

Marion County School District 10



Palmetto Middle School

SIC Annual Report to Parents

Rechel M. Anderson, Principal

2014-2015

Principal Anderson's Message



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

On behalf of the Palmetto Middle School faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you to the 2014-15 school year. The mission of Palmetto Middle School is to create an environment in which all students are academically and socially prepared to be successful in education, valued members of the workforce and productive members of our society. **Our motto is “Excellence at its BEST...NO EXCUSES!”**

I am excited to begin our journey together and celebrate our achievements in the upcoming year. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the student handbook and the ongoing activities at Palmetto Middle School. I encourage you to stay involved in your child’s education by joining the Palmetto Middle School Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Volunteer, and participate in other parent groups of interest. By supporting one another and remaining involved, Palmetto Middle School will continue to make huge positive strides.

As we begin our work together, let’s remember that it will take ALL of us! I am committed to EXCELLENCE and I invite you to join me as we move forward. Education is a joint venture between school and home. As we work with our students to help them learn about the world around them through the prescribed curriculum, we very much appreciate the support that parents give their children at home as they strive to reach their learning goals. The foundation of a successful school is the cooperation between the students, staff, parents and community.

I look forward to working with you this year as we EXCEL to the Highest!

Sincerely,

Rachel M. Anderson

Rachel M. Anderson, Principal



Marion County Board of Trustees



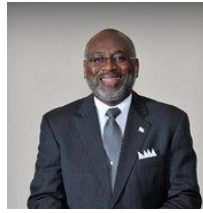
Mrs. Cynthia
Legette
Chairperson



Mr. Michael
Hucks



Ms. Cynthia
Brown
Vice Chair
person



Mr. Levant
Davis



Mrs. Ritta
Henney



Mrs. Linda
Neal

OUR SCHOOL

The mission of Palmetto Middle School is to provide every student with the opportunity to become socially mature and academically productive citizens for life.

About The School

Who We Are and What We Believe?

Vision Statement

Palmetto Middle School faculty believes that all students who apply themselves to the learning environment will become productive citizens who can develop positive relationships and continue to achieve academically and socially.

Our Beliefs

- All students have the ability to learn and be academically successful.
- All students need to be nurtured toward productivity.
- All students need true character to develop socially.
- All students are unique, worthy of respect, and deserve to be treated with dignity and

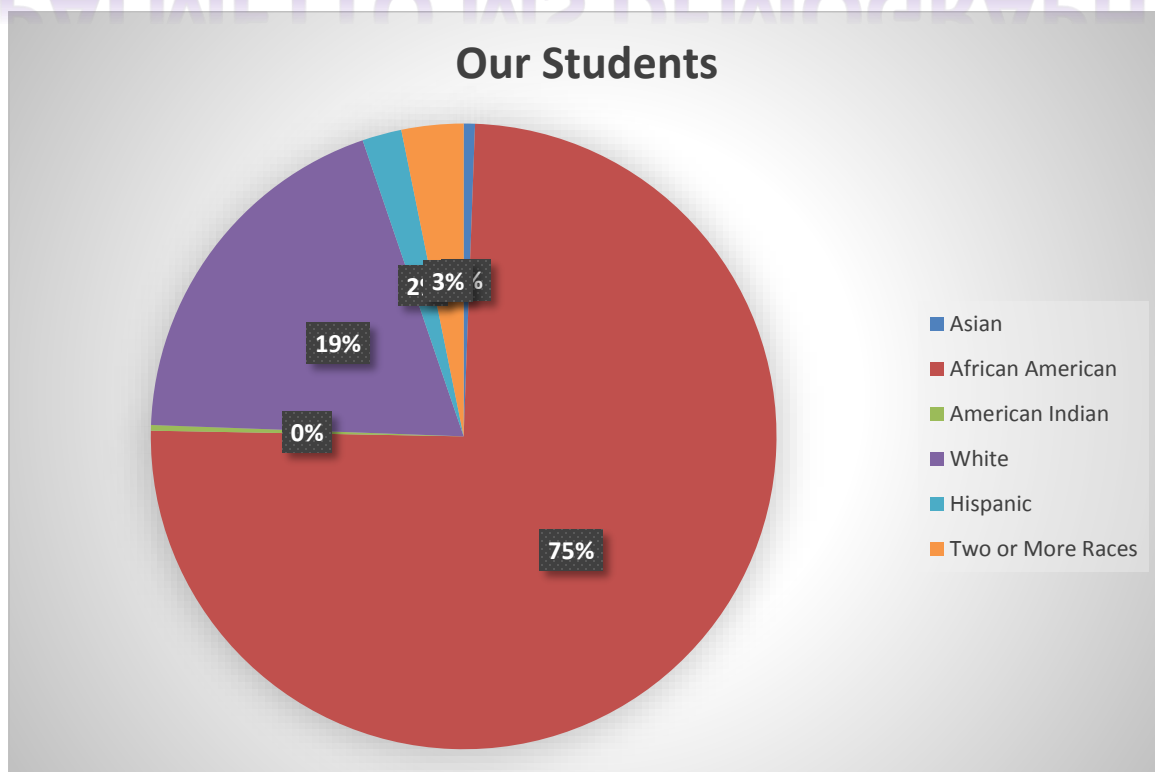
respect.

