

Bluffton Middle School
School Improvement Council
Report to the Parents
April 2018



Ms. Pat Freda, Principal
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BLUFFTON MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

VISION STATEMENT

We envision the Bluffton Middle School community working together to challenge every student to perform at an internationally competitive level in a learning environment that is safe, nurturing, and engaging.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bluffton Middle School seeks to promote a tradition of academic excellence through exploration and discovery, technology awareness, and rigorous student-centered learning. Teachers, as facilitators, inspire intellectual curiosity in an environment where students develop the ability to think, be responsible, respectful, and honest to achieve their role as effective citizens in our global society.

CORE BELIEFS

The vision and mission of Bluffton Middle School makes it imperative to implement the following objectives:

1. To provide a safe environment.
2. To provide academic excellence by incorporating researched-based effective practices and rigorous programs.
3. Through high expectations, develop in each student the ability to think, be responsible, respectful, and honest in order to positively impact academic achievement.
4. To encourage stewardship of the environment.
5. To stimulate each student's creativity and problem solving ability.
6. To encourage students to respect the attitudes, values, and culture of others as well as their own.
7. To provide students with experiences that promotes meaningful relationships, and the development of social problem-solving skills.
8. To develop a positive self-image and self-efficacy in students by providing them with individual acceptance, encouragement, and recognition when appropriate.

SCHOOL RENEWAL PLAN GOALS

GOAL 1: Purpose and Direction: Bluffton Middle School maintains and communicates a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commits to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

GOAL 2: Governance and Leadership: Bluffton Middle School operates under governance and leadership that promotes and supports student performance and system effectiveness.

GOAL 3: Teaching and Assessing for Student Learning: Bluffton Middle School's curriculum, instructional design and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

GOAL 4: Resources and Support Systems: Bluffton Middle School has resources and provides services that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

GOAL 5: Documenting & Using Results for Continuous Improvement: Bluffton Middle School implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

THE MUSTANG PATH

The Mustang PATH provides a model for proper behavior that is based on the BLMS mascot, the Mustang. The Mustang Path includes four core behaviors essential to a student's development as a citizen. The four aspects of the Mustang Path are the following:

ResPonsibility
Academic Excellence
Respect
Honesty

OUR PLEDGE AGAINST BULLYING

The S.A.B.E. PLEDGE (STUDENTS AGAINST BULLYING EVERYWHERE)

As a commitment to having a safe school community, students and parents are asked to sign the Students Against Bullying Everywhere (SABE) pledge. As a school bonded together we work toward making our school environment "bully resistant" for all. Our pledge:

I pledge to help end bullying everywhere. I pledge to ask for help if I am ever faced with a situation where I feel taken advantage of or bullied. I pledge not to be a bully at home, at school, or in the community. I also pledge that if I see any type of bullying I will report it and/or try to help the people that are involved. I have read the pledge and understand it. This is my personal commitment to making my school and community a safe place.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS (PBIS)

PBIS is an approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions. The approach enhances academic and social behavior for all students. PBIS is not a packaged curriculum or scripted intervention. PBIS is a prevention-oriented way for school personnel to (a) organize evidence-based practices, (b) improve their implementation of those practices, and (c) maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. At BLMS, effective classroom management and preventive school-wide discipline are essential for supporting teaching and learning. PBIS emphasizes that effective classroom management and school-wide discipline must be integrated and working together with effective academic instruction in a positive and safe school climate to maximize success for all students.

STEM CERTIFICATION

Bluffton Middle School is the eighth district school to earn a prestigious certification in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics instruction. STEM Certification is earned through AdvancED, a non-profit organization that provides on-site external reviews of PreK-12 schools and school systems around the world. AdvancED touts its STEM Certification as “the first internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs, signaling the growing emphasis placed on STEM education by educators, politicians and business leaders around the world.” AdvancED requires schools to meet its STEM Certification standards as reflected by their performance across 11 rigorous indicators. The process is supported by research-based tools and resources, and AdvancED indicates that high evaluation scores mean our students are equipped and trained to be innovative, creative and systematic problem-solvers across disciplines. The review team visiting Bluffton Middle School praised the multiple and frequent opportunities that students are afforded to self-direct their learning. BLMS has a wide range of technical resources used for research, critical thinking, communications, creativity and collaborative teamwork.

