

**ANNUAL SCHOOL EVALUATION**  
Damascus Middle School  
2011-2012

Ms. Dixie Hunter, Principal, presented a Comprehensive Plan for school improvement as it relates to Washington County Schools Comprehensive Plan. The objectives for the 2011-2012 School Year included the following: (1) to improve SOL scores and content knowledge in the area of Mathematics, grades 6, 7, and 8; (2) to enhance the development of the whole child by offering a variety of co-curricular club opportunities; (3) to improve the ability of the faculty to give students tools which will enable them to deal successfully with real life; and (4) meet all local, state, regional, and federal accreditation standards.

DMS is to be applauded on making progress towards and/or meeting their goals for the 2011-2012 school year. The school is making effective use of available resources in mathematics, including the Algebra Readiness teacher and tutors. They continue to concentrate on the mathematics area in all grade levels as a goal area for the 2012-2013 school year. Goal two focusing on the enhancement of the whole child by offering co-curricular clubs was fully met. Co-curricular clubs are sponsored by all teachers in the school and every student in the school is actively involved in a club.

Professional development was provided to faculty members to reach their third goal of giving students tools to deal successfully with real life. The faculty completed a book study on “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens”, by Sean Covey. The school highlighted the characteristics in this book to implement “Student of the Month”. The criteria for obtaining the honor of “Student of the Month” was based on the characteristics highlighted each month. DMS is to be commended for obtaining their fourth goal by meeting all local, state, regional and federal standards.

The goals for the 2012-2013 school year are the following: 1) to improve SOL scores and content knowledge in the area of Mathematics, grades six, seven, and eight; 2) to enhance the atmosphere and safety of the total school program by instituting a Student Bulling Prevention Committee; 3) to train faculty with knowledge so as to successfully implement the Washington County Teacher Performance Evaluation System; and 4) to meet all local, state, regional, and federal accreditation standards.

**CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION**  
Damascus Middle School  
2011-2012

- Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Fully Accredited by the Virginia Department of Education
- A Virginia “School to Watch”
- Professional development was provided to faculty members on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

Data

- Benchmark testing – administered to students every 9 weeks for the first 3 grading periods prior to SOL testing
- SOL item analysis that indicates student performance by question
- SOL Tracking Notebooks used by SOL content teachers
- Stanford 10 math placement test given to rising seventh graders to determine math 7/Pre-Algebra placement
- STAR reading test – mid-year/end of the year to track student reading levels.
- Teen Biz Reading Leveling set test – Administered to sixth and seventh grade assisted study students, eighth grade resource students and new students

Instructional Services

- AITES (Appalachian Information Technology Extension Services) program for eighth grade girls 2008-2012
- Algebra Readiness tutor
- Educational Talent Search tutor
- Family Life Curriculum
- Family Preservation Services
- Incomplete Wednesdays
- Intensive SOL remediation was provided to students in need during exploratory and assisted studies classes
- Junior Washington County Community Scholars
- Project Graduation tutors
- Seventh grade DARE
- Seventh grade River’s way
- Sixth and seventh grade science teachers SOL review with eighth grade students prior to SOLs
- SOL Remediation
- Thursday Morning Math Tutoring

### Curriculum Implementation and Strategies

- Bobbie J. Cutlip “What I Need to Know” review materials for Civics and History
- Fast Track civics books
- Classroom Performance System
- DAR Essay contest
- Discovery Education
- Field trips
- Flanigan software utilized in Mathematics and Social Studies
- Guest speakers
- Homework Hotline
- iCivics
- Interactive Notebooks – utilized in all core subjects and grades
- IXL Math
- Moodle teacher web pages
- Newspapers in Education
- Read Across America Celebration – seventh graders to Rhea Valley to read their written/designed children’s books
- Read More, Be More
- Research projects in collaboration with the Library Media Specialist
- SCOPE magazine – sixth/seventh grade
- Sherwood Anderson Writing Contest
- Sixth grade Social Studies stock market game
- SmartBoard Activities – Technology Coordinator in the classroom helping with SmartBoard activities
- SOL released tests
- Teacher Tube
- Teen Biz program
- Use of pacing guides for all curriculum
- Varsity Reading Letter
- Word of the Day

### Career and Technical Education

- Blogging and Chatting on Moodle
- Career speakers – Israel O’Quinn and Morgan Griffith
- College/Career Night
- EduGlogster
- Eighth grade field trips to Washington County Technical School, Neff Center, County Career Fair, Holston High School, and Emory & Henry College
- Morning news broadcast with the DMS News Crew

- NetTrekker
- On-site Technology coordinator, one day per week
- Sixth grade boys visited the Tennessee National Guard Armory
- Sixth grade girls STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program
- Technology and Computer Technology exploratory classes
- Technology workshops for faculty
- Virginia Wizard seventh grade Career Interest Inventory

