

## Faculty and Staff Honors

- The School Counseling and Advisement Department Earned the ASCA Model Program Designation from the 2012 American School Counselor Association.
- Nineteen members of the professional staff have earned National Board Certification.
- Twenty-four teachers have received endorsements for teaching students identified as gifted and talented.
- Sixty-five percent of PHMS teachers have advanced degrees.
- Mary Carpenter, ELA teacher, was named PHMS Teacher of the Year and a top five finalist for Lexington School District One.
- Eddie Crim, Head Custodian, was named Support Staff Person of the Year.
- Dot Hardin, Math Teacher, received the Outstanding Contributions to Mathematics Education Award from the 2012 South Carolina Council of Teachers in Mathematics
- Jennifer Cooper (Math teacher), Jenny Johansson (Special Education teacher), and Angela List (ELA teacher) received a Michelin Golden Apple Grant for the 2012-2013.
- Jenny Johansson, Special Education teacher, received the 2013 Exceptional Educator of the Year award from the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children.
- Jenny Johansson, Special Education teacher, received the 2013 Wil Lou Gray Outstanding Educator presented by Columbia College.
- Steve Woodyard, Social Studies teacher, received the 2012 South Carolina Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award.
- Dr. Cathy Cooper- Ely, Counseling Director, and Angelica Greiner, School Counselor, presented at the 2012 South Carolina School Counseling Association Conference.
- Dr. Cathy Cooper-Ely, Counseling Director, presented at the 2012 South Carolina Play Therapy Conference.
- Angelica Greiner, School Counselor, presented at the SCCA conference and the USC Teaching Fellows Workshop.
- Martha Cartin and Jenny Johansson, Special Education teachers, received a Special Olympics South Carolina Project Unify Grant and a Farm to School Grant.
- Jan Steele, German teacher, was the recipient of a 2012 Nationwide Stipend from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.
- Jan Steele, German teacher, was selected as a 2012 German Mentoring Program Participant from ACTFL.
- Jan Steele, German teacher, was selected as a Summer Participant in Germany by the Goethe Institute.
- Shannon Canady, Dance teacher, was recognized as a finalist for the 2012 South Carolina Dance Educator of the Year.

## Awards, Activities and Recognition

- 168 eighth grade students participated in the PSAT Junior Scholar program. Of the 168 students, 64 students qualified to be Junior Scholars.
- 67 seventh grade students participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Of those 67 students, 13 qualified for State Recognition and 1 student received Grand Recognition.
- PHMS was recognized for having the highest participation of middle schools in the 2012 United Way campaign.
- PHMS raised was recognized as a top ten fundraising team (\$9,149.45) for the 2012 Lexington Relay for Life.
- PHMS Girls' Basketball Team won the conference championship for the third year consecutive year.
- PHMS Cheerleading Team received four 1<sup>st</sup> place awards and one award during the 2012-2013 season.
- The PHMS Honor Band earned straight Superior ratings at the 2013 SC Concert Festival.
- PHMS was a Wal-Mart Foundation Grant recipient.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish Immersion students raised \$630.00 for the Heifer Foundation.
- The Musical Theatre students took 1<sup>st</sup> place statewide in the middle school division at the SC Theatre and Speech competition festival.
- The Musical Theatre students performed *Willy Wonka, Jr.*
- One student was accepted into the vocal program of the South Carolina Governor's School of the Arts summer program.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade cougar choir received a superior rating at the State Middle School choral festival.
- Accepted into Tri-DAC: Thirteen students-Band; Two students-Creative Writing; Three students-Dance; Two students-Orchestra; Two students- Visual.
- Three students were accepted into the Governor's School of the Arts Summer Program.
- The RACE Team received 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Middle School Division at the 2012 Regional Competition NASCAR STEM Initiative.
- The Robotics Team received a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award and a Champions Award at the 2012 First LEGO League Lexington Regional Robotics Tournament.
- The Girls' Robotics Team received a first place award at the South Carolina Regional Lego League Robotics Competition.
- *The 2012 Cougar Pride* yearbook won a superior rating by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Associate.
- Two students were essay winners in the Lexington Sertoma Club National Heritage contest.



