

Annual Report to the Community 2010



"CHALLENGE - CREATE - COMMUNICATE!"

Principal: Merry L. Cox

SIC Chair: Don Reamer

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Website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/league>

2009-10 School Profile:

"League Academy is made up of a wonderful mixture of students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents and community members who combine their talents, energies and passions to maintain the best learning environment for our students. We believe that the arts are more than an extra; they are vital to the balanced development of students. We are committed to the success of our students by using the best practices in the academic and artistic areas and by integrating the arts throughout our curriculum. Our beautiful facility allows us to offer students and staff a new dimension of instructional possibilities."
Merry L. Cox, Principal

Outstanding Features/Programs

Advanced studies in Art, Dance, Drama, Chorus, and Journalism
Arts focused curriculum
Awards Program
Band, Chorus, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Journalism, Strings
Beta Club
Book Fair
Challenge Program (Gifted and Talented in LA)
EEDA Career Development Program
Future City/Engineering Program
Honors Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish and English (High School Credit/Carnegie Unit)

Computer Graphics lab
Video Production Classes
Keyboarding Lab
Classroom Computer Lab
Lego Robotics
Multi-Media Capabilities
SC Junior Book Award Program
SIC/PTA Parent Information Nights
South Carolina Junior Scholars
Duke TIP Scholars
Geography Bee
Student Newspaper/Yearbook/Literary Magazine
Year-Round Artist-in-Residence Program

Achievements/Awards

Alliance Grant-"Professional Learning Communities"
First Middle School to Win National Excellence in Education Award
National Invent America! Winners
Red Carpet Award Winner
S.C. Arts Commission Grant Winner

Exemplary Writing Award-Hall of Fame
State and National PTA Reflections Winner
2003 TIAA-CREF Principal of the Year
2004 TIAA-CREF Support Staff Member
2007 Assistant Principal of the Year
2007 Emerging Teacher of the Year

**2009 PASS
Results:**

Subject	Exemplary	Met	Not Met
English Language Arts	51.1	31.7	17.2
Writing	50.4	32.7	16.9
Mathematics	41.5	39.5	19
Science	29.4	49.4	21.1
Social Studies	39.5	42.4	18.2

**Fall '09 to
Spring '10
MAP Results:**

Fall 2009 to Spring 2010	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Subject	% Met Growth Target	% Met Growth Target	% Met Growth Target
Reading	53.8%	56.1%	59.8%
Math	53.1%	58.1%	53.1%

2009 Annual School Report Card Rating: Absolute Rating: Good Growth Rating: Average

School Goals 2009-2010

SCHOOL GOAL AREA 1: Raise the Academic Challenge and Performance of Each Student

MATH

PERFORMANCE GOAL 1: 50% of League students will meet or exceed their Target Growth Scores in Mathematics as measured by Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) from Fall 2009-Spring 2010.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

PERFORMANCE GOAL 2: 50% of League students will meet or exceed their Target Growth Scores in Reading as measured by Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) from Fall 2009-Spring 2010.

Magnet Information

League Academy's arts-focused magnet program is based on the beliefs that 1) the arts are an essential component of every child's education and 2) the arts and technology are valuable tools that connect and enrich all areas of learning. In addition to a rigorous academic curriculum and athletic program, League offers Greenville County's most comprehensive middle school arts program. Students have the opportunity to explore many art forms and to learn at least one art form well through beginning, intermediate, and advanced level courses. Communication arts electives include Band, Choral Music, Computer Graphics, Creative Writing, Dance, Debate/Public Speaking, Drama, Exploratory, Spanish, General Music, Journalism, Input Technology, Strings, Video Production, and the Visual Arts.

League's magnet program began in 1995 as part of the District's "Select School" initiative to increase enrollment in several city schools and to provide "school choice" options for parents seeking specialized programs for their children. The school's student population has grown from 531 in 1994 to 728 in 2008. Additionally, League Academy's faculty and students have experienced a high level of academic and artistic success, making it one of the most popular magnet programs in the District.

Approximately one-third of League's students were admitted through the magnet application process and two-thirds are home base students who live in League's attendance zone and do not need to apply for admission. For the past fourteen years, League has maintained a lengthy waiting list of applicants who met admission criteria but were not admitted because the school's enrollment had reached capacity.

The application process for the 2010-2011 school year begins in the fall of 2010 and will continue throughout the summer of 2011. Application dates for the 2010-2011 school year have not yet been set by the District. For more information about the magnet program or the magnet application process, contact Elaine Donnan, Magnet Coordinator, at 355-8112 or via email at edonnan@greenville.k12.sc.us.

Personal Pathways to Success



Personal Pathways to Success is a state-wide legislative initiative of the Education and Economic Development Act of 2005 designed to increase career awareness in elementary schools, career exploration in middle schools, and career guidance for high school students. Personal Pathways to Success provides students with information and experiences necessary to successfully plan for future careers. Personal Pathways to Success helps students choose future occupations based on their strengths, their interests, and labor market information. Certified Global Career Development Facilitators (Career Specialists) work in every middle and high school to deliver the Personal Pathways to Success program.