#### Fine Arts and Physical Education

- Art students participate in the PTA Cultural Arts contest, Featured Artist in office, Washington County Schools Calendar Art contest, exhibit at the School Board office, Damascus Bank Show, AT Trail Days T-shirt contest, artsonia.com
- Athletic teams including football, cheerleading, volleyball, cross country, golf, girls and boys basketball, wrestling, track, softball, and baseball are offered to eighth grade students (seventh grade students are permitted to participate on some teams when numbers allow)
- Band students participated in County, District, and Solo and Ensemble
- Exploratory art, chorus, and Spanish are offered for seventh graders
- Exploratory art, chorus, and Spanish 1 are offered for eighth graders
- Exploratory art, music and Spanish for sixth graders
- Forty minute physical education class 4 days per week
- Middle school students participated in the Holston High School musical
- National and Presidential Physical Fitness Awards
- One day per week library time
- Seventh and eighth grade chorus auditioned for Jr. All-County, Jr. All-District Chorus and Virginia Middle School Honors Chorus
- Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade band

#### Additional Support

- Child study meetings held throughout the year based on individual needs
- GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program for qualifying students including after school programs and end of year overnight field trip
- Math and Language Arts resource specialists serve qualifying students through inclusion in the regular classroom
- Olweus Bullying Prevention program w/bi-monthly class meetings
- On-site Gifted Coordinator
- Parent/Teacher conferences held throughout the year
- Students identified are served in special education programs as outlined by state and federal statute. Individual Education Plans are developed and implemented for each student served.

- Study skills, character education, and social skills are addressed in Study Skills for sixth grade students
- Support for ESL student
- Support for hearing impaired student

### Professional Development

#### Conferences/Workshops/Classes Taught/Classes Taken/Presentations

- Achieve 3000
- At Risk, High Reward webinar
- Automated External Defibrillator Training
- Building Finale Chops class
- CPR Training
- Differentiated Instruction webinar
- Emory & Henry Educational Forum
- Finale Music Notation class
- Heartwood tour
- iPad Training
- MANDT Training
- National Middle School Association Conference
- National Schools To Watch conference
- NetTrekker Workshop
- PASIC Percussion Conference
- Second Annual World of Autism Conference
- Schools To Watch Conference
- Schools To Watch visiting team
- “Seeing Beyond Behaviors” autism training
- Speaking for the Gifted Conference
- Southwest Virginia History Workshop
- Southwest Virginia Leadership Conference
- Special Education IEP Breakout meeting
- T/TAC Collaboration Conference
- “Teaching Tom Sawyer” workshop
- Technology Splash
- Presentations:
  - Technology Enhanced Items
  - Converse Questioning Strategies
  - New SOLs for Grade 8
  - Schools To Watch Conference, “Interactive Notebooks”

- Schools To Watch roundtable
- VGLA Scoring
- Virginia Department of Education Content and Review Committee
- Virginia Highlands Juvenile Detention Tour
- Virginia Middle School Association Conference
- Virginia School Law Conference
- Virginia Technology Education Association Conference
- VMAST Item Review Mathematics Committee
- VMAST Standard Setting Committee
- Washington County Calendar Committee
- Winds of the Mountain Empire

**DATA ASSESSMENT**  
Damascus Middle School  
2011-2012

- Data is utilized to reflect updates to the *School Improvement Plan*
- *Glencoe Diagnostic & Placement Test* is utilized to determine strengths and weaknesses by strand for Algebra 1 students
- In-depth analysis of Benchmark Test data
- In-depth analysis of students performance by question on all SOL tests
- Individual Education Plans are shared with team members including specific instructional staff to help develop instructional design based on student learning styles and/or disability category
- IXL assists in determining strengths and weaknesses of students in math
- *SAGES Test* is utilized to determine students eligibility in the Gifted and Talented program
- SOL notebooks are a cumulative record of each student's testing data throughout their time at Damascus Middle School which includes Benchmark test data, SOL scores, and grades.
- *Stanford 10 Math Placement Test* to determine rising seventh grade students that will qualify for Pre-Algebra classes
- Teacher collaboration on student performance, teaching strategies and learning styles
- Teen Biz data used to predict success and target individual students that need remediation in reading
- Use of *Algebra Readiness Diagnostic Testing* to identify weak areas in mathematics
- Use of STAR/Lexile data to identify students with reading difficulties
- Use of STAR/Lexile data to purchase library books that are reading level appropriate
- Use of the VDOE *School by Question Report* to compare student results with county-wide *Student Performance by Question*
- *Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Third Edition* is utilized to help determine a student's eligibility for educational resource services
- *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition* is utilized to determine a student's psychological needs

