

## Faculty and Staff Honors

- The School Counseling and Advisement Department has been designated as an ASCA Model Program from the American School Counselor Association.
- Twenty members of the professional staff have earned National Board Certification.
- Ashley Gable, Band teacher, received National Board Certification for 2014.
- Rene Horton, ELA teacher, and Rebecca Cornett, German teacher, successfully renewed their National Board Certification.
- Twenty-four teachers have received endorsements for teaching students identified as gifted and talented.
- Sixty-eight percent of PHMS teachers have advanced degrees.
- Michele Zee, Assistant Principal, was selected as the 2014 South Carolina Assistant Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.
- Sylvia Shealy, Spanish teacher, was named PHMS Teacher of the Year and a top five finalist for Lexington School District One.
- Cheryl Jones, Head Custodian, was named PHMS Support Staff Person of the Year.
- Rebecca Cornett, German teacher, received the Owlie Award from the Central South Carolina chapter of American Mensa.
- Sylvia Shealy, Spanish teacher, received the 2013 South Carolina VFW Middle School Teacher of the Year Award.
- Jenny Powell, English teacher, presented at the 2014 South Carolina Middle School Association's Annual Conference.
- Shannon Canady, Dance teacher, coached the Lexington High Varsity Cheerleader Team to the 4A State Championship.



## 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 being a top fundraising middle school in the 2013 United Way campaign.
- PHMS was a recipient of the 2014 Palmetto Pride Grant.
- The Cheerleading Team received three 1st Place awards and one 4th Place award during the 2013-2014 season.
- The 7th and 8th Grade Band received Superior ratings at the 2014 South Carolina Concert Festival.
- Twelve students were selected to participate in the 2014 Region Band for the South Carolina Band Directors Association.
- One student was selected to participate in the 2014 All-State Band for the South Carolina Band Directors Association.
- The Drama department received several awards at the 2014 South Carolina Theatre and Speech competition festival: 2nd place for *Mulan*, 1st place in dramatic acting, 1st place in impromptu speaking, 2nd place in storytelling, 2nd place in original comedic monologue, 3rd place in theatrical design.
- Two students received Superior for comedic solo acting at the 2014 South Carolina Theatre and Speech competition festival.
- The Musical Theatre students performed *Mulan, Jr.*
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade cougar choir received an excellent rating at the State Middle School choral festival.
- Twelve students were accepted into Tri-DAC Summer Arts Program.
- Accepted into the South Carolina Governor's School of the Arts Summer Program: One student-Dance; Three students-Drama; Three students-On the waiting list.
- Two students were accepted into the 2014 South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts Summer Discovery Program.
- The Student Council collected 905 canned food for Lexington One Food Pantry and won the canned food drive competition against Lexington Middle.
- The Student Council raised \$4,149.26 towards the Cougar Mural Project in the gym.
- The RACE Team received a 3rd place award at the 2013 Regional Competition for the Student Racing Challenge.
- The RACE Team ranked 5th in the Nation in overall points for the season and has been invited to the finals for the 8th straight season.
- The RACE Team received a 2nd place award in the 2014 Webrace.
- *The 2013 Cougar Pride* yearbook received an All-State and Palmetto Award by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association.
- A student received a 1st place award in the Best Feature Story from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association.



## Report to Parents Pleasant Hill Middle School School Improvement Council 2013-2014

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



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*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 Andrea Davies School Improvement Council Chairperson**

I want to take a moment thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Pleasant Hill Middle School. What a tremendous blessing it is to have that support! Our students and faculty continue to be supported each year by our wonderful parents and community. We have also continued our partnership with the PTSA to accomplish many important activities that benefit the school. These activities include our annual Cougar Carnival, fundraisers, dances, fun lunches, and other evening educational events. These all contribute to the investment into our educational environment as well as create a positive school climate. Thank you PTSA! We look forward to many more years of teaming with you to benefit the school community.

Some specific accomplishments I'd like to highlight for this year are:

- Initiated the painting of the Cougar Mural in the gym. This was part of our beautification agenda to enhance the school climate.
- Adopted the Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) program to ease the transition for students into 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This program was started based on recommendations from a SIC survey. This leadership/mentoring skills training will partner an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student to provide a sense of belonging.
- Completed a comprehensive school wide survey to guide the school with making future improvements.
- Created a social media committee to establish an official, uniform social media presence for the school on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These will all be linked to the school's web page.
- Continued to provide a printed school calendar for school families.
- Offered accountability benchmarks to the administration that was helpful with developing the School Renewal Plan.
- Created a facility improvement committee to improve the physical appearance of the school. One of the recommendations will be to add an awning to the front of the building.

In closing, I would like thank the parents and members of the community for your continued support and commitment. I also want to especially thank the SIC members who have served this year. Thank you for your hard work and dedication of both time and talents. I'm honored to have had the opportunity to serve with you. It is because of your dedicated efforts we were able to accomplish all of these goals this year. I'm grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community.

## **Initiatives and Strategies**

- Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Advancement Grant - PHMS applied for a grant provided by the South Carolina Arts Commission to become an ABC Advancement Site.
- World Language - Through a school district initiative, students take Spanish, French, German, or Latin as a core subject class.
- 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 and Cougar Companion Program – Students are selected to serve as spokespersons, give tours, and provide support to new students and visitors.
- Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) Program – A middle school transition program will be implemented that trains 8th graders to be mentors to sixth graders.
- Collaborative Teams – The school is organized into teams and grade-levels to support the students. These teams create a school-within-a-school environment.
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) – This testing program is used three times a year to determine students' skill levels in reading and math.
- Professional Development—Teachers meet regularly with administrators in the "Think Tank" to discuss methodologies and data, receive training, chart MAP data, and explore new initiatives.
- 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 Improvement Council Members**

#### **2013 - 2014**

Andrea Davies – Chair	Dr. Thomas Rivers – Principal
Elizabeth Chiarel – Vice Chair	Cindy McMahan– Secretary/Recorder
Lynne Brace	Andrew Brooks
Rick Carter	Suzanne Chastain
Tonya Conway	Lisa Gavin
Jesse Harmon	Shane Lovell
Gwen Morris	April Russell
Sylvia Shealy	Carrie Still
Izzy Wise	

### **School Improvement Council Goals: 2013-2014**

- 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	1028
Gifted and Talented Enrollment	45.3%
Student-Teacher Ratio In Core Subjects	28.7 to 1
Opportunities in the Arts	Excellent

## **South Carolina School Report Card Ratings**

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
2012-2013	Excellent	Good
2011-2012	Excellent	Excellent
2010-2011	Excellent	Excellent

<https://ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/2013/middle/c/m3201061.pdf>

## **Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)**

Aligned to the state academics standards, these assessments include English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Writing. The table below shows the percentage of PHMS students who scored "Met" or "Exemplary" for the 2012-2013 and 2011-2012 school years.

PASS % of Students Met or Exemplary	PHMS 2012-2013	PHMS 2011-2012
English	85.3%	87.1%
Math	87.7%	88.8%
Science	88.6%	92%
Social Studies	89.2%	88.2%
Writing	88.1%	88%

