



"CHALLENGE - CREATE - COMMUNICATE!"

Annual Report to the Community 2011

2010-2011 School Profile

Through the years at League Academy, we have worked together as a collaborative group of students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents and community members, combining our talents, passions and expertise to create and maintain an environment for learning that has produced exceptional results. Being named as a National School to Watch in February of 2011 reaffirms our belief that we are doing many things right for middle level students. It did not happen accidentally, however – our staff worked hard studying best practices, analyzing data, and asking and answering hard questions. We believe that integrating the arts throughout our curriculum helps all students learn.

Merry L. Cox, Principal, League Academy

Schools to Watch®



League Academy of Communication Arts has been recognized by the "National Schools to Watch" program, which honors the work of middle schools whose programs show high academic achievement and organizational supports that put them on the road toward excellence. The honor is presented by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform following an extensive self-assessment and site visit to review the school's programs. "Our mission, 'Challenge-Creat-Communicate!' is evident not only on the walls, but in the walls of League Academy," said Principal Merry Cox. "If the walls could talk, they would tell you how the students are challenged academically, artistically, and socially. They would tell you how the staff is challenged by high expectations and great students."

League Academy of Arts and Communications Magnet Information

League Academy's magnet program began in 1995 as part of the District's "Select Schools" initiative to increase enrollment in several city schools and to provide "school choice" options for parents seeking specialized programs for their children. 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 may explore many art forms in beginning, intermediate, and advanced level courses. Communication arts electives include Band, Choral Music, Computer Graphics, Dance, Debate/Public Speaking, Drama, Exploratory, Spanish, General Music, Journalism, Keyboarding, Strings, Video Production, and the Visual Arts.

Approximately one-third of League's students are typically 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 over fourteen years, League has maintained lengthy waiting lists of applicants who met admission criteria but were not admitted because the school's enrollment had reached capacity. In 2010-2011, enrollment was 799 students.

For more information about the magnet program or the magnet application process, contact Elaine Donnan, Magnet Coordinator, at 864-355-8112 or edonnan@greenville.k12.sc.us.

League Academy Features and Programs

Advanced studies in Art, Dance, Drama and Chorus
Advanced studies in Journalism
Arts focused curriculum
Awards Program
Band, Chorus, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama,
Journalism and Strings
Beta Club
Book Bowl
Book Fair
Challenge Program (Gifted and Talented in Language Arts)
Classroom Computer Lab
Computer Graphics lab
Duke TIP Scholars
Early Bird Learning Opportunities
EEDA Career Development Program
8th Grade Job Shadowing

Geography Bee
Honors Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish and English
(High School Credit/Carnegie Unit)
IGP Conferences for 8th Grade
Keyboarding Lab
Mocha with Merry
Multi-Media Capabilities
SC Junior Book Award Program
SIC/PTA Parent Information Nights
Self Selected Reading Initiative
SmartARTS
South Carolina Junior Scholars
Student Newspaper/Yearbook/Literary Magazine
Student Led Conferences
Video Production Classes
Weekly School Messenger
Year-Round Artist-in-Residence Program

Student Led Conferences

League Academy held Student Led Conferences in the fall and spring of 2009-2010 and in 2010-2011. During our "Student-Led Conference," students take the lead by sharing samples of their course work, discussing interests and goals, and working together with their parents on a preliminary plan for middle school and beyond. Student-led conferences are designed to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- To encourage students to accept personal responsibility for their academic performance.
- To teach students the process of self-evaluation.
- To facilitate the development of students' organizational and oral communication skills and to increase their self-confidence.
- To encourage students, parents, and teachers to engage in open and honest dialogue.
- To increase parent attendance at conferences.

Personal Pathways to Success



Personal Pathways to Success is a state-wide legislative initiative designed to promote career exploration in middle schools. Personal Pathways to Success helps students choose future occupations based on their strengths, their interests, and labor market information. Information about the Pathways to Success initiative is available at www.scpathways.org.

