

# GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL TO WATCH™ LEE MIDDLE SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE 2017-2018

## Lee Middle School The School of Champions



### National School to Watch™ Designation 2012 Re-designation 2015

Lee Middle School • Coweta County School System •  
Coweta County • Georgia • Dr. Cindy Bennett, Principal  
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### 2017 - 2018 School Statistics

Community: Suburb of south metro Atlanta

Enrollment: 978

Certified Staff: 63

Grade Levels: 6 - 8

School Schedule: 6

periods-academics/connections

Student Demographics

8% Hispanic

65% White

15% African American

3.1% Asian

0.4% American Indian

5% Multi-racial

31% Free/Reduced Lunch

29.2% Gifted

519 Male

459 Female

#### AYP Status

2010-2011 AYP: MET

2011-2012 CCRPI: 91.3%

2012-2013 CCRPI: 85.3% (new rules applied)

2013-2014 CCRPI: 83.5% (GMAS)

2014-2015 CCRPI: 76.4% (GMAS)

2015-2016 CCRPI: 74.3% (GMAS) 5 STAR Climate

2016-2017 CCRPI: TBD

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Lee Middle School has 63 certified staff members with 46 of the staff holding advanced degrees (*Doctorates—3; Specialists—20; Masters—23*). The staff has 48 members who have ten or more years of educational experience. Two administrators have Doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership and one teacher in School Improvement.
- Teacher/Student Advisement Program, which assists in the development in the educational plan for all students for high school and beyond
- Increased use of data in monitoring results and planning improvements
- Professional Learning Community which emphasizes teacher collaboration
- No-conference Thursdays allow for Professional Learning Groups to meet and plan together.
- Interventions to help students who are struggling academically
- Technology applications with instruction
- Rigorous Standards-Based curriculum
- Highly-qualified experienced/stable faculty
- Continuous School Improvement Model which emphasizes improvement in ALL areas yearly
- Earned Adequate Yearly Progress for ALL measured years in Georgia (2007-2015)
- Students are recognized for their academic success through quarterly Honor's Programs

- Co-teaching at all grade levels
- Students are given quick benchmark assessments in order to identify those who need extra academic support and acceleration.
- Special education students are taught collaboratively in the regular classroom and have additional support in the school day through a connections class in which academic material that they are struggling with is re-taught with additional work samples, teacher guided instruction and use of manipulatives. Basic skills are also reviewed and honed during this instructional time.
- School-wide character education program—*The Way of the Wolf* and nationally recognized Behavior Education Program (BEP)
- HOUSE - provides students with a sense of belonging to not only their school but also to a group of students and teachers within the school who help guide them throughout their middle school years.

## Georgia Lighthouse Schools to Watch

### Lee Middle School

The following list of awards represents Lee Middle School's high expectations for students, teachers, and the total school community, as well as our dedication to and recognition of exemplary performance.

**National and State Recognition for Lee Middle School:** 2008 and 2013 Georgia Middle School (GMSA) Central Region Team of the Year (Team Courage); 2009 and 2013 GAMSP Effective Middle School Program; 2012 Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch Designation; 2012 National Forum to Accelerate Middle Level Learning Designation as a National School to Watch; GASSP Breakout School Recipient 2013  
2012 Re-Designation as a GAMSP Effective Middle School Program; Top Publishing School in Georgia (2013-2015); 1<sup>st</sup> place in State Creative Communications Writing Competitions (2013-2015); Young GA Authors State Winner 8th grade (2015) Lighthouse Schools to Watch (2011-2017); 2015 Dr. Bob Puckett Effective Middle School Program Re-designation; 2016 NCTE Excellence in Student Literary Magazines Program to Recognize in Georgia "Howl"

