



Kelly Mill Middle School National AVID Demonstration Site 2016 Report to Parents

1141 Kelly Mill Rd. Blythewood, SC 29016 803-691-7210

Kelly Mill Middle School Improvement Council

Elected Members

DeAnna Chambers
Mark Cruise
Betsy Dew, Secretary
Selina Latimore
Denise Middleton
Spencer Miller
Aisha Moorer
Denean Rivers, Vice-Chair
Sharon Washington
Stephanie White, Chair

Appointed Members

Anthony Curtis
Brad Guster
Chuck Hill
Lorena Swetnam
D. Claire Thompson

Ex-officio Members

Monica Haddock
Mark Sims
James Westmoreland



Kelly Mill PTO

Board Members

Monica Haddock, President
Lindsey Bennett, Vice President
Hermania Harper, Secretary
Angela Williams, Treasurer

Annual Message from Mark Sims, Principal

and

Stephanie White, School Improvement Council Chair

As one of only two National AVID Demonstration Sites in SC, Kelly Mill is dedicated to getting students focused on college readiness and 21st century skills. Building on the district's belief of learning community, character, and joy our students are immersed in a highly engaged environment. Kelly Mill Middle strives to enhance the learning environment for all students by focusing on the district's and school beliefs. We are very proud of our students' accomplishments this year. Kelly Mill had 18 Junior Scholars, as well as award-winning music programs with superior ratings. We also have competitive teams for Math Counts, Step Team, and Quiz Whiz. Our parent and community volunteers play a major role in the success of our school. They have contributed hundreds of hours of their time, and are steadfast in helping make our organization more dynamic and effective. Our curriculum nights for science, literacy, math, and social studies were successful in bringing parents and community into the school. These events were largely organized and sponsored by our parent groups. The staff at Kelly Mill strives to provide our students with innovative, challenging work that helps them collaborate to solve problems.

The AVID Program accelerates student-

learning and encourages inquiry-based teaching methods. We engage in AVID instructional practices school wide to prepare our students for the college and 21st century careers.

We also use technology as an integral component of instruction. We offer one-to-one computing for all students. Each classroom has a Promethean Board, and all students have access to iPads, TI-Inspire calculators, and chrome books to give them the tools for success. Honors classes are available in all four core content areas: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, and we have a business and economics magnet school, Kelly Mill INC., which is a competitive program for the academically gifted student. Our Kelly Mill INC Magnet received the award of Magnet School of Excellence during the 2014-15 school year.

It is a goal of Kelly Mill to assist students by encouraging parents and community members to be partners in their education. This practice helps us expand our dialogue about what we can best do to improve student achievement. Through this dialogue we continue to be dedicated to ensuring all students have excellent teachers and staff that shape the Kelly Mill experience for our students. We know if we all focus and believe our students will excel and achieve.

Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

Kelly Mill, in partnership with its School Improvement Council has taken on the following tasks and strategies to continue our path to providing the best possible educational outcomes for our students.

- Analyzing data to make sure we are serving all students and prioritizing our efforts.
- Meet with teachers annually to discuss student performance on annual tests and other data.
- Assisting staff with using diagnostic software to analyze data.
- Utilize grade distribution and pass/fail rates to identify student that need assistance and teachers that need support.
- Design professional development to help teachers implement engaging tasks students will be motivated to complete.
- Design our master schedule and bell schedule to help meet the needs of all stakeholders.
- Increase AVID instructional strategies in classrooms across the school.
- Analyze and review the rigor for all students in each curriculum course.
- Analyze the achievement gap at Kelly Mill and discuss strategies to address it.
- Further develop and expand our mentoring programs to reach at-risk students.
- Provide time for general education teachers to collaborate with special education teachers.
- Implement reading strategies across the curriculum in all subject areas.
- Research and develop programs that encourage students to read.
- Increase writing in the content areas to require students to analyze and synthesize information.
- Provide leadership and growth opportunities for all faculty and staff.
- Promote all teachers and staff publicly through news, publications, etc.
- Enhance extracurricular opportunities that support both academic and individual interests of students.
- Continue to design celebrations that celebrate all student successes.
- Promote character development.
- Consistently reinforce procedures, guidelines, and expectations with all students.
- Promote a respectful environment and appreciation for diversity by holding a Diversity Day and continuing our PEACE program where general education students work with students with special needs.
- Increase vertical collaboration to help students transition from 5th to 6th and 8th to 9th grades.
- Establish a public relations committee to help make sure the public knows the great things that are happening at Kelly Mill.
- Maintain active and updated web site and marquees.
- Increase program offerings for parents (tech night, etc.)
- Increase participation in our annual curriculum nights.
- Allow parents to observe classes.
- Provide additional resources to transitioning military families.
- Explore opportunities to increase volunteerism and partnerships with businesses and other organizations.
- Review the strategic plan annually with stake holders.