**OPERATIONS & FACILITIES**  
Damascus Middle School  
2011-2012

- Exhaust hoods in kitchen replaced/repared
- Fifty new chairs for forum
- Floors waxed/carpets cleaned
- Kitchen area of cafeteria painted
- LCD projector mounted in sixth grade pod
- LCD projectors repaired
- Lights repaired/replaced in gym
- Minor repairs to restrooms
- New computers in both computer labs
- New copier in teacher workroom
- New student desks in Spanish classroom
- New dumpster
- New planters at entrances to school
- New TV mounted in seventh grade pod
- New vacuum cleaner
- New whiteboard in one classroom
- Obtained “gently used” floor scrubbing machine from another school
- Paint in hallways and specified classrooms
- Playground equipment repaired
- Specified air conditioning units repaired/replaced
- Three new benches installed at bus loading area
- Three new teacher desks
- Tile laid in seventh grade pod
- Two new benches installed at car loading area

**PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**  
Damascus Middle School  
2011-2012

- 4-H
- American Heart Association
- Artsonia.com
- Athletic Competitions
- Band and Choral Christmas Concert
- Band and Choral Spring concert
- Barter Theatre
- Calendar cover contest winners
- Chick-fil-A
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Chili Cook off for Special Olympics Polar Plunge
- College/Career Night
- Cracker Barrel
- Creeper Trail Clean-up
- Damascus Times
- DARE
- Distribution of Damascus Middle School Student Handbook
- Distribution of Washington County Public Schools Calendar/Handbook
- DMS Christmas Card
- DMS Literary magazine
- Eighth Grade Class Night
- El Campestre Mexican Grill & Cantina
- Emory and Henry College
- Family Preservation Services, Inc.
- Feeding America Backpack Distribution
- First Bank of Damascus
- First Baptist Church Damascus
- Five Guys
- Food City
- Golden Corral
- H<sub>2</sub>O For Life Project
- Homework Hotline
- Israel O'Quinn
- Justin Foundation

- Maintain parent e-mail list
- Monthly calendar/newsletter to parents (hard copy & e-mail)
- Morgan Griffith
- National Storytelling Festival
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Pizza Inn
- Positive Discipline Referrals
- PTA
- PTA Fall Festival
- Quincey's Pizza
- Relay for Life
- School Day at the Fair
- School Messenger
- School Pictures
- Scrolling announcements in main office
- Service Learning opportunities
- Seventh grade visit to Rhea Valley Elementary School for Read Across America Day
- Sixth Grade Orientation
- Sunbelt Granola Bars Fundraiser
- Teacher Advisory Committee
- Tennessee National Guard Armory
- Trail Ride to End Cancer
- Virginia Creeper Trail Club
- Voting poll location
- Washington County Fair, middle school division winner for tree entry
- Weekly submission to Uniting the Division

**SECURITY & SAFETY**  
Damascus Middle School  
2011-2012

- AESOP used to secure/document the hiring/performance of substitute teachers
- All medications are secured
- All staff members are trained to look for suspicious activity
- Bi-monthly class meetings as part of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
- Camera surveillance of front door and hallways
- Chemicals are locked in storage units
- Clear and designated areas for students during fire drills
- Concussion training for all coaches and nurses
- County sheriff's department monitors school during/after school hours
- Crisis Management Plan updated
- Custodial staff wear personal protective equipment when mowing, weed-eating, and cleaning
- Designated area for bus loading and unloading
- Designated staff and school nurse trained in CPR
- Designated staff members are trained to dispense student medications
- Designated times/areas for car riders and walkers
- Eighth grade Youth Risk Survey
- Emergency Bus Drills
- Emergency guidelines/case plans are in place for students with medical conditions
- Emergency medical kits are dispensed for student field trips
- Emergency medical treatment forms are on file for each student
- Emergency shelter access is available at the Rescue Squad building
- Exits and fire extinguishers are visible throughout the school and checked monthly
- Exterior doors locked during the school day
- Faculty and staff are required to wear identification badges
- Faculty trained on Crisis Management Plan
- Fire drills conducted once a week for the first month of school and monthly afterwards
- First aid training for school faculty
- Floor plan located in each classroom
- Front door security system which includes intercom and camera
- Fuel pumps are locked and breaker turned off nightly
- Grounds are well lighted
- Hippa/Ferba laws are enforced
- Intercom system
- Interior doors/locks for all classroom pods

