

# SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL TO WATCH



## League Academy of Communication Arts



## 2016 School Statistics

(Source: Enter name of data source for stats listed below.)

Community: City/Urban  
Enrollment: 803  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Traditional

### Student Demographics

9%	Hispanic
61%	White
21%	African American
7%	American Indian (Native American)
43%	Free/Reduced Lunch
9%	English Learners

### Designated in 2011; Re-Designated in 2015 and 2017

League Academy of Communication Arts • Greenville  
County School District • Greenville County • South Carolina  
• Principal, Mary Leslie Anderson • 125 Twin Lake Road  
• Phone (864)355-8100  
Stephen.smith@eagleschools.net  
School Web Site: <http://gcms.eagleschools.net>

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Inclusion in all four content areas
- Learning styles in communication classes to help all classes
- Communications course for all students with a focus on the Profile of the SC Graduate
- Teachers work on common assessments during PLCs

- Teachers are exploring re-teaching and retesting with new grading system
  - Standards-based grading
  - Project-based learning
  - Arts integration across the curriculum
  - Independent reading time
  - PD lead by related arts teachers “crash courses”
  - Use advisory time for retests
  - Digital Focus Group
  - Revisit School Improvement Plan as a faculty annually
  - Math coaches for individual intervention for students
  - Develop strong advisor and advisee relationships
  - Collaborative planning
  - Focus on mastery of content
  - Before or after school enrichment
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- 504 training for all staff to ensure students receive proper classroom supports
  - High achievement on all state standardized tests
  - Variety of assessments for students to gain success.
  - Teachers analyze test and classroom data collaboratively.
  - Literacy Focus Team

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- All grade levels work in teams through the Middle School Concept
  - Grade level advisory schedule
  - Comprehensive School Counseling Program
  - Have a PD on adolescent psychology
  - Mentor Program through Mentor Upstate
  - Capturing Kids’ Hearts School
  - Math Counts Club
  - Model UN Club
  - Communications Course for all students
  - Case managers for intervention needs and for students with IEPs and 504s.
  - Small group counseling
  - Counseling Advisory Team
  - Relationship Education Project
  - More 1-on-1 mentoring during advisory (discussing soft skills)
  - VOICE Club for Service Projects
  - Young Writer’s Club
  - Social Contracts in all settings help students to know our norms.
  - School Counseling career programs-Naviance scope and sequence for each grade
  - Afterschool program
  - Conferences with students
  - League Ambassadors/Leadership club
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- League Academy backpack program -food sent home with students in need on Fridays
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- Athletics for all students
  - PTSA Raise Craze Fundraiser
  - Student Government Association

## Social Equity

- Teachers and Administrators focus PLCs on students and data.
- Revised self-contained schedule so students have more time with grade-level peers
- Inclusion model
- Mentor Program through Mentor Upstate
- Re-evaluate new discipline system quarterly
- Communication system between ED-SC and general education teachers to smooth transition for students.
- Use PD to analyze subgroup data and apply that analysis to intervention.
- Reinforce skills through arts integration
- All grade levels operate on the Middle School Concept
- Capturing Kids' Hearts Process Champions Focus Group for School Culture
- Consistency with everything that comes to students
- Math Interventionists for students
  
- Capturing Kids' Hearts Program
- Inclusion methods in all content areas. Special education students are included in grade level related arts classes and advisory periods.
- Differentiation strategies for different modalities for learning.
- Collaboration with PTA on arts integration, Capturing Kids' Hearts, The Profile of the SC graduate, and school activities for students.
- Student rewards for good behavior, grades, and school involvement such as PTSA Reflections, athletics, and awards for academics.

## Organizational Support

- Active School Improvement Council.
- Active PTSA
- ABC Steering Committee Community Board
- Comprehensive and Tiered Professional Development Plan that includes, Capturing Kids' Hearts, Technology and Arts Integration, data analysis, collaborative planning and assessment, and individual PD.
- PD is organized into PLCs (whole faculty, teams, grade levels, departments, and teacher cohorts).
- Summer 'institute' to allow teachers to collaborate.
- Resources are devoted to reaching and sustaining the school vision.
- Shared mission and vision of school's high performance- . *The mission of League Academy of Communication Arts is to prepare students to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society through rigorous, arts-focused, standards-based instruction.*
- Staff conduct peer observations
- Student and staff handbooks organize policies and procedures.
- Community of practice which norms are - learning, experimentation, and reflection
- Staff accountability is through PLCs and leadership.
- High Expectations for all staff and students.
- School is not an island.
- Focus Teams are task-oriented for improvement- literacy, CKH, digital leadership, grading and assessment.
- The master schedule is created through academic and arts needs based on our students.
  
- Collaborative effort for School Improvement Plan
- School is based on relationship building with students.

- League hosts student teachers each year.
- Community partnerships include: Greenville Mental Health, The Peace Center, The Metropolitan Arts Council, The Warehouse Theatre, The Frazee Center, Mentor Upstate, our feeder elementary and high schools, local universities, and PTA.