Goals for 2015-2016

Engage students in rigorous, authentic learning experiences, within a student centered environment.

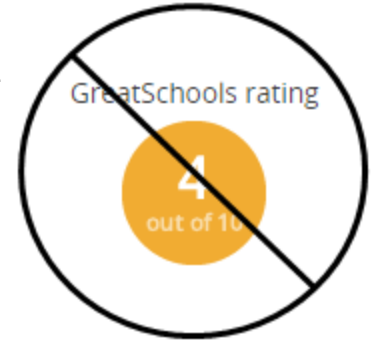
Create a positive learning environment for students at Kelly Mill Middle School.

Develop and retain a high-quality core of teachers and staff

Develop partnerships with stakeholders in the community

Kelly Mill is a Great School!

For many families and members of the community, the first look at Kelly Mill is a rating on the web site GreatSchools.org. Real estate listings provide potential buyers with school information and GreatSchools.org is one of the most used resources for this service. The problem for Kelly Mill is that GreatSchools.org's rating system paints an unfair depiction of Kelly Mill. Kelly Mill shares a campus with one of our elementary magnet schools, one specifically designed to help students that are performing below grade level. There are a little fewer than 100 students in grades 2-5 in that elementary program. Kelly Mill Middle serves over 900 students in grades 6-8. GreatSchools.org averages each grade level's performance equally. So by their calculation, fewer than 100 students that have been selected for a program for underperforming children are accounting for nearly half of the rating of a population that is over 1000 students. If GreatSchools.org properly weighted their formula, Kelly Mill would have higher GreatSchools.org rating. That being said, there is always room for improvement, and Kelly Mill is dedicated to helping students reach their highest potential. However, a four is a number that negatively portrays a population and institution that is meeting goals, engaging with the community, and garnering some truly wonderful achievements. Please help us spread the word that Kelly Mill is a Great School!



A BIG thank you to all of our parents, teachers, staff, business partners, and students that helped make this be a successful school year.



Kelly Mill Middle



We mean business!

Kelly Mill INC. is a district school within a school magnet program offering a unique middle school experience, engaging students with broader and deeper depth of content, fast pacing, and an embedded global business and economics strand. Through the incorporation of the business and economics theme, INC. students pursue an education designed to equip them

winning team was comprised of Alexia Pryor, Jordan Dover, Thomas Kane, and Brooklyn Christensen. They were supported by their coach, Nicole Smith, and the INC lead teacher, Pam Bruney. Kelly Mill, INC. was named a Magnet School of Excellence in 2015 by Magnet Schools of America (MSA), the national association for magnet and theme-based schools.



Magnet Schools of America established the National Merit Awards program to recognize the top magnet schools in the United States. Magnet School of Excellence Awards are the top merit award given to only a select group of magnet schools that have demonstrated the highest level of excellence in all facets of the merit award application.

with the skills necessary for leadership and success in their chosen career field in the face of mounting pressures of competition from around the world. Kelly Mill INC. students were recognized in February for winning the South Carolina Finance Challenge. Teams from the INC program have been back to back champions in the state-wide competition for three years. The first place

15-16 Accolades and Recognitions

Kelly Mill Chorus

Kelly Mill Honors Ensemble for receiving Straight Superiors, Superiorwith Distinction and a 97 on Sight-Reading

15—16 District Readers Challenge Competition Winners

Ashley Bickham, Jordan Blevins, Yazmine Latimore, Bernard McIlnay, Anika Nair, Ericka VanAlistine, and made up the 8th grade team. They dominated with their knowledge of details from the twenty books that make up the South Carolina Junior Book Awards list from SCASL this year.

