

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL TO WATCH



School Name



Designated in 2015

St. James Middle School • District: Horry County Schools
• County: Horry • State: South Carolina • Principal: Dr.
Dwight Boykin • School Address: 9775 St. James Road •
Phone: 843-650-5543 • E-
mail: dboykin@horrycountyschools.net • [School Website](#)

2014-15 School Statistics

(Source: PowerSchool, State Report Card)

Community: Rural/Suburban
Enrollment: 1,172
Grade Levels: 6th, 7th, and 8th
School Schedule: Bell

Student Demographics

6% Hispanic
78% White
6% African American
1% Filipino
1% Asian
2% Pacific Islander

43% Free/Reduced Lunch
5% English Learners
11% Disabled Learners

ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System Overall
Weighted Points Total 89.3
Overall Grade Conversion B

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- The curriculum is standards driven.
- A variety of teaching strategies including learning centers, blended learning, small group instruction, and technology is implemented into our classrooms.
- A variety of assessment strategies including projects, classroom research, use of technology, and presentations is used by teachers.
- Professional Development is evident in all aspects of the school. Teachers meet as a school, department, grade level and district to receive well-defined PD.
- Grade level departments meet regularly with administrators and instructional coach to discuss and review data to determine interventions and actions to support student achievement.
- A support system is in use through 20/20 time.

Developmental Responsiveness

- The school has inviting classroom atmospheres.
- Staff members know their students, families and communities and care about them. They work hard to meet the needs of all of their students. “This is a family” is our resounding theme. The focus is on meeting students’ needs inside and outside the classroom.
- Administrators, counselors and other support staff are visible and available for student interaction.
- The counselors provide classroom as well as individual guidance for the students.
- The school provides many opportunities for students to be involved in special interest activities such as arts, athletics, and clubs at St. James Middle School.
- The Career Development Facilitator and other counselors develop plans and meet with students regularly to discuss progress.
- Communication is strong as described by stakeholder groups. The school has very successful well-attended awards programs and activities for the community and parents.
- A new anti-bullying club is in place to support students.

Social Equity

- Faculty, staff, students, and parents are proud of the school. The community expresses strong interest and support through a number of activities and philanthropic giving.
- Students are valued and respected by staff as evidenced by student and teacher interviews and classroom observations.
- ESOL and special education students are mainstreamed to the greatest degree possible. They are included in academic and elective classes. A co-teaching model is used for special education students.
- Schedules are adjusted to fit the student needs and successes. Data is used to determine placement of students in classes and programs. Regular assessment is used to determine continued support efforts and placement.
- Celebrations are held throughout the year to include recognition of improvement, citizenship and service. Students with an Alpha Beta card received free tea at lunch.

Organizational Support

- The STW team observed a very positive and dedicated faculty/staff.
- The principal is the leader of the school, but he allows and encourages participation by all stakeholders including students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members. Parents feel a valued part of the school enterprise. The community takes an active role in the school.
- The district office staff is very complimentary of the efforts made by the faculty and staff of St. James Middle School to meet the needs of its students and has provided support and growth opportunities for the school faculty and staff.
- The principal provides opportunities for teachers to attend professional development opportunities.
- The district office staff works closely with the school to provide quality Professional Development. The district office provides resources based on the needs of the school. District wide implementation of blended learning and personalized learning pathways is ongoing. The district is providing the school with additional support.