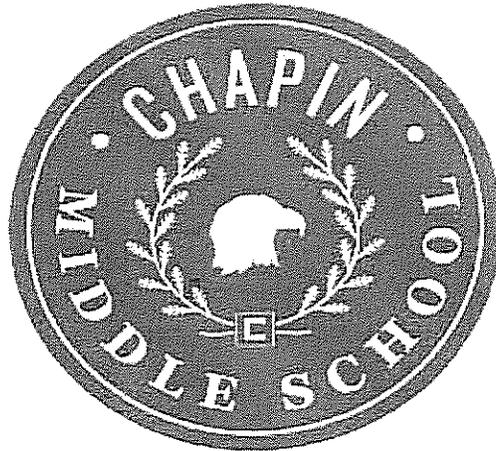


Chapin Middle School  
11661 Broad River Road  
Chapin, SC 29036

The Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence

2020 Application



Anna Miller, Principal  
(803)722-5500  
ammiller@lexrich5.org

Reggie Salazar  
SIC Chair  
1016 Night Harbor Circle  
Chapin, SC 29036  
(706) 570-1009  
rrsalazar71@yahoo.com

School District Five of Richland and Lexington Counties

The mission of Chapin Middle School, where community and school unite for excellence, is to ensure that each student is prepared to succeed by providing a challenging curriculum that develops intellectual, social, and emotional growth within a safe, supportive learning environment. The vision of Chapin Middle School is to be a place where children are engaged and challenged in a supportive, nurturing environment. The School Improvement Council (SIC) serves as an advisory committee to the principal and faculty and brings together parents, educators, students, and community stakeholders who work together to collectively improve the school.

Chapin Middle School has 115 staff members-- 59 teachers, 7 special education teachers, 1 psychologist, 3 school counselors, 1.5 career development facilitators, one media specialist, one digital integration specialist, 37 support staff, 3 assistant principals, and 1 principal.

Student Population	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	TOTAL	Percent
All Students	3	512	496	1011	100%
Male	2	264	253	519	51.335%
Female	1	248	243	492	48.664%

For the 2018-19 school year, the SIC established three goals. For each goal, a breakout committee was formed. Committees met during the monthly SIC meeting to discuss the goal, plan action steps, and report results. Committees give short reports at each meeting so that the rest of the SIC can be kept apprised of their actions and progress. This model began during the 2017-18 school year and was carried into the 18-19 school year because it provides all members a voice and an active role in the SIC through their role on a committee.

**GOAL #1: The CMS SIC will work with staff and administration at CMS to offer helpful solutions for heavy backpacks, instrument, and sports bag storage during the school day.**

**Issue:** As a recently-built school with a modern design, Chapin Middle School lacks storage areas for students, specifically lockers. A growing student population has continued to put stress on the limited storage areas available. Many students and parents have communicated concerns about heavy backpacks and a lack of storage for items students need for after school activities such as sports and dance.

**Action Taken:** Information on backpack weight was communicated to parents in our parent newsletter. In addition to organizing a SIC breakout committee focused on this goal, an additional committee comprised of a parent SIC member, school administrator, teachers, and students was formed. This committee met weekly for 6 weeks to brainstorm possible solutions to backpack and storage issues with the goal of helping all students get the weight of their backpack to between 10%-15% of their body weight. The SIC committee invited a physical therapist to speak to the group about the negative impacts of teenagers carrying backpacks that weigh greater than 15% of their own body weight.

Results: The sub-committee, led by a parent SIC member, developed a proposal that outlines goals for storage and backpack weight. The specific goal successfully addressed during the 2018-19 school year was a revision of the school supply list and a social media and newsletter campaign for the 19-20 school year. The revision of the supply list focused on removing items that were not necessary and helping students consolidate or scale-down binders for each class. As a result of this work, according to weigh-ins done through health classes, almost 50% of our student backpacks are at a healthy weight! This goal was carried forward to the 2019-20 school year where the committee plans to focus on parent communication and student organizational skills.

