

BLENHEIM ELEMENTARY/ MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

Volume 4

BEMS REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

SPRING, 2012

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A Message from the Principal: Dr. Gwendolyn Dixon-Coe



The 2011-2012 school year came in as a "whirlwind" of a year", but an enlightening one. We have survived the crucial overhauling of our district by joining together as a team, to strategically plan, implement, and evaluate our programs, processes and people.

Collaboratively, our SIC, PTO, and business partners worked effortless with the Blenheim staff to effectively contribute to the writing of the District and School's Strategic Plans. As time progressed in that effort, we then went on to form alliances to successfully help complete the AdvancED Accreditation for the district.

We feel all schools in our district, staff, students, and parents developed a great sense of pride as we discussed the strengths, weaknesses, and resources that would help us move forward in the 21st Century.

While administrators and teachers participated in various professional developments, our students engaged themselves in rigorous instruction and heartfelt competitions. This was beneficial in helping us develop an understanding of how "shared culture" helps all of us achieve.

Students participated in Science Fair Competition, Academic Challenge, Dream House (Math) Competition, Regional and State Art Competition, as well as Band Competitions. Students represented the school well and showed Eagle Pride, as many of them placed in their field.

With all efforts focused on instruction, Blenheim faculty was able to place more attention on the needs of each student, as a result of the small classes in the elementary grades. There were celebrations from each grade when MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Scores and classroom assessments showed potential gain, as we prepared for the PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards).

Though funding was down this year, due to our release from Palmetto Priority Schools (PPS), we were still able to provide our students and families with structured field trips, effective parenting programs and some awesome chances to celebrate. We have been successful in maintaining our business partners, and each in their own way continues to contribute to the "Cause of Education."

District Mission Statement

The mission of Marlboro County School District is to educate and enable all students to achieve their highest potential.

Vision Statement

The School District of Marlboro County will partner with families, businesses, and communities to develop the next generation of responsible citizens, lifelong learners, and global leaders.

“TEACHER OF THE YEAR”

2010 – 2011

Samuel Usher

Mr. Samuel Wayne Usher is a physical education teacher at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. This is his sixth year teaching for Marlboro County Public Schools. Mr. Usher is known for his friendliness and ability to bring a smile to everyone's face. The staff at Blenheim sees Mr. Usher as the “all around team player”. He is willing to help anyone at anytime. Instructionally, Mr. Usher is able to integrate all subjects into his physical education lessons. We are proud to have Mr. Usher represent Blenheim as our Teacher of the

2011 – 2012

Robyn Johnson

Ms. Robyn Johnson is a 5th and 6th grade teacher at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. Ms. Johnson has been at Blenheim for nine years and teaching for a total of ten years. What she enjoys about teaching is seeing the smiles on student's faces when they have an “Ah-ha” moment. Ms. Johnson states that if she can make the difference in at least one child's life, then she has done the job she was placed on earth to do. Her mentors have been her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Johnson, Jr., who were both educators in the district for over

2012 – 2013

Mae Dines

Ms. Mae Dines is a 4th grade teacher at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. Ms. Dines has been at Blenheim for four years. She enjoys helping students see the light bulb burn brightly with comprehension. I enjoy the collaboration with my colleagues. Ms. Dines states that by listening to a child and helping him/her see their potential, is how she makes a difference in each child's life. Her future goals are to help each student that she comes in contact with to be aware of the possibilities of what he or she can achieve with hard work.

SOCIAL STUDIES PROJECT

The 7th and 8th grades completed a challenging Tic Tac Toe Social Studies Project this year. 7th grade focused on the Industrial Revolution whereas 8th grade was on the Civil War. Students had to chose 3 parts to complete in any type of a tic tac toe scheme. The choices ran the gamut from creating a movie or drama, a public service campaign for a health issue of the time, a quilt square, to many others. All squares called for some research and hands-on activity. The students found these exciting and challenging. Two of the most popular squares on the Civil War Tic Tac Toe were making a CD of Civil War era songs with reasons they were chosen and cover art, as well as writing a diary from the perspective of a soldier, someone on the home front or an African American. The diaries were inventive and many students “aged” them as well. The Industrial Revolution Tic Tac Toe had favorites as well with many students choosing to do making a series of instruction manuals on how to run 18th century machines. Another popular one was researching current global companies, and deciding on a criteria for a Top Ten list. They then compared these working conditions to those of the sweat mills of the Industrial Revolution. The students learned quite a bit from their chosen activities.

