

# SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL TO WATCH



## Mid-Carolina Middle School



### Designated in 2017;

Mid-Carolina Middle School • Newberry County School District • Newberry County • Prosperity • Principal Deedee Westwood • 6794 US Highway 76 • Phone (803)364-3634  
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### School Web Site:

<http://mid-carolinamiddle.sc.ncm.schoolinsites.com/>

## 2017 School Statistics

Community: Rural  
Enrollment: 612  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Traditional

### Student Demographics

11%	Hispanic
68%	White
>1%	Asian
18%	African American
>1%	American Indian (Native American)
3%	Multiple Races
51%	Free/Reduced Lunch
7%	English Learners

### Report card survey:

**Percent satisfied with learning environment:**

**Parents= 90.7%**

**Students= 86.6%**

**Teachers 100%.**

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Daily academic expectations are provided and cultivated for students through standards, learning targets, daily agenda, Reflect and Review (R and R), and homework.
- Students are encouraged to rewrite and revise written assignments and redo major assessments after receiving appropriate tutoring.
- Students are assigned to Catch-up Café, READY Time (Read, Enrich, And Do what You need), and after school tutoring to help promote mastery of standards and expectations.
- Teachers evaluate and revise assessments using the Internal Instructional Review process (IIR).
- Student Learning Objectives (SLO) are data-driven by utilizing formative and summative assessments.

- Teachers design rigorous common and interdisciplinary assessments with peers during Tuesday core planning and Wednesday district planning to include vertical meetings with the high school.
- Team planning is every Thursday.
- Throughout our school, literacy practices are integrated in all subjects as well as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.
- Classes use note taking, interactive notebooks, literacy-based stations, inquiry lessons, journal writing, and reporting of lab experiments.
- Exemplary work is displayed in the cafeteria as our “Hall of Fame” and outside homeroom doors as “Awesome Authors.”
- Teachers model reading strategies in all classrooms through One Book, One School (OBOS) and our 30-4-30 initiative (reading 30 minutes at school in 4 core classes and 30 minutes at home).
- Parent and Student Surveys showed a perception (and satisfaction) of high academic rigor.
- Grade level teacher teams meet weekly to coordinate and collaborate their learning objectives.
- Technology, including Smartboards, calculators, graphing calculators, Smart Response clickers, document cameras, flip cameras, computer labs, iPads, laptop carts, and in-classroom computer stations allow students to use technology as they learn. MCMS has 100% Smartboard capability.
- Interdisciplinary units are created as a culminating activity in all grade levels.
- Annual Academic Night showcases student work and student-led instruction.
- Read 180, a related art supplemental reading class, is provided for students who show need for improvement on Reading MAP scores.
- Students identified as gifted and talented are served during Enrichment using the William and Mary GT curriculums.
- Over the past several years, MCMS has consistently had the highest PASS scores in the district. Compared to the average state scores, MCMS has performed above average in all core subject areas on PASS and SC READY. EOC scores for both English I and Algebra I have been at 100% passage.
- Teachers review goals with student’s monthly using results from state testing, benchmark testing and quarterly report cards.
- Each teacher assesses student success in a variety of ways, including writing, explanations, performances, discussions, group work, and self-evaluation.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Students may praise or thank other students through the “Rebel 2 Rebel Shout-outs”.
- To better foster positive relationships, students maintain the same advisor (homeroom teacher) throughout the year during Rebelution Time.
- Teachers implement procedures and routines from the first day of school, utilizing the student agenda and the OTIS (Organize This Important Stuff) binder for school wide consistency.
- Level One Discipline System empowers the teacher and places responsibility for actions on the students. This school wide discipline plan is in place to ensure consistency, fairness and equity.
- Freaky Friday activities are held quarterly for students exhibiting appropriate behaviors.