**National and State Staff Recognition:** **Dr. Bob Heaberlin**, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) President (2006-07); GAEL Outstanding Educator Award (2006); Georgia Association of Middle School Principals (GAMSP) Dr. John Lounsbury Award (2006); GAMSP Exemplary Leadership Award (2007); Georgia Middle School Association (GMSA) President's Award (2008); Georgia State School Superintendent's Principal Advisory Council (2008-2010); GAEL Professional of the Year Award (2006;2007;2011;2012); Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) Task Force for Alternative Principal Certification (2012)-2013); University of West Georgia Alumni Association's Spotlight Award (2012); National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) VALIC National Distinguished Middle Level Principal of the Year (2011-2012); Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) National Distinguished Educator of the Year (2012 – 2013); **Dr. Cindy Bennett** – National Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year, Middle Level (2011 – 2012); Dr. Cindy Bennett, GAMSP Exemplary Leadership Award; Dr. Cindy Bennett, NAESP National Outstanding Middle Level Assistant Principal of the Year Award (2011-2012); Dr. Cindy Bennett, GAEL Professional of the Year Award (2012); **Jan Reyes**—State School Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council (2008-2010); **Crissie Singleton**—President, Georgia Art Educator's Association, Chi Chapter, Atlanta District (2008-2010) **Lisa Redmon**—GMSA Board of Directors (2008-2010) **Misty Wilson** – GMSA Teacher of the Year Runner-Up (2015) **Dr. Cindy Bennett** - 2015 GAMSP Linda Hopping National Merit Award **Suzanne Brooks** - 2015 AFCEA Teaching Tool Grant Winner **Doris Leak 2016** - Newnan VFW Post 2667, VFW District 5 and Georgia State VFW Teacher of the Year **Cati Rhodes 2017** - Newnan VFW Post 2667, Teacher of the Year Runner-Up

**Lee Middle School Teacher of the Year Recognition:** **Dr. Carol Turner**, Coweta County Finalist (2006-2007); **Lisa Redmon** (2007-2008); **Jan Reyes** (2008-2009); **Karin Gordon** (2009-2010); **LaKeisha Robinson** (2010-2011); **Carrie DeBilzan** (2011-2012); **Crissie Singleton** (2012-2013); **Misty Wilson** (2013-2014); **Jason Fairchild**, Coweta County Finalist (2014-2015); **Jeff Bouchard** (2015-2016); **Jennifer Doonan** (2016-2017)

**Individual/Team Student Honors:** **Ashlie Adamson** – *Young Georgia Authors State Winner* (2010); **Nele Langhof, James Spavelko, and Allison Haskell** –*Published, Young Writers of America* (2011); **Chae Bin Park**—*Published, State Winner of Creative Communications Essay and Poetry Contest (only middle school winner in the southeast)*; **Alyssa Duncan 1<sup>st</sup> place** (2013-2014), *Creative Communications* has published the literary works of Lee Middle School students from 2006-present, making LMS an honorary Creative Communications School for six years *Young Georgia Authors* (2015) - County, Region, State Winner, **Joon Baek**; County and Region Winner, **Kya Stutzman** Patriots Pen Essay Contest (15-16);

*Georgia State Science Fair*—**Melody Kiser** –1<sup>st</sup> Place (2011); **Katherine Keller** –1<sup>st</sup> Place (2011); *West Georgia Regional Technology Fair*—**Caitlyn McNutt and Carsten Bennett** - Digital Photography, 1<sup>st</sup> Place(2011-2012)

*Math Counts Team* – West Georgia District Honorable Mention (2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012), 4<sup>th</sup> place (2009, 2011), 2<sup>nd</sup> place (2013) competed at State Level; 1st place Team in District - represented District at State Level Competition (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

*Math Counts Individuals*– **Brandon Martinez** (2009) top 10 Individual District Score and competed at State Level. ; **Kyle Kibodeaux** (2011) top 10 Individual District Finish and competed at State Level; **Jenny Oh** (2014) 1<sup>st</sup> Place Individual District Finish and competed at State Level; **Chris Raum** (2014) top 10 Individual District Finish and competed at State level. **Joon Baek** (2015) top 10 Individual District Finish, 1st place District Countdown Round, competed at State level; **Michael Kim** top 10 Individual District Finish (2015) , 2nd place District Countdown Round (2015), competed at State Level (2015), 1st place Individual District Finish (2016), 1st place Winner of District Countdown Round (2016), completed at State level (2016) . **Josh White** top 10 Individual District Finish (2015), competed at State level (2015), 4th place Individual District Finish(2016), 2nd place District countdown round (2016), competed at State Level(2016); **Luke Hanks** 11th place Individual District Finish(2015), competed at State Level (2015, 2016) ,**Sun Moon** 5th Place Individual District Finish (2016), competed at the State Level (2016, 2017),top 10 Individual District Finish (2017). **Mizuki Harvey** (2016) top 10 Individual District Finish, competed at State Level. **Minji Kang** (2017) 1st place Individual District Finish, Competed at State Level. **HyungJoon Jun**(2017) top 10 Individual District Finish, 2nd Place District Countdown Round, Competed at State Level. **Matthew Nix** top 10 Individual District Finish (2017), Completed at State Level (2017). **Andrew Brown** Represented District as Individual Competitor at State Level Competition (2017). **Mary Miller**

