



League Academy of Communication Arts

125 Twin Lake Road
Greenville, SC 29609

Grades	6-8 Middle School	
Enrollment	785 Students	
Principal	Merry L. Cox	864-355-8100
Superintendent	Mr. Burke Royster	864-355-3100
Board Chair	Mr. Chuck Saylor	803-360-3527

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD



RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2013	Excellent	Good
2012	Excellent	Excellent
2011	Excellent	Excellent
2010	Good	Good
2009	Good	Average

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- At-Risk – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE VISION

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

<http://ed.sc.gov>
<http://www.eoc.sc.gov>

Percent of Student PASS Records Matched for Purpose of Computing Growth Rating

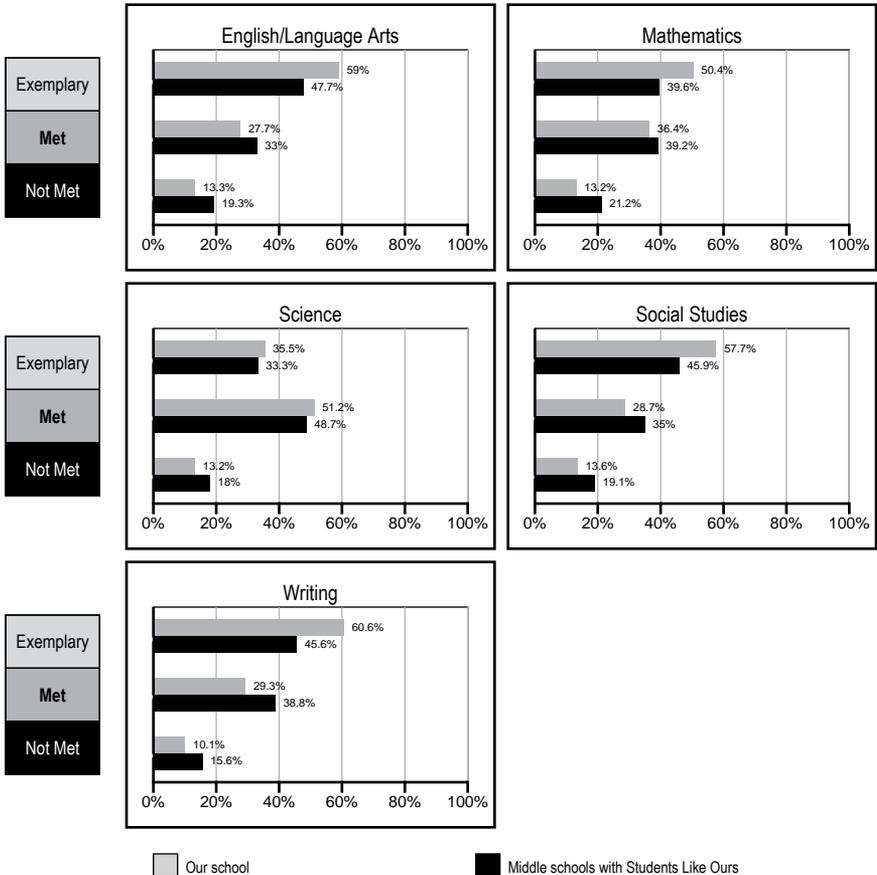
Percent of students tested in 2012-13 whose 2011-12 test scores were located | 96.3%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
14	5	3	0	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/14/2014.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)



* Middle schools with Students Like Ours are middle schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

