



# Kelly Mill Middle School National AVID Demonstration Site 2015 Report to Parents

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

## Kelly Mill Middle School Improvement Council

### Elected Members

- Edward Burgess
- DeAnna Chambers
- Britt Haddock
- Selina Latimore
- Stephanie Lawrence, Chair
- Denise Middleton
- Spencer Miller
- Nicole Smith, Secretary
- Stephanie White, Vice-Chair
- Cheryl Wilson

### Appointed Members

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

### Ex-officio Members

- Kevin Donalson
- Wendi Griffith
- Lori Hotaling
- Mark Sims
- James Westmoreland



## Annual Message from Mark Sims, Principal and

### Stephanie Lawrence, 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. Building on the district's belief that all students can learn when immersed in a highly engaged environment, Kelly Mill Middle strives to enhance the learning environment for all students. We are very proud of our students' accomplishments this year. Kelly Mill had 30 Junior Scholars, as well as award-winning music programs. 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. Two events in particular, the Parent Technology Night, and the Color the Wave Run were successful in bringing parents and community into the school. These events were largely organized 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.

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 chromebooks 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.

It has been an ongoing goal to help students by making parents and community members partners in their education. This practice helps us expand our dialogue about what we can best do to improve student learning. 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.

**Kelly Mill PTO  
Board Members**  
Wendi Griffith Lori Hotaling  
Monica Haddock Dawn Cone  
Tamika Williams

In partnership with our community, Richland School District Two prepares all students for success by providing meaningful, challenging and engaging learning experiences.

## 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 2014-2015

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

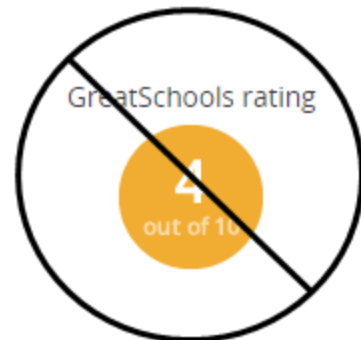
**Create a positive learning environment for students at Kelly Mill Middle School.**

**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 a GreatSchools.org rating of a 7 out of 10. A seven is a number to be improved, and Kelly Mill is dedicated to helping students reach their highest potentials. However, a four is a number that negatively portrays a population and institution that is doing some truly wonderful things. 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 School*



*We mean business!*

Kelly Mill Middle School is proud to announce that Kelly Mill, INC. has been named a Magnet School of Excellence 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

petition. The first place winning team was Ashley Bickham, Adrienne Luedicke, Caia Roberts-Jones, and Jocelynn Pagan. They were supported by their coach, David Walker, and the INC lead teacher, Pam Bruney.



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. INC. students pursue an education designed to equip them 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.

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.

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 com-

### **Kelly Mill Band Accolades**

For the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 11, 2014 and the Spring Concert on May 14, 2015. All four bands performed: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Advanced Band, Honor Band, and Jazz Band

The Kelly Mill Honor Band earned a **Superior** rating at the 2015 **SCBDA Concert Band Assessment** on March 26, 2015. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the band has earned a Superior rating.

#### **Individual Performances/Accolades**

13 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Kelly Mill Band program were selected to perform in the **Richland District Two Middle School Honor Band**. This group had the distinction of being a featured performer at the **South Carolina Music Educators In-Service Conference** in February 2015.

9 students from the Kelly Mill Band program were selected as members for the 2015 **SCBDA All-Region Band**.

8<sup>th</sup> grader Arin George was selected as a member of the 2015 **SCBDA All-State Band**

45 students from the Kelly Mill Band program have signed up to participate in the **SCBDA Solo & Ensemble Assessment** in May 2015.

### **Kelly Mill Chorus Successes**

District Honor Choir - 23 Kelly Mill Chorus Students were chosen for the Richland 2 Honor Choir, the most in Richland 2 for three years running

All State - 12 students were chosen for the Jr. High All State, only middle school in Richland 2 who was chosen

Star Music Festival - Silver Award

State Choral Festival - Straight Superiors, 4th Place in the Treble Division, 4th Place in the Mixed Choir Division

Three students chosen for Tri-Dac.

### **Kelly Mill Orchestra Achievements**

SC Midlands Region Orchestra:  
Swetha Sekhar, 7th grade, violin

Richland Two District Honors Orchestra:  
Claire Dupre, 8th Grade, viola  
Kimari Farr, 8th Grade, violin  
Joshua Franklin, 8th Grade, viola  
Caleena Greene, 8th Grade, viola  
Tanzania Hamilton, 8th Grade, cello  
Katie Murphy, 8th Grade, violin  
Zachary Reed, 8th Grade, bass  
Aeron Welch, 8th Grade, violin  
DeKira Wilson, 8th Grade, violin  
Lauryn Wilson, 8th Grade, viola

Tri-District Arts Consortium Summer Music Program:

Mikayla Brown, 7th Grade, viola  
Swetha Sekhar, 7th Grade, violin  
Caleena Greene, 8th Grade, viola  
Katie Murphy, 8th Grade, violin

SC Governor's School for the Arts Summer Music Program:

Caleena Greene, 8th grade, viola

SC Midlands Region Concert Festival:  
Kelly Mill 7th Grade Orchestra earned a rating of EXCELLENT  
Kelly Mill 8th Grade Orchestra earned a rating of EXCELLENT

# 2014 SCPASS Data by Grade Level and Subject

