

# Gettys Middle School & School Improvement Council 2017-2018 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 2017-18 school year comes to a close. During 2017-18, "Gettys Greatness" was seen in our academic and exploratory classes, in our student's character, our individual student and teacher accomplishments and in athletics.

World class skills begins with world class teachers. Our teachers proven results are directly related to the high expectations they set for our students academically. Our teachers are engaging students with more project-based learning and increased problem solving. Innovative programs are the focus of our STEM initiatives. Our school received national recognition for our commitment to empowering students by being named a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for STEM and career learning. Gettys Middle is one of just 110 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor and just one school out of five in the state of South Carolina. We had more than 50 percent of the student body participating in STEM classes such as Medical Detectives and Design and Modeling. Also, 27% of our eighth graders will transition to the high school with completion of two or more PLTW STEM classes. Students used their creativity and innovation in our technology infused 1:1 device program, glider design challenge, rocket launches, and numerous service projects.

Collaboration and teamwork activities are incorporated into all classes and beyond the school day with our focus on programs that occur after school, including our Gettys University after-school program. Our Gateway to Technology classes and Robotics Clubs led a team of students that were one of the top Vex Robotics middle school teams in the state and a top 40 finish at the World Championship. Collaboration is also evident in our outstanding Arts programs. Over 70% of our students choose to be in our Arts programs, which have produced award winning programs and a STEAM focus for our school. Programs offered to help our students become college and career ready also include courses for high school credit such as English I, Algebra I, Google Basics, Financial Literacy and Multimedia Basics. We offered virtual classes in foreign languages and computer sciences to offer a global perspective and more choice for our students. Athletically, all of our athletes showed teamwork and our Girls Basketball team celebrated a region and tournament championship.

Our school and community are dedicated to developing our student's world class skills. Our school offers a 1:1 device program for all students to incorporate digital learning. Additional partnerships with Pickens County Career and Technology Center through our Junior Apprenticeship Program, Majesty Nursing Home service hours with our academic honor clubs, and Tri-County Technical College's career showcase all expose our students to real world applications of their learning. Communication skills were enhanced by our media center club's student-produced book review news show as well as student's leadership in our Veterans Day and Black History Month programs that celebrate our citizenship and diversity.

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*

*Shannon Yousey, SIC President*