MARLBORO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

Marlboro County School District went through the accreditation process. In order to earn and maintain accreditation, MCSD had to meet the AdvancED standards, engage in a process of continuums improvement and demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review. The schools engaged in an in-depth assessment of each of the Seven AdvancEd Standards. Each committee gathered evidence and compiled it in notebooks to show proof of the school having met the standards.

Vision and Purpose, Governance and Leadership, Documenting and Using Results, Teaching and Learning, Resources and Support Systems, Stakeholders, Communication and Relationships, and Commitment to Continuous Improvement. The schools in the Marlboro County School District were evaluated on each of these standards.

**“Marlboro County School
District met all Accreditation**

ACADEMICALLY CENTERED

Curriculum:

- * Anderson 5
- * State Textbook Adoptions: Imagine It, Everyday Math, Math Connect
- * S3 State Curriculum

Instruction:

- * Explicit Instruction
- * Whole Group—Small Group—Individual
- * Guided Practice—Individual Instruction

Interventions/Enrichments:

- * Two O'clock Tutorial -- Focus on ELA and Mathematics
- * Small Group Instruction— Focus on Differentiation
- * Itinerate Acceleration Time—Using Itinerate Teachers in the regular CORE class setting

Professional Development:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Disaggregating Data | * Essential Questions |
| * Learning Strategies | * Safe-T/ADEPT |
| * Unpacking the Standards | * Blogging |

Assessments:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| * Thinkgate | * Study Island |
| * MAP | * Dominic |
| * PASS | * Teacher Assessment |

DREAM HOUSE EXPO COMPETITION WINNERS

Single Story

- Winner: Christian Dunn
 1st Place: Trevor Freeman
 2nd Place: Marion Brown
 3rd Place: David Morris

Two Story

- Winner: Heather Roscoe & Celina Luna
 2nd Place: Toni Williams
 3rd Place: Dean Adams

Innovation Design

- Anthony Miles Carter: Solar House
 Tyler Erwin: Structural Soundness
 Eric Erwin: Structural Soundness



RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

March of Dimes /C. Galloway: The March of Dimes Campaign raising a total of \$1,051.21. The classes raising the highest amounts enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate all of the hard work. First place was Mrs. Warren's 8th grade class and coming in 2nd place was Mrs. Betty Roberts' kindergarten class. Students were encouraged to discuss the purpose of the event with family and friends.



Donations to PBIS Store

The University Of South Carolina College of Education donated items to Blenheim Elementary/Middle School for the PBIS Store. These items were given by the faculty/staff members from the department and other caring students and employees who work at the university. The items were personally delivered by the Dean of Education, Dr. Lemuel Watson.

Our PBIS store shelves were stocked with books, pencils, stationary, card games, crayons, tote bags, puzzles, mugs, water bottles, note pads, rulers, and many other fun and entertaining items for students to purchase with Eagle Bucks rewards.

While on the Blenheim campus Dr. Watson took the opportunity to visit with the students and staff. He took time out to talk with students, shared his vision as a partner with the school, and participated in an interview lead by our Media Literacy Team.

White Knoles Middle School heard about the initiative and donated over 20 packets of Character Education materials, DVDs and teacher guides for faculty to use in working with students in the development of positive behavior. We now

have a complete curriculum to follow as we work towards our Positive Behavioral Intervention System.

Relay for Life Success/J. Quick:

Through fundraisers, Blenheim Elementary Middle School was able to raise \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society for Relay for Life. Some of our student council



Dictionary Donations

Pictured: Ms. Ruenell McRae's 3rd Grade Class 2011-2012

Marlboro County Rotary Club donates dictionaries to Ms. Ruenell McRae's 3rd Grade class at Blenheim Elementary/Middle School.

Thanks for all you do!!

