

### Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

Robert E. Howard Middle School serves 416 students in grades sixth through eighth in the historic "Garden City" of Orangeburg, South Carolina. We are committed to meeting the unique needs of every student and educating the "whole" child. Our programs include a variety of academic and related arts opportunities, along with various student organizations that help prepare our students for high school, college and beyond.



Consistently for the last five years, our eight graders have qualified to be enrolled in high school classes such as Keyboarding, Algebra I and English I. Howard's English I students had an 80.0% passage rate on the End-of-Course Exam. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) have been implemented to ensure that the school climate continues to improve. Other programs that attribute to building a positive school climate are the school-wide character education program, Dare-to-be-Queen/King program and a mentoring program through which students were mentored by a number of community members and school personnel throughout the school term. Additionally, the Physical Education Department and the Guidance Department collaborated and provided students training in Life Skills.

Several students received local and state certificates and awards recognizing them in the areas of writing, science, geography, arts, home arts, music, band, football, basketball, and leadership. For several years, our visual arts students were recognized as County Fair Art Winners, including 1st Place in the Youth Craft Division, 2nd Place Youth Craft Division and 3rd Place Youth Art Division. Also, students won the District's Teepee Contest and received a monetary reward. Howard's students dominated the middle level division of the Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five's Spelling Bee competition. Howard's Spelling Bee winners included 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd place. Our Girl's Track Team won the district track meet. Also, we had some students who qualified for Orangeburg Summer Consortium for the Arts in the areas of drama, dance, and instrumental performance. In addition, the band earned superior performance during regional auditions.

As we continuously strive to make sure that all of our children meet state standards, we will consistently: adjust classroom instruction to meet the needs of all diverse learners; raise the level of involvement of parents in the education of their children; encourage our students to always strive to do their best; provide on-going professional development for all teachers; and continuously assess student progress with mastery of standards as an end result to ensure that all students are academically successful. We would like to thank all of our parents, faculty and staff, community, and stakeholders for their support as we progress toward our goals. Without your assistance, our continued progress would not be possible.

Rena Bowman, Principal

Dr. Bettie W. Hicks, Ed.D, School Improvement Council Chairperson

