

Facts About Our School

- Our student body consists of 1147 students in grades 6-8, representing 87% White, 6% African American, 3% Asian, 3% Hispanic, and 1% other ethnicities.
- We currently have 98 full-time faculty and staff and 4 part-time staff.
- Cario is one of the largest middle schools in South Carolina with some of the highest test scores in the state for a comprehensive middle school.
- Cario Middle School believes that parent involvement and positive relationships with the community best support successful students. We encourage parent volunteers, provide newsletters and information to parents, and leave open communication for the benefit of all our students and their families. We welcome and want our parent and community input!
- Cario has embraced Personalized Learning this year:

Charleston County School District has a mission to **educate and support every child in achieving college, career, and citizenship readiness.**

At Cario Middle School, we **empower students to be collaborative lifelong learners, actively improving their world.**

Cario Middle School SIC Members:

Bob Lang, Chairman, Parent and Teacher
 Jacqueline Bennis, Parent
 Robin Schrecker, Parent, PTSO President
 Elizabeth Whalen, Teacher
 Gayle Morris, Principal
 Bryan Coleman, Assistant Principal
 Jennifer Gomez, Teacher
 Torie Hargis, Teacher
 Miriam Hurt, Teacher

Student Achievement*

SC SCHOOL REPORT CARD				
YEAR	ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT	PREPARING FOR SUCCESS	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2019	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

END OF COURSE STATE TEST		
YEAR	COURSE	PASSED
2019	n/a	n/a

FALL 2019 SC PASS RESULTS		
SUBJECT	GRADE	MET/EXCEED
Science	6	n/a
	8	n/a

FALL 2019 SC READY RESULTS			
SUBJECT	GRADE	MET/EXCEED	APPROACH/MET/EXCEED
ELA	6	n/a	n/a
	7	n/a	n/a
	8	n/a	n/a
MATH	6	n/a	n/a
	7	n/a	n/a
	8	n/a	n/a

* On March 27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education approved South Carolina's request to waive spring statewide assessments, accountability ratings, and certain reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Thomas C. Cario Middle School Annual School Improvement Council Report to the Parents

2019-20



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Administrative Team

Mrs. Gayle Morris, Principal, gayle_morris@charleston.k12.sc.us
 Mrs. Roberta Smith, Ex. Ed and R.A. Assist. Principal
 Dr. Evandro Valente, 8th Grade Assistant Principal
 Dr. Laura Osborne, 7th Grade Assistant Principal
 Mr. Bryan Coleman, 6th Grade Assistant Principal

Purpose of the Report

"This Report is issued by the Cario Middle School School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."

Cario's School Improvement Council (SIC) evaluates current practices and conditions at Cario that effect student performance, identify areas that need improvement, and offer suggestions for programs, incentives, and activities to attain clearly defined goals. The SIC goals are aligned with the Charleston County School District's mission statement. The mission of CCSD is to increase student achievement overall and close the achievement gaps in order to prepare all students to compete in a global economy and make a positive contribution to our community and nation.

Cario Middle School Annual SIC Report 2019-20

Although the end of the 2019-20 school year brought challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Cario Middle School continued its tradition of excellence in academics, arts, and extra-curricular activities. Cario is a highly successful middle school with a large campus, a small-school atmosphere, and numerous opportunities for students. Our students have consistently demonstrated mastery of rigorous academic standards and excel in Fine Arts and our other programs and clubs.

Cario provides a quality academic program, as well as a structured system of interventions for students who need support. Students have opportunities to earn high school credits and take exploratory courses, such as choices in the Fine Arts, Spanish, pre-engineering (PLTW), computer, journalism, and fitness. Cario has one of the highest percentages of students identified as gifted and talented (GT) in the Charleston County School District. Cario students compete in numerous local, state, and national academic challenges – and win TOP awards, such as Math Counts competition, CCSD Spellbound Spelling Bee, Quest, LEGO Robotics, SC State Scholastic Chess Championship, National Geographic Geography Bee, and Mock Trial to name just a few.

A recent recognition is for our Project Lead the Way GATEWAY Pre-engineering courses: Cario Middle School received *national recognition as a distinguished school*

for STEM and Career Learning through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway™. Cario offers all ten of the middle school courses available through this national program, is the only middle school in Mt. Pleasant, and is the only middle school in the state to achieve this honor for

three consecutive years. Through PLTW programs, students develop STEM knowledge, as well as in-demand, transportable skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take.



The Cario Band, Orchestra and Chorus are among the top middle school programs in the state, and each is led by veteran teachers with distinguished careers. Students in these programs consistently are recognized for excellence and go on to stand out in high school. Cario Visual artists have earned numerous awards in local, state, and national competitions including the REEL ART competition and Federal Junior DUCK Stamp competition. Cario's morning announcements show, CTV News, produced by Journalism students, was recognized in 2020 statewide for "Excellence" by the South Carolina National School Public Relations Association. Drama students were involved in several productions during the year, including the huge, mid-year *Frozen Jr.* to rave reviews. They also have won numerous awards in local and state competitions.



Cario students have competed in local, private, and community teams in football, volleyball cheerleading, soccer, tennis, swimming, golf, baseball, and softball – and continue to win numerous competitions and awards. The yearbook staff produced a high-quality publication, and our Horticulture Club is working to grow vegetables, along with flowers to make our school more attractive. We inducted our fifth group of students for our National Junior Honor



Society. Our students organized and continued to grow a student-led and student-focused Student Government program to link our students with community service projects and programs. Charitable and civic projects are routinely highlighted on the morning announcements show, fueling support.

Cario's PTSO has worked with our faculty, staff, and students to continue to run a school store this year and a Spirit Pantry to offer food and supplies to our Cario

families in need. Our PTSO and SIC offer important parent training and student training that is current and relevant to our world issues. We have spent much time over this school year focusing on student leadership and philanthropy, and we hope to continue and grow these programs for many years to come.



The Cario staff participates in on-going professional development in order to meet the needs of our students, including Instructional Rounds and Learning Walks to focus on class rigor and student engagement. Cario is working to implement Personalized Learning, which is differentiating instruction based on individual student data. Our faculty and staff have embraced the Capturing Kids' Hearts model and work to implement this daily with our students. Cario Middle School uses the Making Middle Grades Work national model to implement positive changes in our school. We recognize the importance of high expectations, rigorous academics, and a safe, supportive learning environment for all students. As partners in education, our faculty and staff, parents, and community members support and actively participate in making Cario Middle School a model for educational excellence:

We strive to reach our goal of "preparing resourceful, positive, service-oriented leaders of tomorrow!"

Gayle Morris, Principal
Bob Lang, SIC Chair