- All students deserve a safe, positive, and secure learning environment.

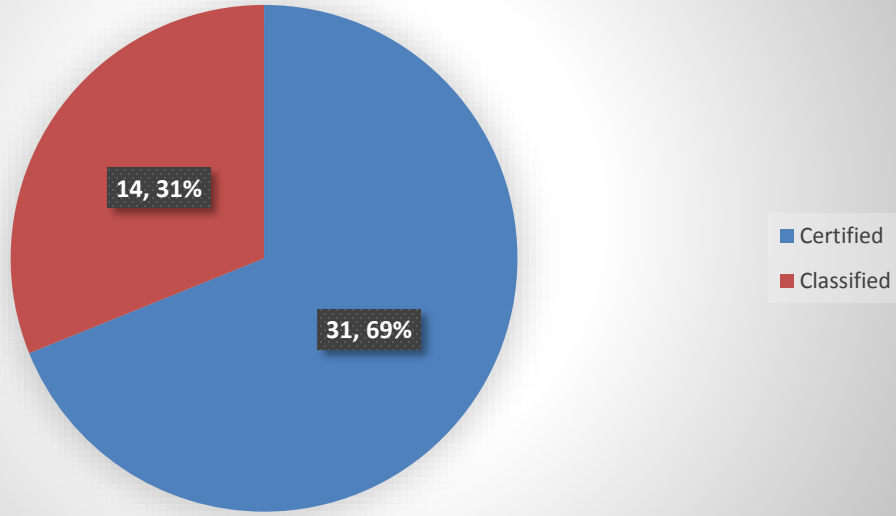
Quick Facts

- Serves approximately 360 students in grades 6th –8th
- Active Palmetto Alumni Association Sponsors
- Distinguished Gentlemen Club
- Academic Challenge Team
- National Junior Honor Society
- Sports for 7th and 8th graders (Basketball, Football and Cheerleading)
- G&T Art
- Dance Squad
- Bulldog Band
- NetLead Grants for African-American Male Initiative and Literacy Initiative
- It's Your Game: Keep It Real Grant, sponsored by the SC Campaign-Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- Palmetto News Team
- Safety Patrol
- Jumpstart
- Saturday Academy

PALMETTO MS DEMOGRAPHICS



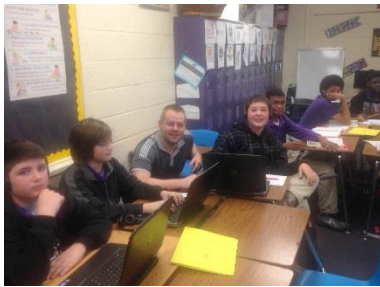
Our Staff



OUR FACULTY & STUDENTS



OUR FACULTY & STUDENTS



Our Bulldog Pride is busting through the walls and corridors! Staff and students were excited about the new school year. The addition of a mural for the gym, customize benches and framed student artwork gave our school a welcoming appeal.



