



SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Palmetto Middle School



Designated in 2008;

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<http://asd1.schoolwires.com/1618101218123641467/site/default.asp>

2007-08 School Statistics

Community: Rural
Enrollment: 767
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Traditional

Student Demographics

7% Hispanic
85% White
6% African American
< 1% Native American
< 1% Asian

51% Free/Reduced Lunch
<1% English Learners

2005 AYP: Met 18 out of 21 objectives.
2006 AYP: Met 16 out of 20 objectives.
2007 AYP: Met 22 out of 25 objectives.

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Rigorous standards-based, hands-on projects provide an engaging curriculum.
- Integrated academic-technology projects keep students involved.
- Period rotation is implemented to accommodate different learning styles and peak learning times of our students
- Our fundamental philosophy that *Failure is Not an Option*, we have concentrated our beliefs into the acronym *IMAX (Initiatives to Maximize Academic eXcellence)*.
- Students have support to meet rigorous standards through the following programs: AAC (*Academic Assistance Center (AAC)*), *L.I.F.T (Letting Individuals Fine Tune)* and *SOAR (Seeking Opportunities for Academic enrichment)*
- Subject-level planning and vertical alignment guarantee that all students receive a consistently high-quality of instruction.
- Students have multiple opportunities to master rigorous academic standards in programs such as *Second Chance* and our after school program.

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Advisor/Advisee program (PALS) help students set academic goals,
- Students broadcast *Straight from the Horses Mouth* daily.
- Guidance, administration and teachers are actively involved with all students
- Palmetto Middle is a safe, clean, supportive and friendly campus. Received *Red Carpet Award*
- Parent communication is a priority-newsletters, e-mails, quick notes, phone calls, etc

Social Equity

- All students are scheduled into rigorous classes.
- All students have equal to valued knowledge in all classes through heterogeneous grouping
- Special education students are mainstreamed into regular educational classes.
- Recognition of students is a priority.
- Each child's voice is heard, acknowledged and respected-Student Council, BETA Club, PALS, FCA
- *F.I.D.O, Palmetto's Finest, Meals on Wheels* programs promote civility services and citizenship.

Organizational Support

- Effective routines and systems allow teachers to focus on student data and learning.
- Team teachers use subject and grade level planning to analyze data and create lessons to help close the achievement gap.
- Teachers participate in Professional Development
- Palmetto Middle School works with area colleges and universities to recruit, prepare, and mentor novice and experienced teachers.
- Our school engages all stakeholders to promote school improvement
- The school collect, analyzes data as a basis for academic improvement. Data includes: PACT scores, *MAP* scores, Pre/Post test scores and scores by subgroups.
- Palmetto Middle has used the detailed results and recommendations of the *MMGW Technical Assistance Visit (TAV)* to develop four goals to meet identified challenges.