

# School Improvement Council

## Report to Parents 2016-17

### OUR SCHOOL

Kennedy Middle School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

School Population – **893** students with a student attendance rate of 95 percent

### OUR PURPOSE

Kennedy Middle School educates all students to achieve at their highest levels.

### OUR DIRECTION

Students will apply the acquired knowledge and skills to become life-long learners who are productive citizens.

### OUR STARS

Teacher of the Year 2017:

**Ms. Stephanie Prandy** (social studies and STEM). She also is a candidate in the district's honor court.

First Year Teacher of the Year and Aiken County First Year Teacher of the Year for 2017:

**Ms. Katie Anderson** (math and science).

GEM (Giving Even More) Award Winner:  
**Mr. Johnny Williams** (custodian)

## By the numbers

### ACADEMICS

**73** students qualified as Duke TIP recipients. Among these, **39** were enrolled and **36** tested. **8** students qualified for state recognition, **7** students qualified for Academy for Summer Studies and **5** qualified for Center for Summer Studies.

**33** eighth-grade students were recognized as South Carolina Junior Scholars.

**82** students took the PSAT in the fall.

**100%** of eighth-graders participated in the PSAT 8/9.

**100%** of eighth-graders passed the Algebra 1 and English 1 End of Course exams (2016).

**20** minutes of structured reading time is held school-wide daily.

### GUIDANCE & CAREER COUNSELING

More than **39** local sponsors participated in Mini Courses to expose students to a range of topics from careers to hobbies in February 2017.

Classroom guidance sessions on student success, test-taking strategies, and study skills were conducted.

**100%** of eighth-graders completed Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs).

**100%** of sixth- and seventh-graders completed Individual Learning Plans (ILPs).

Sponsored the "Meet and Greet" for our rising sixth-graders and their parents.

Held Lunch and Learn sessions where community members share knowledge and experience with small groups of students.

### GRANTS

An **English/Read 180** teacher received two iPads through DonorsChoose.org.

A **math** teacher received classroom supplies including calculators, notebooks, crayons, etc. through DonorsChoose.org.

A **science** teacher received materials for the school's recycling program through the Department of Health and Environmental Control and a grant through SRNS for the gardening class.

The **band** and **music** teachers gained musical equipment via DonorsChoose.org.

A **Read 180** teacher won the Target Field Grant. She has received this grant for the past 7 years.

Three teachers have earned **SRNS grants** for robotics and STEM course work.

The **special education** teacher received \$1000 for fitness bands and \$350 for Project Unify.

### COMMUNITY matters

Kennedy Middle School is grateful for the numerous contributions of our community partners including Millbrook Baptist Church (landscaping, feeding our teams on game days, mentoring), our QuestZone coordinators and students (for our garden) and to the many volunteers who assist as science fair judges, Lunch and Learn leaders, PTO helpers and more. Our school is better because of our community.

### SCHOOL RENEWAL PLAN

Kennedy Middle School recently completed the Five-year School Renewal Plan for the 2013-2018 school years. The School Renewal Plan is a collaborative effort and involved faculty and staff, parents, community members, School Improvement Council, and PTO representatives. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Evaluate the school's adherence to the standards
- Review school test results for the purpose of implementing improvement strategies
- Provide high quality feedback with clear attainable goals and objectives

### The School Improvement Council

is an advisory council whose yearly mandate is to create goals closely aligned to the school's 5-year plan and to create an "Annual Report to Parents." The SIC meets at 4 p.m. second Mondays. Visitors are welcome.

