



305 O'Neal Street
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Dr. Regina J. Gilchrist
Principal



Palmetto Middle School

Grades

6-8



Student Enrollment

350



Faculty & Staff

43



Mascot

Bulldog



Title-I Supported



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Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday

8:10-3:10

Homework Center

3:15-5:15 M-TH

Motto

Preparing Minds for Success

Mission Statement

The mission of Palmetto Middle School is to provide every student with the opportunity to become socially mature and academically productive citizens for life.

From the Desk of Principal Regina J. Gilchrist

As we approach the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year, our goal for students' success maintains. We want students working diligently by giving their best effort to their academics and social behavior. It is important that students, teachers, and families work collaboratively and share a connected vision. During the second semester we expect noticeable improvements in students' time management, organizational skills, and they must strive to become effective communicators for their academic growth. Students are expected to follow the directives of their teachers the first time. Parents, we ask that you review PowerSchool weekly to stay abreast of your child's academic progress. We will continue to provide students with direct instruction, specific interventions, and utilize available resources to promote students' success.

New for 2022

Eighth grade students who demonstrate high scholastic ability in ELA, math, and on district assessments have the opportunity to take Honors Algebra 1 and Honors English 1 for high school credit. The criteria for placement in the Honors Algebra 1 and English 1 for high school credit has changed. Seventh grade parents, you will receive updated information on the new requirements along with your child's report card on January 24, 2022. Please be attentive to this information.

Expectations for Positive Student Performance

B- Be Prepared

A- Act Responsibly

R- Respect yourself and others

K- Keep giving your best effort

Academic Expectations

Students are encouraged & expected to show quarterly academic growth on grade level standards and strive to earn grades of 80 and above in the content areas.



School-wide Instructional Focus



Balanced Literacy

During the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year, teachers have been working to improve the instructional process by focusing on literacy strategies. The goal is for our students to become fluent readers, writers, and communicators. Teachers have worked to perfect the four components of the Balanced Literacy Framework which include: Word Study, Shared Reading, Independent Reading, and Writing. Dr. Craig Drennon has provided support to our teachers to guide them through the instructional process to better serve our students. Throughout his time at Palmetto, Dr. Drennon has conducted model lessons, provided instructional coaching, and hosted professional development for teachers throughout the district. Teachers and students work within the structured framework to focus on vocabulary, fluency, and writing.

Into Math

Into Math is a new math resource designed to better support students in learning math concepts. Teachers have implemented the district's instructional framework, that provides time for teachers to extend lessons and student learning through guided groups. During this time, teachers target students for instructional support to build mathematical skills. Our district office has provided a great deal of support to our staff in our efforts to improve instruction.

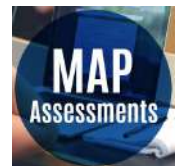


Math Intervention

Our students receive additional support in mathematics from our new Math Interventionist, Ms. Brooke Kirkland. As a former student of Palmetto Middle and graduate of Mullins High School, Ms. Kirkland understands the challenges our students face and has taken proactive measures to support them. Each week, Ms. Kirkland meets with students to provide small group instruction on skills students may lack, and she reinforces mathematical skills that need to be strengthened. Ms. Kirkland works with teachers to plan lessons that engage students, while focusing on guided groups. You can also find her supporting in class instruction in order to reach a greater population of students.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Students have taken the second MAP assessment in reading and math. MAP tests are computerized assessments that measure the amount of growth students have made within the content area. Questions vary for each student based on how accurately they respond. We use the test data to project how students will perform on SC Ready.



The table below highlights students' MAP data from the Fall and Winter 2021 assessments. The data represents the percentage (s) of students who took both the Fall and Winter MAP Assessments who met their yearly growth goal. Although we are moving in the right direction; we still have a lot of work to do to get students to make academic growth and perform on grade level. Families, please inquire about your students' academics daily. Contact the school for information on resources that are available.