ART TEACHER AND STUDENTS RECOGNIZED



Picasso Project Winners

Jonathan David

Anthony Carter

Robert Santos

Art Teacher: Carolyn Govan



STUDENT SERVICES

Local law enforcement spoke to students on a regular basis concerning Safety and Drug-Free Schools. This remains a focus for our middle school students and is addressed also through Media Literacy

We share our nurse with a neighboring school in Clio, but students are at ease when directed to Nurse Davis for whatever injury or illness that might fall upon them throughout the school day.

Intervention Teams are put in place to handle special needs of students. This could range from instruction, to attendance, and to promotion and retention.

A Parent Coordination has been employed to provide educational sessions for parent and community volunteers who come in to work with the students. Ms. Nichols also takes a lead in helping to organize other activities.

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM

The Blenheim Elementary Middle School Academic Challenge team is made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who chose to excel in academic pursuits.

We are a competitive team that travels to matches as well as hosts matches. In a match there are four rounds, the first two made up of team questions, and the last two being "lightning round" matches.

The disciplines covered are Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. Blenheim had a tough year with only one win, but it was a positive year for the team!

The team members were Noah McCrimmon, Dean Adams, Cassie Gore, Tyrei Boatwright, Tyree McDonald, Celina Luna, Bailey Haithcock, Johnathan David, and Billy Jackson.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES OFFERED

Supplemental Educational Services were offered this school year at BEMS. Students received free extra academic help in reading, language arts, and math. Each student received twenty two hours of extra help after school. Parents of eligible children were able to choose from the list of state-approved providers and parents were also invited to attend an SES Provider Fair offered in the fall of 2011. Each child served in a program had an individual Learning Plan that contained specific achievement goals. The tutors provided to parents the progress of their child each week and specific achievement goals for the next session were discussed. Students with IEP Plan's had learning plans written that were consistent with the IEP. Measures of Academic Progress Scores in alignment with State Standards were chosen as pre and post assessment documentation. The program was a success with a majority of individual student progress being shown in all areas.

TURN-AROUND AWARD

Adrian Contreras is the son of Charles and Julie Burr of Blenheim, SC. He is a 5th grader at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. Adrian stated that he's made a change in his behavior because he doesn't follow the crowd any longer and he knew that getting into trouble would only continue to lead him to trouble. His favorite subject in school is P.E. His favorite activity is riding four-wheelers. Adrian's teachers feel that he has made a change in his behavior and continues to try to do his best.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Ms. Deborah Peterkin was chosen to receive the Community Service Award. Ms. Peterkin is a parent, volunteer, and represents the Blenheim Community on the Marlboro County School Board. Ms. Peterkin can be found volunteering in the classroom, sorting materials for distribution to teachers, or speaking with middle school students about how their day went. There is nothing too large or too small for Ms. Peterkin to give her full participation, while supporting others to reach success.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD (K-2nd)

Jalayah Wright is a Kindergarten student in Mrs. Betty Roberts' class at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. She is the daughter of Ms. JaQuilla Brand. Jalayah loves to have fun and enjoys learning. Her favorite subject in school is Math. Her favorite thing to do when she's not in school is play with her dog, Chip. Mrs. Roberts states that Jalayah is a student who follows all the rules. She has perfect attendance and has a passion for learning as much as possible.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD (3rd-5th)

Taylor Whitt is the daughter of Rhonda Whitt and Jamie Gray. She is a 3rd grade student at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. Her favorite subject is Social Studies. Her hobbies are coloring, reading, and she can always be found helping her younger sisters, Jacie, Ava, and Sophie. Her teacher, Ms. Ruenell McRae states that Taylor is always doing her best. She is a quiet student and well liked by her peers and other teachers. She is a joy to teach.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD (6th-8th)

Tykesa White is the daughter of Mrs. Ronnica Young. She is a 6th grade student at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. Tykesa's favorite subject is Math. Her hobbies are playing softball and swimming. Her teacher, Ms. Robyn Johnson, states that Tykesa is a likeable young lady who takes her schoolwork very serious. She is thorough in whatever task she is assigned. She enjoys a challenge and always lends a helping hand to her peers and teachers.

LEADERSHIP AWARD (6th-8th)

Randy David McFarline is the grandson of Ms. Sarah Hasty. He is a 6th grade student at Blenheim Elementary Middle School where he serves as the Vice-President of the Student Council and is a member of Media Literacy Team. David's teachers say that he takes the initiative to do whatever is needed before he's asked. He's always willing to learn new things and wants to continue to do well in school.

