SC Annual School Report Card Summary

WHALE BRANCH MIDDLE
Beaufort County
Grades: 5-8 **Enrollment: 329**
Principal: Mona Lise Dickson
Superintendent: Dr. Valerie Truesdale
Board Chair: Fred Washington

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

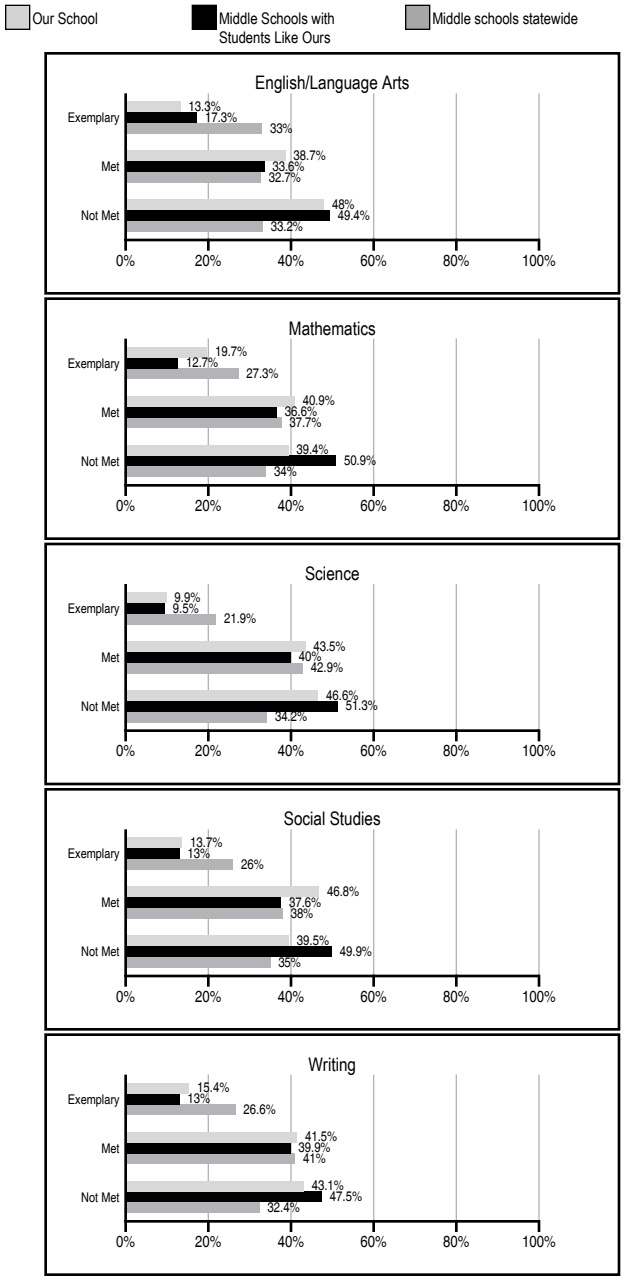
YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2010	Below Average	Average	TBD	TBD	Met	N/A
2009	Below Average	Average	N/A	N/A	Met	R-DELAY
2008	At-Risk	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	R

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	14	35	21

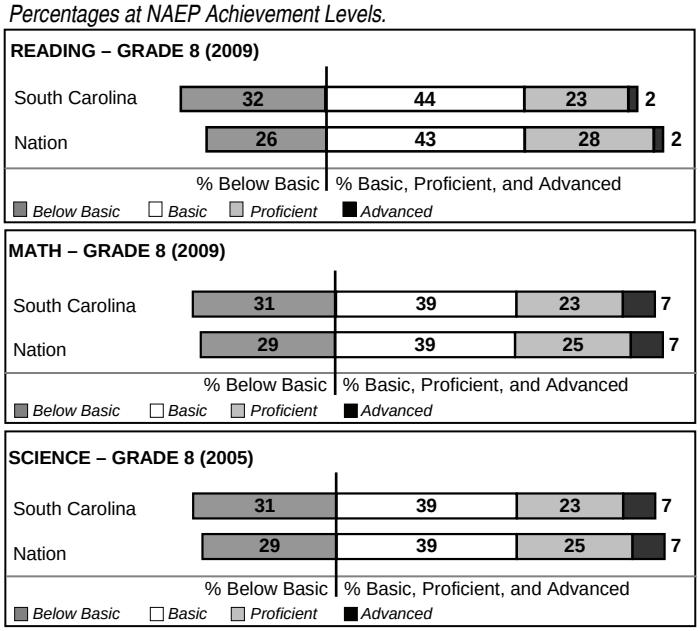
** Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/09/2011. Schools with Students Like Ours are Middle Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.*

PASS PERFORMANCE



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

** Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.*



END OF COURSE TESTS - 2010

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	100.0	89.1
English 1	N/A	87.6
Physical Science	N/A	42.1
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	100.0	87.7

SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:
By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 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.