At League, the career exploration program is called "Focus on the Future". The program consists of lessons during advisory on career topics, presentations by guest speakers, interest assessments, virtual and on-site job shadowing, and the integration of career information into all classes. All 8th grade students and their parents meet individually with the Career Specialist and the 8th grade Guidance Counselor to develop Individual Graduation Plans before entering high school.

During 2009-2010, all students took an on-line interest assessment, using either SCOIS (6th) or KUDER (7th & 8th). More than forty parent and community speakers presented information about their careers. All 8th grade students had the opportunity to participate in on-site job shadowing, and 94% visited a business, while an additional 6% participated in a day of virtual shadowing at League. All 7th grade students participated in a virtual shadowing activity in their advisory classes. Individual Graduation Plans were completed for all 8th grade students in meetings with their parents/designees. 6th grade students had a "Careers in the Sciences" career fair. All students benefited from a school-wide emphasis on career exploration, as teachers guided students to recognize the connection between academic success and career success.

Parents participated in the "Focus on the Future" program in several ways. They were invited to participate as classroom and career fair speakers or to provide information about their careers, and to be workplace mentors for 8th grade job shadowing. For more information about the "Focus on the Future" program, contact Heather Berg, Career Specialist, at 355-8104 or via email at hberg@greenville.k12.sc.us

SPECIAL AWARDS

SC PTA Reflection Award Winners

Dance: Chaffee Thompson

Film/Video: Austin Slate

Visual Arts: Jade Carpenter

District Science Teacher of the Year

Heathe Provost – 7th Grade Science League Academy

History Day Winners:

Group Exhibit:

James McCrary, Jessica Harvell, Caroline Donald, Zoe Graydon - *Extra! Extra! Read All About It*

Emily Mulkey, Olivia Oliver - The Giroux

Daguerreotype Camera: State Winner:

National Competition

Website:

Paige Dean and Ellen Dobson - *Radio: An Important Innovation*

Joey Roberts - *Evolution of the Bicycle*

Natalie Farr - *The Revolutionary Cotton Gin*

Duke Tip Winners

16 (7th grade)

Junior Scholars

46 (8th grade)

SC Strings Teacher of the Year

Catherine Crowe

Art21 Educator

Joanna McCauley

Group Documentary:

Sophie Harris, Victoria Norman, Holly Houston, Kendall Miller - *The Airplane: Its History and Impact: State 3rd Place Winner*

Individual Exhibit:

Tyler Dindinger - *Reaching for the Stars: Innovation of the Telescope: National Qualifier Alternate*

Individual Documentary:

Abby Tessitore - *Crime Scene Photography*

Melissa Wallace - *The History of Blue Jeans*

Grant Awards

Professional Learning Communities

A school wide grant funded in 2008-2009 is now in year two. This grant funds staff development and resources focused on school improvement. This \$10,000 two year grant funded by the Alliance for Quality Education enables League the funding needed to move our school forward as a professional learning community.

SmartArts Teachers 2009-2010

6th Grade: Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Beach, Mrs. Moore

7th Grade: Mrs. Monson

8th Grade: Mr. Sloan, Ms. Lilly, Mrs. Blankenship

What is SmartARTS?

"SmartARTS is a partnership between Greenville County Schools and the Metropolitan Arts Council that connects students, artists and teachers to deeper learning and self-awareness through integrating the arts with all areas of education. SmartARTS provides training and support for teachers and artists in the use of successful arts integration methods. The partnership is built on the collaboration between teacher and artist and is focused on becoming a model and resource for this innovative work that has brought academic and behavioral success for many undeserved students. SmartARTS began in Title 1 schools and now offers its programs to interested Elementary and Middle school teachers in Greenville County. SmartARTS programs focus on standards-based arts integration and are designed to meet the objectives of the No Child Left Behind Act and the school district's Arts Education Plan."

<http://www.greenvillearts.com/education/smartarts.aspx>

Community Outreach

Faculty

League faculty and staff donate money and supplies to local charities each month. Each staff wears a name badge to identify them as a donor for that month. Charities this year include: Cancer Society, Project Host, Santa Fund, Sheppard's Gate, Ronald McDonald House, March of Dimes and Safe Harbor.

League faculty members worked with several of the local community centers that serve our students.

Students

League Students raised money this year for the Heart Association (Dodge Ball for Heart) and March of Dimes.

League School Improvement Council (SIC) 2009-2010

League Academy's School Improvement Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 in room 207 at League. If you are interested in learning more about SIC contact Toni Norris, 355-8103.

Chairman: Don Reamer Members: Merry Cox, Elaine Donnan, Catherine Crowe, , Jamie Harvey, Allison Peden, Perry Evatt, Susannah Hogan, Mike Pope, Megan Mitchell-Hoefer, Susan Mitchell, Teresa Gray, Toni Norris, Cendy Kossuth, Heather Berg, Jack Dill