



GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL TO WATCH COASTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL HOME OF THE SEAHAWKS EXCELLENCE WITHOUT LIMITS



Coastal Middle School



Designated in: 2013
Redesignated: 2016

- Coastal Middle School: 4595 Highway 80 East
- Savannah, GA 31410
- Phone: 912-395-3950 Fax: 912-898-3950
- School District: Savannah-Chatham Public School System
- Mrs. Allison Schuster Jones, Principal
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- Website: <http://cms.sccpss.com/>

2016-2017 School Statistics

Community: Suburban Islands Area (Savannah, GA- population 136, 286

Enrollment: 725

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: 7 Period Day (Academic classes daily, Exploratories Monday-Thursday on a rotating AB Block and Fridays are Club/Reward/Special Event Days)

Student Demographics

Hispanic: 4%

White: 63%

African American: 21%

Asian: 6%

American Indian: n/a

Multi-race: 6%

Male: 51%

Female: 49%

Free/Reduced Lunch: 37%

English Learners: 1%

Gifted: 30%

SWD: 11%

2014 CCRPI SCORE: 78.8

2015 CCRPI SCORE: 71.2

2016 CCRPI SCORE: 71.1

2017 CCRPI SCORE: TBA

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- **We offer a world-class education as a member of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme School since 2010.**
- **All students are IB students and are exposed to the academic rigor necessary to prepare them for a competitive entry into a global marketplace.**
- **We serve students with the highest caliber instruction possible, from our students with Severe Intellectual Disabilities (SIDS/PIDS) to our gifted students who receive differentiated instruction in both academic and connections settings.**
- **We offer school-wide foreign language classes: Arabic, Chinese and Spanish.**
- **Teachers collaborate to offer an interdisciplinary approach to the academic curriculum across disciplines and grade levels.**
- **Teachers are trained in Writing Across the Curriculum, utilizing the RACE method and DBQs which are a precursor to constructed responses generated at the classroom level and on standardized tests.**
- **Writing is embedded in all facets of learning and showcased through portfolio development, gallery walks and writer's tea venues.**
- **Expanded technology allows for whole grade levels to utilize technology at common time periods.**
- **Students are offered the opportunity to take accelerated courses leading to high school credit in Algebra I/Geometry A, English, Intro to Drafting and Design, Art, Physical Science and Spanish I and II.**
- **Enrichment courses are offered in Engineering, Physical Education, Art, Music, Keyboarding, Chorus, Band, Reading and Math Support, Family and Consumer Science, Drama and Technology.**
- **We were recently awarded a grant for the Learning Blades Program, which will mesh STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with academic disciplines and CATE (Career and Technical Education) subjects. All students will have access to this virtual career-based program. Students will be afforded the opportunity to experience virtual missions in jobs that they are interested in or in which they demonstrate a high aptitude for success.**

Developmental Responsiveness

- **By scaffolding our learning opportunities, students can grow in small learning communities and expand their horizons to school-wide activities.**
- **All students have a mentor and advisor, with daily access to guidance or support when needed.**
- **A daily news broadcast and weekly advisement sessions allow students to delve into community and global issues as well as serving as a hub of information from which they can use to navigate through their day.**
- **The Coastal Middle School Daily News has been awarded a grant from ESEN Networks which allows our morning news to be broadcast on the world-wide web within 30 minutes of the live filming. This action allows parents, guardians and relatives who are not living within our attendance zone to stay abreast of the activities and events which are pertinent to their children. This is an especially useful tool for the military families that we serve, families of divorced parents and other family units that are non-traditional.**
- **Teachers engage in learning communities through a variety of arenas such as academic teams, grade level groups and discipline-based departments.**
- **Monthly shared lunches are dedicated to strengthening relationships among faculty and staff, build relationships and foster morale.**
- **Play and exploration are a part of learning at Coastal Middle School.**
- **Our monthly Club Day was such a success that we now offer Club Day on a weekly basis; this every Friday schedule provides students with a plethora of different choices from which to explore the world during the regular school day for an extended period.**
- **Multiple extraneous programs exist to assist students with healthy growth and development in all areas of life: small group counseling, career exploration and a new Gentlemen's Corp character building group. We also have a National Junior Honor Society, a student-centered PTSA consortium and IB ambassadors who lead the school in our quest to be inviting to everyone who enters our doors.**
- **Parent involvement is paramount to what we do. From guest speakers to gallery walks to technology learning sessions, our parents can learn together with their children.**
- **Information and an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process is communicated through surveys, weekly email newsletters, an automated phone system, Brown Bag Lunches with administrators, Coffee and Conversation events and Evening Input Forums.**
- **All 8th Grade students will complete their middle school experience with a dedicated IB Community Service Project to put action to the IB mission "to create a better and more peaceful world." Students were recognized by United Way and Second Harvest Food Bank for their donations of food and other personal items to those who are less fortunate. The occurrence of two hurricanes in our area, along with natural disasters in other parts of the world motivated our campus to give above and beyond what was expected.**

