

Gettys Middle School & School Improvement Council 2013-2014 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 2013-14 school year comes to a close. During 2013-14, "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 2013 SC Annual School Report Card's absolute index rating of "Good" from our student's achievement on the PASS test was one of the highest that our school has achieved in the past ten years. 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 exams as we achieved a 99% pass rate on Algebra and English One EOC exams.

Successful middle schools create positive relations with their students, families, parents, and community. AdvancEd is an independent organization that reviews the school improvement efforts for accreditation purposes and they visited us this school year. After visiting with our classes they concluded that we have "exemplary programs" in our fine arts and at-risk initiatives. Also, our survey data from the 2013 Report Card reveals our accomplishments in the area of school climate: 91% of our teachers and 89% of parents are satisfied with the learning environment which is an increase of nearly 10% from the previous year. 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 87% of teachers, 80% of students, and 83% 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, Mary's House, 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 2014 Safe Kids of the Upstate Award. Our after school program, "Gettys University" has achieved outstanding results and is supporting at-risk students. Three additional 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 student's individual region honors. We had great results in our MathCounts, Geography Bee, History Bee, and Robotics academic competitions. A continuing area of focus for improvement is in the area of Math. We have 31.6% of our students scoring "Not Met" on the PASS examination while similar schools like us had only 26.3% 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