Building Enrollment & Capacity					
Capacity		2017-2018 Enrollment		% Capacity Usage	
1034		772		75%	
2017-2018 Demographics					
% White	% Hispanic or Latino	% Black or African American	% Asian	% Other	% Subsidized Meals
32.5%	48%	14%	.6%	3.2%	62.2%

REPORT CARD RATING

Bluffton Middle School's 2015 ESEA accountability rating was a grade of B indicated performance exceeded the state's expectations. Our School Report Card reflected an absolute rating of Good which has remained the same since 2015 based on state law. Schools will be rated for state accountability purposes in the fall of 2018.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA

BLMS students scored above district averages in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades on the SC Ready Reading assessment in the % Approaches/Meets/Exceeds category. Students also scored above the district averages in 6th and 8th grades on the SC Ready Math assessment in the % Approaches/Meets/Exceeds category. On the SC PASS Science assessment 8th graders exceeded the district average by 2.2 percentage points and 6th graders exceeded the district average by 5.4 percentage points on the SC PASS Social Studies assessment.

SC Ready – Reading		
% Approaches/Meets/Exceeds		
2016-2017	District	BLMS
Grade 6	71.6%	72.4%
Grade 7	67.7%	68.7%
Grade 8	71.3%	72.9%

SC Ready – Math		
% Approaches/Meets/Exceeds		
2016-2017	District	BLMS
Grade 6	76.3%	78.0%
Grade 7	71.6%	69.7%
Grade 8	71.0%	72.6%

SC PASS – Science		
% Approaches/Meets/Exceeds		
2016-2017	District	BLMS
Grade 6	68.9%	67.2%
Grade 7	68.0%	64.2%
Grade 8	72.7%	74.9%

SC PASS – Social Studies		
% Met and Above		
2016-2017	District	BLMS
Grade 6	75.0%	80.4%
Grade 7	58.3%	54.3%
Grade 8	63.9%	63.1%

For more information, please visit our website at blms.beaufortschools.net or contact our main office at 843-707-0700.

SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

62 Duke Tip Student Candidates	Hour of Code	Read 180
Advanced Studies Program	IXL/Algebra Nation	Rising 6 th Grade Transition Orientation
After School Tutoring Program	Kayaking Trip	River of Words
Art Center of Coastal Carolina VSA Art	JROTC	Robotics Club
Art Club	Letters & Donations to Parkland, FL students	Rubrics Cube Club
Athletics Teams	Like us on Facebook	Safety/Security Trainings
6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade Awards Ceremonies	Live Morning News Show	School Volunteers
Back Pack Buddies Fundraiser	March Madness Book Battle	Scholastic Book Fair
Before School Care	Math Assist	School Garden
Black History Month Trivia Competition	Mustang of the Month	School Store
Bus Driver Breakfast	Mustang Camp	Second Breakfast Food Carts
Career Day	Mustang Messenger Newsletter	Science Fair
Chess Club	Mustang Pantry	South Carolina Junior Scholar Banquet
Choice School Fair	Mustangs Run the Nation	Special Olympics
College Colors Day	National Geographic Bee	Sports Banquets Fall & Spring
Christmas Cards to Seniors from NJHS	National History Day Exhibit	STEAM Festival, Port Royal Sound Foundation
Dance Club	National Junior Honor Society	Student Council
Dell Device 1 to 1 Student Initiative	National Run at School Day	Summer Reading Program
District Student of the Month	Naviance	Summer School
ESOL Parent Nights	Night of the Arts	String & Band Performances
ESOL field trip to the movies	Organizational Support Groups	Summer ESOL Enrichment Program
ESOL Town Hall	Open House	Talent Show
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Outdoor Nature Trail "Mustang PATH"	Thanksgiving Luncheon and canned good drive
Follow us on Twitter	PATH time - RTI	Theatre Club
Fundraising for Hurricane victims	PBIS Incentive Days	Vaccination Clinic for students
Student Health Screening	Preventive Worksite Screening for staff	Vex Team Competitions
Heroes on Horseback	PTO Cookie Dough Fundraiser	The Art of Seeing Art
High School Credit Courses	"Purple Up Day" – Month of the Military Child	Yearbook