**GOAL #2: The CMS SIC will continue to collaborate with the Chapin Cluster SICs (SOS Chapin SC) to educate students and parents about the current substance abuse problem in our area by holding Town Hall meetings where the Chapin community is invited to attend. This goal will also include supporting our students' social and emotional health, which leads to healthy life choices.**

Issue: School staff noticed an increase of e-cigarette usage at school, and a concerned parent reached out to CMS about the current opioid crisis and increased sales and use of e-cigarettes in the community. The principals and SIC chairs in the Chapin cluster felt that educating the Chapin community about social/emotional health and issues related to substance abuse would aid them in creating a safe, nurturing environment for all students and help keep students healthy. Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, the Chapin cluster SICs hosted Town Hall meetings to educate the community, and these meetings continued during the 2018-19 school year.

Action Taken: Our SIC invited our district superintendent, Dr. Christina Melton, to speak to the SIC about promoting a work and learning environment where students and staff feel safe physically, emotionally, and socially. This allowed the SIC to align this goal with one of Dr. Melton's priorities for the district as a whole. Digital Citizenship lessons on Juuling/vaping prevention were created for all CMS students to complete in Google Classroom. In coordination with the other SICs in the Chapin cluster and organized by SIC chairs and principals, a Town Hall meeting was scheduled in the fall and the spring. The fall meeting focused on prevention through education and resources to meet the social and emotional needs of students and was geared toward parents. It featured a panel of local experts including Luke Bonnett, pediatrician; Bill Finch, Chapin Police Department Community Services Director; Jody Flowers, head pastor of Chapin United Methodist Church; Joshua D. Fowler, child and adolescent psychiatrist; Pam Imm, community psychologist LRADAC; Bruce Loveless, parent and founder of Palmetto Foundation for Prevention and Recovery; and Thais West, Chapin Middle School Director of Counseling. The spring Town Hall was geared toward middle and high school students and featured a screening of the film *Anything But Free* and a program by Martine Helou and Jennifer Woodard of Palmetto Foundation for Prevention and Recovery. The CMS SIC chair contacted and coordinated the speakers for the Town Halls. School counselors completed classroom lessons in January, 2019. The chair of the CMS SIC, Renee Holstein, maintained the #SOSCHAPINSC Facebook page throughout the school year. The SIC provided information on

vaping and other at-risk behaviors in the school newsletter, on the school website, and through school social media platforms.

Results: Two well-attended, informative Town Hall meetings were hosted during the 2018-2019 school year for the entire Chapin community which serves six schools (K-12). All CMS students participated in the classroom lessons and completed the survey in Google Classroom. Tips in our "See Something, Say Something" internal school google form increased out of concern for their fellow students. Unused prescription medications were removed from houses in our community due to our promotion and information on how to safely dispose of unused medications.

**Goal #3: The CMS SIC will work with staff and administration at CMS to help educate students and parents about the pros and cons of technology/social media use. Specifically, we will focus on how to use technology and social media in positive ways to impact future relationships and college/career applications.**

Issue: While social media offers students incredible ways to connect to each other and the world, it also poses issues of cyberbullying and posting information that can potentially negatively impact students applying for college and career. Educating students on issues related to social media and helping them learn to use it responsibly helps ensure we are meeting students intellectual, social, and emotional needs.

Action Taken: The SIC promoted World Day of Bullying Prevention on October 1, 2018 and encouraged students, faculty, staff, and community members to wear blue. A parent information session and student assembly were organized with Joe Ryan, Education Coordinator at the SC Office of the Attorney General. Anti-bullying lessons along with lessons on positive digital citizenship were provided through Google Classroom on a monthly basis to all CMS students and faculty. The #Eaglekind Challenge was organized and promoted during the week of February 11-15. The SIC committee, comprised of students and adults, was instrumental in sharing thoughts and ideas about this goal and charged CMS administration and counselors with putting their thoughts into action.

