

ANNUAL SCHOOL EVALUATION  
Damascus Middle School  
2012-2013

Ms. Dixie Hunter, Principal, presented a Comprehensive Plan for school improvement as it relates to Washington County Schools Comprehensive Plan. The goals for the 2012-2013 school year were 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 Bullying 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.

DMS is to be commended for their work towards their goals during the 2012-2013 school. They did increase six grade pass rate on the math SOL assessment; however, did not improve math SOLs scores overall at the school level. DMS did not meet the Federal Annual Measurable Objectives (FAMO) in math in one subgroup and the requirement needed to pass the Virginia benchmark established for math. Ms. Hunter indicated the school has seen an improvement in some math areas on the most recent benchmarks. DMS has increased small group instruction in math and are providing multiple tutoring opportunities during and after school. Assisted Study classes at DMS have targeted days to address math in a fun fashion in which students have responded well.

DMS has implemented the Student Bullying Prevention Committee and will continue this committee during the 2013-2014 school year. This committee has been beneficial in not only addressing bullying issues, but providing suggestions for school enhancements. The third goal of training faculty concerning the new teacher performance and evaluation system was met. Ms. Hunter provided multiple opportunities in collaboration with Rhea Valley Elementary School to implement training for the new system. She also provided additional training at the start of the 2013-2014 school year. DMS continues to be designated as a middle school "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades.

The goals for the 2013-2014 school year are the following: (1) improve SOL scores and content knowledge in the area of Mathematics, grades 6, 7, and 8; (2) effectively implement the full time position of Career Coach in conjunction with Virginia Highlands Community College; (3) improve the ability of the faculty to implement successful techniques for motivating the unmotivated student(s); and (4) to meet all local, state, regional, and federal accreditation standards.

CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION  
Damascus Middle School  
2012-2013

- Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Fully Accredited by the Virginia Department of Education
- A Virginia “School to Watch”

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 grade assisted study students and all seventh grade students
- Pre & Post Test analysis in each core content area

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

- Algebra Readiness tutor
- Educational Talent Search tutor
- Family Life Curriculum
- Family Preservation Services
- Homebound Instruction for a sixth and eighth grade student
- 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
- Sixth and eighth grade Life Skills
- SOL Remediation
- Tuesday Morning Tutoring

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION AND STRATEGIES

- A concentrated effort made to eliminate interruptions during instructional time
- Adaptive Readers in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades
- Audio Textbooks
- Bobbie J. Cutlip “What I Need to Know” review materials for Civics and History

- Fast Track civics books
- Classroom Performance System
- Daily Journal Writing and discussions in eighth grade
- 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 – seventh/eighth grade
- 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, Morgan Griffith, Joe Straten, Scott Sexton, Pam Sargeant
- 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 Abingdon Muster Grounds
- Sixth grade girls STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program
- Technology and Computer Technology exploratory classes
- Technology workshops for faculty
- Career Interest Inventory/vaview.org

## 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, artsonia.com, Fall/Spring Art Show at the Damascus Branch of the Washington County Public Library
- 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
- Christmas band/chorus concert
- 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
- 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 grade music program each six weeks
- Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade band
- Spring band/chorus concert
- Weekly intramurals

## 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
- 4-H Club and 4-H activities
- Math and Language Arts resource specialists serve qualifying students through inclusion in the regular classroom
- Monthly club meetings
- 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
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Familiarization Workshop

