

## Honors and Accomplishments

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

### LEAD

- Students LEAD through participating and representing SMS in specific PAWS classes (PAWS stands for PBIS, Advisement, Well-informed, and Service). This time is also used for school clubs, like our Student Council to meet.
- 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 LEADER.
- 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 each month for LEADing by positive example. Winners are honored as our SMS People of the Month.

### 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 self-determination in order to seek out and use resources to achieve LEARNING. During our TIGER Time intervention period we strive to guide our students in OWNING all their learning and actions (the good and the bad) - embracing truth- so they grow into the most honest version of themselves.

### SERVE

- Our students, staff and our community begin each year with a back to school clean up day. In August we trimmed trees and bushes, weeded gardens and put out fresh pine straw.
- In September, we invited local First Responders to honor them during our 9/11 remembrance.
- In October, we sponsored our 2nd annual Community Trick or Treat Lane that featured free trick or treating, and BBQ fundraiser.
- In December, our School Improvement Council sponsored our 3rd annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony which featured free food, live music, caroling, giveaways, and of course the tree lighting and a visit from Santa.
- During the tree lighting we updated the Gaston Blessing Box, donated by our award winning Beta Club. The giving box gives our community the opportunity to donate and receive books and non-perishable food items year around.

### EXCEL

- Our students were recognized during semester Awards Assemblies where we honored hundreds of students who have EXCELED in Academics, Attendance and the Arts.
- We also EXCEL by implementing a full honors program for those students who demonstrate academic aptitude. These courses include English 1, Algebra 1, Spanish 1, and Fundamentals of Computing.
- We have four students who EXCELED in this year's PSAT exam and earned recognition in the SC Junior Scholars program which identifies eighth-grade students with exceptional academic talent.

## 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 tolerance for all students and, more specifically, those with intellectual disabilities.

## Fine Arts Highlights

- In May, 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, 26 SMS Band students participated in the Limestone 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 school Christmas tree-lighting ceremony. 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. Seven of our SMS students participate as the Swansea JV Winterguard and compete in the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association circuit.
- 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 2022-2023*

*"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.

**Brad Coleman**  
**Sherri Stonehouse**  
**Terry Oldaker**

**Principal**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**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 49 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 working in our EDGE store, collecting paper for recycling, and sponsoring food drives. 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 three events in the junior division:

Third Place, Science: Eva Taylor, Fourth Place, Performing Arts Solo: Meredith Grice, Fifth Place, Living Literature: Ainsley Geiger, Anabella Johnson, Danielle Jones, Kimberly Gartman, Hagen Frick, Kaden Learn, Rosemarie Frye

## Media Center



- Average number of books checked out per day: 40
- Total book checkouts in the 2022-2023 school year: over 7,000
- Average age of books in print collection: 2016
- 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 Brad Coleman. 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 in specific PAWS classes (PAWS stands for PBIS, Advisement, Well-informed, and Service).

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 content.

Overall, we believe that our strength at SMS is found in the value of each individual's voice. We encourage students to LEAD by example and share their voice in a positive way and take risks in order to be connected to their future college and/or future career.

**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 expand and "dig deeper" into their learning.

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.

**SERVE-** As Principal of SMS, I want all of our students to feel a connection to our school. This connection, we believe, leads to many positive relationships, real world relevance, active engagement, and ultimately college and career ready graduates. In my opinion there's no better way to be connected to school than being invested in your school through SERVICE.

**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 use their inner strength to voice for the good of 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 committing and following through with what they say and do; and to do what's right and avoid what's wrong.

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



Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

### 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 along with TARGETED COACHING with personalized INTERVENTIONS and SUPPORTS.

## Student Council

Student council this year helped with Bus driver and other staff appreciation days by making posters and handing out goodie bags. They also have done a trash pickup days around campus to keep the grounds free of garbage. Student council also collaborated with Beta Club for several school activities, including Trick-or-Trick Lane and our annual Tree Lighting.