



Sandhills Middle School

582 Meadowfield Road
Gaston, SC 29053

Grades	7-8 Middle School	
Enrollment	449 Students	
Principal	Justin Nutter	803-926-1890
Superintendent	Linda G. Lavender, Ph.D.	803-568-1000
Board Chair	Jeff Hart, Jr.	803-568-2262

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD



RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	Average	Good
2011	Average	Average
2010	Average	Good
2009	Average	Average
2008	Below Average	At-Risk

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

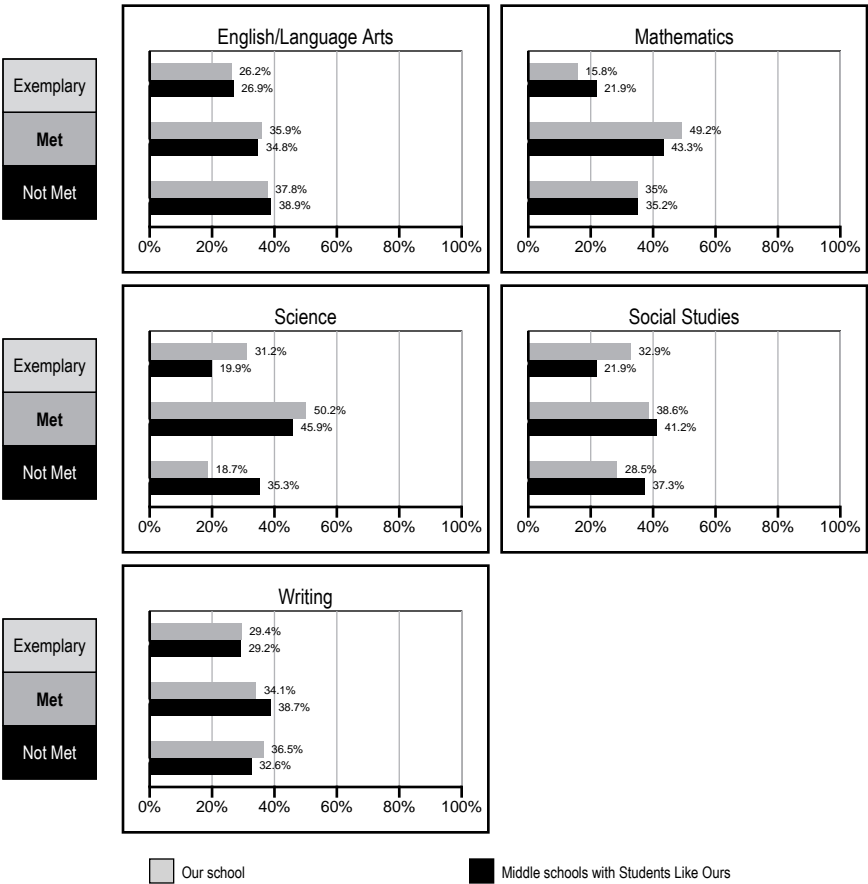
97.7%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
0	4	44	7	3

* 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	88.7%	95.5%
English 1	98.1%	91.6%
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	93.0%	95.5%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=449)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	26.7%	Up from 18.8%	19.6%	22.9%
Retention rate	0.0%	No Change	1.0%	0.8%
Attendance rate	94.2%	Down from 94.5%	95.9%	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	0.7%	Down from 1.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=31)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	58.1%	Up from 55.9%	60.7%	61.3%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	80.2%	Down from 82.9%	85.0%	86.7%
Teacher attendance rate	95.3%	Down from 96.8%	94.8%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$40,305	Up 1.0%	\$45,650	\$46,422
Professional development days/teacher	10.0 days	Up from 9.1 days	10.6 days	10.0 days
School				
Principal's years at school	5.0	Up from 4.0	5.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	27.0 to 1	Up from 23.2 to 1	22.4 to 1	22.0 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.9%	Down from 90.7%	89.2%	90.1%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.9%	Up from 99.4%	98.4%	98.8%
Character development program	Good	No Change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$6,762	Down 13.5%	\$7,398	\$7,245
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	57.0%	Down from 59.8%	62.5%	63.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	55.2%	Down from 55.7%	59.0%	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

Students, parents, faculty, and staff at Sandhills Middle School are proud to work together to create an exemplary learning community that embodies our mission of “being and creating lifelong learners in a safe and supportive environment.”