At League, the career exploration program is called "Focus on the Future", and 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 2010-11, all students completed an interest assessment, using either the Career Cluster Interest Survey (6th), SCOIS (7th), or EXPLORE (8th). 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. 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 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 864-355-8104 or via email at hberg@greenville.k12.sc.us

School Goals 2010-2011

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

MATHEMATICS

PERFORMANCE GOAL: The percentage of all students scoring *met* and *above* on the PASS Mathematics test will increase from 74 % in 2009-10 to 99% in 2012-13.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

PERFORMANCE GOAL: The percentage of all students scoring *met* and *above* on the PASS ELA Reading/Research test will increase from 77.4 % in 2009-10 to 99% in 2012-13.

League Academy Awards, Achievements and Scores

Public Education Partners-"Professional Learning Communities" Grant
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

PASS Results: 2010

Subject	Exemplary	Met	Not Met
English Language Arts	52.2	25.2	22.6
Writing	53.1	30.4	16.5
Mathematics	36.7	37.3	26
Science	33.5	42.9	23.5
Social Studies	39.8	37.3	22.9

MAP Results: Fall 2010 to Spring 2011

Fall 2010 to Spring 2011	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Subject	% Met Growth Target	% Met Growth Target	% Met Growth Target
Reading	65.0%	53.8%	53.6%
Mathematics	47.9%	48.3%	53.6%

Annual School Report Card Rating:

2010 Absolute Rating: Good
2010 Growth Rating: Good

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):

Met AYP in 2010

Palmetto Silver Award:

January 2011

Special Awards to Students and Faculty for 2010-2011

National Art21 Educator Award:

Joanna McCauley

SC Orchestra Director of the Year:

Catherine Crowe

District Science Teacher of the Year 2010

Heathe Provost – 7th Grade Science

District Top Ten Finalist for Teacher of the Year 2011-12

Heathe Provost

SC PTA State Reflections Award Winner

Visual Arts: Christopher Ludlow

Duke Tip Winners:

18 students

Junior Scholars:

49 students

League Academy and Metropolitan Arts Council's SmartARTS Program

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 underserved students. 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>

League Academy SmartARTS Teachers

2008	2009
Jamie Harvey - Anita Pacylowski/Dance and Shane Bryant/Ceramics Tracy Beach - Jim Harris/Photography and Shane Bryant/Ceramics	Chris Sloan - Vera Gomez/Poetry Carina Lilly - Anita Pacylowski/Dance Gloria Gray - Marlon Hunt/Visual Art
2010	Spring 2011
Michelle OMalley - Anita Pacylowski /Dance Melanie Patton - Shane Bryant/Ceramics Jennifer Bailey - Shane Bryant/Ceramics Sarah Monson - Shane Bryant/Ceramics	Alissa Moore - Jim Harris/Photography Leila Moore - Larry Mauldin/Visual Art Teresa Blankenship - Anita Pacylowski/Dance Sandra Hunt - Shane Bryant/Ceramics
2nd Year SmartARTS Participants:	
Teresa Blankenship - Gordy Owens/Theatre Gloria Gray - Angelina Richardson/Dance Sarah Monson - Judy Klein/Theatre	

Outreach Beyond and Around our Campus

Faculty

This year League Academy faculty and staff donated money and supplies to the Cancer Society, Project Host, Santa Fund, Sheppard's Gate, Ronald McDonald House, March of Dimes and Safe Harbor. League faculty members also worked with several of the local community centers that serve our students.

Students

During the 2010-2011 school year League Academy students raised money for the Heart Association (Dodge Ball for Heart) and March of Dimes.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 2010-2011

League Academy PTA's Walkathon, School Dance(s), Spirit Week Events, Chocolate Sales, Eco-Bag Sales and League Academy Student Store raised over \$22,000 to support League Academy teacher grants and purchase school supplies.

School Improvement Council (SIC) 2010 -2011

League Academy's SIC 2010-2011 efforts focused on five main issues: Legislative Advocacy, Books for Self Selected Reading(SSR), Traffic Safety, Website Redesign and Parent Opportunities/Information. This Year's SIC members were: Chairman: Carolyn Henry, Co-Chair: George Lipscomb, Secretary: Nell Stewart. Members: Heather Berg, Merry Cox, Jack Dill, Elaine Donnan, Teresa Gray, Joanna McCauley, Susan Mitchell, Megan Mitchell-Hoefer, Toni Norris, Mike Pope, Cendy Simmons-Kossuth and Becky Walters

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