Executive Summary

Clements Middle School
Newton County School System

Mrs. Joy S. Scavella, Principal
66 Jack Neely Rd
Covington, GA 30016-8831
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ........................................................................................................................................................................... 1

Description of the School .......................................................................................................................................................... 2

School's Purpose ........................................................................................................................................................................ 7

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement ...................................................................................................................... 8

Additional Information ................................................................................................................................................................. 10
Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.
Description of the School

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?

Clements Middle School
SACS - Executive Summary
2013-2014

Description of School

Newton County is ideally located approximately 25 miles southeast of Atlanta and is centrally located between the state capital and its major urban cities of Augusta and Athens. Newton County, created December 24, 1821, is named after Sgt. John Newton, who served under Gen. Francis Marion in the American Revolutionary War. With scenic and historical beauty, television and film producers continue to extensively use Newton County because of attractive locations and moderate climate. Major films and television series including My Cousin Vinny, Remember the Titans, The Dukes of Hazzard and In the Heat of the Night have been filmed on or around "The Square" in downtown Covington. Currently, The Vampire Diaries is also being filmed in this location (Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce).

According to the 2010 Census report, the population of Newton County was 99,958, indicating an increase of 61.2% from the 2000 Census. Whites make up the majority of the citizens in Newton County with a 53.8% of the population. Blacks make up 40.9% of the population and the Hispanic population accounts for 4.6%. Even though the number is significantly smaller than the white and black population, the Hispanic population grew 300.6% between 2000 and 2010.

The Newton County School System serves the entire county including the five municipalities located within the county. The twenty-four schools are organized into thirteen elementary schools, five middle schools, three high schools, one theme school, one alternative school (Ombudsman) (Covington-Newton Chamber of Commerce). In January 2012, Newton County School system opened the Newton College and Career Academy (NCCA) in order to enhance academic achievement and provide students with the knowledge and skills for postsecondary education and the workforce (Newton County School System). Students at NCCA will receive the opportunity to connect more directly with their career paths and earn industry credentials in addition to their high school diploma. This will allow students a better chance to become employed in a competitive work environment.

All Newton County schools meet the standards of the Georgia Department of Education and are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Newton County students are recognized at the state and national level for excellence in academics, athletics, the arts and extra-curricular activities. All schools offer a variety of programs including services for both academically gifted students and students with disabilities (Covington-Newton Chamber of Commerce). In 2013, Newton County School System opened the STEM Institute. STEM is a major initiative of the Governor and the Georgia Department of Education. The STEM Institute is academically connected to the Newton College and Career Academy and it focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Clements Middle School is one of five middle schools in the Newton County School System. The student population consists of 718 students, 52 teachers, with a teacher ratio of 31:1. Clements is comprised of: 78% African American, 8% Hispanic, 1% Caucasian, and 4% other. Clements did not make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2011, the first year of its reestablishment, but is currently not designated as a needs
improvement school. Since then, the State Department of Education has adopted a new way of rating Georgia's schools by looking at College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). According to the 2012 report, Clements Middle School's CCRPI rating was at 75.3. This score proved much significant progress in student achievement and in all other areas of the school's climate and performance. According to preliminary CRCT results for 2013 and other CCRPI indicators, Clements Middle School has continued to make a significant increase in student performance. Clements also became a PBIS school during the 2012-2013 school year. This stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports which is a way of implementing a school-wide discipline plan through promoting and reinforcing positive behaviors and using discipline data to provide quick interventions and supports. Clements Middle School reached the highest PBIS. status as designated by the Georgia Department of Education, Operational, at the end of the 2012-2013 school year due to the hard work and determination of all staff to improve in this area.

Clements Middle School houses grades six, seven and eight and currently is in Title I status. Approximately 85% of all students receive free and reduced lunch privileges. In addition to the teaching staff, two guidance counselors, a staff of custodians, dietary personnel, secretaries, a school resource officer, a nurse, and coaches all help and support the programs and students of our school.

In August, 2009, Clements Middle School was changed to a county theme school that housed grades four through eight. The theme school focused on parent involvement and student leadership. Parents who enrolled their children in the theme school had to sign a parent contract agreeing to volunteer for at least twenty hours in the school per nine week period, attend parent conferences, and attend two parent workshops. The theory behind the theme school looked outstanding on paper, but failed in reality. Clearly defining the role of parent involvement in the classroom was a struggle, along with housing fourth graders in the same building as eighth graders caused great conflict between the school and parents of the younger students. The county closed the theme school after one year and in August of 2010, Clements Middle School returned to being one of the county middle schools with an entirely different administrative team. The reputation of Clements was tarnished after this event, and many parents entered the building with an extremely negative attitude. It has taken great effort and dedication of the administrative team and the teachers to rebuild Clements Middle School into a strong and reputable learning environment. Through great perseverance of the faculty and staff, Clements Middle School was one of the highest scoring middle schools in the county on the CRCT in 2013, based on preliminary data.

