

Faculty and Staff Honors

- Ed Bowling, ESOL teacher, was elected as chaplain for the South Carolina VFW District 2.
- Ed Bowling was also appointed as chairman of the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy committees for the South Carolina VFW District 2.
- Ed Bowling was further recognized as a recipient of the 2015 Citizenship Teacher of the Year award from the South Carolina VFW District 2.
- Susan Braddock, iCivics teacher, received a Bright Ideas Grant from the Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Angelica Greiner, School Counselor, served on the School Advisory Council for Pleasant Hill Elementary School and Lake Murray Elementary School.
- Angelica Greiner also earned her Doctorate of Philosophy Degree in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of South Carolina.
- Rene Horton, Creative Writing teacher, served as the Middle School Representative for the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association Board.
- Lori Lambert, STEM teacher, received the Coaches Award for the South Carolina Regional for First Lego League Robots.
- Lori Lambert also received a Field Study Grant from Target.
- Lori McKelvey, Drama teacher, was elected as president of the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association.
- Anne Peterson, Special Education teachers, received a Special Olympics South Carolina Project Unity Grant.
- Jenny Powell, English teacher, received her Masters of Education degree in Language and Literacy from the University of South Carolina.
- Jenny Powell presented at the South Carolina Association of Middle Level Education Conference.
- Jenny Powell also was appointed as co-editor of the South Carolina Association of Middle Level Education journal.
- Jenny Powell was further recognized as a presenter at the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English Conference.
- Michele Zee, assistant principal, was selected by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators as a participant in the South Carolina Education Policy Fellowship Program.
- Steve Woodyard, Social Studies teacher, was named PHMS Teacher of the Year.
- Ginger Abbott, School Records Operator, was named PHMS Support Staff Person of the Year.
- Twenty 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-eight percent of PHMS teachers have advanced degrees.

Awards, Activities, and Recognition

- 168 eighth grade students participated in the PSAT Junior Scholars Program. Of the 168 students, 52 students qualified to be Junior Scholars.
- 67 seventh grade students participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Of those 67 students, 8 qualified for State Recognition.
- PHMS was recognized for being a top fundraising middle school in the 2014 United Way campaign.
- PHMS was a recipient of the 2014 Palmetto Pride Grant.
- The 2014 Cougar Pride yearbook received an All-State and Palmetto Award from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association.
- A student in iCivics was the winner in the Lions Peace Poster Contest.
- The Race Team received a 2nd place award in the 2014 Regional Competition for Celebrity RC Motorsports.
- The Race Team received a 3rd place award in the 2015 Spring Regional Competition for Celebrity RC Motorsports.
- The Race Team received a 1st place award in the 2015 Three Minutes Endurance Race for Celebrity RC Motorsports.
- Three 8th grade students participated in the Sertoma National Heritage Essay Contest that was sponsored by Lexington School District One.
- The Speech and Debate team received several awards during the 2015 tournaments: 2nd place in Impromptu Speaking, 1st place in Dramatic Interpretation, Two 1st place awards in Original Oratory, 2nd place Original Oratory, 1st place in Oral Interpretation, three 2nd place awards in Oral Interpretation, and two 3rd place awards in Oral Interpretation.
- The Drama department received several awards during the 2015 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association Middle School Festival: 1st place in Musical Theatre, 1st place in Impromptu Speaking, 3rd place in Impromptu Speaking, 1st place in Storytelling, 2nd place in Readers Theatre, 2nd place in Group Acting, 2nd place in Poetry, 3rd place in Original Comedic Monologue
- The Chorus class received the following recognitions: the Honors Chorus received a Superior rating at the State Middle School Choral Festival, the 8th Grade Cougar Choir received a Superior rating at the State Middle School Choral Festival, fourteen students were selected for the Lexington School District One Honors Choir, eight students were accepted into the Tri-Dac Vocal Program.
- The Orchestra class received the following recognitions: two students were accepted into the Region Orchestra and All-State Orchestra, seventeen students were accepted into the Lexington School District One Middle School Honors Orchestra, twenty-five students received a Superior and Excellent ratings at SCMEA Solo and Ensemble.
- The Band class received the South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) Outstanding Performance Award, the highest honor given to middle school bands in SC, for the second year in a row.
- The Band class received the following recognitions: eleven students were selected to participate in the SCBDA Region 2 honor Band Clinic, the 8th Grade Symphonic Band received straight Superior ratings at SCBDA Concert Festival, the 7th Grade Concert Band received an overall Superior Rating at the SCBDA Concert Festival, the Jazz Band received a Superior rating at the Charleston Music Festival, thirty-one student soloists and ensembles received a rating of Superior at SCBDA Solo and Ensemble Festival, and eight student soloists and ensembles received a rating of Excellent at SCBDA Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- The Relay for Life Team under the direction of Mary Carpenter, ELA teacher, raised \$10,020 for the American Cancer Society.



Report to Parents Pleasant Hill Middle School School Improvement Council 2014-2015

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



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Message from Andrea Davies School Improvement Council Chairperson

I want to take a moment to 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 appreciate the consistent encouragement and engagement of our wonderful parents and community. We have 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, as well as evening educational events. These all contribute to the investment into our educational environment and help create a positive school climate. Thank you, PTSA! We look forward to continuing our collaboration to benefit the Pleasant Hill Middle community.

Some specific accomplishments I would 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 6th grade. This program was started based on recommendations from a SIC survey. This leadership/mentoring skills training will partner an 8th grade student with a 6th grade student to provide a sense of belonging.
- Completed a comprehensive school-wide survey to guide the school's future improvements.
- Created a social media committee to establish an official, uniform social media presence for PHMS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These will all be linked to the school's website.
- 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 is to add an awning to the front of the building.

In closing, I would like to thank the parents and members of the community for your enduring support and commitment. I also want to especially thank the SIC members who have served this year. Thank you for your hard work and your dedication of both time and talents. I consider it an honor 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 am 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 incoming 6th grade students.
- 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, 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

Andrea Davies – Chair
Gwen Morris – Vice Chair
Christy Allen
Nathan Finnell
Kristi Harmon
Kelly McElwain
Michelle Schirra
Jan Steele
Steve Woodyard

2014-2015

Dr. Thomas Rivers – Principal
Susan Unger – Secretary/Recorder
Tonya Conway
Jesse Harmon
Shane Lovell
April Russell
Susan Seymour
Jessica Whetsone

School Improvement Council Goals: 2014-2015

- 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	1060
Gifted and Talented Enrollment	42.7%
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
2013-2014	Excellent	Excellent
2012-2013	Excellent	Good
2011-2012	Excellent	Excellent

<http://ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/2014/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.

PASS % of Students Met or Exemplary	PHMS 2013-2014	PHMS 2012-2013
English Language Arts	86%	85%
Math	83%	88%
Science	89%	88%
Social Studies	91%	89%
Writing	85%	88%

