

Sandhills Middle is helping all students develop the World Class Skills of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by providing personalized learning environments for all students. Elements of personalized learning include: flexible pathways, deeper learning, and student agency. Our school is committed to being a student-centered, inquiry-based school where students utilize 21st century skills to master rigorous content across disciplines. This year our instructional staff, in collaboration with our district schools and the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Personalized Learning, focused on these elements in order to effectively access the components of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate across core curriculum.

Utilizing the personalized learning framework, each team worked collaboratively to create and implement inquiry-based units that embedded citizenship skills and emphasized real-world connections. Collectively we engaged in action research focused on student agency, deeper learning, and flexible pathways in planning and implementing lessons. Our teachers developed and implemented performance tasks requiring students to synthesize essential information and apply skills and concepts to novel tasks. Our teams focused on developing student-centered learning communities that nurtured communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Professional studies to support personalized learning included cohorts of teachers engaged in secondary Montessori training through CMSTEP or project based learning studies through the University of South Carolina. Our continued implementation and refinement of restorative practices focused our learning community on problem solving, conflict resolution, and relationship building. Parents joined in our PALS program, studying the traits of adolescent learners and the construct of personalized learning at SMS.

Through partnerships with CMSTEP Secondary Montessori Training Program, the University of South Carolina AWAKE Center, the University of South Carolina Yvonne & Schuyler Moore Child Development Research Center, and the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Personalized Learning, our students have had many opportunities to gain world class knowledge and grow in their acquisition of world class skills and life and career characteristics. The excellent efforts of our school community led the University of South

**Carolina to select Sandhills Middle School as a Professional Development School for teacher training.**

**The SMS community is committed to being a personalized system of learning where students master rigorous content while becoming engaged citizens through strategic reflection, purposeful relationships, and commitment to academic rigor.**