



Sandhills Middle School

582 Meadowfield Road
Gaston, SC 29053

Grades	7-8 Middle School	
Enrollment	498 Students	
Principal	Justin Nutter	803-926-1890
Superintendent	Linda G. Lavender	803-568-1000
Board Chair	Chris Pound	803-791-7651

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

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

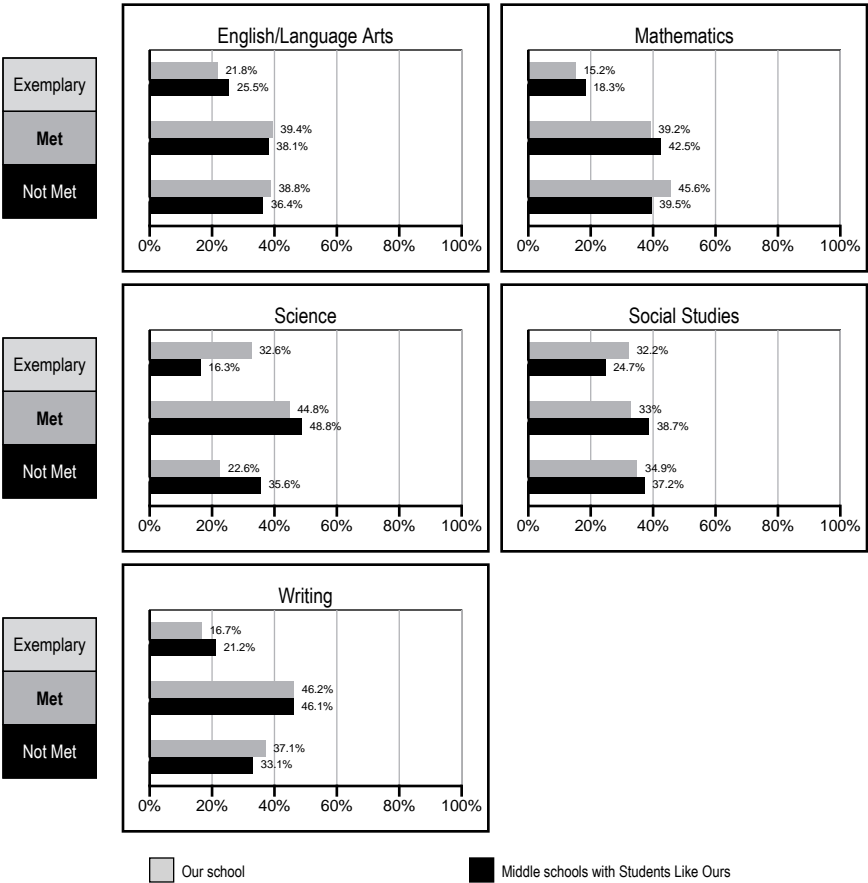
Percent of students tested in 2012-13 whose 2011-12 test scores were located | 98.7%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
0	1	42	13	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	83.3%	95.6%
English 1	N/A	90.3%
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	83.3%	95.5%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=498)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	42.2%	Up from 26.7%	19.2%	24.6%
Retention rate	0.2%	Up from 0.0%	0.9%	0.6%
Attendance rate	95.3%	Up from 94.2%	95.6%	95.9%
Served by gifted and talented program	15.0%	N/A	13.3%	18.5%
With disabilities	16.6%	N/A	14.2%	13.0%
Older than usual for grade	2.8%	N/A	6.2%	4.8%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	1.4%	Up from 0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=29)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	69.0%	Up from 58.1%	60.6%	61.5%
Continuing contract teachers	65.5%	Down from 83.9%	73.3%	77.2%
Teachers returning from previous year	77.5%	Down from 80.2%	84.6%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	95.4%	Up from 95.3%	94.5%	94.9%
Average teacher salary*	\$41,470	Up 2.9%	\$46,193	\$47,313
Professional development days/teacher	11.9 days	Up from 10.0 days	11.0 days	10.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	6.0	Up from 5.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	29.4 to 1	Up from 27.0 to 1	20.8 to 1	22.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.1%	Up from 88.9%	88.7%	89.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.9%	No Change	99.1%	99.0%
Character development program	Good	No Change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$6,775	Up 0.2%	\$7,337	\$7,239
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	56.0%	Down from 57.0%	63.0%	63.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	52.0%	Down from 55.2%	60.0%	61.0%

* 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 2012-13, our learning community focused on creating and refining curriculum and assessments that are rigorous and applicable to goals of the Common Core State Standards. Our teachers have continued to develop our knowledge of effective literacy instruction and have increased both the amount and complexity of nonfiction text required in all content areas. Students have routinely engaged in argumentative literacy in all classes through dialogue and written forms. Teachers have experimented with performance tasks to assess student mastery that model Common Core principles.

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, Jazz Band, and Honor Choir all received Superior ratings at state competitions and twelve musicians were recognized for Superior solo performances. Individual honors also included South Carolina Junior Scholars and acceptance to the S.C. Governor’s School for the Arts summer programs.

Our challenges for 2013-14 include the continued development of cohesive curriculum that emphasizes essential standards, critical thinking, and authentic argumentative literacy engagements. We will continue to work with the entire Lexington Four instructional team to develop effective lessons that emphasize clear learning objectives, precise focus lessons, extensive practice of key concepts, and frequent checks for understanding. We will also be actively seeking opportunities to enhance the impact of student leadership within the SMS community as we prepare students for success in high school and beyond.

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

Justin Nutter, Principal
Valencia Jackson, Chair, School Improvement Council

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	29	171	10
Percent satisfied with learning environment	96.6%	77.2%	80%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.6%	80.6%	70%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	82.7%	83%	70%

* 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	45.8
Overall Grade Conversion	F

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	2.3%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	4.9%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	0.0%	Yes
Student attendance rate	95.3%	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	629.0	625.4	635.6	624.4	99.4	99.4
Male	622.3	622.0	634.6	624.9	99.3	98.9
Female	637.3	629.8	636.8	623.9	99.6	100.0
White	635.9	632.1	640.8	631.5	99.4	99.4
African American	614.5	612.2	623.1	612.5	100.0	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	611.7	613.1	626.1	601.6	97.4	97.4
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	582.7	591.6	583.8	577.3	100.0	98.8
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	96.9	96.9
Subsidized meals	623.3	620.1	629.8	618.2	99.5	99.5
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	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
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	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	281	99.6	32	45.2	22.8	68
	8	224	99.1	46.6	32.5	20.9	53.4
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	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
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	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	281	99.3	41.1	37.6	21.3	58.9
	8	224	99.6	50.7	41.5	7.7	49.3
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	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
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	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	281	99.6	22	43.2	34.7	78
	8	109	99.1	23.2	49.5	27.3	76.8

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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							
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
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	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	281	99.6	34.4	32.4	33.2	65.6
	8	115	98.3	34.9	34.9	30.2	65.1
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	224	99.6	36.8	34	29.2	63.2
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	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	280	99.6	35.4	45.6	19	64.6
	8	224	99.1	38.6	47.3	14	61.4

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