**Recognition to Student Clubs for Community Service:** Sponsored by the **Student Council**, LMS has raised over 30,000 cans for seven straight years for the annual Coweta County Can a thon for the food bank; Sponsored by the **National Junior Honor Society**, LMS has participated in American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Coweta County for six years raising over \$20,000 for cancer research; the **Builders Club** volunteers at the Coweta County Fair with the Kiwanis Club, Habitat for Humanity, Gift bags for nursing home, hot chocolate for bus drivers, Relay for Life, Teacher Appreciation, CD drive for Children's Healthcare, contributed to the Food Bank and the Angel Tree, Coins for Cupcakes to raise money for Meals on Wheels; the **Junior Beta Club** participates yearly in service projects including working with elementary schools, Wesley Woods Nursing Home, and Habitat for Humanity. The Jr. Beta Club also has won several awards at the National Beta Club Convention—Essay Contest, Division 1, Runner-up (2010-2011); Math Contest, Division 1, fifth place (2010-2011); Poster Contest, fourth place (2011-2012) Runner-up (2014); Scrapbook, third place (2011-2012) Scrapbook Champion (2014); Multimedia Contest fifth place (2014); Quiz Bowl, Division 2, Third place (2013 and 2014); Social Studies, Division 1, fourth place (2014); Science, division 1, fourth place (2014); Language Arts, Division 1, Champion (2014); T-Shirt Contest fifth place (2014); Beta Club, Clubs that Care Award, First Place (2014); the **Future Educators of America** participates in the International Read for the Record Project and has raised over \$1,000 for the purchase of books in the FERST Foundation. **Coweta County Can-a-thon** - LMS donated 22,218 cans (2015); **Meals on Wheels (2016 and 2017)** - Grand Champions raising over \$4000;

**Outstanding Individual Faculty Honors:** *Bright Ideas Grant* – **Misty Wilson** (2007 & 2013), **Tim Johnson** (2008), **Kristen Brady** (2011 & 2014), **Sally Cavanaugh** (2012 & 2013); *Best Buy Teach Award* – Dr. **Carol Turner**, \$2000 (2007), **Jan Reyes**, \$5000 (2009); *Coweta Leadership Academy Participant*—**Cindy Todd** (2011-2013); *Shane Smith Law Teacher Appreciation Award* – **Renee Ratcliff** (2015); *Bright Ideas Grant* - **Jennifer Doonan** (2015); **Suzanne Brooks** - 2015 AFCEA Teaching Tool Grant Winner; **Doris Leak** 2016 Newnan VFW Post 2667, VFW District 5 and Georgia State VFW Teacher of the Year; **Dr. Cindy Bennett** - 2015 GAMSP Linda Hopping National Merit Award; **Cati Rhodes 2017** - Newnan VFW Post 2667, Teacher of the Year Runner-Up

**STEM Certified teachers:** **Christie Pinaud, Lynette Hanus, Kristen Brady, Suzanne Brooks, Jennifer Watson, Sheleen Ferry, Jeff Bouchard, Michelle Hanners, Renee Ratcliff, Jared Waggoner, Sally Cavanaugh, Valery Poythress, Kristin Davis, Lindsay Marks, Lauren Taliaferro**

**Athletic Recognition:** **Volleyball**—Coweta County Middle School Athletic League (CCMSAL) Regular Season Champions (2010 and 2011), CCMSAL Undefeated Regular Season Champions (2013); CCMSAL Undefeated Tournament Champions (2013); CCMSAL Tournament Champions (2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013); CCMSAL Tournament Runner-ups (2009 and 2014); **Football**—CCMSAL Regular Season Champions (2007, 2010, 2011); CCMSAL Tournament Champions (2009 and 2014); CCMSAL Tournament Runner-ups (2010, 2011, 2013 and 2016)  
**Girls' Soccer**- CCMSAL Regular Season Champions (2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015), CCMSAL Cup Champions (2007, 2009, and 2013), CCMSAL Cup Runner-ups (2008, 2010 and 2013); CCMSAL Regular Season Co-Champions (2013)  
**Boys' Soccer**—CCMSAL Regular Season Champions (2007, 2010 and 2016), CCMSAL Cup Champions (2008, 2009 and 2016), CCMSAL Cup Runner-ups (2010, 2012, and 2013);  
**Girls' Basketball**- CCMSAL Regular Season Champions (2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015); CCMSAL Tournament Champions (2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015); CCMSAL Tournament Runner-ups (2008 and 2016);  
**Boys' Basketball**- CCMSAL Regular Season Champions (2007 and 2012); CCMSAL Tournament Runner-ups (2007 and 2014); CCMSAL Tournament Champions (2016)  
**Girls' Track and Field**—CCMSAL Champions (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2016, 2017); CCMSAL Runner-ups (2013 and 2016)

