

South Middle

Mustangs

Our demographics

School principal: Joyce Crimminger **Years at school:** 6 **In district:** 1979 **In education:** 1975
Grades served: 6 - 8 **Enrollment:** 594 **Economic status:** 76.9% free & reduced lunch
Diversity: 43% White, 46% African-American, 8% Hispanic, 1.78% Other
Number of teachers: 37.5 **Classified:** 13 **Administrators:** 3 **Counselors:** 2 **Media specialists:** 1
Other: Resource Officer, Nurse, Instructional Facilitator
Teachers with advanced degrees: 55.8% **Teacher attendance:** 96.1% **Student attendance:** 95.9%

Our mission

Preparing Students To Succeed In A Challenging World

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 1962 **Date of renovations:** 1993, 2006
Square feet: 85,609 **Number of computers:** 375 **Number of classrooms:** 59
Specialty areas: 5 computer labs and 1 graphics art lab

Programs unique to our school

- **Making Middle Grade Work:** The purpose of this initiative is to develop, implement, evaluate and refine a comprehensive, whole-school improvement effort that will help all middle grade students receive a high-quality, challenging and appropriate education which prepares them for success in college-preparatory level courses .
- **HorsePower:** Extended learning opportunities in all subjects are offered each morning for 30 minutes during HorsePower.
- **Mustang Mentors:** Every student is matched with an adult advisor (faculty and staff) through Mustang Mentors. The goal is to build positive relationships between and among faculty and students.
- **WSMS:** Students are kept up to date on events through WSMS, our school news program. WSMS airs through classroom television each morning during homebase.
- **Read-alouds:** Faculty and staff participate in school-wide read-alouds periodically throughout the year. Teachers also incorporate into their curriculum appropriate read-alouds for their topics of study.

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

Volleyball	Student Council	Art
Basketball	National Junior Honor Society	Band
Football	First Priority	Chorus
Baseball	Various clubs that meet monthly during	Consumer Science
Wrestling	the school day	Computer Science
Step Team		Pro Team
Cheerleading		Physical Education/Health

Our parents/parent support programs

- **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)** – Meets monthly with an administrator and teacher representative to discuss items of interest and concern. The PTO sponsors a early fundraiser.
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)** – Meets on a monthly basis to discuss school-related issues and concerns.
- **eChalk** – web-based site offering another means for keeping parents informed about class activities, assignments, and school events.
- **Night of Excellence** – At least twice a year, students showcase what they have learned to their parents.

Our school strengths

- **Career Development** – All students take career inventories and eighth grade students complete Individual Graduation Plans. Seventh and eighth graders participate in Job Shadowing Day.
- **Collaboration** – Collaboration of faculty through grade and content area teams.
- **Community Service Focus** - Our community service focus allows students to become familiar with many causes and encourages them to give of themselves and their time to make things better for others. We participate in Relay for Life, American Red Cross, Hoops for Heart, Food for Hope, Angel Tree, Operation Christmas Child, and United Way.
- **Student-centered school:** South focuses all decisions around what is best for the students.
- **Focus on literacy:** All teachers demonstrate the importance of literacy by sharing read-alouds with students throughout the year. Students also have the opportunity to go on a field trip to Barnes and Noble when they complete 5 book talks on WSMS.

- **Technology** : Every teacher has access to a SMART Board and LCD projector. We also have wireless writing slates, document cameras, flip cameras, and digital cameras. South also has access to " Lucy," a dual-camera system that offers a 360-degree view of the classroom, which is provided as part of a partnership with Winthrop University's NetSCOPE program.
- **NetSCOPE Professional Development School:** South is a partner school with Winthrop University. Improving student academic achievement, strengthening the pre-baccalaureate education of teacher candidates, increasing new teacher support, and implementing ongoing, accessible school leadership programs are the goals of this partnership with Winthrop University.
- **Teacher Book Studies** – Each year every teacher participates in a book study. Poverty With the Brain in Mind by Eric Jensen is the focus for this school year. Students and teachers will also read at least two Bluford series novels centering around bullying.
- **Silent Reading** – Students begin each morning in homeroom with silent reading. Students have the option of choosing their own book or reading a teacher selected book.
- **TMD Field Trips** – Our two TMD classes go bowling at least twice a month. At the end of the year, they compete in the Special Olympics bowling tournament as well as the Special Olympics in Rock Hill.
- **Counseling** – Our guidance counselors meet the needs of our students through small groups and individual counseling.
- **Winthrop Faculty in Residence** – Dr. Kelly Costner coordinates professional development workshops for our staff as well as mentoring pre-service and first-year teachers.
- **Mentors** – Sixteen faculty members have completed teacher mentoring training.

Our honors & awards

- **Mini Service Grants**
- **J. Marion Sims Grants**
- **9 Junior Scholars**
- **District Lt. Governor’s Writing Essay Winner, 2006, 2007, 2009**
- **VFW Essay winner, 2006**
- **SACS Accreditation**
- **3 Middle School Celebrate Great Teaching Award Winners**
- **2010-2011 LCSD Teacher of the Year**
- **2 National Board certified teacher and 4 seeking certification**
- **Red Carpet School**
- **2011 8th grade band earned a Superior rating at the SCBDA Concert Festival**
- **2010-2011 Lancaster County Youth Art Show Best of the Show winner**
- **NetSCOPE Professional Development School**