Results: Parents received information on how to communicate with students about social media and on the most popular devices and apps for students during their information session with Joe Ryan. Students attended grade-level assemblies with Joe Ryan to learn how to stay safe online. School counselors provided classroom lessons on social media use and students completed a survey on-line. The SIC challenge for #Eaglekind was advertised through our school website and social media. Students made posts for peers and teachers with "What I Like About You" that were posted on a bulletin board in our main hall and on school social media platforms. Students were encouraged to remember and post using the three BEs--be positive, be intentional, be inspiring, and posts using the hashtag #Eaglekind were posted on the electronic bulletin boards in the cafeteria. 7th grade ELA teachers even used the #Eaglekind challenge to plan an instructional activity with peer review!



Ramiro (Reggie) Salazar  
SIC Chair

## **SIC Narrative**

The CMS SIC bridged work between parents, students, and community members to achieve great results for our school during the 2018-19 school year. Many students and parents shared concerns about heavy backpacks. The SIC established a committee of parents, students, and faculty members to begin planning communication about ideal backpack weight and brainstorming possible solutions to the problem of heavy backpacks. The committee educated department heads, which led to a revised school supply list and a social media campaign to raise awareness on the issue. As a result of this work, 50% of the student body achieved a healthy weight for their bookbags for the first half of the 2019-20 school year.

In response to an increase in e-cigarette use and concern about the opioid crisis, the SIC worked with other SICs in our district to educate the community on issues related to the socioemotional health of students. During the 2018-19 school year, the SICs hosted two town halls with expert guests and a film geared towards middle and high school students. Our SIC chair maintained the community #SOSCHAPINSC Facebook page, and our SIC communicated information on vaping and other at-risk behaviors through the school newsletter and social media, and they worked with the school counseling department to provide classroom lessons on the issues for students.

Educating students on issues related to responsible social media use helped ensure we met students intellectual, social, and emotional needs. The SIC promoted World Day of Bullying Prevention, helped coordinate digital citizenship lessons for students and faculty, and organized and promoted an #Eaglekind social media campaign that encouraged students to remember to use the three BEs--BE Positive, BE Intentional, BE Inspiring-- when posting and to use the hashtag #Eaglekind. Posts from the campaign along with positive "What I Like About You" messages from students and staff were displayed in the hallways and cafeteria.

The 2019-20 SIC continues the work from the previous year to push CMS to be the best school it can be for our students and community. The backpack goal remains for the 2019-20 school year, and the committee is working to brainstorm possible storage solutions and creating a curriculum to teach students organizational and study skills. They are working with our drama department and video club on an educational video that gives tips on how to properly pack their bookbags and keep the weight low to show students at our back-to-school kick-off in fall 2020.

The SIC maintains a focus on the socioemotional health of CMS students. The work this year is focused on helping students learn how to care for themselves and care for others. The committee added a Walk-and-Talk time before school that gives students the opportunity to walk and talk with friends. The SIC and school brought in The Palmetto Foundation for Prevention and Recovery to speak to students and have scheduled a speaker from PRISMA Health concerning socioemotional health of teenagers for parents. In addition, we are organizing a week to encourage families to put the cell phones away and spend more time talking and interacting with each other. The goal of helping students learn responsible social media use was successfully met, and at the end of the 2018-19 school year, the SIC decided the programs and initiatives put in place were self-sustaining and would continue to produce positive results. Digital citizenship lessons continue in the 2019-20 school year, and the hallway display continues to be updated with information encouraging students to be responsible and respectful on social media.

For the 2019-20 school year, the SIC added two new goals. As a result of a successful campaign with Prisma health to educate students on the importance of putting phones away at night, each student was provided with an alarm clock. This collaboration encouraged the SIC to continue seeking and building positive relationships with community businesses. The goal specifically focuses on two local businesses: Prisma Health and We Care. The second new goal for the 2019-20 school year is to revise the elective registration process for students. This goal is a direct response to feedback from parents.

The continued work of the CMS SIC illustrates that we do not see school improvement as a final destination but a constant journey of seeking opportunity for growth in the service of students, families, and the Chapin community.