

## Awards, Activities, and Recognition

- 148 8th grade students participated in the PSAT Junior Scholars Program. Of the 148 students, 42 students qualified to be Junior Scholars.
- 75 7th grade students participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Of those 75 students, 17 qualified for State Recognition.
- Three 8th grade students were accepted to the Governor's School Summer Program for Arts and Humanities Visual Art Summer Program.
- Special Olympics Club was the 2nd highest fundraising school for Special Olympics Polar Plunge. They raised over \$2600.
- Special Olympics Unified Relay Team won 2nd Place in Special Olympics Area 7.
- Special Olympics Unified Basketball Team won 3rd Place in Special Olympics Area 7.
- 18 students were selected for District Honors Orchestra.
- 7th and 8th Grade Advanced Chorus received a rating of Superior with Distinction in the South Carolina Music Educators Association Choral Performance Assessment.
- 7th and 8th Grade Advanced Chorus won 1st Place in Middle School Division at the Music in the Parks Festival at Dollywood
- 7th and 8th Grade Advanced Chorus received the Esprit De Corps Award at the Music in the Parks Festival at Dollywood.
- A 6th grader was selected for the Region Orchestra.
- Three 8th Grade students, five 7th Grade students, and one 6th Grade student earned 1st Place in the Musical Theatre Category from the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association.
- Seven 8th Grade students earned 1st Place in the Group Acting Category from the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association.
- Seven 6th Grade students earned 1st Place in the Readers Theatre Category from the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association.
- Two 8th Grade students earned 2nd Place in the Duet Improvisation Category from the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association.
- A 6th Grader earned 2nd Place in the Oral Interpretation Category from the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association.
- An 8th Grader placed 13th in the Regional Math Counts Competition.
- Math Counts Team earned 4th Place in the Regional Math Counts Team Competition.
- Three 8th Grade students won National Heritage Essay Contest that was sponsored by Lexington School District One.
- 2017 Cougar Pride Yearbook received All-State, graded out in top scoring, from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association.
- 2017 Cougar Pride Yearbook received the Palmetto Award, recognizing it as Best in State in its division from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association



## Report to Parents

Pleasant Hill Middle School  
School Improvement Council  
**2017-2018**  
Thomas E. Rivers, Jr., Ph.D.  
Principal



### School Improvement Council Members

2017-2018

Barbara Mesaros-Chair	Dr. Thomas Rivers-Principal
Shannon Baile	Amanda Cleary
Nathan Finnell	Dena Johnson
Michael Lambrecht	Mary Mihi
Susan Mill	Celine Miller
Jeannette Rivera	Mary Ashley Rodriguez
Candi Shealy	Vicki Sorrentino
Stephanie Stahl	

### School Statistics

<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>1122</b>
<b>Gifted and Talented Enrollment</b>	<b>38.7%</b>
<b>Student-Teacher Ratio in Core Subjects</b>	<b>30.0 to 1</b>
<b>Opportunities in the Arts</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

### SC Ready and 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 compared to the percentage of students statewide who scored “Met” or “Exemplary” for the 2016-2017 school year.

SC Ready and SCPASS % of Students Met or Exemplary	PHMS 2016-2017	Statewide 2016-2017
SC Ready English Language Arts	57.4%	40.0%
SC Ready Math	57.1%	42.1%
SCPASS Science	69%	48.7%
SCPASS Social Studies	87.2%	72.3%

### Initiatives and Strategies

- 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.
- STAR 360 – This testing program is used in the Fall and Winter 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, analyze STAR 360 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.

### Faculty and Staff Honors

- Mary Ashley Rodriguez, Special Education Teacher, was named PHMS Teacher of the Year
- Ginger Abbott, Executive Secretary, was named PHMS Staff Person of the Year
- Mary Ashley Rodriguez, Special Education Teacher, was a top ten finalist for District Teacher of the Year
- Thomas Rivers, Principal, was named 2018 South Carolina Middle Level Principal of the Year by SCASA, South Carolina Association of School Administrators
- Mickey Summerall, Chorus Teacher, and Paul Free, Adventure Education teacher received National Board Renewal
- Mary Ashley Rodriguez and Anne’ Peterson received the Project Unify Grant from Special Olympics and the Rawl Garden Gran from Rawl Farms