



# GATOR TRACKS

## ESTILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

JANUARY 2026 Update

### Toshiba Grant Recipient



Mrs. Shelton, our EMS 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, recently received her check for a Toshiba Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1324 for her Gator Garden submission from Michael Hare. Students will begin a project-based unit where they will learn how to design and create a sustainable flower/vegetable garden at EMS. As part of this unit, students will research hydroponics, learn the factors needed to grow plants hydroponically, and develop their own hydroponic substrate model. Equipped with their knowledge about plants, students will design and create a flower/vegetable garden for EMS.

### EMS Awards Day



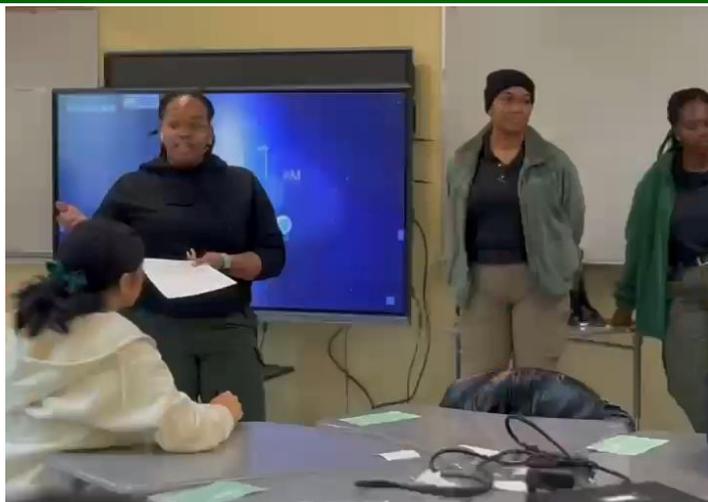
#### EMS Students Awarded

EMS Awards Day was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate student success and recognize the hard work and dedication of our students. Students earned awards for their academic achievements, positive behavior, leadership, and commitment to excellence throughout the second nine weeks. We are proud of all our students for their accomplishments and thank our staff and families for their continued support in helping our students succeed.

# Club Day/House Day

## Friday Excitement

January 30th was an exciting day at EMS as students enjoyed Club Day and House Challenge Day. Students were able to dress down and participate in a variety of Club Day experiences, giving them opportunities to explore interests and connect with peers. Later in the day, students reported to their Ron Clark Houses for a series of fun and competitive house challenges. Congratulations to Reveur House for winning the Cup Challenge, Amistad House for taking the TikTok Challenge, and Isibindi House for earning the Spirit Challenge win. Altruismo House also shined with lots of energy and team spirit when participating in team events. It was a great day of school spirit, teamwork, and fun!



# FACE Coordinator



## Thank You!

A special thank you to our Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Coordinator, Mrs. Joanne Johnson, for her continued support of EMS. Mrs. Johnson helps strengthen our school–family partnership by organizing monthly Open House events that allow parents to visit their child’s classroom and stay connected to their learning. She also provides valuable support to our School Improvement Council, hosts informative parent workshops, and shares important updates through Parent Square to keep families informed about school news and events. We truly appreciate her dedication to our students, families, and school community.



# Continuous Improvement Plan

## Continuous Improvement Plan

- EMS was rated Below-Average on the SC School Report Card
- SCDE requires a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) based on the Below Average rating
- CIP centers on three areas (Resource Inequity, ELA, and Math)
- CIP must include input from the school community and must also be approved by the local school board

H

ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EDUCATE

## Continuous Improvement Plan Synopsis

- The Plan focuses on equitable access to instruction
- There are clear, measurable goals for Reading and Math tied to the EMS Strategic Plan and Principal Goals
- Supports are tied directly to demonstrated student needs
- We will report progress through SIC Meetings, SIC Report to People, Monthly Newsletters, Strategic Plan, and my Principal Goals.
- All interventions used are required to meet ESSA standards (Strong or moderate)

H

ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EDUCATE

## Continuous Improvement Plan Goals

Resource Inequity	English Language Arts	Mathematics
<p>Goal: By June 2026, Estill Middle School will improve equitable access to grade-level instruction by increasing certified teachers in ELA/Math to 100%, providing high-dose tutoring to at least 75% of at-risk students, and ensuring 95% of students maintain consistent access to functioning devices and chargers.</p>	<p>By June 2026, Estill Middle School will increase the percentage of students meeting and exceeding expectations in math from 33.6% to at 38.6%, by reducing the percentage of students in the Does Not Meet category in SCReady from 34.3% to 29% or lower through targeted interventions, differentiated instruction, and progress monitoring.</p>	<p>By June 2026, EMS will increase the percentage of students meeting and exceeding expectations in math from 21.4% to 27% or higher, by reducing the percentage of students in the Does Not Meet Expectations category in SCReady from 45% to 40% or lower, through targeted interventions, differentiated instruction, and regular progress monitoring.</p>

The EMS Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) was presented to the School Board on January 20th. The Board approved the plan, and it was then submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) for review and approval. Once approved, the plan will guide school-wide goals and strategies focused on addressing school inequities and improving student achievement in reading and math. These focus areas will support continued growth and success for all EMS students.

# Basketball Success at EMS!



## GO GATORS!!

We are proud to share that both the EMS boys and girls basketball teams have earned spots in the I-95 Basketball Tournament! Our girls team enters the tournament as the #4 seed, while the boys team secured the #5 seed, reflecting their hard work, dedication, and strong performances throughout the season. The tournament will be held at North District Middle School, and we look forward to cheering on our student-athletes as they compete against top teams from across the region. Congratulations to our players and coaches!

### I-95 BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

6-TEAM SINGLE ELIMINATION BRACKET TOURNAMENT  
**FEBRUARY 2-4, 2026**  
 General Admission: \$10

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 2	TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 3	WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4
1 By North District - Home	2 By Colleton - Home	<b>WINNER</b>
4 Royal Live Oak - Home GAME 1 TIME: 6:30	5 Estill - Visitor GAME TIME: 6:30	
3 Hardeeville - Home GAME 2 TIME: 8:00	6 Polaris - Visitor GAME 1 TIME: 6:30	

Hospitality For Officials and Coaches Only!  
**1ST PLACE TROPHY**  
**2ND PLACE TROPHY**

Get ready to dig deep and compete in our high-energy BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE!

### I-95 GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

4-TEAM SINGLE ELIMINATION BRACKET TOURNAMENT  
**FEBRUARY 2-4, 2026**  
 General Admission: \$10

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 2	WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 4
1 Bridges Prep - Home	<b>WINNER</b>
4 Estill - Visitor GAME TIME: 5:00	2 North District - Home GAME TIME: 5:00
3 Colleton - Visitor GAME TIME: 5:00	Home Visitor

Hospitality For Officials and Coaches Only!  
**1ST PLACE TROPHY**  
**2ND PLACE TROPHY**

Get ready to dig deep and compete in our high-energy BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE!

