



Whale Branch Middle School

2009 Trask Parkway
Seabrook, South Carolina

Grades	5-8 Middle School	
Enrollment	364 Students	
Principal	Matthew David Hunt	843-466-3000
Superintendent	Dr. Valerie Truesdale	843-322-2300
Board Chair	Fred Washington	843-322-2356

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD



RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	Average	Average
2011	Average	Good
2010	Below Average	Average
2009	Below Average	Average
2008	At-Risk	Below 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 2011-12 whose 2010-11 test scores were located

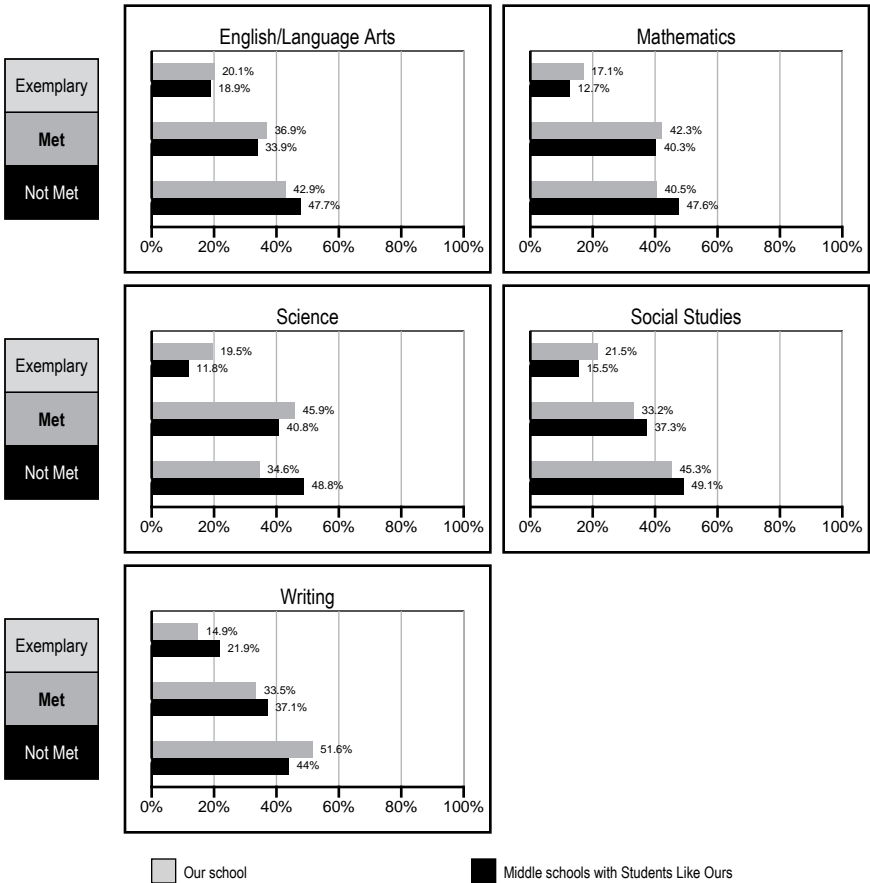
94.4%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
0	1	25	23	21

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/07/2012.

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	86.5%	87.9%
English 1	50.0%	76.6%
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	84.6%	85.7%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=364)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	53.3%	Up from 25.5%	15.0%	22.9%
Retention rate	0.8%	Up from 0.6%	1.2%	0.8%
Attendance rate	97.6%	Down from 97.9%	95.8%	96.2%
Served by gifted and talented program	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Older than usual for grade	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	9.6%	Up from 0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=31)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	61.3%	Up from 46.7%	59.3%	61.3%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	69.3%	Up from 66.9%	79.9%	86.7%
Teacher attendance rate	94.2%	Down from 95.8%	95.2%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$48,754	Down 0.3%	\$43,350	\$46,422
Professional development days/teacher	16.3 days	Down from 18.2 days	9.1 days	10.0 days
School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 3.0	2.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	21.9 to 1	Up from 17.5 to 1	19.0 to 1	22.0 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.3%	Down from 90.5%	89.6%	90.1%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.8%	Up from 99.4%	98.1%	98.8%
Character development program	Good	No Change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$12,701	Down 6.5%	\$9,384	\$7,245
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	54.7%	Down from 59.2%	58.6%	63.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	52.1%	Down from 53.0%	53.2%	60.9%

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

2011-2012 was a banner year at Whale Branch Middle School. Years of hard work and focus on teaching and learning paid off as our school became the recipient of two national awards: the prestigious Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) National Founder's Award, and the National School Change Award. WBMS was also recognized as a Palmetto Silver Award Winner at the state level for closing the achievement gap. Finally, our music program received a national grant for music instruments from the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation.

WBMS students completed another successful year of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) academy. Students had the opportunity to conduct field studies through experiences at Hunting Island State Park, Riverbanks Zoological Gardens, Spring Island Nature Preserve, and the South Carolina State House Museum. Engineering projects included the design and construction of terrariums, roller coasters, and catapults.

