

SMS Priorities for 2014-15

- Develop and implement a vision for 21st Century curriculum and instruction that engages students in authentic, integrated problem-based learning at a rigorous level.
- Continue our focus on precision teaching to increase student achievement through targeted instruction in the classroom to address individual learner needs.
- Continue our focus on intentional utilization of critical reading and writing skills across all content areas in coordination with the implementation of the Common Core Curriculum Standards.
- Continue our creation and implementation of summative performance tasks which effectively engage students in demonstrating mastery at all depths of knowledge required by the Common Core Curriculum Standards.
- Increase student awareness and understanding of the SC Career Clusters and 21st Century job skills as our students prepare for high school and beyond.



SMS 2013-14

School Improvement Council

Mr. Jack Burns (Parent - 7)
 Mr. Bud Poole (Parent - 7)
 Mr. Chad Meredith (Parent - 8)
 Ms. Mary Kennedy (Teacher)
 Ms. Roshele Robinson (Teacher)
 Ms. Ashley Teater (Teacher)
 Mr. Gib Lackey (Asst. Administrator)
 Mr. Justin Nutter (Principal)

STATE REPORT CARD & ACCOUNTABILITY



Palmetto Silver Award Winner 2009 - 2013 Closing the Gap Award 2013

2013 SMS Absolute Rating: **Average** (Average - 2012)

2013 SMS Improvement Rating: **Good** (Good - 2012)

2013 Federal Accountability ESEA Grade: **F** (B - 2012)

2012 PASS Results	SMS Met or Above	Similar Schools Met or Above	South Carolina Met or Above
ELA	61.2%	63.6%	70.5%
Math	54.4%	60.8%	68.6%
Writing	62.9%	67.3%	74.4%
Science	77.4%	65.1%	71.2%
History	65.2%	63.4%	69.6%

2013-14 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Band: The SMS Band achieved a SUPERIOR rating at the SC Concert Festival with perfect scores in all categories. Nine SMS Band members were selected to participate in All-Region Band. The Jazz Band received a SUPERIOR rating at the USC - Aiken Band Festival this year!

Beta Club: Our Beta Club committed themselves to community service including sponsoring a book drive that collected over 400 children's books for distribution to the community.

Chain Links: This new school-wide initiative involved over 250 students who worked through various committees to address the issue of bullying and promote our Tiger Traits of Discipline, Respect, Attitude, and Effort!

Chorus: The SMS Chorus earned a SUPERIOR rating at the 2014 State Chorus Festival.

Gifted & Talented Art: Our talented artists work to infuse SMS with quality art - inside and outside of the building. Highlights this year include publication of a school newspaper and stage design for the SMS Talent Show. For the second consecutive year an SMS artist was accepted into the SC Governor's School for the Art and Humanities Summer program!

The Green Team: This group of student leaders organizes and runs a recycling program that keeps the SMS community green!

Project Unify: The first year of this student organization was a great success! Members partnered with SMS Special Olympics athletes to prepare and participate in competitions. More importantly, this group worked to ensure SMS is an inclusive and supportive environment for all students!

SMS News Team: The news team is responsible for the production of the daily news broadcast that covers school announcements, current events, weather, and student recognitions. This year the team added interviews, humor, and commentary!

SMS Athletics: SMS athletes participate in baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, golf, soccer, softball, track & field, volleyball, and wrestling at the B-Team, junior varsity, and varsity levels! The SMS football team had an undefeated regular season and both the football team and boy's basketball team competed in the Palmetto Athletic Conference Championship game!

SMS Student Council: The Council studied leadership skills to include the implementation of leadership within the school. Projects included a school-wide can food drive.

SMS Student Ambassadors: The Ambassadors provided tours for new students and visitors to the Tiger Den! This group also emceed Tiger Pride Assemblies and facilitated student and teacher recognitions throughout the school year.

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 4

SANDHILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



School Renewal Accountability Summary Report 2013-2014

"Being and creating life-long learners in a safe and supportive environment."

Sandhills Middle School

"Being and creating life-long learners in a safe and supportive environment."