During 2011-12, our learning community focused on developing our skills in providing targeted differentiated instruction to our students. Through the utilization of effective formative assessment and tiered summative assessments, our team continued to grow in our ability to determine needs of each student. Our team completed a study of Leading and Managing a Differentiated Classroom by Carol Ann Tomlinson and worked collaboratively to implement new strategies including flexible grouping and anchor activities to enhance student engagement and the implementation of precision instruction for all students.

Our teachers worked with the entire Lexington Four instructional team in developing our ability to strategically use different phases of instruction throughout the learning progression. Our teachers participated in routine peer observations, video analysis, and peer coaching as we worked collaboratively to intentionally plan effective focus lessons that specifically explained content and modeled desired skills for students.

Throughout the year, each teacher continued to intentionally engage students in purposeful writing experiences within their own curriculum. Our team developed our understanding and utilization of the Common Core State Standards for literacy in the core and technical subjects to engage students in authentic composition at appropriate cognitive levels across all subject areas.

Our students continue to demonstrate their Tiger Pride through their performance inside and outside of the classroom! Once again SMS was recognized as a Palmetto Silver Award winner for student achievement on the PASS test. Our SMS Band and Jazz Band earned Superior ratings at state competitions, while our SMS Honor Choir earned an Excellent rating at the State Chorus Festival.

Our challenges for 2012-13 include continuing to develop our ability to plan and implement high quality instruction throughout the learning progression by purposefully using phases of instruction to challenge all students at high levels and provide targeted assistance. Through effective utilization of formative and summative data, we desire to differentiate assessments across the curriculum to effectively accommodate for student reading levels. Finally, in preparation for transition to the Common Core State Standards, we will continue our focus on the authentic and intentional utilization of critical literacy across the curriculum.

We appreciate the support of our parents and community members as we continue to establish a community where teachers, students, staff, parents, and community combine resources to provide whatever it takes to ensure every student's success.

Justin Nutter, Principal
Shannon Jones, Chair, School Improvement Council

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	29	182	75
Percent satisfied with learning environment	93.1%	76.5%	79.7%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.6%	79.7%	78.4%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	82.8%	86.8%	72.6%

* 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	82.9
Overall Grade Conversion	B

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

Sandhills 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	N/A	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.9%	5.1%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.9%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	94.2%	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	632.0	630.6	637.9	629.9	99.8	99.8
Male	624.7	629.5	637.2	630.6	100.0	100.0
Female	640.6	631.8	638.8	629.1	99.5	99.5
White	637.5	635.9	645.0	633.6	99.7	99.7
African American	617.7	617.2	621.6	616.4	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	592.4	599.0	593.4	593.1	100.0	100.0
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	624.5	625.7	632.2	623.0	99.7	99.7
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	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	230	100	45.1	28.8	26	54.9
	8	257	100	40.1	35.4	24.5	59.9
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	229	100	36.4	40.6	23	63.6
	8	217	99.5	39.3	31.1	29.6	60.7
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	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	230	100	36.7	42.3	20.9	63.3
	8	257	100	32.5	57	10.5	67.5
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	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	229	100	31.3	49.3	19.4	68.7
	8	217	99.5	38.8	49	12.1	61.2
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	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	230	100	28.8	49.3	21.9	71.2
	8	130	98.5	30.5	34.7	34.7	69.5
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	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	229	100	16.6	51.2	32.3	83.4
	8	109	100	23.1	48.1	28.8	76.9

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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	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	230	100	33.5	32.1	34.4	66.5
	8	127	100	20.5	51.3	28.2	79.5
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	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	229	100	30	42.4	27.6	70
	8	107	100	25.5	30.4	44.1	74.5
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	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	260	99.2	39.7	45.2	15.1	60.3
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	224	99.6	36.8	34	29.2	63.2

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