

# South Middle

*Mustangs*

## Our demographics

**School principal:** David Sweem    **Began at school:** 2019    **In district:** 2001    **In education:** 1994

**Grades served:** 6 - 8    **Enrollment:** 628    **Economic status:** 71.5% free & reduced lunch

**Diversity:** 31.84% White, 48.09% African-American, 16.08% Hispanic, 3.9%, Other

**Number of teachers:** 44    **Classified:** 13    **Administrators:** 3    **Counselors:** 2    **Media specialist:** 1

**Other:** Nurse, Technology Coach

**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 58.5%    **Teacher attendance:** 94%    **Student attendance:** 96.2%

## Our mission

Preparing Students To Succeed

## Our facilities

**Date main building was built:** 1962    **Dates of renovations:** 1993, 2006, 2012

**Square feet:** 85,609    **Number of computers:** 375    **Number of classrooms:** 59

**Specialty areas:** 5 computer labs, 1 iPad lab

## Programs unique to our school

- **National Schools to Watch** and **SC Schools to Watch**
- **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 for 30 minutes three times each nine weeks.
- **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.
- **Clubs:** Each month, students are given the opportunity to broaden their horizons through a self-selected club. Clubs vary from athletic-based to arts and crafts.
- **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.

- **Pro Team:** Pro Team encourages students to become aware of the skills needed to complete collect and consider education as a viable career option.
- **Winthrop NetSCOPE PDS:** South Middle partners with Winthrop University to host student interns throughout the school year.
- **Microburst Learning:** This program cultivates students' soft skills.

### Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

Volleyball	Student Council	Art
Basketball	National Junior Honor Society	Band
Football	First Priority	Chorus
Baseball	Softball	Soccer
Physical Education	Various clubs meet monthly during	Consumer Science
Wrestling	school day	Computer Science
Track	Cheerleading	Beta Club

### 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 an early fundraiser.
- **School Improvement Council (SIC)** – Meets on a monthly basis to discuss school-related issues and concerns.
- **Goggle** – Web-based site offering another means for keeping parents informed about class activities, assignments, and school events.
- **Family Fun Night** – Title I family nights twice a year.
- **Transition programs** – For rising sixth and ninth graders
- **ESOL transition programs** – For rising sixth and ninth graders

### Our school strengths

- **Career Development** – All students take career inventories and eighth grade students complete Individual Graduation Plans. Sixth, 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 and Food for HOPE.
- **Student-centered school** – South focuses all decisions around what is best for students.

- **Focus on literacy** – All teachers demonstrate the importance of literacy by sharing read-alouds with students throughout the year. Thirty minutes is dedicated each morning to literacy through various activities.
- **Technology** – South Middle is a One to One Computing School, which allows every student in the building to have a Chromebook. Every teacher has access to a SMART Board and LCD projector. We also have wireless writing slates, document cameras, Go Pro cameras, digital cameras, 2 iPad labs, Smart tables, video cameras and Kindles. 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. *See Me After Class* will kick off our school year. Students and teachers will also read a Bluford series novel centering around bullying during the first week of school.
- **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 TMD class goes bowling throughout the year. 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 career lessons, small groups and individual counseling.
- **Mentors** – Twenty faculty members have completed teacher mentoring training.

## **Our honors & awards**

- **Mini Service Grants**
- **J. Marion Sims Grants**
- **1 Junior Scholar**
- **District Lt. Governor’s Writing Essay Winner, 2006, 2007, 2009**
- **VFW Essay winner, 2006**
- **AdvancED Accreditation**
- **3 National Board certified teachers**
- **2014 band performed at the S.C. Music Educators Association Convention**
- **2014 chorus performed at the S.C. Middle School Association**
- **2010-2011 Lancaster County Youth Art Show Best of the Show winner**
- **NetSCOPE Professional Development School**
- **2010-2011 LCSD Beginning Teacher of the Year**
- **2012-2013 LCSD Beginning Teacher of the Year**
- **2011-2012 LCSD Teacher of the Year**
- **2012-13 National Schools to Watch recipient**
- **2016 National Schools to Watch Re-Designation**
- **2012 Palmetto Silver recipient**