

E. L. WRIGHT 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



From the E. L. Wright School Improvement Council
Lori Marrero, Principal
Cynthia Manning, Chair

Introduction

The Annual Report to Parents is mandated by the Education Finance Act of 1977, the Education Improvement Act of 1984, and the Elementary and Secondary Academic Act (ACT 135) of 1993. To produce our report, every year at this time E. L. Wright Middle School administration and the School Improvement Council reviews the school's achievements and goals. The report you see here tells you about our accomplishments for the 2007 – 08 school year and revises the goals we set for 2006 – 07. We are pleased to be moving ahead and look forward to your response.



Principal's note

The school year has flown quickly by, and we have had an excellent school year. Academically, we saw more students meeting MAP goals, particularly in reading. Overall, students had better grades — gains mirrored in overall student achievement, positive attitudes, and attendance. We've continued to build a strong community of students who exhibit caring and kindness to those around them and who strive to do their best. Faculty and staff wrote numerous Commendation Notices, recognizing students for positive behavior as well as improved grades.

Technology has become a central instructional focus. We placed Smartboards in every classroom. Teachers are beginning to build instructional podcasts to help students master academic concepts, and we are building a library of these mini-lessons and tutorials.

We have also made numerous facility improvements, from repainting and refitting our Guidance office to replacing the audio system in the Gym. We repaired the mural in the Multipurpose Room, and the gym will be painted this summer. We are working hard to provide not only quality instruction but also an inviting place where learning is enjoyable. As always, our doors are open. I hope you have time to visit and see the great things we're doing.



Lori Marrero

Objectives

At E. L. Wright, students will:

- **Demonstrate** the ability to think critically and creatively and to solve problems using basic skills, technology, and knowledge that they have acquired.
- **Increase** their skills in mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, and related arts.
- **Develop** characteristics of life-long learners by being able to research, apply, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
- **Show** a knowledge of cultural diversity by participating in multicultural activities of various artistic media.
- **Use** technological resources to retrieve, interpret, organize, and present information.
- **Demonstrate** respect, responsibility, and integrity through a variety of alternative, preventive, and community programs.
- **Show** appreciation for learning by voluntary participation in extracurricular activities through the school and the community

Mission statement

E. L. Wright strives to be a middle school of academic and artistic excellence, in alliance with parents, business, and community. We guarantee a quality education through comprehensive programs that build self-worth and accomplishment in each student.

We believe that:

- **Each individual is a unique individual** who can be motivated to learn through a variety of teaching methods.
- **A positive and safe environment** improves students' self esteem.
- **Our curriculum challenges students** to think critically in creating an environment that fosters mutual respect.
- **Learning is a collaborative effort** among home, school, and community.
- **The arts, technology, and physical education are critical** to the core curriculum.
- **High expectations** challenge students.
- **Teachers should grow professionally** to better serve students
- **We provide a quality education**

A very good year

Eighth-grade violinists Sydney Johnson and Christine Nixon played in the 2007 Midlands Regional Orchestra in November.

The fall fund-raiser brought in \$25,000 in sales, enabling the PTO to give book vouchers to every teacher, contribute to the principal's commendation program, and partially fund a MacLab.

Essays by five E. L. Wright students — Jaquari Blunt, Cheyenne Gentry, Daja Hammond, Ashley Ledesma, and Emily Ryan — were selected for publication in the national literary anthology "A Celebration of Young Writers."

The Lady Warriors Volleyball Team completed their third undefeated season under Coach Mary Hall.

Amie Cammissa's 6th grade science classes are making observations for the NASA CERES S'Cool (student cloud observations online) Project, becoming one of three in South Carolina participating, and one of only a few thousand worldwide.

Kechia Williams has been named a Scholastic Teacher Advisor for 6th – 8th grades. Each year Scholastic.com welcomes a team of veteran teachers

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PACT 2007

Grade 6

Math

Mean scale score	608
Basic and above	71.7%

English Language Arts

Mean scale score (total test)	605
Basic and above, reading	71.2%
Basic and above, writing	84.0%

Science

Mean scale score	606
Basic and above	63.4%

Social Studies

Mean scale score	612
Basic and above	86.5%

Grade 7

Math

Mean scale score	711
Basic and above	76.6%

English Language Arts

Mean scale score (total test)	704
Basic and above, reading	72.4%
Basic and above, writing	85.8%

Science

Mean scale score	712
Basic and above	78.0%

Social Studies

Mean scale score	707
Basic and above	67.2%

Grade 8

Math

Mean scale score	807
Basic and above	67.5%

English Language Arts

Mean scale score (total test)	804
Basic and above, reading	71.7%
Basic and above, writing	79.8%

Science

Mean scale score	804
Basic and above	65.6%

Social Studies

Mean scale score	804
Basic and above	73.7%

to share their expertise with other educators. Ms. Williams is the middle level representative.

Two E. L. Wright students took top awards at the USC Region II. Science and Engineering Fair at USC. Eighth-grade LAW student Afia Khan won First Place 8th Grade Project, First Place Junior Division, and First Place Region II Grand Awards Junior Division. She also was the only middle schooler to receive an Observer Award to attend Intel's International Science and Engineering Fair and was nominated to attend the Society for Science & the Public Middle School Program, a highly prestigious national competition. In addition, eighth-grade Honors student Tracy Rosch won a bronze medal and certificate for placing third in the Vision Science Awards with her project called "Focusing on Lights."

Having placed first in the state competition, the E. L. Wright News Bowl Team went on to first place in the National News Bowl Competition. This is the eighth consecutive state championship for the team and the fourth national title. Team members were Lisa Houck, Allison Patterson, Aniya Kelly, Jon Guzior, Leah Price, Alex Grant, Afia Khan, Karli Wells, and Kamry Goodwin. John Smith was the faculty sponsor.

Nearly 1000 students met their MAP goals in April. These goals, set in the fall, gave students academic achievement targets. Many of them met or exceeded their goal in not only one but often two or all three target areas: Math, Language Arts, and Reading. As a reward, students who met at least one goal got to celebrate at a cookout. We hope this will become a Warrior tradition.

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2007 – 08 E. L. Wright
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