Region II Science Fair Award Winners

Connor Jackson - 1st Place - Chemistry Division

Swetha Sekhar—1st Place - Engineering Division

Xavier Johnson—2nd Place - Computer Science Division

Hayden Turner - 3rd Place - Earth and Space Science Division

Connor Knight—Honorable Mention - Chemistry Division; Top Ten Seventh Grade

Josie Gardiner—Top Three Seventh Grade Science Projects

Peyton Parker-Smith—Top Ten Sixth Grade Science Fair Projects

Alexia Pryor - Top Ten Seventh Grade Science Projects

Junior Scholars

18 8th grade students were recognized as SC Junior Scholars. Qualification is based on performance on the PSAT, SAT or ACT.

Donovan Burton
Byron Lattimore
Ashley Bickham
Jordan Blevins
Mikayla Brown
Joseph Buzhardt
Nathaniel Cotton
Miranda Dunkin
Jonothon Hinds
Adrienne Luedicke
Bernie McIlnay
Dawn Nguyen
Samantha Pitts
Kyle Sandoval
Swetha Sekhar
Gavin Taylor

Taleeyah Covington was accepted to and participated in The Serious Young Writers Workshop at Columbia College. Her short story, "The Flag of Truth" was published in *Exhaling the Word*.

Cynthia Schafer was a winner in the 2015/2016 SC Economics Poster Contest.

Lady Waves Soccer Team 11-1 season, District Co-Champion
Lady Waves Basketball Team 10-2 season. Invited to play in the Midlands Classic Basketball Tournament.

2015 –2016 Band Accolades

For the 10th consecutive year, the Kelly Mill Band Program has been awarded the prestigious **Outstanding Performance Award** given by the **South Carolina Band Directors Association**. This award is given to band programs that excel in all areas of band performance, both ensemble and individual.

Ensemble Performances/Accolades

The Kelly Mill Bands Winter Concert was given on December 10, 2015 and the Spring Concert on May 11, 2016. All four bands performed: 6th Grade Band, Advanced Band, Honor Band, and Jazz Band

The Kelly Mill Honor Band earned a **Superior Rating with Distinction**, the highest possible score, at the 2016 **SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment** on March 22, 2016. This is the 10th consecutive year the band has earned a Superior rating.

Additional Honor Band Performances

Veterans Day Assembly, KM

Pre-Assessment Concert, District Auditorium

The Kelly Mill Jazz Band earned a straight **Superior Rating** at the 2016 Charleston Music Festival on April 9, 2016.

Addition Jazz Band Performances

Black History Assembly, JKM

Northwestern Jazz Discovery Festival

Individual Performances/Accolades

13 8th grade students from the Kelly Mill Band program were selected to perform in the **Richland District Two Middle School Honor Band**

Ashley Bickham
Emily Carpenter
Miranda Dunkin
Eric Gill

Nyazia Holloway
Mizuki Kamibayshi
Ashlynn Smith
Dawn Nguyen

Ariana Ray
Charity Smith
DJ Tuff
Jeremy White

Michael Wright

11 students from the Kelly Mill Band program were selected as members for the **2016 SCBDA All-Region Band**.

Josie Gardiner, 7th
Andrew Juhn, 7th
Sam Randazzo, 7th
Ashley Bickham, 8th

Miranda Dunkin, 8th
Eric Gill, 8th
Nyazia Holloway, 8th
Dawn Nguyen, 8th

Ashlynn Smith, 8th
Charity Smith, 8th
Michael Wright, 8th

7th grader Daniel Brown was selected as a member of the **2016 SCBDA All-State Band**

8th grader Eric Gill was selected as outstanding middle school solos at the **2016 Discovery Jazz Festival**.

2015 –2016 Orchestra Accolades

Eric Gill (8th grade) and Swetha Sekhar (8th grade) were selected as members of the **SC 2016 All-State Orchestra**

4 students were selected as members of the **SC Midlands 2015 Region Orchestra**

6 orchestra students were accepted into the **Tri-District Arts Consortium** summer program

10 students will participate in the **Richland Two 8th Grade District Honors Orchestra** in May 2016

The 7th and 8th Grade Orchestras performed in the State Orchestra Performance Assessment in March. The 7th Grade earned an **Excellent** rating and the 8th Grade earned a rating of **Superior** (the highest rating possible).

Test Data by Grade Level and Subject

