

Gettys Middle School & School Improvement Council 2011-2012 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 2011-12 school year comes to a close. During 2011-12, "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 2011 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 nine years. Also, 2012 was the first year our school achieved the SC Palmetto Silver Award for consistent growth over three years. This is a significant achievement for our students and staff. The absolute index was the second highest of all the middle schools in the School District of Pickens County for the fourth year in a row. Also, our absolute rating is higher than 73% 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 100% on English One End of Course Exams.

Successful middle schools create positive relations with their students, families, parents, and community. We received our first national award, the 2011 Promising Practices Award, for promoting character development. Also, our survey data from the 2011 Report Card reveals our accomplishments in the area of school climate: 96% of our teachers and 85% of parents are satisfied with the learning environment. Parents were invited to our Meet the Staff night, Rising 6th Grade Parent Night, Fine Arts performances as well as Veteran's Day and Black History Month programs. This produced positive survey data that showed 90% of teachers, 83% of students, and 81% of parents are satisfied with school-home relations. GMS supported our community with various fundraisers for charitable organizations such as Pennies to Prevent Child Abuse, 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 2012 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, the LOL "Lots of Learning" program that focuses on tutoring and study skills, 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 girl's basketball team's most successful season in nine years. We had great results in our MathCounts, Geography Bee, Invention Convention, and Robotics academic competitions.

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