- Appalachian Information Technology Extension Services Fall Training
- Appalachian Information Technology Extension Services, presenters
- Appalachian Information Technology Extension Services Grant Writing Summer Workshop
- Art For The Beginning Learner, teacher
- Autism Training
- Band Director Symposium, presenter
- Benchmark/Pacing Revisions
- Bullyproof Your Classroom workshop
- Challenging Behavior workshop
- Childhood Trauma Counseling Forum
- Concussion Training
- Creative Arts for Beginning Learners
- Drum Corps International Championships
- Effective Digital Writing Classroom
- Emory & Henry Educational Forum
- Emory & Henry Mentor Training
- Emory & Henry Student Teacher supervisor
- Interactive Achievement Training
- iPad Training
- Gmail/Calendar and Moodle
- Heal Appalachia Symposium
- Helping Young People Learn Self-Regulation
- Holston Foreign Language Association
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Science Textbook Pilot Training
- IMPACT Training
- Instrument Repair Clinic
- Kid's Tech University and Virginia 4-H Educator Workshop
- Literacy Curriculum Assessment and Methods
- Love Your Computer
- Mountain Empire Music Symposium
- Music Connection
- Music Education class at ETSU, lecturer
- New Teacher Mentor Training
- Overmountain Victory Trail Association "Call to Arms," presenter
- Project Coal to Electricity
- Rachel's Challenge
- Radford University Concert
- Renewable Energy Academy
- Science Get Out
- Self Determination training
- Social Studies Curriculum Assessment and Methods
- Southwest Virginia Counselors Forum
- State Marching Band Assessment, judge

- Technology Madness
- Technology Spring Cleaning workshop
- Teen Biz training
- Textiles, Ceramics
- Therapeutic Crises Intervention training
- Trends in Adolescent Substance Abuse
- Understanding/Prevention Challenging Behaviors
- Virginia Department of Education 2012 Summer Institute
- Virginia Department of Education K-12 Mathematics Workshop
- Virginia Department of Education English SOL Institute
- Virginia Department of Education Mathematics SOL Assessment Alignment Review Committee
- Virginia Department of Education Mathematics SOL Institute
- Virginia Department of Education Mathematics VMAST Alignment Review Committee
- Virginia Intermont Student Teacher supervisor
- Virginia Middle School Conference
- Virginia School Counselors Association training
- Virginia Teacher Safety Training
- Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association
- Washington County Calendar Committee
- Washington County Middle School Teacher of the Year
- Washington County Public Schools Textbook Committee
- Winds of the Mountain Empire

DATA ASSESSMENT  
Damascus Middle School  
2012-2013

- Child Study meetings discuss concerns, develop interventions, and determine referrals for special education services
- Countywide pre-assessment, mid-year, and post-assessment tests are administered and used to measure student growth
- Data is utilized to reflect updates to the *School Improvement Plan*
- Eligibility meetings discuss testing components and assess special education eligibility for students
- Fitness Gram measures fitness growth from beginning to end of school year
- *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 implement instructional design based on student learning styles and/or disability category
- Interactive Achievement is utilized to determine strengths and weaknesses in math
- IXL assists in determining strengths and weaknesses of students in math
- Pearson Writing Online application is utilized in eighth grade
- *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
- Talent Ed utilizes professional criteria to evaluate all faculty members
- 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  
2012-2013

- Billy the Bulldog banner displayed in cafeteria
- Color coded stripes painted in hallways
- Cork strips installed in Spanish room
- Door stops installed in art room, sixth grade classroom and ISS room
- Doors/wall installed in special education pod
- Faucet replaced in technology restroom
- Mulch added to playground area
- Nameplate holders/nameplates installed outside classroom doors
- New desk in nurses office
- New drill for custodial use
- New lock installed on outside kitchen door
- New desk chairs for main office
- New salad bar in cafeteria
- New waste basket added to outside front entrance
- New weed sprayer
- New trashcans mounted on outside sidewalks
- One hundred new folding chairs
- Purchase of new portable sound system
- Replaced old buffer with “gently used” buffer
- Roof leaks repaired
- Sewage pipe vent repaired in seventh grade restroom
- SMARTBOARD and projector installed in sixth grade classroom
- Sportsmanship banner hung in gym
- Therapeutic Day Treatment Counselors office moved to special education pod
- Tile laid in computer labs
- Tile laid in sixth grade pod
- Tile laid in Spanish room
- Tile laid in special education pod
- Tile laid in technology room
- Trashcans added to hallways
- Walkie-talkies purchased for office, custodian, car rider duty teacher, and seventh and eighth grade pods
- Walls painted in computer labs
- Walls painted in sixth grade pod
- Walls painted in Spanish room
- Walls painted in special education pod
- Walls painted in technology room



**PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**  
**Damascus Middle School**  
**2012-2013**

- 4-H
- Abingdon Muster Grounds
- American Cancer Society's Relay for Life
- American Heart Association
- Arby's
- Artsonia.com
- Athletic Competitions
- Band and Choral Christmas Concert
- Band and Choral Spring concert
- Barter Theatre
- Black's Fort Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution
- Blue Blaze Café
- Bonfire Restaurant
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Chili Cook off for Special Olympics Polar Plunge
- College/Career Night
- Creeper Trail Clean-up
- Creeper Trail Ride to End Cancer
- Damascus Branch of the Washington County Public Library
- Damascus Old Mill
- Damascus Times
- Damascus Town Police Department
- DARE
- Delegate Israel O'Quinn
- Distribution of Damascus Middle School Student Handbook
- Distribution of Washington County Public Schools Calendar/Handbook
- DMS Christmas Card
- EducateVA Career Switchers
- Eighth Grade Class Night
- El Campestre Mexican Grill & Cantina
- Emory and Henry College
- Family Preservation Services, Inc.
- Feeding America Backpack distribution/Rosedale Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church Damascus
- Food City
- Greendale Home for the Aged
- Highlands Community Services Life Skills
- Holston Family Health Center
- H<sub>2</sub>O For Life Project

- Homework Hotline
- JJ's Restaurant
- Justin Foundation
- Little Debbie Fundraiser
- Milano's Italian Cuisine
- Monthly calendar/newsletter to parents (hard copy & e-mail)
- National Middle School Association
- National Storytelling Festival
- Parent e-mail announcements/updates
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Pizza Inn
- PTA
- PTA Fall Festival
- Riverfront Restaurant
- River's Way
- School Day at the Fair
- School Messenger
- School Pictures
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Scrolling announcements in main office
- Service Learning opportunities
- Seventh grade visit to Rhea Valley Elementary School for Read Across America Day
- Sherry Grubb Photography
- Sixth Grade Orientation
- Smokey's Bar-B-Que
- Teacher Advisory Committee
- The Great SouthEast ShakeOut
- United Way
- Virginia Highlands Community College
- Virginia Middle School Association
- Virginia Schools To Watch
- Voting poll location
- Washington County Board of Supervisors
- Washington County Chamber of Commerce
- Washington County Health Department
- Washington County Public Schools Calendar cover contest winners
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Weekly submission to Uniting the Division

**SECURITY & SAFETY**  
**Damascus Middle School**  
**2012-2013**

- Administration/select faculty tour of Damascus Rescue Squad building
- 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
- Automated External Defibrillator training for all faculty
- Billy the Bulldog initiative
- Bi-monthly class meetings as part of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
- Called, unscheduled faculty/staff meetings as necessary
- Camera surveillance of front door and hallways
- Chemicals are locked in storage units
- Clear and designated areas for students during fire drills
- Color coded hallways
- Concussion training for all coaches and nurses
- County sheriff's department monitors school during/after school hours
- Crisis Management Plan updated
- Crisis Team meetings as necessary
- Custodial staff wear personal protective equipment when mowing, weed-eating, and cleaning
- Damascus Police Department conducted training at DMS
- Damascus Police personnel present each morning before school
- Damascus Police Department performs random walk-throughs
- 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
- "Don't Bully" assembly led by Keith Deltano
- Earthquake Drill
- 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
- Epinephrine Pen training for all faculty
- 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 and office staff are required to carry student rosters in identification badges
- Faculty lockdown training conducted by Damascus Police Department
- Faculty trained on Crisis Management Plan
- Fire drills conducted once a week for the first month of school and monthly afterwards