- Internet safety/Cyber bullying program
- Lock down drill conducted
- MANDT training for administrator and selected faculty
- Meth training for school nurse
- No biking, roller-skating/boarding sign posted on grounds
- Part-time School Resource Officer
- Photos required on all medication bottles
- Police department uses a log book to document visits
- Principal/staff maintain a highly visible presence throughout the school
- Safety glasses and gloves are worn when in contact with blood or other body fluids
- Safety tape and signs are posted when mopping/waxing
- School board policies are followed for emergency situations and weather related incidents
- School computers have firewalls
- School is secured each evening after school activities
- School maintains a full-time nurse
- School nurse checks records for up-to-date immunizations
- School nurse monitors students for communicable diseases
- School security system in use after school hours
- School shreds sensitive documents
- Seventh grade DARE
- Sharp containers are used to dispose biohazard materials
- Successfully completed Safety Audit
- Tornado drills conducted
- “Typical or Troubled” training for faculty
- Use of school email to alert staff to emergencies
- Use of school messenger to phone home when student is absent
- Visitors are required to sign in and wear an ID badge

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**  
Damascus Middle School  
2011-2012

- 4-H
- American Education Week activities
- Area History Club
- Art Club
- Art Showcase by DMS students at The Bank of Damascus
- Art Showcase by DMS students at the Washington County School Board office during Youth Art Month
- Artist of the Week showcased in main office
- Athletic Picnic
- Biographical Drama Presentation
- Cafeteria Super Bowl party
- Cavalier Cadre Club
- Christmas Dance
- Coin Fundraiser for Trail Ride to End Cancer
- College/Career Night
- Computer/Hiking Club
- Congressman Morgan Griffin visit
- Cookie Decorating Club
- CSI Club
- Cyber-bullying presentation
- DAR Essay Contest
- “Dining with the Presidents”
- During and after-school tutoring
- Educational Talent Search
- Eighth grade Athletics
- Eighth grade Career Fair
- Eighth grade Class Night
- Eighth grade Cookout
- Eighth grade Holston High School tour
- Eighth grade Neff Center and Washington County Technical School tour
- Eighth grade Superlatives
- Eighth grade to Appalachian Caverns
- Eighth grade to Emory and Henry College Chinese Orchestra Concert
- GATE Activities

- Go Red for Women Day
- “Grits ‘n Gravy w/Gramps ‘n Gran”
- H<sub>2</sub>O Water for life
- Hat Day
- Homecoming Week activities
- Holston High School Spring Musical
- Homecoming Dance/Pep Rally
- Hoops for Heart
- Intensive SOL Review
- Intramurals
- Junior FFA Club
- Junior Washington County Community Scholars
- Junior Washington County Community Scholars Luncheon
- Karaoke Club
- Letters From Home Club
- Mix-It-Up at Lunch day
- “Muffins w/Mom”
- Music Appreciation Club
- Parents invited to breakfast for National School Breakfast Week
- Project Displays
- PTA Band/Chorus Christmas Concert
- PTA citizenship essays
- PTA Fall Festival
- PTA Open House
- PTA Reflections contest
- PTA Band/Chorus Spring Concert
- PTA Teacher Appreciation car wash
- “Purple Up! For Military Kids” Day
- Quiet Reflections Club
- Read More, Be More
- Red Ribbon Week activities
- SCA Secret Santa for Teachers
- SCA Sponsored Class of the Month
- SCA Virginia Creeper Trail clean up
- Student Council Association
- School Day at the Washington County Fair
- School Spirit Club
- Scrapbooking Club

- Seventh and eighth grades Jr. All-County and District Band
- Seventh and eighth grades Jr. All-County and District Chorus
- Seventh grade DARE
- Seventh grade produced books read to Rhea Valley Elementary kindergarten for Read Across America Day
- Seventh grade River's Way program
- Seventh grade to Veterans Memorial Park Veteran's Day program
- Sixth and seventh grades awards ceremonies
- Sixth and seventh grades designed Christmas Tree Novels
- Sixth grade boys to Tennessee National Guard Armory
- Sixth grade Drama skits
- Sixth grade girls STEM workshop
- Sixth grade International Storytelling Festival
- Sixth grade Mark Twain presentation
- Sixth grade Musical Programs
- Sixth grade Ocean Motion project
- Sixth grade Orientation
- Sixth grade Science projects for data collection/analyzing/organizing
- Sixth grade Superlatives
- Sixth grade to Highlands Dairy Farm
- Spanish Craft Club
- Spring Dance
- "Stick it to the Principal" Trail Ride to End Cancer fundraiser
- Students of Character
- Technology and Science Club
- Valentine Dance
- Varsity Reading Letter
- Washington County Fair Talent Showcase
- Washington County Schools Calendar Cover Contest
- Water Wednesdays
- Wear Pink Day for breast cancer awareness
- Womanless Beauty Pageant
- Yearbook Club
- Yearbook signing