

Northwest Middle School



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ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. David D. McDonald
Principal

Ms. Stephanie Yarbrough
Assistant Principal

Mr. Brett Foster
Assistant Administrator

Dr. Heather Gordon
Instructional Specialist

Ms. Angela Bruce
Instructional Coach

OUR MISSION

The Northwest Middle School Community Unites to Give 100% Effort 100% of the Time To Achieve Academic and Personal Success!



Proud to be an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program School



Proud to be designated a Palmetto Silver Award winning school

A Message from our Principal...

Northwest Middle School is a school with a long history, lots of pride, and most importantly a great place to learn! We are excited about the everyday accomplishments we make as we work to provide the best education possible to our students. For over 40 years, Northwest Middle School has provided educational services to the Travelers Rest area and while education has changed greatly over time, several priorities guide our practice each and every day.

At Northwest, Faculty and Staff Members focus in four areas. First, our goal is to provide exceptional academic opportunities for all student learners. We continue to examine opportunities to challenge students to be successful in a 21st Century classroom and in a global system. Students are challenged with rigorous academic standards, inquiry based activities, and strong assessment opportunities.

Our school also works to provide opportunities that are developmentally appropriate for all learners. Students are provided support by grade level counselors, extended learning opportunities such as clubs and organizations, character education opportunities through our Early Act First Knight program, free tutoring times from all teachers, and much more.

The third area we create a difference is in focusing efforts around social equality within the school. Our Faculty and staff work to be service oriented and provide support to our students and their families. All students at Northwest Middle School complete service learning opportunities and work with local organizations to support our community. Finally, our school has worked hard to provide structures that are focused on the middle level student. At Northwest, we utilize research about best practice in middle schools to guide our programs. Teachers work in teams, utilize data, and provide extra support for students through tutoring, our Panther Success Center, and much more.

We are proud of the work we have done during the 2014-2015 school year to make our school a great place to learn and thrive. We continue to work hard to develop new ideas and practices to guide our assistance to the students of Northwest Middle School. The things happening in our school each day are preparing our students for their future. We work to give 100% effort each and every day to the success of all student learners. I invite you to take advantage of all of the great things happening at Northwest!

Dr. David D. McDonald, Principal

Here's What People Have to Say About Northwest...

"We have found the teachers, faculty, and staff very helpful in the transition from elementary to middle school. Our personal experience has been that the teachers go above and beyond to help students achieve their best. We are thankful for a school that everyone works together to help all children reach their goals."

Cindy Cline

Co-PTA President and Parent

"At Northwest Middle School, you will have many new classmates and get to make lots of new friends! Enjoy the opportunity to spread your wings and learn."

Sandra Larson

Past SIC Chairperson and Parent

"I love being a member of the Northwest Middle School community. I especially enjoy working with such a great group of students. I take a lot of pride in the opportunities Northwest offers our students and the hard work our faculty and staff put in every day to help our students."

Keri Reaney

Media Specialist, Teacher of the Year, and former parent



Northwest Middle School Highlights...

Each area of our school is focused on providing the best for our students and families.

Services from our Guidance Department...

The Northwest Guidance Department serves all students with many opportunities. Counselors work with students individually, in small group, and in the classroom setting. Counselors work with students on issues and needs related to bullying prevention, education, and support. Partnerships with Clemson University and local groups help provide college preparation education and support. Career learning opportunities also support students at Northwest. Counselors support school wide initiatives in service learning through Pasta for Pennies, Red Ribbon Week, can food drives, and Christmas giving projects. Counselors are willing to provide support to families and students, make referrals to community agencies, and assist with transition to our school. Feel Free to contact the Guidance Department for more information.

Community Engagement...

Northwest participates in numerous community projects such as Relay for Life, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, donations to homeless shelters, support of various causes around Greenville, and much more. We aim to provide students with access to service learning opportunities that support our local community.

Opportunities in the Arts...

At Northwest, we provide students with multiple opportunities to be involved in the arts. Students may enroll in art class, participate in our drama club, which stages two productions, and be in band, chorus, or our music programs. The arts also extend in to many of our classrooms. Teachers infuse the arts in the classroom by participating in program sponsored by the Peace Center, hosting poets, artists, and musicians in class, and numerous projects and opportunities to extend their learning.

Special Education Services...

At Northwest, students who have learning challenges are a priority. Our Special Education team works hard to provide support for our students in a variety of means. Students participate in community learning experiences, transition activities, and receive intensive instruction to support student's individual needs. Northwest has several program models for special education services available.

Celebrating our Past and Future...