2017-2018 MUSTANG HIGHLIGHTS

- BLMS students meeting criteria submitted applications for the Bluffton Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The Induction Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 25.
- 1 to 1 Dell Device implementation for all students and teachers. Teachers and students continue to use devices as a tool to enhance learning in the classroom.
- 47 band students received an “Excellent” rating at the State Concert Performance Assessment and a “Superior” rating at the District Concert Performance Assessment
- 6 band students participated in District All-County Honors Band
- Band students will participate in Solo and Ensemble contests at the end of April.
- National Geographic Bee contestant qualified to compete at the state level in April.
- The school band will perform at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.
- BLMS Robotics competed at the SC VEX State Championship in Columbia, South Carolina.
- 5 Duke Tip Finalists who received State Recognition
- School garden planted together by our multi-aged science class and an 8th grade science class using grant funds.
- Approximately 100 students participated in the BLMS Science Fair. Of those students, 12 went on to compete in the Sea Island Regional Science with three students placing in their categories, including a 2nd place winner in the category of Botany, a 3rd place winner in Zoology and an Honorable Mention winner for Micro Biology.
- The BLMS Student Council sponsored service projects raising funds for Puerto Rico hurricane victims and sending school supplies to Poinciana Elementary School hurricane victims in Key West, Florida.
- 22 students contributed art and poetry in the district 2017 “River of Words” publication.
- 3 BLMS teacher recipients of a Palmetto Electric Cooperation Bright Ideas Grant.
- 200 BLMS student athletes participated in the 2nd year of BLMS Mustang sports teams
- 6th grade field trip to the Jacksonville Zoo and the ESOL field trip to the movie theatre.
- A band student auditioned and was chosen for the SCBDA Region 4 Clinic Band.
- The Band and Orchestra performed at the Town of Bluffton’s First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in December.
- 15 - 8th grade students qualified for SC Junior Scholars
- Student wrestler finished 3rd in the State Wrestling Championship.
- Vex Robotics team took 1st and 2nd place in the Lady’s Island Cold Metal Middle School Robot Rumble.
- 11 - 8th grade students attended the National History Day Regional Competition at Charleston Southern University.
- Vex team members qualified for the Palmetto State VEX (VRC) Middle School Competition & for the US Open Robotics Championship – VRC Middle School Division in Iowa.
- National School Public Relations Association winner in the publications category for the school website and the school ESOL presentation.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Minutes are published and posted on the school website under the SIC link. The 2017-2018 members are as follows:

Pat Freda	Principal	843-707-0776	pat.freda@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Kathy Toney	Chairperson	843-815-6500	kathytony82@yahoo.com
Jennifer Banks	Vice Chairperson	843-384-8418	willisbanks@aol.com
Erica Wynne	Secretary	843-757-8031	ekwynne@hargray.com
Donna Floyd	Teacher	843-707-0722	donna.floyd@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Gina Jacobs	Teacher	843-707-0795	gina.jacobs@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Brenda Hunt	Parent	843-441-3087	Brenda.hunt@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Claudia King	Parent	843-707-0704	Claudia.king@gmail.com
Nancy Klink	Community Member	843-681-8366	reknmk@hargray.com
Dr. Beth Bournias	Assistant Principal	843-707-0774	beth.bournias@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Steven Schidrich	Assistant Principal	843-707-0988	steven.schidrich@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Journey Henderson	Community Member	843-757-3472	journey@ccblyffton.org
David Johnson	Community Member	843-263-5928	windtreedave@hargray.com

Generally, our SIC needs to annually elect two parents to serve a two-year term. Elections for 2018-2019 SIC members will be in the fall of 2018.

**Congratulations
Bluffton Middle School Mustangs
for a great 8th year!**