

# 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:** 999      **Economic status:** 34% free & reduced lunch

**Diversity:** 77% White, 12% African-American, 6% Hispanic, 5% Other

**Number of teachers:** 63      **Classified:** 10    **Administrators:** 4    **School Counselors:** 3    **Crisis Counselor:** 1

**Media specialist:** 1    **CDF:** 1

**Other:** Nurse, Instructional Facilitator, 8 Interventionists and Full-time Resource Officer

**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 52%    **Teacher attendance:** 97.5%      **Student attendance:** 95.8%

## 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, 2016

**Square feet:** 165,000

**Number of classrooms:** 57

**Specialty areas:** 2 science labs, 4 computer labs, 6 mobile classrooms and a gym, one-to-one technology

## Programs unique to our school

- **Uniform Dress Code** – All students are required to adhere to a uniform dress code.
- **Clubs** – All students participate in interest activities on a regular basis during the school day.
- **LightSail Reading Initiative** – dedicated daily reading for all students.
- **IXL Math** – a subsidiary online math program to improve learning via homework assignments, remediation exercises and accelerated reading.

## Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Dance Team** – all grades are eligible to participate
- **The following middle school athletic programs are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students:** football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, wrestling, softball
- **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, 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.
- **FCA** – Weekly meetings for Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- **Academic Challenge Team**
- **Beta Club**

### Our parents/parent support programs

- **Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)**
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)**
- **School Parent/ Community Member Volunteer Program**
- **Parent Appreciation Morning**
- **Fall and Spring Athletic Recognition Programs**
- **SC Junior Scholars Program**
- **Upcoming Events Calendar**
- **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> Graders**
- **Powerschool**
- **Character Development Programs**
- **IGP/Transition to High School Program**
- **School info app**
- **Parent Night Seminars**

### 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 and 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, monthly newsletters, 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 teams. 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 faculty and individual student concerns.

## Our honors & awards

- A National Schools to Watch Award Recipient 2010, Redesignation 2013, Redesignation II 2016 (applying for Redesignation III in 2018-19)
- Palmetto Gold Recipient 2012-16
- South Carolina School of Character 2008-11 and 2013-16
- Palmetto Silver Award Winner 2009 & 2010
- Promising Practice: Extending Learning & Empowering Students
- 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
- Academic Challenge State Champions 2013-14
- District Champions, Football 2014

- Numerous Awards for Band and Chorus Programs
- District Champions, Volleyball 2015; Conference Champions, Volleyball 2017
- State Champions, Wrestling 2016 and 2017

### Partnerships

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