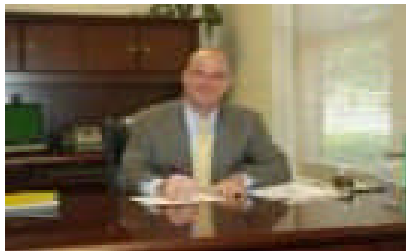


LEADERSHIP 2008-09 UPDATE

The Leadership at Greer Middle School changed hands three times in 2008. Rita Mantooth was Greer Middle School's principal for five years. She left in January 2008 to open Ralph Chandler Middle School. Harold Batson was hired by Greenville County Schools as interim principal. During this time a Leadership Advisory Council was established to help make decisions concerning the school. This group was comprised of department leaders and team leaders from every grade level and subject area. Harold Batson served as principal until the current principal was hired.

Scott Rhymer is Greer Middle School's current principal. He is a native of Greenville County, attended Eastside High School and currently resides in Greenville County with his wife and two daughters. He was hired in the summer of 2008 coming from Dorman Freshman Academy where he was an Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction for two years. Prior to his time at Dorman, Scott was an Instructional Dean at Pendleton High School in Anderson School District 4.



Decision-making Structure

The Administrative Team

Mr. Rhymer created an administrative team that consists of the principal, assistant principals, administrative assistant, guidance counselors, IB coordinator, district Instructional Coach, and Math iCoach. The team was established to provide feedback about policies and procedures, plan professional development activities (TNT: Teacher in Training), collaborate about next steps for GMS concerning discipline, teaching and learning. The administrative team meets weekly to give and receive feedback in the day-to-day operations of Greer Middle IB School.

School Improvement Council

The School Improvement Council includes the chairman of the SIC and the president of the Parent Teacher Student Association. The team has been established to—

- Communicate about events at GMS.
- Collaborate and share feedback about events at GMS.
- Share information about instructional practices at GMS.
- Identify needs at GMS.
- Make recommendations to improve events, instruction and/or needs at GMS.

Additional Leadership Structure

Grade level teams collaborate and discuss lesson plans, teaching strategies, and needs of individual students. It is during team planning that recommendations are made that affect our action plan to improve student achievement. Teams and departments meetings allow faculty members to effectively communicate about instructional practices, standards, curriculum, the IB program, units, and the overall learning environment at Greer Middle School. Teams and departments are the backbone of the leadership structure of the school designed to support continuous evaluation and improvement of our school's programs.

Teams have been used to study the four focus areas in our vision:

- Hands-on learning
- Standards and assessment
- Parent and community involvement
- Student achievement and continuous learning

The role of the teams, each with representation of all grade levels, related arts, and special education was to investigate different approaches to achieving our goal in the given focus area. They recommended specific instructional strategies and identify staff development needed to implement a high quality instructional program aligned with district, state and IB curriculum standards and guides.

Decision-Making Process

Team, department and grade level TNT meetings along with vertical meetings are used to communicate the results of the research taking place and to generate ideas about integrating the approaches. Teams meet during one of the planning periods bi-weekly. Departments meet once a month after the department head attends Greenville County's monthly department meeting. TNT's are held bi-weekly, and Leadership Advisory Council meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. TNT's are designed to share information, make decisions and provide professional development for staff members.

Summary of Progress

Greer Middle School's staff continues to make strides in making our vision a reality. We have established an effective leadership structure where staff members can participate in sharing ideas and making decisions. Our guiding principles and student achievement drive the decisions that are made. There are times when the principal makes decisions on his own for the good of GMS. Other times teachers, teams, departments and/or grade levels make decisions that impact only their students, content areas and/or grade levels.

Next Steps

- We need to stay focused on our school's vision and improvement plan.
- We need to continue to collect data that will help us make decisions to improve student achievement.
- We need to continue to evaluate and reflect on our practices to continually improve what we are doing at Greer Middle School.