**Boys' Track and Field**—CCMSAL Champions (2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017); CCMSAL Runner-ups (2009 and 2012);

**United States Army East/West Middle School Football All-Star Participant at San Antonio's Alamo Bowl:** Sean Spencer (2008); Weyland Orr (2009); Tristan Mann (2010); Tariq Mohammed (2011); P.J. Harris (2014)

**Academic Bowl Recognition:** West Georgia RESA Runner-ups (2011-2012); Coweta County Middle Schools Runner-ups (2011-2012); West Georgia RESA 1<sup>st</sup> Place (2012-2013); Coweta County Middle Schools 1<sup>st</sup> Place (2012-2013); West Georgia RESA 1<sup>st</sup> Place (2014-2015); Coweta County Middle Schools 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (2014-2015); West Georgia RESA 2nd Place (2015-2016); West Georgia RESA 4th Place (2016-2017)

**Band Recognition:** *Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) Superior Ratings Level III Music* (2007; 2008; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; and 2013); *GMEA All-State Band*—2008-Carson Myers, Elaine Joo (2014), Suji Hahn (2014); Joon Baek (2015)

**Chorus Recognition:** *GMEA Superior Ratings* (2007; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2014 and 2015); *GMEA Excellent Ratings* (2008, 2016); *GMEA All-State Chorus*—2007- Benjamin Coles, Lauren Swanner, Kristen Johnson, Julia Powell; 2008- Brady Coles; 2009- Blaire Morgan, Brady Coles, Brianna Croft, Devin Johnson; 2010- Aubrey Wood, Amy Huynh, Bailey Benson; 2011- Aubrey Wood, Caleigh Brand, Kaleb McLay; 2012- Ashli Alexander, Keely Thompson, Allison Haskell; 2013 - Allison Haskell, James McCord; 2014 - James McCord; 2015 - Joon Baek; 2016 - Oscar Manzanares

**Coweta County Middle School Association Trophy of Excellence Winners**—2010; 2011; 2012, 2013 and 2014 (*based on athletics and academic bowl combined rankings*)

**Coweta County School Resource Officer of the Year:** Corporal Phil Burkett (2012-2013)

**Coweta County Nurse of the Year:** Wilma McCann (2015-2016)

**Coweta County Can-a-thon:** 31,053 Cans collected 1<sup>st</sup> place in Coweta County Schools (2012-2013); 31,723 cans collected 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Coweta County Schools (2013-2014); 1st in Coweta County Schools (2015-2016); 2nd in Coweta County Schools (2016-2017)

**Former Lee Middle School students who have graduated as valedictorian or salutatorian or was a STAR Student:**

Class of 2011—Coweta County STAR Student—Ella Taylor (LMS 2006-2007)

Class of 2011—Salutatorian at Northgate High School—Chris Hoffman (LMS 2006-2007)

Class of 2012—Salutatorian at Northgate High School—Anna Adams (LMS 2006-2008)

Class of 2012—Valedictorian at East Coweta High School—Elizabeth Evans (LMS 2006-2008)

Class of 2015- Valedictorian at East Coweta High School – Stacie Evans (LMS 2008-2011)

Class of 2015- Valedictorian at Northgate High School – Haley Alain (LMS 2008-2011)

Class of 2016 - Salutatorian at East Coweta High School - Chae Bin Park (LMS 2010-2011)