Grade	% Growth in Math	% Growth in Reading
Six	33%	44%
Seven	41%	41%
Eight	53%	50%



Guidance, Health, & Safety

Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs)

Individual Graduation Plans are crucial for student's success. These plans utilize student data to guide them along their chosen career path and/or educational journey. Students work with their school counselor and career specialist to complete an IGP in 8th grade. Once in high school, counselors continue to meet with students, counsel, and schedule courses aligned to their educational goals or career field. Parents of 8th grade students, please check your email in regards to scheduling your child's IGP within the coming weeks.



Clinical Counseling Services

As mental and emotional health issues become more prevalent among young people, it is important to heed any warning signs that students are presenting. Often times, students battle issues silently out of fear of rejection, retaliation, or worry that their situation will cause a hardship for the family. Please know there are resources available. Please inform the school of any changes you observe in your child's behavior that is out of the norm. Our district has a clinical counselor to support students' mental and emotional wellbeing. Our goal is to see our students as healthy, strong, and productive individuals.

Health and Wellness



Nurse Updates

South Carolina DHEC has new guidelines established for COVID-19 isolations/quarantines. If your child is presenting symptoms of COVID-19, or you have knowledge that you or your child has been exposed, please contact the school nurse immediately. She will provide you with guidance on how to proceed regarding school attendance. When students and staff are away from school, we ask that they take the proper precautions to maintain safety as exposures increase.

From the Desk of SRO Shawn Ceo

Your child's safety and well-being is our priority. Businesses market products to make money that are unfortunately appealing to the younger crowd. More and more young people have turned to using vapes for recreational use. Vapes are even more dangerous than cigarettes due to the flavored chemicals that cause harm to the body when inhaling it. Parents, please know that the possession of vapes are against school and district policy.

Also, on the market are THC products that are packaged as popular candy, chips, cookies, and cereal. Parents read labels carefully, on common items such as Gummy worms/bears, chips or Lucky Charms Cereal for example. Good products are being rebranded to entice younger kids with names such as Stoney Patch Kids, Doweedos, and Munchables to name a few. Some even contain Fentanyl which is highly addictive and lethal at high doses. We have not observed this in our school setting. However, knowledge is power. Let's work together to keep our kids safe.





Extra-curricular Activities



Spelling Bee

Prior to Winter Break, PMS hosted our Annual Spelling Bee. One student from each homeroom competed on the school level to vie for the honor of being named champion and to represent Palmetto Middle School in the Pee Dee Regional Spelling Bee. Abia Falak, a seventh grade student successfully made it through eleven rounds to be declared champion. First runner-up was Aryah Staley (sixth grade). Abia will compete at the Regional Spelling Bee on Monday, February 7, 2022 in the Chapman Auditorium on the campus of Francis Marion University. Congratulations!



Athletics

The Palmetto Middle School Boy's Basketball Team has had a successful 2022 season. They are currently undefeated. Our team is by Head Coach Jason Wallace and assisted by Coach Lequone Reaves. We wish our guys well on a great season.

Our cheerleaders have cheered our teams on in a powerful way. They have been our teams' biggest supporters on and off the field and court. This year, our cheerleaders are led by Coach Brianna Lewis. We appreciate the energy they bring to each game.



Distinguished Gentlemen (DG)



For our Distinguished Gentleman, looks are important. It's not only their weekly Wednesday attire that gets positive attention, but their service to the community is to be respected. These gentleman, under the leadership of Mr. Eric Troy, took to the streets to give our commu-



nity a good look. The students participated in community clean-up to remove trash and debris, left alongside our streets and neighborhoods. After a day of work, students enjoyed a day of play. The group traveled to Williams-Brice Stadium to attend a Carolina Gamecock Football Game to show support for the team and players. Xavier Legette (Mullins HS Grad) and Cam Smith (Marion County Native) are members of the USC Gamecock Football Team. We look forward to their positive impact.



Upcoming Events



- Second Semester Begins– Wednesday, January 19, 2022
- Basketball Game (Away): Hannah-Pamplico– Wednesday, January 19, 2022
- Report Cards Issued– Monday, January 24, 2022
- School-wide Writing– Friday, February 4, 2022
- Regional Spelling Bee– Monday, February 7, 2022

Palmetto Middle School: Moving Forward! Growing Together! Getting Better!