- 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
- Hipaa/Ferba laws are enforced
- Intercom system
- Interior doors/locks for all classroom pods
- Internet safety taught in computer exploratory classes
- Lock down drill conducted
- No biking, roller-skating/boarding sign posted on grounds
- Outside exits are numbered on the interior of the building
- Part-time School Resource Officer
- Photos required on all medication bottles
- Police officers use 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 Resource Officer present at all home basketball games
- Security system in use after school hours
- Sensitive documents are shredded
- Seventh grade DARE
- Sharps containers are used to dispose biohazard materials
- Sixth and eighth grade Lifeskills
- Student School Climate Survey
- Successfully completed Safety Audit
- Tornado drills conducted
- Use of school e-mail to alert parents as needed
- Use of school e-mail to alert staff to emergencies
- Use of school messenger to phone home when student is absent
- Virginia Teacher Safety Training
- Visitors are required to sign in and wear an ID badge
- Washington County Sheriff's Department personnel perform daily walk-throughs
- Walkie-talkies are available and used by office staff, custodian, car rider duty teacher, and seventh and eighth grade team leaders

STUDENT ACTIVITIES  
Damascus Middle School  
2012-2013

- 4-H
- American Education Week activities
- Area History Club
- Art guest speaker from William King Regional Art Center
- Art Showcase at Damascus Branch of the Washington County Public Library
- Art Showcase by DMS students at the Washington County School Board office during Youth Art Month
- Athletic Picnic
- Biographical Glogs
- Book Lover's Club
- Cafeteria Super Bowl party
- Christmas Dance
- College/Career Night
- Cookie Decorating Club
- Creeper Trail Groove Middle School Dance
- Creeper Trail Ride to End Cancer Club
- DAR Essay Contest
- Delegate Israel O'Quinn visit
- "Dining with the Presidents"
- "Don't Bully" Assembly
- Drama Club
- Duck Dynasty Day
- During and after-school tutoring
- Educational Talent Search
- Eighth grade Athletics
- Eighth grade Career Fair
- Eighth grade Class Night
- Eighth grade Emory & Henry College tour
- Eighth grade Holston High School tour
- Eighth grade ice cream social
- Eighth grade "Introduction to Pep Band"
- Eighth grade Neff Center and Washington County Technical School tour
- Eighth grade Superlatives
- Featured Artist showcased in main office and on scrolling announcements
- Feeding America Backpack distributions
- Field Day
- "Food City Fresh"
- GATE Activities
- GATE Trip to New York

- Go Red for Women Day
- H<sub>2</sub>O for Life Club
- H<sub>2</sub>O for Life Talent Show
- 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
- Make a New Friend Day
- Make Our School Beautiful
- Meet the DMS Athletes at PTA
- Mock Elections Debates
- “Muffins w/Mom”
- Outdoor Club
- Parents invited to breakfast for National School Breakfast Week
- Project Displays
- PTA Band/Chorus Christmas Concert
- PTA Fall Festival
- PTA Open House
- PTA Reflections contest
- PTA Band/Chorus Spring Concert
- Puzzle Club
- Read More, Be More
- Red Ribbon Week activities
- Relay for Life activities
- SCA Secret Santa for Teachers
- Student Bullying Prevention Committee
- Student Council Association
- School Day at the Washington County Fair
- 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
- Sixth and seventh grades awards assemblies
- Sixth grade band to Rhea Valley Elementary School
- Sixth grade boys to Abingdon Muster Grounds

- Sixth grade girls STEM workshop
- Sixth grade Musical Programs
- Sixth grade Orientation
- Sixth grade Superlatives
- Sixth grade to Highlands Dairy Farm
- Spanish Craft Club
- Spring Dance
- Student Bullying Prevention Committee meetings
- Student Registration Day
- Students of Character
- “Take Your Parents to Lunch” Day
- Technology/Science Club
- Unity Day
- Valentine Dance
- Varsity Reading Letter
- Washington County Fair Talent Showcase
- Washington County Schools Calendar Cover Contest
- Water Wednesdays
- Web Page Club
- Yearbook Design Club
- Yearbook Photography Club
- Yearbook signing