



2024-2025 Annual Report to Parents

Gettys Middle School

Working Together for Student Success

At Gettys Middle School, we believe that strong schools are built through meaningful partnerships among families, educators, and the broader community. Our School Improvement Council (SIC) plays a vital role in bringing these groups together to support student achievement and create a positive, inclusive school culture.

Throughout the 2024–2025 school year, our SIC has worked closely with school leadership to identify key areas of focus, including **family engagement, academic support, and campus improvement**. One of our major goals this year has been to strengthen the connection between home and school. With support from the **Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC)**, we have developed strategies and tools to make it easier for families to get involved and stay informed.

Highlights of this year's work include our **Spring Open House and Test Prep Pep Rally**, which welcomed families into the building and celebrated our students' hard work and readiness for state testing. We also introduced a new **volunteer program** to give families more opportunities to support teachers and school events, and we gathered teacher input through a schoolwide survey to ensure our efforts align with their needs.

This annual report provides a snapshot of the progress we've made and outlines the ways in which SIC members, school staff, and families are collaborating to support all learners. We are proud of what we've accomplished so far and look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an essential part of the Gettys Middle School community. Together, we are helping our students grow, achieve, and succeed.

School Improvement Council Members

Jacob Nelson, Principal

Danny Hall, Assistant Principal

Deborah Anderson, Teacher

Jennifer Ohlrogge, Teacher

Kayla Arciniegas, Teacher

Taylor Gonzales, Teacher

Jamie Giles, Community Leader

Kellie King, Parent

Amanda Willoughby, Parent

Bianca Hanson, Parent

Kathryn Dean, Parent

Jennifer Barrington, Parent

John Campbell, Community Leader

Ashley Keating, Parent

Donna Usery, Parent

Danielle Serina, Parent

Artis Buffor, Community Leader

Rachel Slykhouse, Parent

Asha Prokop-Sobczak, Parent

Tiffany Swafford, Parent

Rachel Wallace, Parent



GMS Mission & Vision

Mission Statement

At Gettys, we RISE To greatness by engaging today to empower tomorrow.

Vision

One School, One Goal, One Gettys.

When compared with all SDPC middle schools, our students are tied for first highest in overall growth for Math. When looking at the percentage of our students who hit their stretch goal for math, our students are first among all SDPC middle schools by 7%!!



When compared with all SDPC middle schools, our students had the highest overall growth in reading by 17%! We also had the highest percentage of students to meet their stretch goal in reading compared to all SDPC middle schools. S

Our Year in Numbers

We have made significant progress on student's annual typical growth as well as their stretch growth.

Reading:

6th Grade: 107%

7th Grade: 194%

8th Grade: 189%

Math:

6th Grade: 80%

7th Grade: 67%

8th Grade: 208%

Explaining **Annual Typical Growth** and **Stretch Growth** in i-Ready diagnostic scores

Imagine you're climbing a mountain called "Learning Mountain."

At the start of the school year, your i-Ready score tells you how high up the mountain you are. Then, i-Ready gives you two goals for how far you should climb during the year:

1. **Typical Growth** is like your *normal climbing goal*. It's the amount of progress most students your age are expected to make in one school year. If you reach your typical growth by the end of the year, that means you're right on track!
2. **Stretch Growth** is like your *challenge goal*. It's a bigger climb! If you reach your stretch growth, it means you've grown even more than expected—like climbing extra high. That could help you catch up faster if you're behind, or zoom ahead if you're already doing well.

So, both are good—but stretch growth is like going above and beyond!

Our School Improvement Council (SIC) has continued to meet monthly throughout the 2024–2025 school year. We are proud of the dedication and collaboration of our teachers, staff, students, and families as we work together to support student success and school improvement.

This year, one of our SIC's primary goals has been to strengthen family engagement. We were excited to partner with the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) to explore strategies for increasing family participation in school events and decision-making. With CFEC's guidance, we launched initiatives to better connect with families and build a stronger sense of community.

One highlight of the year was our **Spring Open House**, which was designed not only to welcome families into the building but also to energize and prepare students for state testing. The event doubled as a **Test Prep Pep Rally**, complete with student performances, interactive booths, and opportunities for families to learn more about how to support their child's academic progress. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to build on its success in the future.

Our SIC continues to explore meaningful ways to support both teachers and students. We created volunteer flyers and applications this year to make it easier for families to get involved, and we surveyed teachers to better understand how SIC and parent volunteers can support classroom instruction and student needs.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our focus on improving the school environment and family engagement. We invite all parents and guardians to get involved, share feedback, and join us as we work to make Gettys Middle School an even better place for every student to thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to RISE to Greatness.



Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at:

R.H. Gettys Middle School

510 S. Pendleton Street

Easley, SC 29640

P: (864) 397-3900

F: (864) 855-1268