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- On a daily basis, teachers may reward a student through Praise a Rebel notes, comments written in the student's agenda to go home, or by sending a positive note card home at any time.
- MCMS has implemented The Rebel Way, a school wide initiative to establish social growth and development. The acronym for the Rebel Way stands for Respect; Exemplary; Behave well; Explain calmly; Listen; Wise decisions; Ask questions; and Yes you can do anything.
- The Newberry County Sheriff's Department conducts teacher training on gang awareness, recognizing child abuse, and bullying. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department presents educational programs addressing sexting, social media, and internet use to parents, students, and staff members.
- Numerous community service projects are held throughout the year as Kindness Projects.
- Schoolwide clubs are offered for all students.
- Transition nights for each rising grade level to prepare for future expectations are held in the spring.
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Women's History Studies and Black History Programs take place annually.
- Full time school nurse and school resource officer are on site.
- Student Government Association is organized for student voice. SGA meets monthly with their sponsors bringing ideas or concerns from their peers.
- Rebel Ambassadors serve as guides for new students, potential enrollees, guests, and in general welcoming responsibilities to MCMS.
- The school counselors and special education teachers rotate with their student caseloads every year.
- Academic competitions include Modern Woodmen of the World Speech Contest, Geography Bee, art contests and essay contests.
- Power School provides parents and students web access to grades, assignments, attendance, news, and email communication.
- Teacher websites provide daily homework and parent information like planning times for conferences and syllabus posting.

### **Social Equity**

- Our school has a Level One Discipline System, (laddered cooperation between students, teachers and administration used to increase student accountability and teacher empowerment)
- Summer GAP program for students who have not successfully passed core classes is held each summer.
- Each student is inventoried throughout the school year by teachers so that their individual strengths, needs, and learning styles are identified in order for educational needs to be met.
- READY time instruction before school for bus riders is offered.
- Enrichment period of thirty minutes daily to provide supplemental instruction to all students throughout the school.
- MCMS Media Center supports multicultural literature with a large selection of materials, both printed and digital.

- Male Call and Leading Ladies assists hand-selected students who struggle academically or behaviorally are identified to participate in community sponsored seminars.
- All clubs stress civic responsibility, academics, and respect for others.
- Academic awards include Principal's Honor Roll, A/B Honor Roll, and B Honor Roll.
  
- Programs in place, including monthly birthday with cupcake recognition, Praise a Rebel, "Caught Doing Good", positive notes home, and various individual classroom recognitions help maintain a family atmosphere.
- Recognition of students of the month, teachers of the month and support staff of the month occur monthly.
- Open house is designed to show the parents "A Day in the Life of Their Child".
- PREP Time, *Principal Embraces Parents Time* is for parents to meet with the principal and any other staff as needed.
- Teachers at MCMS plan field studies to extend learning beyond the classroom walls.
- Angel Tree Project: fundraisers are implemented in order to fund gifts for several families during the holiday season. Teachers shop for students on their team since they know the child and have developed a relationship with them.
- Every Friday students participate in literacy activities during enrichment time.
- Core classes are scheduled by hand with balance of gender, ethnicity, behavior, and abilities and matching personalities of staff and students, as much as possible.
- Student suggestion boxes are located around the school.
- Weekly meetings held in the "Data Room" focus on our underperforming students (UPS) and strategies are devised and implemented that help students' educational experiences

### **Organizational Support**

- The vision is posted on the school website, in student agendas, and posters located throughout the school.
- All staff participate in the molding of the School Renewal Plan each year.
- The School Literacy Team created the Read to Succeed Plan.
- School norms are nurtured by all through The Rebel Way which is also posted in all classes.
- Teachers use common agendas, structured times for meetings, and shared communication.
- The principal sends out a Sunday night email every week to align the staff for expectations and events.
- All teachers share a professional learning goal.
- All students are hand scheduled by the administration over the summer with prior input from the teachers.
- Special education, ESOL and related art teachers give student lists to the administration to assist with scheduling.
- Rotational schedules are used each quarter to give every student an opportunity to ultimately learn at the best time of their day.
- MCMS communicates regularly with our feeder elementary schools as well as the high school.
- MCMS communicates with the general community through the posting of our monthly school newsletter at local churches and businesses, our school website, school Facebook page, and teacher generated Remind accounts.

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- Business partnerships include Hawg Heaven, Sonic, El Poblano, Zaxby's, Pizza Hut, Hi-Wire, and Armfield's Office Supplies.
- Students receive an agenda, ID, and binder at the beginning of school.
- Leadership team focuses on schoolwide needs.
- Participation with Making Middle Grades Work Initiative is in place.
- Participation with Literacy Design Collaborative and Math Design Collaborative is in all core classes.