Social Equity

- We value diversity and embrace the opportunity to serve those of all educational, ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- We currently serve students from a variety of countries and are proud to be the Seahawk Nest for our faculty and staff from the United States, Panama, Spain and Morocco.
- We are proud to collaborate with the YMCA. Through our shared partnership, we have had faculty, staff, students and family members participate in the Livestrong program for cancer survivors, the Special Olympic Swim Team and have been the gracious hosts of Mindfulness and Meditation workshops.
- We serve students in the PACE program, an inclusive setting for autistic students to learn and grow.
- In addition to traditional accolades for academic and athletic achievements, we strive to honor students for citizenship, community involvement, kindness, dedication, artistic ability and perseverance.
- Students who find success difficult to grasp are offered multiple venues for remediation through our before and after-school tutorial programs, online Moby Max and REP Reading and Math support.
- Students have a voice in the decision-making process through our student council and our student advisory panel.

Organizational Supports

- We are a geographical, logistical, organizational and structural centerpiece for all to gather around and flourish in the islands area.
- Our partnerships with Oatland island Wildlife center, the 4-H Club, Fort Pulaski National Monument, the United States Coast Guard Station Tybee, the United States Air Station at Hunter Army Airfield. Five Guys Burgers and Fries, Papa Murphy's, Jersey Mike's Subs, Rio Bravo Mexican Restaurant, Chick-Fil-A, McDonalds and Davis Produce allow us to extend our learning environment beyond the classroom to the local community and abroad.
- Our one-campus initiative provides an islands campus triangle to share green space, athletic fields and transition opportunities which lead to joint ventures such as pep rallies, shadow days and field day ambassadors.
- Our campus is a host site for visiting teachers and shadowing principals in search of best practices.
- Our faculty has received over 30 grants totaling \$60,000 to diversify learning and add more hands-on instruction.

- Our current initiative, Partnership in Education (PIE) with the United States Coast Guard Station Tybee will solidify our support of those who serve and protect us in times of peril and will initiate a mentorship program for our students who desire or need extra support, leadership skills, job skills, work ethics, hands-on career exploration or simply an outside source of encouragement.
- Teachers strive to remain current in best practices through research-based endeavors and publishing articles of educational innovation.
- Our school remains a venue of free thought, academic autonomy and teachable moments through the strong leadership of our administration who believes and models excellence without limits.
- Thrivent Financial has partnered with us to purchase an electronic device application that supports our efforts to plunge into the paradigm shift of focusing on the positive behaviors of our students rather than the sparse disciplinary issues that occur. This PBIS app allows administration, faculty and staff to acknowledge positive behaviors through the Seashell system of commerce. This system, which works on personal devices much like a debit card, has created a system of financial responsibility directly connected to personal actions and character traits which are emphasized daily in our creed.
- The installation of the Buddy Bench is a direct reflection of the national trend to eradicate the feeling of loneliness that middle school student often experiences; built by volunteers with materials purchased through a grant, this bench is a place of support, friendship and kindness. We desire our organizational structure to be so tightly woven that, much like a blanket, we can provide the warm, layered, all-encompassing cover for students to feel love, experience laughter and eventually pay it forward by lending a helping hand to those who hold their success or failure in our hearts.