2013-2014 MAJOR INITIATIVES AT SMS

We believe...

- Every student must be engaged in learning that is purposeful and rigorous.
- All students deserve a challenging, but safe and supportive environment in which they can learn and take risks.
- Students should be recognized as individuals and be given the opportunities to foster their individual needs in order to take an active role in their education.
- Teachers need to be lifelong learners who share in the dynamic community of education involving students, teachers, and parents to reach our greatest potential.

VISION

We will establish high standards by creating a learning environment which ensures student performance at the highest level.

MISSION

Sandhills Middle School...

A school...

- ~ Where student results drive instruction.
- ~ Where timely interventions based on data and student needs are provided.
- ~ Where collaboration is organized towards targeted goals that result in improved student performance.

A community...

- ~ Where teachers, students, staff, and community combine resources to provide whatever it takes to ensure every student's success.

EFFECTIVE CURRICULUM

The SMS professional team has been working diligently to create and refine curriculum that is rigorous, engaging, and applicable to the goals of the Common Core State Standards - preparation for post-high school success in college and the work force.

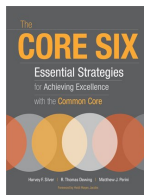
Disciplinary Literacy

SMS has continued to develop our knowledge of effective literacy strategies across all contents. Utilizing the Common Core Anchor Standards for Literacy in the Technical Subjects, our teachers have increased the amount and complexity of the non-fiction text required in all content areas. In addition, students have routinely been engaged in argumentative literacy in all classes through dialogue and written forms. Our team has measured our planning and implementation of strategies on a weekly basis and has shared practices with each other throughout the year.



The Core Six

Our team has engaged in an on-going professional book study of *The Core Six: Essential Strategies for Achieving Excellence with the Common Core* (Silver, Dewing, & Perini, 2012) throughout the 2013-14 school year facilitated by our Literacy Leadership Team. Teachers have practiced and refined strategies through study, implementation, reflection, and discussion. Our student data demonstrates a continued need for developing our ability as teachers to implement strategies that help students utilize critical literacy skills across all subjects.



Thinking Math

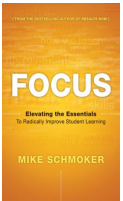
Our mathematics teachers have worked weekly with an instructional coach to develop our understanding of the Common Core standards for mathematics, revise our curriculum to meet the increased cognitive requirements, and develop instruction that challenges students to develop their understanding of mathematics principles in addition to learning how to calculate answers. Our students are now being asked to not only find an answer, but to explain their thinking and the concepts that they utilized to solve problems.



EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

Our instructional team focused on the consistent implementation of instructional essentials highlighted in the book *FOCUS: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning* (Schmoker, 2011). Our teachers and administrators documented planning, implementation, and observation of the following skills weekly throughout the year.

- ◆ Clear learning intentions & success criteria for every lesson. Used throughout the lesson to guide student learning.
- ◆ Precise chunking of instruction to maximize practice. Focus lessons include models and demonstrations to promote student understanding.
- ◆ Continual formative assessment through use of intentional, guiding questions and requiring demonstration of understanding in multiple ways from all students.
- ◆ Critical literacy tasks that emphasize key vocabulary.



Our team engaged in on-going action research throughout the year to experiment with levels of implementation and assess the impact of strategies on student achievement.

EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT

Rigorous Performance Tasks

The Common Core State Standards require students to perform and demonstrate their mastery of content through engagement in performance tasks that include non-fiction texts, multi-media, and critical writing. Our team has continued to collaboratively plan and implement rigorous performance tasks that reflect 21st Century skills. As we move forward to 2014-15, the development of problem-based learning as a routine element of daily instruction will be a primary focus as we prepare students to be college, career, and citizenship ready!



PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

SMS continues as one of 10 middle schools in SC engaged in the IQ-MS Research Project. The goal of this 3 year project is to increase the utilization of disciplinary literacy within the science and mathematics curriculums within SC.



SMS also continues its work with the RETAIN Center at Newberry College. This program seeks to increase teacher retention through training mentors to support new teachers through their initial 3 years of teaching.

