

**Hart County Middle School**  
**Executive Summary October 2, 2020**

**Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?**

Hart County Middle School is a Title I public school comprised of grades 6, 7, and 8 and is a part of the Hart County Charter System. The school is located in Hartwell, Georgia, and serves the residences of the city of Hartwell and County of Hartwell. Hart County, Georgia is the 69<sup>th</sup> largest county in Georgia. Hart County's population is an estimated 26,785 with a growth rate of 1.30% in the past year according to the most recent census data. Hart County is located in the I-85 corridor in northeast Georgia. Exit 177 in Hart County is only an hour- and- a half from Atlanta and a little over an hour from Greenville, SC. Hart County has 232 miles of shoreline on Lake Hartwell which is a desirable place to visit throughout the summer.

The middle school was built in 1990 to serve 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Prior to the new middle school being built, seventh and eighth grade students attended junior high (at the current head start location) and sixth grade students attended elementary school. The entire middle school was renovated in 2019. This project cost \$3,825,795 which updated the entire school and technology.

Hart County Middle School is the only middle school in Hart County Charter System which serves all of Hart County residence. Hartwell Elementary, South Hart Elementary, and North Hart Elementary feed into Hart County Middle School. Hart County Middle School serves 826 students. There are 393 female students and 433 male students. The demographics of Hart County Middle School are becoming more diverse with industry moving into this area.

Middle School student racial demographic is predominately white. Students that identify as White, not Hispanic make up 64.4% of the population, while 20.3% identify as Black, not Hispanic, 1.7% identify as Asian or Pacific Islander, 5.9% identify as Multi-Racial, and 7.5% identify as Hispanic. Non-Caucasian or unidentified races make up .1% of the rest of the student population. Approximately 15% of the student population are identified as gifted and 8.5% of the population is receiving special education services. The average classroom size is 24. Currently, 54.36% of the student population qualifies for free lunch and 7.99% qualify for reduced lunch.

## Executive Summary

Hart County Middle School

---

Faculty and Staff consists of 57.48 certified staff and 19.5 uncertified staff. This includes teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, nutritional staff, school nurse, and SRO. There are 58 females and 20 males employed at Hart County Middle School. Staff demographics include 9 African American and 73 Caucasian staff members.

Hartwell is a small community with agricultural being an important part of the community. The school system is the biggest employer in Hartwell. Nestle Purina, Fabritex, Haring, and Ritz are among some of the manufacturing jobs in Hart County. The College and Career Academy has partnered with many of these businesses in preparing students for potential careers in Hartwell.

Hart County Middle School is working towards increasing parent involvement. One of the challenges of being a Title I School is the lack of parent involvement. We offer parent events at different times and redeliver information the next day as a way to be flexible for parents. In addition, our school has held conferences at Walmart to be assessable to parents. Also, our school communicates with parents by doing call outs every Sunday night, posts consistently to social media, and updates school website to inform parents of different school events.

Hart County Middle School has an active School Governance Team (SGT) that is involved in decisions throughout the year. For example, they voted to change the homecoming game to recognizing 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who participated in football and cheerleading, on the football field. Also, they provided input and feedback to the leadership team (regarding the master schedule) when the proposal of increasing ELA and MATH time from 60 minutes to 90 minutes was brought before them. SGT also helps Hart County Middle School allocate charter funds to various projects throughout the school based on student needs. They also provide feedback regarding student dress code and student incentives. In addition, several members serve on other school committees within the school such as the PBIS Team and PTO.

Hart County Middle School has implemented programs such as the food pantry where 5% of our students receive free meals on the weekend to supplement meals. Also, the school has a closet where various donors provide clothes for students in need. Lunchroom debt has always been paid off by different donors throughout the community every school year.

## **School's Purpose**

**Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.**

Hart Middle School shares the mission of the Hart County Charter System which is to prepare all individuals to meet tomorrow's challenges by providing quality educational opportunities today. The shared vision is Hart County Schools will be recognized for educational excellence. To help meet our vision the following principles guide us:

- Schools provide safe, secure, and nurturing environments for all.
- Stakeholders promote a positive atmosphere that fosters confidence and self-worth for all.
- Each individual is valued and treated with respect.
- Each individual has the right to be educated and the responsibility to learn.

Overall, quality education requires partnership, which is the responsibility of the school system, the students, the parents, and the community. We provide our students with highly qualified teachers who collaborate on a regular basis to examine student achievement and setbacks. We maintain and communicate our expectation to our students by providing constant feedback, conferencing, and target goals.

At Hart Middle, students have the opportunity to choose from a range of electives that target student's interest and provide a glimpse of the more focused high school electives that will be offered beginning in 9th grade. Examples of electives include, business consumer science, broadcast video telecommunications, agricultural, exploratory engineering technology, fine arts, and PE. Also, 90% of all students take band or chorus. In addition, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders take the YouScience assessment to match their natural abilities with job skills that are critical for career success. This information helps them create their 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedule in choosing a pathway.

At Hart County Middle School, our students are being prepared to contribute to our community, state, and society. Through programs such as the Academic Bowl, Beta Club, TSA, FFA, Student Council, Girl Talk, Communities in School, and other various clubs our students are learning leadership skills, group adaptability and responsibility. Hart Middle promotes student participation in extracurricular activities, as well as school sponsored clubs and

programs. This creates a well-rounded student and a globally successful individual. Our community supports Hart Middle School as well through various opportunities for students to be involved in sports, clubs, academic team, recreational sports, dance classes, theater groups, karate, swimming, church youth groups and community service organizations throughout Hart County.

