SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Great Falls Middle
Chester
Grades: 6-8 **Enrollment: 245**
Principal: Wendell B. Sumter
Superintendent: Mr. Larry B. Heath
Board Chair: Dr. Richard Hughes

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.

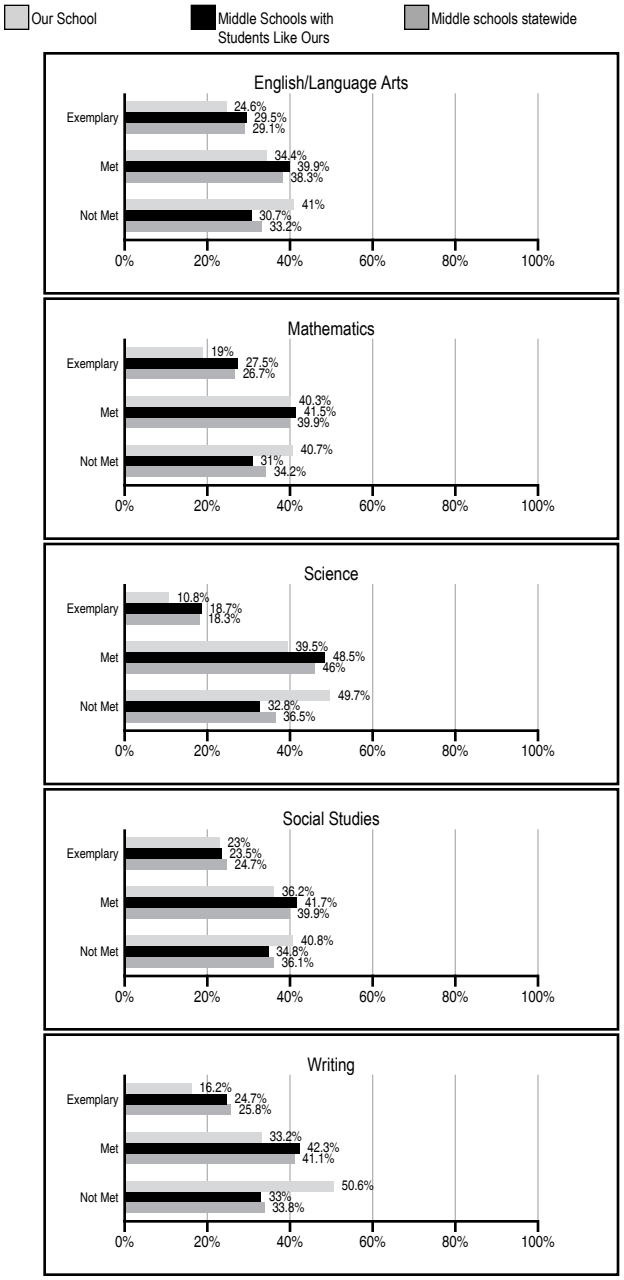
YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2009	Below Average	Below Average	TBD	TBD	Not Met	N/A
2008	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2007	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	4	47	3	0

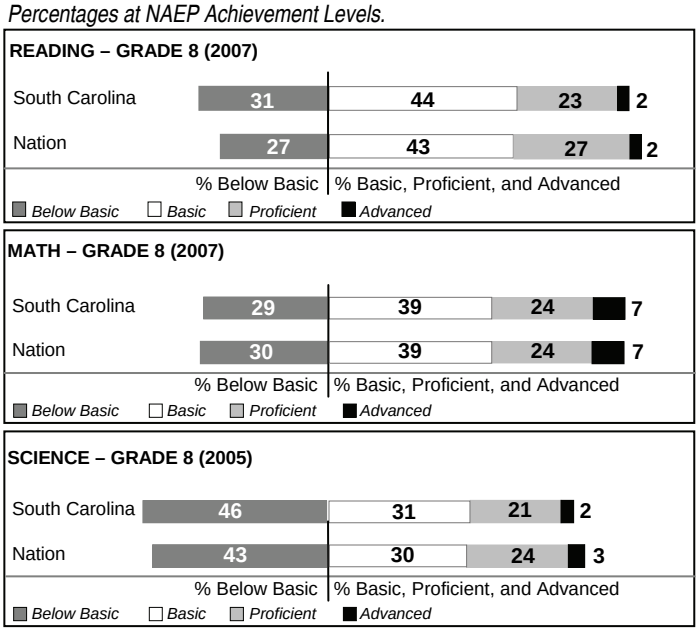
** Ratings are calculated with data available by 06/01/2010. Schools with Students Like Ours are Middle Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.*