## Timberwolves Developmental Responsiveness

- Connections classes including art, music, band/chorus, foreign language, multi-media, and keyboarding
- Parent/Community involvement opportunities including Career Day, PTSO, Partners in Education, School Council, and Technology Day, Volunteer work
- One-on-one and after school tutoring
- Clubs and activities appropriate to the middle school learner
- Experiences through curricular and extra-curricular activities that provide opportunities for the development of leadership and positive social skills.
- The Way of the Wolf behavior expectation matrix and the Behavior Education Program (BEP) – a school-wide positive behavior intervention system
- Data area, accessible to students, faculty, parents and community members with analysis of academic information
- Staff includes two dedicated counselors to help us inspire students to become successful adults. The counseling staff members provide sympathetic ears, but remain resolute in their push to develop responsible citizens
- Students also participate in interscholastic sports. LMS offers the following sports teams: football, volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' track and field, boys' and girls' soccer
- Chorus and band consistently earn superior ratings and send students annually to district honor band and chorus
- For our aspiring artists, we offer an Art Club where they can discover and express themselves through various artistic venues including paint and print media.

## Timberwolves Social Equity

- There are high expectations for achievement for ALL students.
- RTI (Responses to Intervention) provides a framework for meeting the academic needs of struggling learners.

- Special education students are taught collaboratively in the regular classroom and have additional support in the school day
- Students participate with the community through the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and the Coweta Food Pantry's can-a-thon
- Club meetings during school day to offer opportunities for all to be involved
- Variety of clubs that meet after school
- Students enjoy Veteran's Day programs including an introduction to local retired and active-duty service personnel
- Advisement Period occurs every day - a time for building teacher-student relationships and setting goals
- Silent-sustained reading, an effort to build fluency and foster a love of reading
- Middle school handbooks and agendas are provided for all students
- Faculty versus students - volleyball and basketball games
- Annual International Day
- Character Education word of the week read on the announcements each day by a student
- Pledge of Allegiance read on the announcements each day by a student
- Good Behavior Referrals
- HOUSE concept w/ peer mentoring modeled after the Ron Clark Academy

## **Timberwolves Organizational Supports**

- Professional Learning Groups are scheduled on Mondays one time per month so that teachers can plan and learn together in grade-level, subject area groups.
- Teacher perfect attendance certificates and recognition at Faculty Meetings
- Teacher Achievement Pins and personalized notecard from administrators
- Ron Clark book study
- The school understands the value of direct communication and recognizes this by hosting transitional meetings for parents of rising 5th graders, so their concerns can be voiced and their questions can be answered.
- Daily newsletter sent home via email to parents about upcoming events, including academic events, club meetings, athletic events, school fund raisers, and PTO functions
- The PTO celebrates teachers throughout the year by organizing gracious luncheons, opening an "ice cream shoppe" for a special treat, and surprising them with gifts, such as a car wash.
- Twitter, Remind101, Smore On-line Newsletter, Facebook, Weekly school newsletter and One Call Now are all used to share information with the community
- Daily phone calls to parents concerning student absences
- School Improvement Leadership Team (SILT) – representatives from every area of the school analyze data and guide school improvement efforts
- Response to Intervention (RTI) Pyramid of Interventions
- Peer observations
- Parent Portal – to check students grades and to communicate with the teacher
- Mission Statement – Learning, Motivating, Succeeding – posted in all classrooms and tied into Character Education every day
- Participation in the GAPSS process every five years which is instrumental in system wide accreditation through AdvancED
- Quarterly school council meetings which includes teachers, parents, business members, and the principal to discuss school improvement
- HOUSE concept of teaming

## **Georgia Lighthouse Schools to Watch** ***Lee Middle School***

The most special thing about Lee Middle School is the striving by the administration and faculty to keep it a true middle school in today's tough financial times and its effect on education.

All faculty and staff strive to ensure that each student is well known by the adults in the building. Student portfolios are updated throughout the year regarding student learning styles, goals, strengths, challenges, and personal interest.

High expectations are held by all staff members as well as students. We set the bar high and always strive to meet students where they are and encourage them to do their personal best.

All students are rewarded with Wolf of the Day or Wolf of the Week certificates throughout the school year in addition to the Character Education “Timberwolf tickets” that are given by teachers and administrators. Students meet with the principal on a personal level when awarded certificates.

We have school-wide positive behavior expectations for everyone. We believe that modeling positive behavior in front of our students encourages them to want to model the same expectations.

Students who struggle to follow the positive behavior expectations are not considered discipline problems but instead are given additional positive reinforcement through our individualized positive behavior program called the Wolf Pack.

WE BELIEVE! Our entire school community (faculty and staff, as well as students) believe that we are the BEST at everything we do. From academics to athletics to fine arts, we all take part in striving for excellence.