Northwest works hard to celebrate our rich history in the TR community. Our school has been in TR for 40 years. Throughout this time, we have worked to educate our students, reward their successes, and help them celebrate. For over 20 years we have held a large Veterans Day program that invited our community to celebrate America. Each 9 weeks, we reward the hard work of our students. Our athletic programs celebrate the success of our athletes.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT NORTHWEST

GENERAL

Students	804
General Teachers	31
Related Arts Teachers	9
Special Educators	6
Support Staff	8
Guidance Counselors	3
Media Specialist	1
Instructional Support	2
Student Support	3
Administrators	3
Attendance Rate	96%
Student Teacher Ratio	25:1
Mascot	Panther
School Colors	Blue & Silver

FACILITY

Opened	1973
Computer Labs	4
Chromebook Labs	14
3D Projection Lab	1
Classrooms	45
Video Cameras	26
Science Labs	4
Gyms	2
Weight Room	1
Interactive Boards	47
Soccer Field	1
Baseball Field	1
Tennis Courts	3
Basketball Courts	4
Track	1
Library Books	14,200

STATE RATINGS

ESEA Rating	B
Absolute Rating	Good
Growth Rating	Good

The ratings are the first time NWMS has ever earned a Good rating! A great improvement.

Sixth Grade: A New Beginning:

Sixth Grade is an exciting time at Northwest. It is a time of changes and new experiences in the lives of our students. Teachers at Northwest work diligently to help students make a smooth transition from elementary to middle school. Students are cared for, kept safe, and challenged academically. Students are expected, and encouraged, to be active learners and to take part in a variety of learning experiences!



Seventh Grade: In the Middle –

Seventh Grade builds upon the foundations that were established during the sixth grade year. Opportunities become available to seventh graders as they are eligible to try out for sports and can begin to take high school credit courses, such as keyboarding. The annual Washington Field Trip has been a valuable, and memorable, learning opportunity. Our seventh grade has also been fortunate to have Greenville County's Teacher of the Year!



Eighth Grade: Preparing for the Next Adventure!

Eighth Grade is the culmination of the middle years program. Students begin their high school preparation in earnest as they have multiple chances to earn Carnegie units in such subjects as Spanish I, Algebra I, and English I.

The annual Veteran's Day Program provides students with leadership skills as they engage the community through this oral history project. Career Day helps students prepare for their future.



Here are some things to look forward to at Northwest Middle School during the 2016-2017 school year:

Technology

Northwest Middle School will be continuing to advance usage of chromebook technology. During the last three years, more than \$100,000 was spent on new technology. More wireless computers will be purchased and utilized as a teaching tool in the classroom. NWMS will continue a Bring Your Own Device option for students in the new year. Students will experiment more with technology in the classroom.

Innovative Practices

Students will receive more exposure to project based learning, STEAM integration, and learning through discovery.

New Classes

We will introduce new art and computer classes to provide students the opportunity to further explore their interests. Additionally, all 6th graders will take a computer class and Spanish. A new high school credit course will be introduced for 7th and 8th grade students.

New Clubs and Activities

Teachers will continue to offer new clubs and opportunities for students to be involved in the school.

More Student Support Services

Students will receive additional support resources in both the academic and social development areas. Our school will utilize a new Early Warning Response System to provide extra help to our students.



Get Involved...

At Northwest Middle School, we recognize the importance of parental involvement. We encourage parents and family members to visit our school, become involved in our Parent/Teacher Association and School Improvement Council, and attend conferences and other opportunities. The school/home partnership is incredibly important to the success of our student.

Student Involvement....

At Northwest Middle School we believe in students being involved in various clubs, organizations, sports, and programs. Here are a few examples:

Clubs and Organizations

- Chess Club
- German Club
- Student Council
- Early Act First Knight Club
- Pep Squad
- Beta Club
- Yearbook
- Drama Club
- Nook Book Club
- Principal's Advisory Committee
- Battle of the Brains

Sports

- D Team Football (with TR High School)
- Volleyball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Girls Soccer
- Boys Soccer
- * Sports not offered can be played at TRHS



Northwest Middle School
"Home of the Panthers"

Northwest Middle School is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme School

The International Baccalaureate is a continuum of international education, including: the Primary Years Program (PYP), the Middle Years Program (MYP), the Diploma Program (DP), and Life long learning. Northwest received authorization as an IB World School in June 2005.



The Middle Years Program is a middle school academic program that is part of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). The IBO is a chartered foundation that is a private non-governmental organization recognized by the council of Europe. Because of the high standards and global accountability the IBO has gained worldwide prestige and acceptance.

The MYP is specifically designed to serve students in the 11-16 range. It provides a framework of academic challenge and life skills appropriate to this stage of adolescence. The MYP focuses on the student's intellectual and social development along with teaching an understanding of the student's own history and global awareness in each subject area.

Commitment to learning...

At Northwest Middle School, all teachers and staff participate in regular professional development and learning opportunities. Our goal is to provide our students with the latest teaching strategies and best practices. We don't just expect our students to learn, we work to practice learning right alongside our students.