

SMS Priorities for 2013-14

- Continue our focus on phases of instruction within the learning progression to engage students in purposeful learning at high cognitive levels.
- 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 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.



SMS 2011-12

School Improvement Council

Ms. Darla Jones (Parent - 8)
 Mr. Shannon Jones (Parent - 8)
 Ms. Valencia Jackson (Parent - 8)
 Mr. Chad Meredith (Parent - 7)
 Ms. Tanesha Branch-Logan (Parent - 7)
 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



2009-12 Palmetto Silver Award Winner

2012 SMS Absolute Rating: **Average** (Average - 2011)

2012 SMS Improvement Rating: **Good** (Average - 2011)

SMS Federal Accountability ESEA Grade: **B**

2012 PASS Results	SMS Met or Above	Similar Schools Met or Above	South Carolina Met or Above
ELA	62.2%	61.1%	68.0%
Math	65.0%	64.8%	69.0%
Writing	63.5%	67.4%	71.1%
Science	81.3%	64.7%	69.8%
History	70.5%	62.7%	68.3%

2012-13 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Band: The SMS Band is 120 members strong and was recognized during 2012-13 with SUPERIOR ratings at all state competitions! Eight SMS Band members were selected to participate in All-Region Band.

Chorus: The SMS Chorus has 65 members and earned a SUPERIOR rating at the 2012-13 State Chorus Festival. Four SMS Chorus members received a SUPERIOR rating at the South Carolina Solo & Ensemble Festival. Three students received an EXCELLENT rating.

Gifted & Talented Art: Our talented artists work to infuse SMS with quality art - inside and outside of the building. One SMS artist was accepted into the SC Governor's School for the Art and Humanities Summer 2013 program!

Jazz Band: A favorite with the student body, the Jazz Band performs at assemblies throughout the year. The Jazz Band received a SUPERIOR rating at the USC - Aiken Band Festival this year! Four SMS Jazz Band members were selected as Outstanding Soloists!

Junior Scholars: Five students from SMS were recognized as South Carolina Junior Scholars due to their performance on the PSAT.

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!

SMS News Team: The news team is responsible for the production of the daily news broadcast at SMS. Team members cover school announcements, current events, weather, and student recognitions during the daily show!

SMS Student Ambassadors: The ambassadors welcome new students and visitors to the Tiger Den. Students provide tours and help new students feel at home!

SMS Yearbook Team: This group of students works with a teacher advisor to design and create our annual yearbook.

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

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 4

SANDHILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



School Renewal Accountability Summary Report 2012-2013

"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."

2012-2013 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

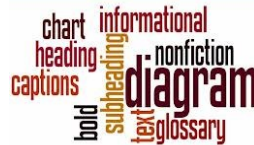
The SMS professional team has been working diligently to create and refine curriculum that is rigorous, engaging, and applicable to the goals of the Common Core State Standards - preparation for post-high school success in college and the work force.

Common Core State Standards

The implementation of the Common Core State Standards has been the focus of our curriculum planning sessions at SMS during 2012-13. With full implementation and assessment of the CCSS on the horizon in 2014-15, our core teams in language arts and mathematics have worked to calibrate curriculum to the rigor and real-world application required of the Common Core State Standards.



Disciplinary Literacy



SMS has continued to develop our knowledge of effective literacy strategies across all contents. Utilizing the CCSS 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.

Inquiring Minds: Reading to Learn and Innovate in Mathematics & Science (IQ-MS Research Project)

This year SMS was one of 10 middle schools in SC to be chosen to participate in a research project conducted by the SC Coalition of Mathematics and Science. Our math and science teachers worked collaboratively with an instructional coach and teachers from other schools to understand the importance of disciplinary literacy in the science and math curriculum. Weekly coaching sessions, video-taped lessons, and monthly state-wide virtual meetings were all tools our teachers used to increase our understanding and skills.

EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

SMS teachers and administration are joining with our colleagues throughout Lexington District Four in using the different phases of instruction as a tool to enhance our classroom instruction. Through the strategic focus of the phases of instruction, students become responsible for their own learning through the gradual release of responsibility and the gradual increase in the cognitive level expected of students. Our teachers have spent 2012-13 focusing on the effective implementation of collaborative learning and precision guided learning for students in need of assistance.

Phases of Instruction

- Focus Lesson: Teachers explain and model specific content.
- Guided Learning: Teachers provide targeted assistance.
- Collaborative Learning: Students experiment and learn together.
- Independent Learning: Students show individual mastery.



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 argumentative writing. Our team has worked collaboratively to plan and implement these rigorous performance tasks in all content areas during the spring of 2013.

Differentiated Assessment

Our Differentiated Assessment focus group has worked collaboratively this year to increase both our understanding and practice of effectively accommodating student assessments to meet the needs of all students. Through the utilization of technology and best-practice assessment strategies, this group has laid a foundation for further growth and development by our whole team in this vital area.

