with diverse books that meet the needs of a variety of readers levels and interests.
- 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.
- We are reporting an 85% increase in individual student visits to the library this year, as well as the second-highest rate of ebooks (3,228!) getting checked out across the entire district.
- This year WKMS offered three electives daily to students to increase consistency and exposure to World Languages, the arts, STEM classes, and Academic Connections.
- Next year, WKMS teachers will participate 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.