Definition of Critical Terms

Exemplary	"Exemplary" means the student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
Met	"Met" means the student met the grade level standard.
Not Met	"Not Met" means that the student did not meet the grade level standard.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	100.0%	97.3%
English 1	100.0%	99.5%
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	100.0%	97.4%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=785)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	48.2%	Up from 40.7%	43.9%	24.6%
Retention rate	1.7%	Up from 0.8%	0.3%	0.6%
Attendance rate	96.8%	Down from 96.9%	96.6%	95.9%
Served by gifted and talented program	38.1%	N/A	31.3%	18.5%
With disabilities	9.5%	N/A	10.6%	13.0%
Older than usual for grade	2.4%	N/A	3.2%	4.8%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	1.3%	Up from 0.3%	0.7%	0.6%
Annual dropout rate	0.2%	Up from 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=48)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	62.5%	Up from 59.2%	67.2%	61.5%
Continuing contract teachers	85.4%	Down from 85.7%	81.3%	77.2%
Teachers returning from previous year	89.6%	Down from 92.0%	88.2%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	94.1%	Down from 95.6%	94.7%	94.9%
Average teacher salary*	\$47,648	Up 2.9%	\$49,556	\$47,313
Professional development days/teacher	11.7 days	Down from 11.8 days	8.9 days	10.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	12.0	Up from 11.0	3.5	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	24.8 to 1	Down from 25.8 to 1	24.9 to 1	22.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.5%	Down from 92.1%	90.5%	89.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	98.2%	Down from 100.0%	98.1%	99.0%
Character development program	Excellent	No Change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$6,413	Up 11.1%	\$6,523	\$7,239
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	63.0%	Up from 62.1%	64.5%	63.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	62.0%	Up from 61.5%	62.0%	61.0%

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 185 or more days.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

League Academy of Communication Arts was named a National "School to Watch" in March of 2011, and this prestigious award has launched us forward into even more possibilities. Our motto of "Hands on Today, Eyes on Tomorrow," and our mission statement of "Challenge – Create – Communicate!" truly describe our school in just a few words. League is an exciting place to teach and learn. League is a magnet school with a student body of almost 800 students, comprised of about two thirds home-based students and one third magnet students. Our poverty index is a little over 50%. Our diversity lies in many areas: ethnicity, socio-economics, educational experiences, and life experiences and opportunities, which makes League a melting pot of life experiences. It also creates a unique task for our teachers to work to move ALL students forward in their educational journey. We continue to work to raise the academic challenge and performance for each student at League and to provide a school environment supportive of learning, all the while striving to integrate a high quality arts program into our curriculum.

Our longitudinal PASS scores in ELA and MATH show a continued increase in the number of students meeting or exceeding standard. Our professional staff has qualified teachers and staff members, with 69% having advanced degrees and an average of 14.7 years of educational experience. We have increased involvement in our PTA and our School Improvement Council. The PTA and SIC members have worked together to secure a crossing guard and a new crosswalk for our students to ensure their safety as they enter and leave our campus. Through the SIC, the "Dr. Richard Maag Arts Integration Award" was given to a teacher for the use of exceptional arts integration practices.

As we worked through the National Schools to Watch school improvement process, we realized that League has a long history of "firsts," including the first middle school in GCS to win the "Palmetto's Finest Award" in 1981, the first middle school in GCS to win the "National Blue Ribbon Award" in 1982, the first GCS middle school to win the "Red Carpet Award" in 2005 and the first middle school in GCS to become a "School to Watch." What a history of excellence! We began the first middle school W.A.T.C.H. Dog program, designed to bring dads into the school. These things have not happened by accident. We train constantly using data to drive our instruction, using teachers' expertise and leadership in hiring staff members, using quality instructional strategies learned through Learning-Focused training and the use of Baldrige Quality tools and using technology and arts to push our staff and students forward. During the 13-14 school year, our students were recognized at the school, district, state and national level for their work in academic areas and in the arts. Our showcases in dance, drama, art, strings, band and choral work are truly extraordinary.

Our school portfolio is a dynamic school improvement plan that guides our work. Our mission, vision and goals are stated and are used to help raise student achievement. Please visit our website at <http://greenville.k12.sc.us/league> to learn more about League. "Challenge – Create – Communicate!" is what we will continue to do!

Merry L. Cox, Principal; John Kaup, SIC Chair

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	42	209	106
Percent satisfied with learning environment	90.5%	74.2%	91.5%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	97.6%	73.5%	86.9%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	87.8%	89.1%	81.1%

* Only students at the highest middle school grade level and their parents were included.