### **Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

**Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.**

Hart County Middle School has increased its ability to look at student data to provide effective strategies to close gaps among our subgroups. Teachers have common planning to collaborate about successes and challenges as they implement different strategies. They meet with instructional coaches every Wednesday to plan and analyze data. The teachers also meet on a regular basis to discuss data (achievement teams). Data includes MAP assessments, common assessments, and other data that is pertinent to analyze for instructional purposes.

Also, teachers have several professional learning opportunities throughout the school year. For example, the Instructional Coaches provide professional learning courses after school. Dr. Aletta Price has provided teachers training for the past 4 years in differentiation and STEAM. Eric White is currently providing training to all middle school teachers in project based learning. All of our science and social studies teachers have participated in the system's STEAM Academy.

Hart County Middle School creates a family environment among our students and staff to provide an effective learning environment. Positive relationships are essential for the well-being of both students and teachers. Hart County Middle School promotes a sense of school belonging and encourages students to participate cooperatively. One way in which teachers do this is by spending time with students during lunch and Hartbreak. Hartbreak is 25 minutes before lunch for students to walk the track, make up work, or get extra help from teachers. In addition, teachers, administrators, and staff have been asked to establish interactions with students throughout each 9 weeks

and respond to parents within 24 hours. Meanwhile, Communities in School (CIS), Social Empowerment, Fellow Christian Athletes (FCA), and Avita provide mentorship with students. This year the school has established a homeroom period with teachers discussing goals with their students and progress monitoring goals throughout the year.

Our Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Technology Student Association (TSA) are two groups that have expanded with their membership at our school. Both groups have a strong leadership base compiled of students learning leadership roles. Each group competes around the state and has one several top 10 finishes.

Hart County Middle School is continuing to improve the CCPRI score. In 2016, the CCRPI score was 62.1, in 2017 it was 69.1, in 2018 it was 74.1, and in 2019 it was 72.8. The climate rating score has improved significantly as well. HCMS Climate Rating in 2019 was a 4 star. In 2019, our Content Mastery score improved from 60.9 to 65.1. We improved in preparing students academically for the next grade level in all 4 academic areas. In closing the Gaps, Hart County Middle School went from 65.4 to 75. The state average was 50. Overall, in closing the gap, content areas met student targets. However, students with disabilities did not make progress and did not meet improvement targets in all 4 content areas.

Areas that our school identified as areas of improvement are the following: Readiness, HCMS slightly decreased from 82. Last year to 81.6. Progress, this is the area that HCMS struggles in the most. We went from 84.9 last year to 73.3 this year. Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) were used to measure how much growth students demonstrated relative to academically similar peers. So focusing on student growth in ELA and math needs to be a focus area. MAP data, Literacy initiatives, and workshop model will help guide this process. Resources such as the teacher book room, professional learning on writing & reading workshop, and engaging activities (STEAM/PBL)

will help improve in this area. Our school is preparing all students to be career and college ready by providing challenging and meaningful educational experiences in cooperation with parents, community, and business partners.

Our comprehensive school counseling program prepares students for high school and beyond by focusing on character education and career counseling. These concepts are reinforced weekly through our 7 Mindsets program and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS). PBIS is our universal school wide behavior management system that is embedded throughout the school day. In addition, the school counselors are currently seeking RAMP certification. Based on the ASCA National Model, RAMP is a recognition program for individual schools. Applying for RAMP helps schools evaluate their school counseling program, discover areas for improvement and enhance the program's efforts to contribute to student success.

Finally, community and business partners realize that our students are facing workforce development challenges and further development is essential for students to be college and career ready. With a solid understanding of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) subjects and how they teach problem solving skills that are applicable to the real world, students are destined to be successful. To help close this gap all students are 1:1 with a Chromebook they can use at school and home. Also, students are exposed to Career Pathways such as agricultural and pre-engineering. In addition, Hart county Middle School implements STEAM school wide so every student has the opportunity to problem solve and think critically. Furthermore, every student completes 1 project every semester using the STEAM Design Process.

### **Additional Information**

**Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.**

In providing students with the skills needed to globally succeed, Hart Middle has increased math and ELA from 60 minutes a day to 90 minutes a day, while offering multiple electives throughout the year for students to choose from. All of our eighth grade students take Physical Science which is a high school credited course. Coordinate Algebra and 9th grade Literature are also high school courses that are offered to eighth graders. Our REACH Scholarship program provides 5 middle school students 2,500 a year in scholarships by maintaining a C average, attending school regularly, and maintaining good behavior. They are supported by receiving a mentor and an academic coach they meet with regularly.

Students who qualify for the Beta Club are not only high academic achievers, but also perform hours of community service. All of our students have opportunities to participate in charitable organizations. Students who are interested in athletics have the opportunity to play in a variety of sports that prepare them for JV and Varsity sports. Our school continues to integrate technology into the curriculum by utilizing Title I funds to purchase programs. Also, by providing instructional 1 to 1 chrome books to students and by having state of the art interactive boards in every classroom. Our commitment to using best practices such as workshop model, STEAM, differentiation, and project based learning will prepare our students to be leaders in the global economy.