OUR STUDENTS



Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Elizabeth Hucks, Principal Rechel Anderson, Madelon Hucks, and Superintendent Dr. Dan Strickland. Madelon was recognized at Francis Marion University for her academic achievement as a Junior Scholar in the 7th grade student.

Students at Palmetto Middle School have worked extremely hard to improve and achieve academically. We received a “good” growth rating on the 2014 State Report Card. We are working diligently to improve our overall academic success and move our school to at least an average rating. Under the leadership of Principal Anderson, we have adopted and upheld the motto, “Excellence At Its Best! No Excuses!” We continue to promote academic excellence and student success daily.

At Palmetto, some 8th grade students are able to attain high school Algebra I credit upon successful completion of the course. At this time, Algebra I is the only high school level class that we offer. Our

Algebra I students completed the course at an 100% passage rate for the 2013-2014 school year, a gain of 12% from the previous school year (79%).

Palmetto has developed many new initiatives this year after receiving multiple grants. Our initiatives are Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), building effective and positive relationships, using data to drive instruction, and improving student achievement.

Palmetto Middle School students were actively engaged with their Academic Challenge team, regional spelling bee and science fair. We are excited about what our school, and most importantly, our students are doing.



Pictured from left to right: Na’Kyra Buie, Mr. Paspula, Shanice Hannah and Mrs. Ella Ford-Williams. The young ladies participated in the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Essay and Scholarship contest and won. 1st Place – Ti’Onna Lewis (not pictured) (\$30.00 Prize), 7th Grader 2nd Place – Shanice Hannah (\$25.00 Prize), 7th Grader 3rd Place – Na’Kyra Buie (\$15.00 Prize), 7th Grader. Congratulations and thank you all for representing PMS!

Teacher of the Year 2014-2015



Mr. Prashanth Paspula has been with Palmetto Middle School for the past 9 years. He works with Special Services as the team leader. As the team leader, he works closely with parents, staff and students to ensure everyone understands their role in educating the students. Mr. Paspula is a kind and generous person who strives to bring out the best in those around him. He is never too busy to help and he is always professional.

This is why he was elected by his peers to serve as teacher of the year. Mr. Paspula wears many hats and enjoys working with the faculty, staff and students. He is dedicated to providing students with educational experiences they can use for a lifetime.

We salute and thank you for your dedication and for striving to provide us with “Excellence at its best...no excuses”!

2014 State Report Card



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Palmetto Middle School
 MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Grades: 6-8 Enrollment: 361
 Principal: Coleman D. Barbour
 Superintendent: Dr. Dan Strickland
 Board Chair: Dr. Shawn Johnson

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		ESEA/FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SYSTEM	
			General Performance	Closing the Gap	ESEA Grade	Accountability Indicator
2014	Below Average	Good	TBD	TBD	F	N/A
2013	Below Average	Average	N/A	N/A	F	N/A
2012	Below Average	Average	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

