

Pelion Middle School

2023-2024

SIC Report to the Parents

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Principal: Jessica L. Keisler
 Assistant Principal: Jason R. Lehmann
 Assistant Principal: Joi H. Walden

Enrollment Summary (Total Number of Students)	Statistics (Staff and Students)
6th Grade: 166 7th Grade: 169 8th Grade: 220 Total Student Enrollment: 555	Certified Employees: 54 Support Staff: 27 National Board Certified Educators: 1 Teachers with Advanced Degrees: 27 Teachers in 1st or 2nd Year of Teaching: 3

Clubs, Sports, Organizations, and Extracurricular Activities

<i>Archery District Honors Art Fellowship of Christian Athletes Future Farmers of America LOCC Pep Squad Robotics Flag Football</i>	<i>Football Volleyball Girls and Boys Basketball Cheerleading Wrestling Baseball Boys Soccer ***Golf, Softball, Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, Track and Marching Band are all available through Pelion High School</i>
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Goals

1. Accelerate student academic growth.

Paideia Partnership

In order to provide students with learning opportunities to practice critical thinking and communication skills, PMS continued a partnership with the Paideia Center. Through this active learning, students and staff participated in Paideia Socratic seminars that provided access to complex texts. This work increased our student-to-student dialogue and a deeper understanding of content. This school year marked our first as a Nationally Certified Paideia Certified School.

Learning Supports

We employ a continuum of supports for Response-to-Intervention (RTI) and special education. Based on student need, this could include push-in services in English Language Arts and/or math or additional support during an exploratory.

Extended Day Program.

This year we were excited to offer our extended day program for students in need of additional academic support. Teachers prepared enrichment lessons, tracked student data, and aided with work completion.

Math Tutoring

This year, we were able to extend our student support offerings to include math tutoring on Tuesday and Thursdays free of charge to our families. Students were able to get small group, personalized support by a certified math teacher.

2. Provide students with more experiences outside of the classroom.

Field Trips

All grade levels were able to go on field trips again this school year. Sixth grade students visited Medieval Times and WonderWorks in Myrtle Beach. Seventh graders visited RiverBanks Zoo and Gardens. Eighth grade students visited Historic Camden and the Revolutionary War Visitor Center as well as the South Carolina State Museum. Eighth graders also were able to visit Pelion High School and the Lexington Technology Center to explore career and technology education courses and programs they can pursue in high school. Select 8th graders were also able attend the MEBA Showcase to learn more about potential career paths. Our FFA was able to take several trips to see agribusiness at work and even visited the State House to learn about current laws impacting agriculture and farmers. Our orchestra students had the opportunity to take a trip to see the USC Symphony Orchestra.

Clubs and Extended Sports Offerings

This year we were excited to offer all students the opportunity to participate in clubs during the school day. Students met with their clubs twice a month and were allowed to switch clubs halfway through the year. The clubs were sponsored by teachers and students were able to select the clubs that most interested them. This was a great way for students and teachers to connect and form positive relationships. We also continued to grow our sports offerings this year at Pelion Middle by adding middle school boy's soccer, 7th grade volleyball, and flag football. By extending our offerings, we are able to reach and impact more students and bring more families into the school.

Accomplishments

<p>Our school counseling department is a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP). We are one of only eight RAMP certified programs in South Carolina, and one of only three middle schools in the state.</p>
<p>Pelion Middle Archery placed 1st in state in IBO and Bullseye and set a new state record for IBO.</p>
<p>15 students were selected for District Honors Orchestra, 2 students were selected for Region Orchestra, and 3 students were accepted to Tri-DAC for the violin and cello.</p>
<p>Pelion Marching Pride placed runner-up in SC 2A Lower State Championship.</p>
<p>Two students were selected for District Honors Band and one student was selected for Region Band.</p>
<p>Six band students scored Superior and 3 scored Excellent at Solo and Ensemble.</p>
<p>Two students were selected for District Honors Chorus.</p>
<p>Six students were selected for District Honors Art. Our students' artwork was featured in a district-wide exhibit that was held at Beechwood Middle school during the month of March. Each student displayed a mixture of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork.</p>
<p>Dr. Kizzi S. Gibson, our Visual Arts teacher, was honored at the Aiken Center for the Arts for her contributions as a published author and visual artist. She is also a featured artist at the center.</p>
<p>7th Grade Visual Arts student, Tehya Keisler's, artwork was accepted to be on display in Lake City, South Carolina during the prestigious 2024 Artfields Festival being held April 26 – May 4th!. Her artwork was selected from hundreds of students across the state of South Carolina.</p>
<p>Our Visual Arts Department participated in the annual Peanut Party Art Exhibition. Students from Pelion Middle stood out in the community for their artistic ability and creativity .</p>
<p>Clayton Henke, our Director of School Counseling, renewed his National Board Certification.</p>
<p>Twenty Visual Arts students were honored during the winter Visual Arts Exhibit and Awards Ceremony held in January of 2024. They were awarded certificates of Merit for their artistic growth and achievements during the fall semester. Their artwork was celebrated and placed on display in the school for 2 weeks. Each student was recognized for their artistic achievements and congratulated by their State Representative Ryan McCabe and South Carolina State Superintendent of Education, Ellen Weaver.</p>
<p>10 Visual Arts students had their artwork featured and placed on display at the Lexington School District 1 Central Services Building. Their work was celebrated for their creativity and beauty.</p>
<p>Four out of the 7 varsity cross country runners for Pelion High School were Pelion Middle students. They helped the girls team win the region championship for the 17th consecutive season. These 4 middle school girls were named to the all-region team. They also helped their team to place 4th in the State Championship meet.</p>
<p>Volleyball won the Lex 10 consolation bracket tournament this fall. This was also the first year that PMS volleyball was able to have 2 teams (7th and 8th grade) so that more athletes were able to participate.</p>
<p>Nine Pelion Middle student athletes competed in the first ever middle school State Track Championships</p>

With the addition of boys soccer at Pelion High School this year, we were also able to add a middle school boys' soccer team due to the large number of boys interested in playing.

FFA members placed 2nd middle school in the State Horse Judging career development event.

Our FFA placed second in the State Middle School Dairy Judging and had a member place first in the middle school division in Dairy Handling.

School Improvement Council (SIC)

Tabitha Causey - Chair

Amanda Bass, parent

Wayne Bruner, teacher & 7th grade lead

Casey Hill, parent

Jason Lehmann, assistant principal

Jessica Keisler, principal

Jen May, teacher & 8th grade lead

Miranda Montgomery, parent

Bonnie Owens, parent

John Rebolji, community partner

Joi Walden, assistant principal

Brandy Wood, teacher & 6th grade lead