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ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In July 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This waiver allowed SC to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place and combine these subject area results with graduation rate (in high schools) to determine if each school met the target or made progress toward the target. This analysis results in a letter grade for the school rather than the pass/fail system of previous years. For a detailed review of the matrix for each school and districts that determined the letter grade, please use the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/data/esea/> or request this information from your child's district or school.

Overall Weighted Points Total	93.8
Overall Grade Conversion	A

Index Score	Grade	Description
90-100	A	Performance substantially exceeds the state's expectations.
80-89.9	B	Performance exceeds the state's expectations.
70-79.9	C	Performance meets the state's expectations.
60-69.9	D	Performance does not meet the state's expectations.
Less than 60	F	Performance is substantially below the state's expectations

Accountability Indicator for Title I Schools

League Academy of Communication Arts school has been designated as a:

- Title I Reward School for Performance - among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.
- Title I Reward School for Progress – one of the schools with substantial progress in student subgroups.
- Title I Focus School – one of the schools with the highest average performance gap between subgroups.
- Title I Priority School – one of the 5% lowest performing Title I schools.
- Title I School – does not qualify as Reward, Focus or Priority School.
- Non-Title I School – therefore the designations above are not applicable.

Teacher Quality and Student Attendance

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	1.8%	2.3%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.7%	4.9%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.3%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	96.8%	94.0%*	Yes

* Or greater than last year

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Performance By Group

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested
Grades 6-8						
All Students	674.8	670.8	646.9	663.2	100.0	99.9
Male	663.9	664.7	642.7	662.2	100.0	99.7
Female	683.3	675.4	650.2	664.0	100.0	100.0
White	685.8	681.2	658.3	674.5	100.0	100.0
African American	645.2	641.0	616.9	634.6	100.0	99.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	673.1	683.3	642.4	669.6	100.0	100.0
Hispanic	672.4	661.7	649.6	653.2	100.0	100.0
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	602.3	596.5	584.2	584.0	100.0	100.0
Limited English Proficient	651.9	657.4	641.7	644.6	100.0	100.0
Subsidized meals	651.6	646.7	626.6	637.6	100.0	99.7
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	628.0	628.0	628.0	628.0	95.0	95.0

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
English/Language Arts							
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	254	100	18.8	21.3	60	81.3
	7	247	100	16.1	30.5	53.4	83.9
	8	274	100	17.2	30.5	52.3	82.8
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	278	100	9.7	32	58.4	90.3
	7	249	100	11.7	29.7	58.6	88.3
	8	236	100	19.4	20.3	60.4	80.6
Mathematics							
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	254	100	19.2	32.9	47.9	80.8
	7	247	100	19.5	33.1	47.5	80.5
	8	274	100	19.8	42	38.2	80.2
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	278	99.6	11.5	37.5	50.9	88.5
	7	249	100	16.3	31.4	52.3	83.7
	8	236	100	11.7	40.5	47.7	88.3
Science							
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	126	98.4	19.3	53.8	26.9	80.7
	7	247	100	12.2	42.6	45.1	87.8
	8	138	100	13.6	39.4	47	86.4
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	139	100	11.2	58.2	30.6	88.8
	7	249	100	15.9	54	30.1	84.1
	8	119	100	9.9	36.9	53.2	90.1

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
Social Studies							
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	128	99.2	13.3	31.7	55	86.7
	7	247	100	14.3	27.8	57.8	85.7
	8	136	100	14.4	27.3	58.3	85.6
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	138	100	14.8	40.7	44.4	85.2
	7	249	100	13.4	23	63.6	86.6
	8	117	100	12.6	26.1	61.3	87.4
Writing							
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	273	100	16.5	24.9	58.6	83.5
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	275	99.6	10.8	33.6	55.6	89.2
	7	249	100	9.6	24.6	65.8	90.4
	8	235	98.7	8.6	29.7	61.7	91.4

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