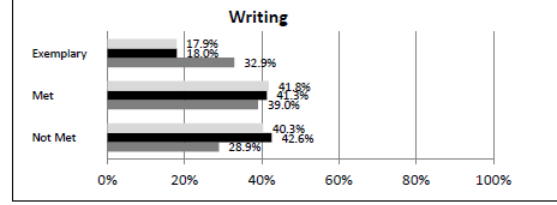
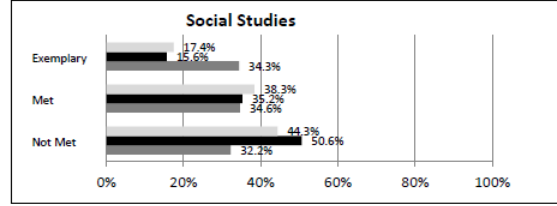
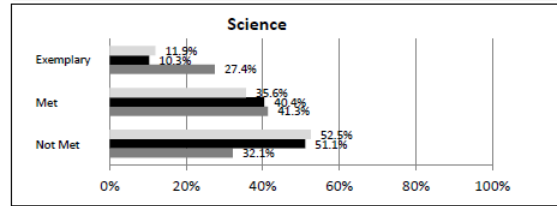
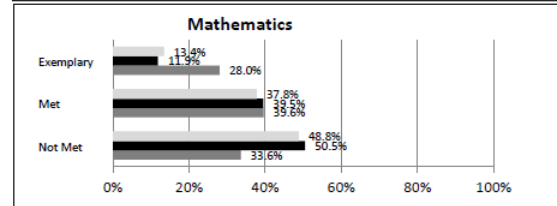
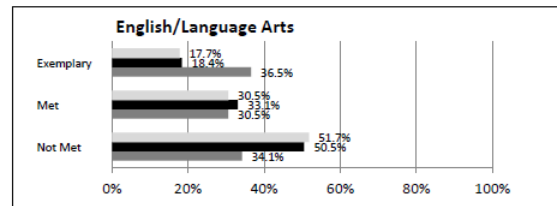
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	16	32	14

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 04/27/2015. Schools with Students Like Ours are Middle Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

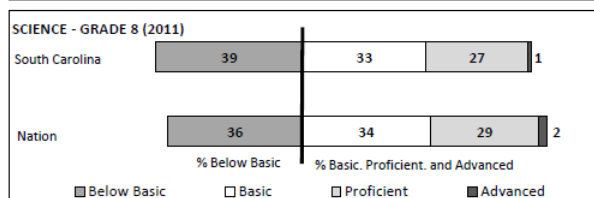
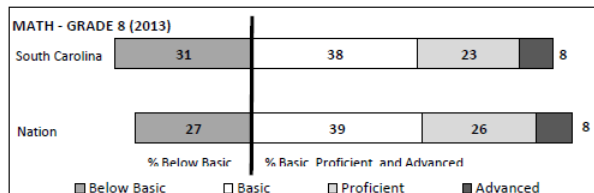
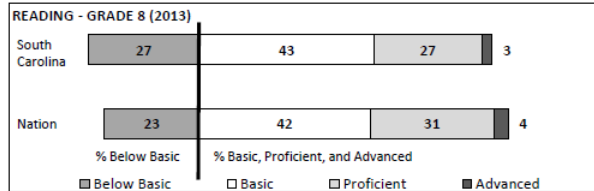
SC PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School Middle Schools with Students Like Ours Middle Schools Statewide



NAEP*

*Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



END OF COURSE TESTS - 2014

% of Students scoring 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	100.0%	93.7%
English 1	N/A	85.2%
Biology 1	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	100.0%	92.0%

SC PERFORMANCE VISION
 By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

Abbreviations Key

N/A-Not Applicable N/AV-Not Available N/C-Not Collected N/R-Not Reported I/S-Insufficient Sample TBD-To Be Determined

2014 State Report Card (conti.)

**Palmetto Middle School
MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL PROFILE**

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle Schools
Students (n = 361)				
Students Enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	8.2%	Up from 0.0%	14.8%	26.0%
Retention rate	0.0%	No change	0.7%	0.6%
Attendance rate	94.6%	Down from 94.7%	95.6%	96.2%
Served by gifted and talented program	14.3%	Down from 16.2%	6.8%	19.4%
With disabilities	18.0%	Down from 19.3%	16.0%	12.8%
Older than usual for grade	4.8%	Down from 6.2%	7.4%	4.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.3%	Down from 1.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Annual dropout rate	2.3%	No change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n = 27)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	66.7%	Down from 74.1%	58.3%	61.3%
Continuing contract teachers	40.7%	Down from 44.4%	60.0%	75.9%
Teachers returning from previous year	73.2%	Up from 70.5%	76.9%	85.4%
Teacher attendance rate	99.2%	Up from 96.0%	95.3%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$43,357	Up 7.3%	\$45,152	\$47,081
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	5.8%	Up from 5.5%	13.9%	5.8%
Professional development days/teacher	0.4 days	Down from 5.8 days	9.6 days	10.6 days
School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 6.0	2.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	19.2 to 1	Down from 22.5 to 1	18.5 to 1	21.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	93.8%	Up from 90.3%	89.6%	90.1%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No change	98.0%	99.0%
Character development program	Excellent	No change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,040	Up 26.1%	\$9,541	\$7,616
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	60.7%	Down from 62.0%	55.8%	62.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	60.3%	Up from 60.0%	55.1%	61.3%
ESEA composite index score	48.2	Up from 47.5	54.4	77.9

