

## Honors and Accomplishments

At SMS, we **LEAD, LEARN, SERVE,**  
and **EXCEL**

### LEAD

- Students LEAD through participating and representing SMS in specific WIN classes. This time is also used for school clubs, like our Beta, Yearbook team and councils that plan and collaborate.
- Our Color Guard Drill Team are our guardians of the colors. They formally raise the flag each morning, and carry and post colors for assemblies and parades all while learning how to be a LEADERS.
- Teachers LEAD by ensuring a positive, proactive learning environment, reinforcing school-wide, consistent expectations, and modeling life, career and citizenship characteristics.
- Students, Staff and Teachers are nominated regularly for Leading by positive example. Winners are honored as our SMS Tiger to Talk About during school announcements.

### LEARN

- At SMS, our teachers are dedicated to continuous Learning through participating and collaborating with one another in their Professional Learning Communities.
- We want our students to acquire academic stamina as they problem solve and investigate solution focused resources to achieve Learning. During our TIGER & WIN Time intervention period we strive to guide our students in OWNING all their learning and actions (Growth Mindset)- embracing solution focused problem solving- so they grow in habits for learning.

### SERVE

- Our students, staff and our community begin each year with a back to school meet and greet for staff, students and parents.
- In September, we invited local First Responders to honor them during our 9/11 remembrance.
- In October, we sponsored our 3rd annual Community Trick or Treat Lane.
- In December, our Beta Club sponsored our scene at the Winter Holiday Lights celebration which featured free food, live music, caroling, giveaways, and of course Santa.
- During the year and after the Winter Holiday lights celebration we updated the SMS Blessing Box, donated by our award winning Beta Club. The giving box gives our community the opportunity to donate and receive books year around.

### EXCEL

- Our students were recognized during quarterly Awards recognitions where we honored hundreds of students who have Excelled in Academics, Attendance and the Arts. (purple shirts)
- We also EXCEL in Leading and creating a climate that has high engagement in learning and low need for discipline referrals.
- We have many students who Excelled in this year's PSAT exam and earned recognition in the SC Junior Scholars program which identifies eighth-grade students with exceptional academic talent. Also, students excel by earning credit in their computer technology class. (CATE Completer)

## Athletic Highlights

- SMS students EXCEL in multiple athletic teams here at SMS and at Swansea HS. Here at SMS we field teams for Cheerleading, Volleyball, Football and boys and girls Basketball and compete in the highly competitive Lex Ten Middle School Athletic Conference. Additionally, many SMS students participate in Cross Country, Golf, Baseball, Softball, Track and Soccer at Swansea High School.



- Sandhills Middle School was the first middle school in South Carolina to be recognized as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School. As a Unified Champion School we EXCEL by providing classroom and community experiences that ensure that all students are valued and cared for. We take pride in the positive school climate of respect and admiration for all students and, more specifically, those with intellectual disabilities.

## Fine Arts Highlights

- In April, students from Sandhills Middle School band, chorus, and visual arts programs collaborated to present a night full of music and visual art. Art students created works that appeared in a walk-through display. Band and Chorus students performed arrangements representing various styles, from folk to contemporary.
- In November, SMS Band students participated in the Reinhardt University Middle School Honor Band Clinic and the 8th grade band performed in a Veteran's Day assembly. In December, SMS Band students presented a winter concert and participated in the University of Georgia Middle School Honor Band Clinic. During these events, students performed music arrangements representing various styles from folk to contemporary. Band students also participate in SCBDA events, such as Region Band Auditions, Concert Performance Assessment and Solo & Ensemble Festival. Several of our SMS students participate as the Swansea High Winterguard and compete in the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association circuit.
- In April, our Band & Chorus students received a Superior rating with distinction at the SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment. SMS Band Students were recognized for 13 Superior performances and 6 Excellent with one perfect score. Go Tigers!!
- The gifted and talented art class offers a unique opportunity for students with an interest and talent for art. Advanced artists have the chance to hone and show off their skills while improving the school environment and culture through their artwork, which is displayed throughout the school!



*Sandhills Middle School  
Report to the People from the School  
Improvement Council 2025-2026*

*"Where we **LEAD, LEARN, SERVE** and  
**EXCEL** in Academics, Athletics and the Arts"*



### Our Vision:

We seek to be a personalized system of learning

### Our Purpose:

We empower our students to lead, learn, serve, and excel.



This report is issued from the SMS School Improvement Council in accordance with SC law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC and other accomplishments this school year.