Our seventh grade students were given two additional grants this year that provided them with extended opportunities for educational advancement. The first is the opportunity to work with a graduation coach through a state initiative called GEAR-UP. This program provides the students with a full-time graduation coach who will be with them from seventh grade through graduation from high school. The aim of the program is to increase graduation rates and college enrollment. Through this program, students were able to participate in college fairs, have access to tutors, and visit college campuses.

The second opportunity that the students received is a grant called, It's Your Game, Keep It Real. This grant provides students with access to a comprehensive health education curriculum and funds to secure resources that promote healthy lifestyles and encourage healthy decision making.

Because we cannot do what we do alone, our efforts to build home/school relationships involved the following: Parent to Parent training, Gentlemen's Club, ORCA's Arts Showcase, Star Watch, Beaufort Marine Institute (BMI), Faith Leader's Luncheon, Mental Health Counselors, Family Literacy Night, Family Game Night, Parent/Community Liaison, STEM Showcase, School Fusion website, and School Messenger.

The staff, students, and parents of the Whale Branch Community will continue to promote excellence in teaching and learning. We will continue to provide our students with unique learning opportunities and to prepare them with the skills necessary to compete in the 21st Century.

Matthew David Hunt-Principal, Mary Rock-SIC Chair, Deeni Everly-PTO Chair

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	34	64	36
Percent satisfied with learning environment	97.1%	81.0%	88.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	82.8%	85.3%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	67.6%	76.6%	77.8%

* 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 2012, 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	69.5
Overall Grade Conversion	D

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

Whale Branch Middle School 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	6.9%	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	8.9%	5.1%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	5.9%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	97.6%	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 3-5						
All Students	624.4	620.9	606.3	606.3	100.0	100.0
Male	618.3	616.9	605.9	603.9	100.0	100.0
Female	630.2	624.7	607.0	607.8	100.0	100.0
White	652.0	646.0	645.2	608.3	100.0	100.0
African American	616.0	614.8	600.6	601.1	100.0	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	562.1	572.4	558.1	551.3	100.0	100.0
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	621.8	619.9	596.8	607.0	100.0	100.0
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	630.0	630.0	630.0	630.0	95.0	95.0
Grades 6-8						
All Students	625.4	630.8	625.9	616.6	100.0	100.0
Male	622.9	630.4	628.6	624.7	100.0	100.0
Female	628.3	631.3	623.0	605.9	100.0	100.0
White	651.5	654.1	660.9	637.2	100.0	100.0
African American	619.2	624.8	616.9	611.1	100.0	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	563.6	584.7	577.1	570.3	100.0	100.0
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	621.4	628.9	622.3	613.5	100.0	100.0
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	624.0	624.0	624.0	624.0	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							
2011	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	70	100	33.3	39.4	27.3	66.7
	6	93	100	48.3	41.4	10.3	51.7
	7	73	100	44.9	39.1	15.9	55.1
	8	90	100	39	50	11	61
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	99	100	46.2	39.6	14.3	53.8
	6	92	100	36.8	33.3	29.9	63.2
	7	96	100	43	36	20.9	57
	8	75	100	45.1	38	16.9	54.9
Mathematics							
2011	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	70	100	30.3	47	22.7	69.7
	6	93	100	39.1	50.6	10.3	60.9
	7	73	100	27.5	50.7	21.7	72.5
	8	90	100	41.5	45.1	13.4	58.5
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	99	100	45.1	40.7	14.3	54.9
	6	92	100	32.2	42.5	25.3	67.8
	7	96	100	39.5	43	17.4	60.5
	8	75	100	45.1	43.7	11.3	54.9
Science							
2011	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	34	100	35.5	58.1	6.5	64.5
	6	46	100	43.9	48.8	7.3	56.1
	7	73	100	31.9	50.7	17.4	68.1
	8	44	100	28.6	50	21.4	71.4
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	50	100	47.7	45.5	6.8	52.3
	6	45	100	44.2	41.9	14	55.8
	7	96	100	26.7	46.5	26.7	73.3
	8	36	100	24.2	48.5	27.3	75.8

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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							
2011	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	36	100	20	45.7	34.3	80
	6	47	100	34.8	54.3	10.9	65.2
	7	73	100	42	33.3	24.6	58
	8	46	100	50	32.5	17.5	50
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	49	98	51.1	31.9	17	48.9
	6	47	97.9	32.6	41.9	25.6	67.4
	7	96	100	38.4	34.9	26.7	61.6
	8	39	100	65.8	23.7	10.5	34.2
Writing							
2011	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	72	100	27.5	47.8	24.6	72.5
	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	90	98.9	40.5	50	9.5	59.5
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	96	96.9	58	33	9.1	42
	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	76	100	43.1	34.7	22.2	56.9

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