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 - 2009

% 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	97.5
English 1	100.0	97.4
Physical Science	N/A	86.3
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	100.0	97.1

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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Great Falls Middle [Chester]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=245)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	55.2%	Up from 44.3%	20.8%	21.6%
Retention rate	1.2%	Up from 0.4%	1.3%	1.2%
Attendance rate	95.3%	Up from 93.6%	95.8%	95.9%
Eligible for gifted and talented	12.1%	Up from 11.2%	15.9%	14.8%
With disabilities other than speech	17.0%	Up from 15.9%	14.2%	12.6%
Older than usual for grade	6.9%	Up from 5.2%	2.4%	2.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.4%	Up from 0.0%	0.4%	0.6%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=19)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	42.1%	Down from 45.0%	56.2%	56.9%
Continuing contract teachers	63.2%	Up from 55.0%	76.6%	72.7%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	27.8%	Up from 22.2%	3.7%	5.3%
Teachers returning from previous year	70.1%	Up from 65.6%	84.4%	82.9%
Teacher attendance rate	96.0%	Up from 94.3%	95.3%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	$44,700	Up 4.5%	$46,565	$46,599
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	1.3%	2.4%
Professional development days/teacher	8.8 days	Down from 11.6 days	10.8 days	10.8 days
School				
Principal's years at school	4.0	Up from 3.0	4.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	12.3 to 1	Down from 12.6 to 1	20.7 to 1	20.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.7%	Up from 86.0%	90.1%	89.9%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	90.4%	Up from 86.3%	97.9%	97.8%
Character development program	Good	No Change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	$8,309	Up 24.8%	$7,576	$7,645
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	61.4%	Down from 69.2%	64.2%	63.4%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	57.1%	Down from 65.9%	59.4%	57.0%
% of AYP objectives met	90.5%	Up from 47.1%	90.5%	90.5%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	20	79	42
Percent satisfied with learning environment	95.0%	78.5%	76.2%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	84.8%	73.8%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	70.0%	85.9%	71.4%

*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

Great Falls Middle School, located in rural Chester County, is one of three middle schools in the Chester County School District. Our school's mission, in cooperation with home and community, is to nurture well-rounded, life-long learners by providing innovative and challenging educational opportunities that will prepare students to become productive citizens. Our beliefs are: all students are capable of learning and have the potential to become world class citizens; a safe, nurturing, disciplined environment is essential for learning to occur; mutual respect is essential from all members of the learning environment; each individual is responsible for his or her actions; school and home relations are essential to the educational process; parents, teachers, administrators, and the community must share the responsibility of educating our children; valuing diversity and providing for individual differences enrich learning; students learning appropriate decision-making, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills when provided with a supportive and challenging learning environment; and great expectations, yield great results.

During the 2008-2009 school year, we continued to have high expectations for students. A variety of assessments were utilized to improve instructional practices. Great Falls Middle School is very proud of the progress we have made in continuing to improve instructional practices to meet the needs of our students. Our faculty and staff gained knowledge through several staff development sessions. We incorporated the use of data walls to promote student achievement, utilized a part-time instructional coach, fully implemented my reading coach, and held quarterly assemblies to recognize academic achievement and citizenship.

Community and parent involvement is a priority for our school as we see its ownership in the hands of the parents and community. We have long-standing partnerships with the people and businesses of Great Falls and the surrounding areas, and we strive to enhance these each year. A number of well-attended parent involvement activities were held this year. The school strives to keep parents and community informed through parent newsletters, articles in the local newspaper, and our phone dialer system.

Students and teachers from Great Falls Middle School have been highly recognized during the 2008-2009 school year. We had one student named a Junior Scholar, one student competed in the National Geography Bee, and 100 percent passage rate on End of Course test for Algebra 1 and English 1. Several teachers received grants, one of which allowed students to perform School House Rock Live! We are very proud of the efforts our students and teachers have made this year and look forward to their continued success in the future.We continue to face the challenge of preparing our students for high school but rise to the occasion with renewed efforts toward improving instruction using research-based techniques, using data to better address the needs of our students, and promoting excellence among our students and staff. We strive to make a positive impact on each child we serve.

Wendell B. Sumter, Principal
Mike Fanning, SIC Chair

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