

School Improvement Council Members

Penny Montgomery, Chair/Parent
Elizabeth Tutherow, Vice
chair/Parent
Candace Lett, Secretary/Teacher
Jamie Bowen, Teacher
Leigh Anne Cogdill, Teacher
Caroline Cordes, Student
Elizabeth Eggleston, Student
Jordan Favor, Student
Melonee Hayes, Parent
Maxwell Highsmith, Parent
Bonnie Kyzer, Parent
Amanda Lawson-Huggins, Parent
Alan Lominick, Teacher
Crystal McLean, Parent
Sari Ness, Teacher
Lucia Nicholson, Student
Yashvi Patel, Student
Jon Purvis, Community Member
Janet Riddle, Community Member
Mark Ridley, Parent
Tiffany Shull, Teacher
Tony Signorino, Community
Member
Guy Smith, Principal
Christen Thomas, Teacher
Keith Wilder, 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 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 Mission

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

White Knoll Middle School

2017-2018 Report to Our Parents



**WKMS is
SOARING to
Success!**

Guy Smith, Principal
Darlene Jackson,
Assistant Principal
Margaret Schilit,
Assistant Principal

116 White Knoll Way
West Columbia, SC 29170
803.821.4300

<http://wkms.lexington1.net>

Greetings

At White Knoll Middle School, 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 reach 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 with a focus on relationships, and to exhibit professionalism in all our actions and interactions.

WKMS embarked on a blended learning initiative in the spring of 2015. As we complete our third full year of blended learning implementation, we are seeing students actively engaged in class through collaborative work, using excellent digital content, and focusing on quality teacher-led instruction. Our work in blended learning and our district's commitment to quality digital learning provided the opportunity for us to be selected as one of 50 schools in the United States that participated in the pilot year of the Dynamic Learning Project. The project is a national program supported by Digital Promise, EdTechTeam, and Google that aims to improve education equity by empowering teachers to leverage technology in more powerful ways. We are excited that we will be participating again next school year.

This year we focused on our goal to improve school climate by implementing principles of the Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) program. As we look to next year, we are excited that our entire teaching staff will receive CKH training in June to prepare to fully implement the program in the 2018-2019 school year.

Across the curriculum and throughout the school day, we strive to teach and model professionalism. We are proud of our students and staff, and we know we are fortunate to work with awesome parents in such a great community.

Together we are **SOARING EVEN HIGHER at WKMS!**

We are proud that...

- Our blended learning initiative is established in all curriculum areas.
- We are one of 50 schools nationwide selected to participate in the Dynamic Learning Project.
- Our Fine Arts program has worked to earn our school recognition as an Arts in Basic Curriculum Site.
- Our Teacher of the Year, Tiffany Shull, was selected as a district teacher of the year finalist.
- Ten of our 8th grade students qualified as Junior Scholars.
- Approximately one third of our students achieved "Honor Hawk" status by making all A's or all A's and B's.
- Twelve WKMS teachers are National Board Certified Teachers.
- WKMS hosted several state level events including a VEX Robotics Qualifier event, the SC Speech and Theatre Association Middle School Festival, and the SC Music Educators' Association Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Our staff and students continue to be involved in numerous service projects including Pasta for Pennies, Relay for Life, and Hoops for Heart.
- Students participated in volleyball, football, basketball, and cheer teams on campus and on numerous sports teams at White Knoll High School. Approximately 20% of our students participate in interscholastic athletics.
- Over 90% of our parents attended 8th grade conferences.
- Our WKMS student-led book club works to promote reading through service projects and peer support for reading.
- 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.

Innovative School Programs

- In collaboration with three other Lexington One middle schools, WKMS is involved in a blended learning initiative. Our goal is to develop true 21st century classrooms that meet the needs of all students.
- Through our 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.
- Our core values are
 - S**uccess for all
 - O**n time and on task
 - A**cademically engaged
 - R**elationships, responsibility and respect
- As a result of our focus on relationships and our implementation of Capturing Kids Hearts principles, our discipline referrals have dropped significantly.
- 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.