# Report to Parents Pleasant Hill Middle School School Improvement Council 2012-2013

Thomas E. Rivers, Jr., Ph.D.  
Principal





*The mission of Pleasant Hill Middle School is to produce successful life-long learners and leaders by cultivating students' confidence, creativity, and intellectual independence.*

### Message from Lynne Brace School Improvement Council Chairperson

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Pleasant Hill Middle School. Our students and faculty are very fortunate to have such great support from parents and our community. I am especially grateful to the PTSA and all of its volunteers who have all done so much for our school. Fundraisers, "fun lunches," grade level dances, Cougar Carnival, and evening educational activities have all made a huge contribution to improve the climate at PHMS, as well as, raising significant monies for our school. The SIC is looking forward to partnering with the PTSA in years to come to continually improve PHMS and support its students and faculty.

This year, the SIC focused on improving our relationship with the faculty at PHMS, improving the climate of our school, evaluating the traffic and safety issues during the beginning and dismissal of school, and improving school to home communication.

We are proud of these specific accomplishments:

- Hosted a Candidate Forum prior to the November election for all School Board candidates with a large attendance from the community.
- Conducted a faculty survey with nearly 40% of the faculty and staff participating.
- Designed a PHMS SIC facebook page for sharing Legislative updates and SIC news and encouraged a large number of parents and staff to "like" us.
- Investigated a "safety audit" with SCDOT to evaluate traffic issues at dropoff and pickup of car riding students.
- Continued to provide the school calendar which is distributed to all PHMS families .
- Offered accountability benchmarks to the administration of PHMS which fall in line with the administrative recommendations based on the School Renewal Plan.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the SIC members who have volunteered their time, talents, and hard work to our school. It is a privilege to serve with these individuals without whom none of the above accomplishments would be possible.

## Initiatives and Strategies

- Cougar Success Institute (CSI) – The school gives students ample opportunity for academic support and intervention through CSI, a program during school hours that ensures students complete missing assignments after in-class opportunities have been exhausted.
- PHMS Ambassador Program – Students were selected to serve as spokespersons, give tours, and provide support to new students and visitors.
- National Junior Honor Society – The school received a charter to organize a chapter for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Collaborative Teams – The school is organized into teams and grade-levels to support the students. These teams create a school-within-a-school environment.
- Professional Development—Teachers meet regularly with administrators and coaches in the "Think Tank" to discuss methodologies and data, receive training, chart MAP data, and explore new initiatives.
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) – This testing program is used three times a year to determine students' skill levels in reading and math.
- Extra Help Opportunities – Students can receive extra help through Tier II/III ELA and MATH Intervention classes, extra help sessions before, during, and after school, additional time for enrichment and make-up, and/or re-do during the school day.
- Intervention Teams – Teachers work with a coordinator to identify and monitor students with interventions to ensure student success.
- Common Assessments & Planning – Teachers collaborate regularly to develop common assessments and instructional activities.
- School-wide Literacy – Literacy is promoted school-wide through the assistance of a literacy coach. Best practice strategies in all content areas, reading recognition initiatives, and professional development programs are implemented.

### School Improvement Council Members

#### 2012 - 2013

Lynne Brace – Chair	Thomas Rivers – Principal
Cindy McMahan – Vice Chair	Michelle Saboski– Secretary/Recorder
Jennifer Adams	Izzy Wise
Andrew Brooks	Andrea Davies
Jesse Harmon	Carol Cochrane
Lisa Gavin	Suzanne Chastain
Elizabeth Chiarel	Kristina Zack
Gwen Morris	Mary Carpenter

### School Improvement Council Goals: 2012-2013

- To ensure 50% of students are scoring exemplary in all subject areas as measured by PASS.
- To ensure 90% of students are satisfied with the school's physical and learning environment.

## School Statistics

Enrollment	1107
Gifted and Talented Enrollment	N/AV
Student-Teacher Ratio In Core Subjects	24.7 to 1
Opportunities in the Arts	Excellent

## South Carolina School Report Card Ratings

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
2011-2012	Excellent	Excellent
2010-2011	Excellent	Excellent
2009-2010	Excellent	Excellent

<http://ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/2012/middle/c/m3201061.pdf>

## Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)

Aligned to the state academics standards, these assessments include English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The table below shows the percentage of PHMS students who scored "Met" or "Exemplary" for the 2011-2012 school year.

PASS % of Students Met or Exemplary	PHMS 2011-2012	District 2011-2012
English	92.1%	88%
Math	92.4%	88%
Science	88.5%	80.1%
Social Studies	88.3%	82.8%
Writing	79.6%	73.2%