**Bryan Evans**  
**Jill Tulli & Christin Bishop**  
**Katie Deas**

**Principal**  
**Assistant Principals**  
**SIC Chair**

## Beta Club- We are a National School of Merit



The Junior Beta Club is an organization that recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community, fosters leadership skills, and provides a setting for children to develop interpersonal relationship skills.

We have 34 active members who exemplify the Junior Beta Club motto "Let Us Lead by Serving Others." The SMS Beta Club serves the SMS community through service projects such as hosting our Trick or Treat Lane and Winter Holiday Lights exhibit, sponsoring of a food drive, and providing Teacher Appreciation gifts. Each year, the SMS Beta Club attends the SC Beta Club Convention where members compete against other middle schoolers across the state in academic and artistic events.

This year, SMS students placed in several events in the National BETA Junior Division:

**1st Place:** Digital Art. **2nd Place:** Photography, Jewelry, Wood-working. **3rd Place:** Club Trading Pin, Quilling. **4th Place:** Marketing, Communication, Recycled Art, Sculpture. **5th Place:** Fiber Arts, Solo Vocalist and Spanish.

## Media Center



- Average number of books checked out per day: 25
- Total book checkouts in the 2025-2026 school year: 3,000 +
- Average age of books in print collection: 2017
- Digital eBooks & audiobooks available: more than 16,000

## Profile of the SC Graduate

*Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by...*

Hello, I'm Principal Bryan Evans. Welcome to Sandhills Middle School, where we LEAD, LEARN, SERVE and EXCEL in Academics, Athletics, and the Arts. It's an honor and privilege to share this Report to the People about our school and especially our amazing students, staff and community.

**LEAD-** Here at SMS, we are intentional in providing our students, teachers, and staff opportunities to LEAD. Students LEAD through participating and representing SMS clubs and organizations.

At SMS, we ensure students have the opportunity to build various leadership skills such as: engaging in active listening, asking questions, completing assignments, as well as researching and interacting with real-world problems and standards based content.

Overall, we believe that our strength at SMS is found in the value of each individual's voice and quality actions. We encourage students to LEAD by example, Do What's Right, Do the Best You Can and Treat Others the Way You Want to Be Treated.

**LEARN-** Our LEARNING road map for our students at SMS, encompasses three main action points. The first one focuses on building student agency. We believe it is essential for our students to own their own LEARNING by pursuing their desired inquiries, providing the necessary resources for students to achieve a deeper understanding, and supporting students through their productive struggle as they persevere to reach their own academic goals. Our second LEARNING action point for our students is to develop Habits for Learning. Be Present, Prepared, Participate, Perform and Professional.

At SMS, our teachers are dedicated to continuous LEARNING through participating and collaborating with one another in their Professional Learning Communities, demonstrating a continual growth-mindset, participating in focused coaching cycles, and contributing to a reflective practice and a culture of refinement.

**SERVE-** We want all of our students to feel a connection to our school. This connection, we believe, leads to many positive relationships, real world relevant engagement, and ultimately college and career readiness. We SERVE at SMS by Respecting Self, Respecting Others and our Sandhills Middle School. We believe students who feel connected to school through positive relationships and SERVICE Leadership opportunities achieve greater.

**EXCEL-** At SMS, our staff provides many opportunities for students to not only thrive at SMS but to EXCEL. We do this by encouraging students to advocate for themselves and others, but more importantly, to MODEL our core expectations that would make themselves, their parents and community all very proud. We want our students to EXCEL by making a commitment in showing Kindness and Empathy towards others, Developing a Growth Mindset and Taking Pride in their Quality Work and Positive Actions.

## We are a P.B.I.S. School



### Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

P.B.I.S. is a research and evidence-based, school-wide behavior initiative that:

- Focuses on proactive systems and restorative interventions
- Provides a common language between students, staff and community
- Creates consistency & Community
- Provides recognition for displaying positive expectations of LEAD, LEARN, SERVE, and EXCEL

So what does PBIS look like at SMS?

- It begins with Positive Relationships coupled with a Common Language centered around our CORE Values of Lead, Learn, Serve and Excel. We provide targeted coaching with personalized interventions and behavioral supports.

## Student Engagement

Student discipline data for the 2025-2026 school year has been very positive. Compared to the last seven year average, discipline referrals have been reduced by over 50% for the 2025-2026 school year. We believe a positive climate is a byproduct when we create conditions for success that maintain a focus for safety in operations, learning, collaboration and results. Students consistently model our core values to Lead, Learn, Serve and Excel.