STUDENT SERVICE AWARD

Nikki Grimsley is the daughter of John and Teresa Grimsley. She is a 6th grader at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. She likes all subjects in school. Nikki's hobbies are reading and drawing. Nikki loves helping out her teachers and is always volunteering to do things that would benefit others.

SUPPORT STAFF AWARD

Mr. James McRae is Lead Custodian at Blenheim Elementary Middle School. He has been employed with Marlboro County School District for seventeen years. He is married to Mrs. Henrietta McRae. "Mr. James" as he's so lovingly called by the staff and students at BEMS, takes pride in doing a good job. His hard work is recognized by all who realize the sacrifices he makes to ensure there is a clean and safe environment for children and adults.

Take your AR Reading Test and have your name entered for a chance to win a "Nook"! Enter each time you complete a book and make at least an 80 on the AR Reading Test!!!

Summer Reading List

Before Entering Kindergarten

Read Alouds

- Rosen: *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* c2003 (animals, fiction)
 Shannon: *David Goes to School* c1999 (humor)
 Slate: *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* (school)

Before Entering 1st Grade

Read Alouds

- Bourgeois: *Franklin in the Dark* c1986 (fear, fiction)
 Bruel: *Bad Kitty* c2005 (alphabet)
 Prelutsky: *Me I Am* c2007 (poetry)

Before Entering 2nd Grade

Read Alouds

- Hoberman: *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together* c2001 (stories in rhyme)
 Hoffman: *Amazing Grace* c1991 (diversity, fiction)
 Woodson: *The Other Side* c2001 (friendship, ethnic diversity)
 Rylant: *Henry and Mudge* stories (family, dogs, humor)

Before Entering 3rd Grade

Read Alouds

- Cronin: *Diary of a Fly* c2007 (animal fiction)
 Pinkney: *The Ugly Duckling* c1999 (fairy tale)
 Cleary: *Math is CATegorical* series (stories in rhyme, mathematics)

Before Entering 4th Grade

- Osborne: *Magic Tree House* series (time travel, fiction)
 Grimes: *Talkin' About Bessie* c2002 (biography, ethnic diversity)
 Clements: *Lunch Money* c2005 (school, humor)

Before Entering 5th Grade

- Various authors: *39 Clues* series (mystery)
 Various authors: *Dear America* series (historical fiction)
 Peck: *A Year Down Yonder* c2000 (humor, historical fiction)
 Paulsen: *Hatchet* c1987 (survival, fiction)

Before Entering 6th Grade

- Carbone: *Stealing Freedom* c1998 (historical fiction, diversity)
 Cushman: *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* c1996 (historical fiction)
 Funke: *Inkheart* c2003 (fantasy)
 Haddix: *Double Identity* c2005 (mystery)

Before Entering 7th Grade

- Avi: *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* c2004 256 p. historical fiction
 Woodson: *Hush* c2002 181 p. contemporary realistic fiction/diversity
 Haddix: *Among the Hidden* c1998 153 p. science fiction/adventure
 Hiaasen: *Hoot* c2002 227 p. mystery/environmental issue

Before Entering 8th Grade

- Forbes: *Johnny Tremain* c1943 256 p. historical fiction/classic
 Haddix: *Uprising* c2007 357 p. historical fiction
 Jackson: *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust* c1997 234 p. nonfiction
 McWhorter: *A Dream of Freedom: the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968* c2004 160 p. nonfiction
 Paolini: *Eragon* c2003 523 p. fantasy
 Spinelli: *Stargirl* c2000 176 p. contemporary realistic fiction

Before Entering 9th Grade

- Dickens: *Oliver Twist* c1867 classic
 Lord: *A Night to Remember* c1955 209p. nonfiction
 McKinley: *Beauty: a Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast* c1978 247p. romance/folklore
 Johnson: *The First Part Last* c2003 144p. African-American fiction
 Woodson: *Behind You* c2004 118p. African American fiction



SC Annual School Report Card Summary (Elementary)

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2011	Below Average (2.38)	Below Average (90.59)
2010	At-Risk	Below Average
2009	Below Average	Below Average

