

# Indian Land Middle

Warriors

## Our demographics

**School principal:** Christopher Thorpe      **Began at school:** 2013    **In district:** 1998    **In education:** 1998

**Grades served:** 6 – 8      **Enrollment:** 672      **Economic status:** 31% free & reduced lunch

**Diversity:** 75% White, 14% African-American, 8% Hispanic, 3% Other

**Number of teachers:** 41    **Classified:** 10    **Administrators:** 3    **Counselors:** 2    **Media specialist:** 1

**Other:** Nurse, School Psychologist, 8 Interventionists and Part-time Resource Officer

**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 52%    **Teacher attendance:** 95.6%      **Student attendance:** 97.5%

## Our mission

An innovative community inspiring excellence

## Our motto

“What Happens Here will Change the World.”

## Our facilities

**Date main building was built:** 1979      **Date of renovations:** 2008

**Square feet:** 165,000      **Number of computers:** 355      **Number of classrooms:** 39

**Specialty areas:** 1 science lab, 4 computer labs, 1 kindle fire lab, 3 chrome tablet labs, 4 mobile classrooms and a gym

## Programs unique to our school

- **Uniform Dress Code** – All students are required to adhere to a uniform dress code.
- **Extended Homeroom** – All students begin the school day with an extended homeroom period. During this time, students will participate in morning literacy to enhance reading and writing skills, develop and foster character traits and/or explore educational experiences not typically found in a common classroom.
- **Clubs** – All students participate in interest activities on a regular basis during the school day.
- **One Book/One School** – This nationally recognized program unites all students, faculty and staff as we read a common book title each year. Books are paid for via a grant program. The 2014-15 school year marks the sixth year for this program at ILMS.

## Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **All grades are eligible to participate on the Dance Team.**
- **The following middle school athletic programs are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students:** football, volleyball, basketball, tennis, cheerleading and wrestling.

- **Other** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are able to participate in any sport offered at ILHS that is not offered at ILMS. Sports include: cross-country, track, soccer, softball, baseball and golf. Students may also participate in swimming offered at Lancaster High School.
- **National Junior Honor Society** – This group is made up of students who exemplify the highest of standards in academic excellence. Students participate in community and school service programs.

### Our parents/parent support programs

- **Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)**
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)**
- **School Parent/ Community Member Volunteer Program**
- **Lunch Buddy Program**
- **Coffee with the Principal**
- **Parent Appreciation Morning**
- **Fall and Spring Athletic Recognition Programs**
- **SC Junior Scholars Program**
- **Upcoming Events Calendar/Newsletter**
- **Connect Ed Automated information Call/E-mail Communication**
- **Service Learning**
- **Back-to-School Programs**
- **Meet in the Middle Transition Program for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders**
- **Powerschool**
- **Parenting Seminars**
- **Character Development Programs (The school was named a State School of Character in 2013-14)**

### Our school strengths

**Diverse academic and enrichment programs** – Programs include visual and performing arts as well as academics. In addition to art, music, physical education, media, and computer, students also participate in a hands-on Science lab. In addition, students utilize our Classworks lab on a rotating basis to enhance learning in Language Arts and Mathematics. Pre-Honors classes and enrichment opportunities are available for students who excel academically or struggle academically. Every teacher offers free tutoring before or after school for students. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled throughout the year to foster strong communication between school and home.

**Social equity** – A major focus at ILMS is to provide opportunities that cater to the interests of all students. Every student participates in club activities during the school day that involves opportunities such as: dance, journalism, video gaming, fishing, intramurals, yearbook, history and many more!

**Structured organization** – All stakeholders (students, staff, and community) play an important role in the success of our school. Our student council, PTO, SIC, volunteers, community partnerships work together to support the mission and goals of our school. Our administrators meet with stakeholders regularly to share information about our school and to learn more about the needs/desires of the community.

**Communication and parent involvement** – ILMS encourages and seeks involvement from stakeholders in the school. Our PTO, guidance counselors, and community partnership coordinate works to match needs of the school with volunteers. Our goal is to create a climate that promotes learning through the family and community. To achieve this, we work to provide parents with opportunities to be involved. Several initiatives to promote connection and communication include regularly updated web pages by school personnel, a school calendar with important dates and information, weekly bulletins, weekly automated phone calls and e-mails and more.

**Small learning communities** – While our enrollment continues to grow, we feel it is vital to maintain small learning communities. Each grade level is divided into two teams, each boasting a unique team name. Teachers participate in grade level, team, and departmental meetings. Leadership team members and all new teachers also meet regularly. Teachers meet with administrators regularly to discuss ways in which instruction has been individualized in the classroom and to share facility and individual student concerns.

## Our honors & awards

- A-Rating for South Carolina Report Card
- A National Schools to Watch Award Recipient 2010, and re-designated in 2013
- Palmetto Gold Recipient, 2012 & 2013
- South Carolina School of Character; 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 14
- Palmetto Silver Award Winner; 2009 & 2010
- Palmetto Gold Award Winner; 2014
- Red Carpet School
- Promising Practices Character Award for the One Book, One School Literacy Initiative
- Promising Practices Character Award for Warrior Time Advisory Program
- Promising Practices Character Award for Think Big Club
- Promising Practices Character Award for You've Got Mail
- Promising Practices Character Award for Warrior Ambassador
- Promising Practices Character Award for Meet in the Middle – Focusing on Transitions
- 2012 District Spelling Bee Winner - Kaila Hayden (8th Grade)

## Partnerships

- Winthrop University Partner School

- Making Middle Grades Work, SREB
- S.C. Middle School Association