

## 2021-2022 School Improvement Council

First Name	Last Name	Service Role
Kim	Abell	
Sara	Barker	
Frances	Brown	
Alicia	Campbell	
Margaret	Campbell	
Marcie	Cope	
Amanda	Dougherty	Chairperson
Michelle	Duvall	Secretary
Alice	Evatt	
Michael	Hamilton	Assistant Principal
Shana	Hawk	
Tim	Jared	Community Member
Lindsey	Laye	Secretary
Darrell	McDowell	Principal
Scott	McMahan	Community Member
Celeste	Mendez	Vice Chairperson
Cassie	Moore	Teacher of the Year
David	Nations	
Stephanie	Shepherd	Teacher
Gayle	Steele	
Joe	Steele	
Rachel	Webb	
Meaghan	Williams	
Kay	Witherite	

# CATTITUDE

- 100% Effort in all things
- Identify and Maximize Student Talents
- Set Goals, Accomplish Them, and Set More
- Be Well-Rounded : Academics, Arts, Athletics, Behavioral/Social, Service



Thirty-eight students were rewarded with a scrumptious breakfast for their participation in the South Carolina Junior Book Award Nominee Contest.



Eighth grade social studies teacher Tiffany Ackerman incorporated cross-curricular technology as she had her students use virtual reality goggles in conjunction with a Nearpod lesson about Russian geography and culture as part of their study of counties and continents.



## Seneca Middle School

### 2021-2022 School Summary Report



#### Mission Statement

The mission of Seneca Middle School is to develop responsible, competent, and productive life long learners by providing challenging and meaningful educational experiences in cooperation with the home, community and business.

#### Vision Statement

Seneca Middle School will produce students who can communicate effectively, solve problems competently, think creatively, act responsibly, and recognize and respect individual differences.

Students will be technologically literate and globally minded. This will be accomplished through a variety of learning experiences, teaching strategies, and technology, all supported by ongoing staff development, continuous improvement of facilities and resources, parental involvement, and collaboration with community and businesses.

#### Dr. Darrell McDowell, Principal

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# From Principal Dr. Darrell McDowell



Dear Parents:

The School Summary Report for Seneca Middle School has been prepared to be presented to all school and district stakeholders: Seneca Middle School students and their parents/guardians, as well as the School District of Oconee County Board of Trustees. The report reviews the improvements made last year, displays the test scores for all grades, and describes the activities planned for this school year.

ACT 135 and AdvancEd requires schools to develop a comprehensive five-year plan, which conveys how the school plans to provide appropriate academic services to all students. Each year the plan is reviewed and revised.

If you have questions about the information summarized here, please call Dr. Darrell McDowell, Principal, at 886-4455. You may also email Dr. McDowell at [dmcowell@sdoc.org](mailto:dmcowell@sdoc.org)

## Our Leadership Team consists of...

- Assistant Principals Shea Martin and Michael Hamilton, Principal Dr. Darrell McDowell
- School Counselors Ginger Smith and Christi Roberts
- School Resource Officer Scott McMahan

## We Bobcats Are...

- A strong family of 819 students, 64 certified staff, and 27 support staff
- 257 6th graders, 274 7th graders, and 288 8th graders, 52% male and 48% female
- 60% Caucasian, 21% African American, 10% Hispanic, 10% Asian, Native American, or two or more races.

## High School Credit Offerings

Seneca Middle School offers the following courses for high school credit, or Carnegie Units, to qualifying students: Algebra I Honors, English 1 Honors, Spanish 1, Discovering Computer Science Part I (.5) and Part II (.5).

## Bobcat Curricular Targets for 2021-22

Seneca Middle School will continue to review, revise, and improve the School Improvement Plan. For the 2021-2022 school year, we have implemented the following:

Strive for 25 - Our new librarian, Cassie Moore, reinstated and reinvigorated a past literacy program called Strive for 25. Students were encouraged to read 25 books of their choosing throughout the school year with increments achieved and celebrated along the way. Although the ultimate goal was to earn Book Wizard status by reading the full 25 titles, all students who earned any of the steps—Book Novice (5 books), Book Apprentice (10 books), Book Visionary (15 books), and Book Enchanter (20 books) - were treated to a fun celebration filled with activities, games, and tasty treats. Approximately 200 students earned this reward.

STEM in the Classroom - STEM lessons don't just happen in science or math classrooms at SMS. STEM happens across the curriculum and in all nooks and crannies of the building. Not only did social studies classes build model structures to withstand hurricane winds and tidal surges and science classes experimented with Sphero Bolts, every student was exposed to a variety of STEM activities and devices that are available from the district's Instructional Technology department. These activities occurred in classrooms, hallways, and the library, showing how we at SMS take full advantage of new and engaging instructional opportunities as well as all areas of our building.

### Window Art

A collaborative project between media specialist Cassie Moore and art teacher Mara Diaz brought beauty to the media center while giving 7th grade art students real-world painting experience. These students used the expansive courtyard windows in the library to draw and then paint a colorful autumn scene followed weeks later by a winter theme.



## Happening at Seneca Middle School

### Music Program Accolades

Our music programs have a long and proud history of performing well and earning many awards which mark their high level of achievement. Following competitive auditions the SMS Chorus Program had 32 of its members earn a spot in the All-County Chorus. Twenty-three students were also selected for the SC ACDA All-State Choir. Two students were selected and travelled to Raleigh for the Southern Region ACDA Honor Choir (representing 11 southern states). The SMS Honors Chorus was the only choir to earn a Superior with Distinction rating at the SC Upstate Concert Performance Assessment (CPA). They even earned a perfect score for the sight-reading selection. Our Orchestra saw 25 of its members fill the vast majority of the 28 spots in the All-County Orchestra and then went on to earn a Superior rating at their CPA competition. Our Symphonic Band earned an Excellent rating at CPA. Twenty band members were selected for All-County Band with three members earning spots in Region Honor Band and one making the All-State Honor Band.

### Veterans Day Program

We were thrilled to be able to welcome back veterans on campus on Veterans Day after Covid forced a virtual ceremony last year. Performances by the Symphonic Band, Honors Chorus and SMS Orchestra provided a moving and reverent program honoring those in our community who have served our country in the armed forces.

### Student Excellence

Our students not only excel at music but in academics and athletics as well. An 8th grader won the district Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. Four students qualified for and participated in the Regional Geography bee with two taking 2nd and 3rd places, thus qualifying for the National competition. Ten 8th graders were named SC Junior Scholars by virtue of the excellent PSAT scores. One member of our inaugural Archery team scored well enough to qualify for the state competition. Two SMS students also participated in the HCTC Middle School Fishing Team which made a habit of earning 1st place at several area and state competitions.