Absolute Rating	Range of Indices	Growth Rating	Range of Indices
Excellent	3.40 or above	Excellent	98.48 or above
Good	3.18 to 3.39	Good	96.39 to 98.47
Average	2.65 to 3.17	Average	92.20 to 96.38
Below Average	2.32 to 2.64	Below Average	90.11 to 92.19
At Risk	2.31 or below	At Risk	90.10 or below

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SC Annual School Report Card Summary (Middle)

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2011	At-Risk (2.22)	Below Average (91.03)
2010	At-Risk	At-Risk
2009	Below Average	Below Average

Absolute Rating	Range of Indices	Growth Rating	Range of Indices
Excellent	3.40 or above	Excellent	98.48 or above
Good	3.18 to 3.39	Good	96.39 to 98.47
Average	2.65 to 3.17	Average	92.20 to 96.38
Below Average	2.32 to 2.64	Below Average	90.11 to 92.19
At Risk	2.31 or below	At Risk	90.10 or below

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School Profile

Student Enrollment: 299

Principal: 1

Assistant Principal: 0

Teachers:

•Core: 18

•Special Education: 1.5

•Media Specialist: 1

•Art: 1

•Physical Education: 1

•Band: .2

•General Music: 0

Curriculum Specialist: 1

Guidance Counselors: 2

Nurse: .5

Speech Therapist: .5

Parent Coordinator: 1

Teacher Assistants: 4

Secretary/Clerks: 3

Cafeteria: 4

Custodians: 3

Bus Drivers: 3



3

Red = Identified Needs

Adequate Yearly Progress 2010-2011



Summary

Total Objectives	21
Objectives Met	15
Objectives Not Met	6

Objectives Not Met

English Language Arts

- All Students
- White
- African American
- Disabled
- Subsidized meals

Mathematics

- Disabled

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**MARLBOROCOUNTY
SCHOOLS**

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Gwendolyn Dixon-Coe,
Principal

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WE'RE ON THE WEB @
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BLENHEIM ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERS 2011 – 2012

Trinity White Methodist Church	Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Waccamaw Missionary Baptist Church	Castan Falls Missionary Baptist Church
SCS/W 18990 Extension	We Get It Together Catering
Family Affair Catering	Woodhawk Catering
Blenheim Church of God	Salem Baptist Church
Harvest Hope Food Bank	Chambers Law Firm
Antioch Baptist Church	Piggly Wiggly
University of South Carolina College of Education	White Knolls Middle School



Blenheim Elementary/Middle School

(School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

District Superintendent - Dr. Helena Tillar

Principal - Dr. Gwendolyn Dixon-Coe

School Secretary - Vanessa Dease

Guidance - Tina Mack & Joan Bradley

Curriculum - Jennifer Liles

Teaching Staff

Gwendolyn T. Alford, Kg
Harold L. Black, 2nd
Stephanie P. Burr, 5-6 SS
Katrina Covington, 1st
Herod B. David, 5th Sci
Mae B. Dines, 4th
Juanita Harrington, 7-8 ELA
Claudette Hooker, Pre-K
Robyn Y. Johnson, 5-6 ELA
Ruenell McRae, 3rd
Ronnie L. Moore, 5-6 Math
Julia E. Mouzon, 1st
Blaine Peltier, 7-8 Math
Betty L. Roberts, Kg
Lori T. Smoak, 2nd
Julia Warren, 7-8 SS
Eddie Whack, 6th Sci
Wilbert R. Williams, 7-8 Sci

Support Staff

PowerSchool Clerk, Lula Joseph
Materials, Supplies & Copy Clerk, Carrie Galloway

Art Teacher

Carolyn Govan

Physical Education Teacher

Samuel W. Usher

Library Media Specialist

Brenda L. Ladson

Resource and Special Needs

Deborah Cousins
Adriana Mates
Teresa T. McQueen

Teacher Assistants

Dorothy Bennett
Dale Gilchrist
Linda Horne
Johnnie Quick

Parent Coordinator

Nichelle Nichols

School Nurse

Elvern Davis

Custodial Staff

James McRae, Head Custodian
Alexander Watson
Geraldine Ocean

Cafeteria Staff

Joanne Gardner, Manager
Dorothy Gray
Linda Morton
Nancy Gaddy