Abbreviations Key
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NI Newly Identified **CSI** Continuing School Improvement **CA** Corrective Action **RP** Plan to Restructure **R** Restructure **DELAY** School Improvement Status **HOLD** School Improvement Status

WHALE BRANCH MIDDLE [Beaufort County]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=329)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	11.4%	No Change	13.7%	24.2%
Retention rate	0.3%	No Change	1.0%	0.7%
Attendance rate	98.8%	Up from 97.3%	95.4%	95.9%
Eligible for gifted and talented	8.3%	Down from 12.5%	6.9%	16.4%
With disabilities other than speech	9.8%	Down from 11.8%	14.5%	12.0%
Older than usual for grade	1.5%	Up from 1.3%	4.4%	2.2%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	2.4%	Down from 3.3%	0.3%	0.5%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=28)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	57.1%	Up from 39.3%	58.3%	58.5%
Continuing contract teachers	64.3%	No Change	65.9%	80.0%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	16.0%	Up from 13.0%	12.3%	4.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	69.8%	Up from 66.7%	78.0%	84.6%
Teacher attendance rate	97.6%	Up from 93.5%	95.7%	95.4%
Average teacher salary*	$52,939	Up 15.5%	$44,562	$46,561
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	19.7%	Up from 6.6%	4.8%	1.3%
Professional development days/teacher	22.7 days	Up from 16.8 days	10.4 days	10.2 days
School				
Principal's years at school	2.0	Up from 1.0	3.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	16.8 to 1	Up from 14.6 to 1	17.9 to 1	21.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	93.5%	Up from 87.3%	90.0%	90.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.0%	Down from 99.9%	97.4%	98.1%
Character development program	Excellent	Up from Good	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	$13,770	Up 12.5%	$10,026	$7,802
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	57.4%	Up from 55.9%	60.4%	63.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	49.8%	Up from 46.1%	55.9%	60.0%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%	No Change	88.2%	92.3%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	35	72	19
Percent satisfied with learning environment	88.6%	83.1%	73.7%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	91.4%	85.7%	73.7%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	70.6%	83.1%	73.7%

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

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REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Whale Branch Middle School completed its most successful school year in the history of the school. This year, the main highlight was that the school made Adequate Yearly Progress, making us the first middle/secondary school in Beaufort County to accomplish this great feat. The school was named a Red Carpet School, recognizing climate transformation of the school. Our 7th graders published their first book, entitled "Who Am I." Whale Branch Middle School completed its second year of the STEM Initiative geared towards the natural curiosity and creativity of children by using the natural resources of the campus. Whale Branch Middle School's Robotics Team came in second place in the regional competition held at Clemson University and 11th overall, the best in the team's history.

Teachers continued to inform their decisions about the students' strengths and challenges through using Measurement of Academic Progress. This data was used to increase student achievement and to ensure each student met their 1.5 years growth.

We put into practice the 16 Habits of the Mind training for staff and students to build high expectations and character for all stakeholders. Also, we implemented Stephen Peters' renowned Gentlemen's Club for our young men in order to teach the characteristics of being a gentleman. The young men met every Monday to discuss these traits and set goals and aspirations for the future. We also put into action the school's first Safety Patrol Program to build character and respect for the law.

Again, we were able to serve half our student population through the 21st Century After-School Program and assist with homework and build those Math and ELA skills for our students. Also, students were taught about nutrition, character, setting goals, and how to be champions of the environment.

Professional Development is always a key component in supporting teachers to increase student achievement. This year, Whale Branch Staff completed staff development in technology, MAP, TAP, Literacy, Math and Science, Habits of the Mind, Everyday Math, Reading Strategies, and ongoing curriculum trainings.

In our efforts to continue to build home and school relationships, Whale Branch Middle School Staff continued our Literacy Nights, Math and Science Night, STEM Showcases, and our Orca Related Arts Showcase. We put into service a Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) for special agencies, parents, and students. The PIRC room allows all of our stakeholders to receive and give information in a home-like setting. Other events included the Faith Leaders Luncheon, Parent to Parent trainings, and orientation for 4th graders.

The staff and students of Whale Branch Middle School continue to promote excellence in teaching and learning. As a community of learners, we understand the new challenges and seize every opportunity to attain success in every classroom. We know, The Best Is Yet to Come.

Mona Lise Dickson, Principal
Deeni Everly, SIC Chairperson

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