

## Faculty and Staff Honors

- Joanna Alford, Art Teacher, was named PHMS Teacher of the Year
- Jana Gunter, Discipline Secretary, was named PHMS Staff Person of the Year
- Joanna Alford, Art teacher, received National Board Certification
- Thomas Rivers, Principal, was accepted into the School Leaders Executive Institute Program, South Carolina Department of Education
- Michele Zee, Assistant Principal, received CEEL certification with SCASA
- Lori Lambert, STEM teacher, received a Field Study Grant from Target
- Jessica Price, 6th Grade ELA teacher, earned her Doctorate of Philosophy Degree in Language and Literacy
- PHMS Fine Arts Department received ABC Grant for Fine Arts
- Mary Ashley Rodriguez and Anne' Peterson received a grant from Unified Champion School (formerly Project UNIFY) to help with transportation, unified club supplies, sports equipment, t-shirts and a variety of tools for advocacy campaigns and program coordination
- Sixty-two percent of PHMS teachers have advanced degrees.

## Awards, Activities, and Recognition

- 148 eighth grade students participated in the PSAT Junior Scholars Program. Of the 148 students, 40 students qualified to be Junior Scholars.
- 75 seventh grade students participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Of those 75 students, 17 qualified for State Recognition.
- 2016 Cougar Pride Yearbook received the Palmetto Award, recognizing it as top yearbook in it's class, South Carolina Scholastic Press Association
- 2016 Cougar Pride Yearbook received All-State, the highest evaluation rating from South Carolina Scholastic Press Association
- PHMS was recognized for raising \$2900 for Pennies for Patients
- Two 8th grade students were accepted to the Governor's School Summer Program for Visual Art and Arts Discovery
- PHMS Special Olympics Unified Basketball Team won 1st Place Special Olympics Basketball
- 15 students were selected for District Honors Orchestra
- 8th Grade Orchestra received an Excellent Rating in the SCMEA Orchestra Division Performance Assessment Festival
- A 6th grader was selected for the Region Orchestra

## Awards, Activities, and Recognition

- 8th Grade STEM students received 1st Place for the National Cardboard Challenge for all Middle Schools, National Cardboard Challenge, LTC
- Three 8th Grade STEM boys received the 1st Place Award for Cardboard Challenge Best Design through National Cardboard Challenge, LTC
- Boys Robotics Team earned 1st Place for Gracious Professionalism in FLL Lexington Regional Competition
- Boys Robotics Team received the Outstanding Design Award in FLL, Lexington Regional Competition
- Boys Robotics Team received the Judges Award FLL, Lexington Regional Competition
- Three 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the Sertoma National Heritage Essay Contest that was sponsored by Lexington School District One.
- Two students placed in the Science Olympiad State Competition: Dynamic Planet, Crime Busters, Fast Facts and Ecology
- Eleven students were selected for Lexington One's 5th and 6th Grade District Honor Choir
- Twelve students were selected for Lexington One's 7th and 8th Grade District Honor Choir
- Two 8th grade students were selected for the ACDA Middle School All-State Choir, South Carolina American Choral Director's Association
- Eleven students were selected tri-Dac Vocal, tri-Dac
- PHMS 8th Grade Chorus received Superior Rating at 2017 Choral Performance Assessment, middle division; South Carolina Music Educators' Association
- PHMS Advanced Chorus received Superior Rating at 2017 Choral Performance Assessment, Advanced division; South Carolina Music Educators' Association
- An 8th grade student placed 1st in Solo Acting
- 2016 PHMS Football Team were the PAC Football Champions
- A 6th grade student won the Lions Club World Peace Poster contest
- Two 8th grade volleyball players were named PAC All Conference Players for the 2016 season



# Report to Parents

## Pleasant Hill Middle School

### School Improvement Council

## 2016-2017

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



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## Initiatives and Strategies



**Message from  
Michael Lambrecht**  
Chair of the  
**School Improvement Council**  
**Dr. Thomas E. Rivers, Jr.**  
Principal  
Pleasant Hill Middle School

Pleasant Hill Middle School is helping all students develop the world-class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by focusing on an education that is centered on students' academic, social and emotional growth. The students and teachers are challenged to be self-directed critical thinkers and deep learners who are collaboratively connected to each other and their community.

**World-class knowledge:** Pleasant Hill Middle has a proud history of academic excellence. The teachers are dedicated and focused on the success of each student. They work to improve their instruction by attending weekly professional development sessions where they discuss methodologies, chart student data progress and participate in book studies. Teachers are organized into collaborative teams designed to support students and create a school-within-a-school environment.

**World-class skills:** Pleasant Hill Middle School focuses on helping students become skilled in the areas of critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. This is accomplished in several innovative classes such as Digital Literacy, STEM Academy, Adventure Education and iCivics where those skills are taught. The school also offers clubs such as Robotics, Math Counts, Debate Team and Chess Club. Students continue to use their Independent Learning Time each morning for enrichment and conferences with teachers as well as Schoology on their iPads to collaborate and communicate with peers and teachers.

**Life and career characteristics:** Pleasant Hill Middle School has in place school structures and traditions that ensure that every student is known, their contributions to the school are celebrated and their leadership is nurtured. The school's Where Everybody Belongs program is a mentoring program that builds a relationship between eighth-grade student leaders and sixth-graders. The students also receive support through RtI, classroom guidance lessons, and small group sessions on studying and test-taking skills. The school continues to use its Arts in the Basic Curriculum (ABC) grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission to provide students with a multitude of professional artistic experiences with visiting performers and instructors.

At Pleasant Hill Middle School, learning is a shared responsibility between the parents, students and school staff. Through these efforts, we are preparing students to be successful and developing leaders for our future.

- The Leader in Me Program - PHMS began implementation during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Advancement Grant - PHMS applied for and received 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.
- Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) Program – A middle school transition program is in place to train 8th graders to be mentors to incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- PHMS Ambassador and Cougar Companion Program – Students are selected to serve as spokespersons, give tours, and provide support to new students and visitors.
- 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, 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, ILT time, extra help sessions before, during, and after school, and additional time for enrichment 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

#### 2016-2017

Michael Lambrecht – Chair	Dr. Thomas Rivers – Principal
Susan Mill – Vice Chair	Torya Evans– Secretary/Recorder
Joanna Alford	Shannon Bailey
Nathan Finnell	Kristi Harmon
Michael Lambrecht	Susan Mill
Halee Munsch	Jeannette Rivera
Vicki Sorrentino	Candi Shealy
Becky Banks	Chris DePace

### School Improvement Council Goals: 2016-2017

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

### School Statistics

Enrollment	1094
Gifted and Talented Enrollment	40.3%
Student-Teacher Ratio in Core Subjects	28.9 to 1
Opportunities in the Arts	Excellent

### South Carolina School Report Card Ratings

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
2015-2016	N/A	N/A
2014-2015	Excellent	Excellent
2013-2014	Excellent	Excellent

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/assets/reportCards/2015/middle/c/m3201061.pdf>

### Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS)

Aligned to the state academic 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.

SC Ready and SCPASS % of Students Met or Exemplary	PHMS 2015-2016	PHMS 2014-2015
SC Ready English Language Arts	66.4%	N/A
SC Ready Math	60.8%	N/A
SCPASS Science	88.6%	86%
SCPASS Social Studies	91%	91%
Writing	N/A	N/A