### 2016-2017 SIC Members:

*Whitney Ray*, Teacher (Chairperson)  
*Teresa Mitchem*, Principal  
*Jamie Byrne*, Assistant Principal  
*Jennifer Cady*, Teacher  
*Blakely Burch*, Teacher  
*Theresa Tobin*, Community member  
*Monica Neumar*, Parent  
*Jason Hall*, Community member  
*Mary Frances Hendrix*, Parent

# Achievements

## KMS BAND

Our band program includes **188** students, consisting of beginning and intermediate musicians, who in one year performed:

**3** pep band performances,  
**7** concerts (winter concerts: 3 during school, 1 after), a holiday concert, a Veteran's Day concert, and a spring concert (including two field trips to local elementary schools)

**9** band students were selected for Region 2 Honor band

**17** made Aiken All County Band, and

**1** was picked for All-State band.

**42** students (**28** entries) competed in SCBDA Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**9** students participated in Aiken's Da Capo Band clinic.

- The Pep Band gave a joint performance with Schofield and Aiken middle schools at the Black History Month parade.
- The seventh/eighth grade honor band performed at the SCBDA performance assessment in March, then traveled to Florida to perform at the Orlandofest Music Festival and Stars Music Performance at Universal Studios.
- The Jazz Band gave three performances (Black History Month assembly, the KMS talent show, and the Middle School Open House Blitz).
- Students performed "open mic" style at two spirit nights at Chick-fil-A and Chipotle in the fall.
- Eighth grade band performed with South Aiken High School band at a SAHS football game in fall 2016.
- KMS students and parents participated in fundraisers between October 2016 and February 2017 to directly benefit music instruction at KMS.
- Still to come, a beginning band concert at the rising-sixth-grader assembly and student performances at the inaugural Aiken Fine Arts Day.



## KENNEDY ON STAGE

Kennedy on Stage consists of 32 eighth-graders who auditioned for placement in the performance troupe.

KOS participated in numerous fundraisers including Great American Cookie dough, Shoe Drive, Chick-fil-A calendar sales, and the KMS Talent Show, "Kennedy's Got Talent." The proceeds helped members of KOS attend the OrlandoFest Music Competition and the Stars Music Performance at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla.

This group also was invited to represent Aiken County when they performed in Hilton Head for the South Carolina Annual School Board Association.

## CLUBS

- **Beta Club** – with 360 members – participated in several service projects including "Be a Bunny," MS Walk, Secret Santa for children in the community, Yarn Collection for Red Cross/Knitting group, Epworth Children's Home (collecting dress socks and pantyhose), Ice Cream Social to welcome staff and faculty to KMS, a Valentine's "hug and kiss" for all of our KMS family, Operation Christmas Child, and a food drive for Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS). Beta Club also held a candy fundraiser to support activities throughout the year.
- **Art Club** students painted a background for the Veteran's Day assembly, winter concert, Black History Month assembly, the KMS talent show and the multicultural show.
- The **Serteen Club** was involved in a wide range of school and community service projects.
- **Science Club** collects recyclable materials.
- The **Lego League/Robotics Club** competed at the state competition.
- A teacher organized a March of Dimes fundraiser.
- One student advanced to the district spelling bee.
- The **Math Counts** team also competed.
- The **Buddy Club** is the largest in Aiken County with 74 members. The club sponsored the second annual district-wide middle school dance.



## ATHLETICS

- The girls' volleyball team celebrated a **19-0** record and were County and Conference champions.
- The boys' basketball team finished the season with a **12-4** record. They were runner-up County champions.
- The girls' basketball team finished the season with a **16-0** record and as County and Conference champions.
- The golf team finished the season with a **10-2** record. They placed second in the region. A student also won second place in the region tournament.
- The football team finished the season with a **5-2** record.

## OUR PTO

This year, the KMS Parent Teacher Organization:

- Provided KMS T-shirts for teachers for the first day of school
- Purchased 2 new picnic tables for the common area
- Purchased the Reading Counts reading incentive program and maintains the Reading Counts Store to allow students to redeem points
- Operates concession stand at football and basketball games
- Helps manage two book fairs
- Provided T-shirts for the Math Counts team
- Helped fund Lego League attendance at competition
- Spearheaded fund raising efforts to provide resources (technology, etc.)
- Sponsored events: open house, teacher appreciation (holiday lunch and gift cards, coffee club), costume winter dance; still to come: an Eighth-Grade-Only end-of-year celebration