* Length of contract = 185+ days.
**Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	32	113	98
Percent satisfied with learning environment	71.9%	68.1%	74.5%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	75.0%	64.6%	72.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	46.9%	71.1%	66.0%

*Only students at the highest middle school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites.

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REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The motto of Palmetto Middle School is 'EXCELLENCE At Its BEST!' 'NO Excuses!' We believe that working in partnership with students, families, and the community is paramount as we strive for excellence by developing confident, life-long learners.☐

☐ Palmetto Middle School believes in establishing high expectations for all of its students and their families. In order to continually improve, we must challenge our students, ourselves, and our parents and community members to make greater strides in education. To achieve these goals for all students, the Palmetto Middle School family will maintain its efforts to overcome barriers that prohibit this process. We will continue to provide our students with continued support in every classroom, including related arts programs.☐

☐ Palmetto Middle School has made many improvements within the 2013-2014 school year. Our campus is beautiful, welcoming, and is a student-centered environment that is conducive to learning. We have proven, that as a Palmetto Middle School Family, that our school is a great place to learn and we have worked diligently to ensure that all of our students are provided a safe, positive, and challenging environment.☐

A variety of parent and family activities also support the learning of our students at Palmetto Middle School. Families participate in MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Night, Science/Social Studies Curriculum Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and ELA/Math Curriculum Night. An automatic calling system informs parents of events and meetings. Parents also have access to the school and district website for information and a grade level newsletter is sent home monthly.☐

Areas of concern at Palmetto Middle School include student attendance, tardiness, reading and math levels, teacher retention, and the overall infrastructure for technology. In addition, the disproportionate number of special education and African American students who are achieving below grade level is also a factor that impedes student progress. Although, these issues are being addressed, they may have an adverse effect on future report card ratings.☐

However, the Palmetto Middle School Family believes that our staff and students are capable of reaching our quest for EXCELLENCE, and we accept the challenge and prepare to celebrate our growth towards our goal, 'EXCELLENCE At Its BEST!' 'NO Excuses!'☐

☐ Barry Hemingway, SIC President
☐ Rachel Anderson, Principal

Abbreviations Key

N/A-Not Applicable N/AV-Not Available N/C-Not Collected N/R-Not Reported I/S-Insufficient Sample TBD-To Be Determined



School Leadership Team:

Rechel M. Anderson, Principal

Kelvin Edwards, Assistant Administrator

Tenika Evans-Pee, Curriculum Facilitator

Octavia Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Eunice Shipman-Campbell, Guidance Counselor

Sandra Coombs, Career Facilitator

Shawn Ceo, School Resource Officer

School Improvement Council:

Elected Members

Daniel Weeks

Prashanth Paspula

LaMeeka Woodberry

Kevin Miller

Alishea Mullins

Tawashia Mullins

Appointed Members

Jackie Graves

Barry Hemingway, **Chair**

Rosemarie Holmes

Ex-Officio Members

Rechel Anderson

Kelvin Edwards

Octavia Johnson

Gladys Williams-Ceo

Tenika Evans-Pee

At Palmetto Middle School, we truly promote “Excellence At Its Best,” and there is no room for any “excuses!”

Palmetto Middle School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.