

# Gettys Middle School & School Improvement Council 2012-2013 Report to the Parents

Dear Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in a very successful year as the 2012-13 school year comes to a close. During 2012-13, "Gettys Greatness" was seen in our academic and exploratory classes, in our student's character, our individual student and teacher accomplishments and in athletics.

Our 2012 SC Annual School Report Card's absolute index rating of "Good" from our student's achievement on the PASS test was the highest that our school has achieved in the past ten years. Also, 2013 was the second consecutive year our school achieved the SC Palmetto Silver Award for consistently high student achievement. This is a significant achievement for our students and staff. The absolute index was higher than 71% of all middle schools in South Carolina. Our teams of dedicated teachers and staff members have made tremendous contributions towards this success. Looking at national data, our MAP scores exceeded the national averages on MAP testing in all grade levels and all subjects tested. Our rigorous curriculum contributed to our student's success on high school course exams as we achieved a 99% pass rate on Algebra One and English One End of Course Exams.

Successful middle schools create positive relations with their students, families, parents, and community. We received our third national award, the 2012 Promising Practices Award, for promoting character development. Also, our survey data from the 2012 Report Card reveals our accomplishments in the area of school climate: 81% of our teachers and 81% of parents are satisfied with the learning environment. Parents were invited to our Meet the Staff night, Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night, Fine Arts performances as well as Veteran's Day and Black History Month programs. This produced positive survey data that showed 76% of teachers, 80% of students, and 76% of parents are satisfied with school-home relations. GMS supported our community with various fundraisers for charitable organizations such as Safe Harbor, Relay For Life, Cystic Fibrosis, Shriners Hospital, United Christian Ministries, Operation Christmas Child, and several others. We continued the Stop Bullying Now program to enhance student safety, which produced the 2013 Safe Kids of the Upstate Award. Our mentoring program, "Breaker Buddies," has achieved outstanding results and record-setting volunteerism efforts. Three initiatives that support students that need academic assistance were: the Bridges to Success single-gender program, Skills Recovery Program that offers students a second chance on showing mastery of learning standards, and the exploratory classes of Math or English Strategies. Our dedicated PTO has provided tremendous support to our school in volunteer activities as well as fundraising projects. One example of this has been our PTO supported monthly luncheons that rewards students for great character. School pride at the "Home of the Breakers" was also evident as we celebrated successful sport seasons, highlighted by our girls' volleyball team that achieved a second place trophy in our region tournament. We had great results in our MathCounts, Geography Bee, Invention Convention, and Robotics academic competitions. A continuing area of focus for improvement is in the area of Math. We have 32.4% of our students scoring "Not Met" on the PASS examination while similar schools like us had only 25.4% of their students at this level. We reduced class size to provide more support for our students in this important subject to their future success.

The mission of Gettys Middle School is to develop confident, responsible, competent, and considerate individuals by providing challenging and varied educational opportunities in a safe and inviting environment where success, life-long learning, and tolerance of others are supported by parents, school, and community. Together we are accomplishing our mission and I thank you for your efforts in "Making Gettys Great."

Sincerely,

*Michael Cory, Principal*

*Twon Austin, SIC President*