Clements Middle School serves approximately 720 students in grades 6-8 with 52 full-time teachers on staff. Principal Joy S. Scavella is in her fourth year at CLMS and works with two assistant principals: Ms. Carla Peck and Mr. Fred Richard. Other certified support staff include two counselors, one media specialist, an In-School Suspension coordinator, and an ESOL teacher who is shared between schools. Several classified positions also provide support, including paraprofessionals, clerical staff, custodians, school nurse, a resource officer, custodians, and food service.

As with other middle schools in Georgia, CLMS has been presented with the challenges of the new Common Core curriculum, as well as with the new TKES teacher evaluation system. The past two years have brought the transition from the Georgia Performance Standards to the Common Core Standards with a renewed emphasis on literacy. In addition to the new curriculum, the CRCT cut scores or requirements for passing are to undergo an increase in all academic areas.

The mission of Clements Middle School is that we strive to provide a quality educational experience by promoting excellence without excuses in our daily lives. Our vision at Clements Middle School is that we will meet the individual needs of students and maximize their academic and social potential by utilizing all stakeholders and technological resources with a holistic approach to produce high-school ready, college and career focused, and productive citizens. We also have a mission for our school-wide behavior expectations through PBIS. Clements Middle School, strives to maximize learning and provide a safe and positive environment for all students and faculty. Clements Middle School is to instill respect for all and insist on courtesy and polite social conduct. It is the goal for all students to take responsibility in creating a climate that is conducive to academic excellence and civic awareness.

Schools Purpose
Clements Middle School has aligned its purpose and mission with the Newton County School Mission. The Clements Middle School mission is stated as follows: “Clements Middle School strives to provide a quality educational experience by promoting “Excellence Without Excuses” in our daily lives.” The Clements Middle School Vision is to meet the individual needs of students and maximize their academic and social potential by utilizing all stakeholders and technological resources with a holistic approach to produce high-school ready, college and career focused, and productive citizens.

Non-negotiables adopted by the Newton County School System including Increased Student Achievement and more Effective Teaching are being reached in all subject areas through technology integration, building background knowledge, research based instructional strategies and professional learning communities. Connections, PE, Counselors and others are also committed to meet the goals and learning needs of our students. Clements Middle School is constantly seeking opportunities for student growth, through consistently assessing, analyzing, remediating, accelerating, planning and monitoring instruction.

Preparing students to become healthy, productive citizens is part of our mission and our vision. The Clements Middle School staff continues to work diligently toward meeting those goals. The Mission of this dedicated group of professionals is stated eloquently. The vision, established as a "new" Clements began is clear and meaningful. Procedures and activities have established with the mission in mind and a dedication to success. The vision of Clements Middle School is evident.

Notable Achievements

Clements Middle School has experienced continued growth in many academic areas since it has officially been changed back to a regular middle school as of the 2010-2011 academic year. As standardized test scores remain at the forefront of assessment models in the United States, Clements Middle School continues to make decisions that encourage academic growth and improvement in state-mandated assessments.

Over the last three years, standardized scores have continued to climb and for good reason. Clements has shifted the use of the "Enrichment" period toward a more academic pursuit. This schedule was developed to support the rigor of the Springboard program. As a result, Clements has seen an overall gain in every assessment as compared to previous years' results (where available.) Improvement in test scores includes but is not limited to all areas of the CRCT, the Grade 8 Writing Assessment, the 8th Grade Technology Assessment, and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

Improvement in CRCT scores is a major emphasis for Clements Middle School. As state standards and expectations rise, Clements' administrators and staff work tirelessly to facilitate vast improvement in student performance. As a result of different strategies, including a Springboard Enrichment period and a school-wide focus on reading, Clements has enjoyed a substantial increase over the last three years in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding target scores in the following areas of the CRCT:

- Sixth Grade in and of itself had an average increase of 15.98 percent of students exceeding the target score and an average increase of 19.16 percent of students meeting and exceeding the target score. An increase of an average of 12.72 percent of students in the seventh grade exceeded the target score and an average of 5.58 percent of seventh graders met and exceeded the target score.
- The eighth grade saw an average increase of 9.6 percent in the "exceeds" category and an average increase of 13.08 percent in the "meets and exceeds" category. Particular areas of achievement with an increase of over ten percent include sixth grade reading, ELA, math, science, and social studies; seventh grade ELA, math, and social studies; and eighth grade reading and social studies.

Other mandated assessment improvements include the 8th Grade Technology Assessment which has shown an increase from "basic" to "proficient," which can perhaps be attributed to the emphasis on the classroom and student use of technological devices. The 8th Grade
Writing Assessment showed a slight increase in the "exceeds category," but a slight decline in the "meets" category as of 2012. For the 2013 year, Clements saw an increase in the "does not meet" category. To counteract this decline in achievement, the administration has implemented a school-wide writing program to include drawing in the Connections team to lend support in this area. ITBS scores continue to remain stable with the "Grade Equivalent of Average Standard Score" hovers between 5.1 and 6.2. Improvement in this area is incumbent upon the elementary schools as the test is administered in early fall of the sixth grade.

In conclusion, Clements stands as a model of improvement in different areas of assessment whether it be academic, CTAE, Fine Arts, or extra-curricular. Clements Middle School has developed from a new school just short of making AYP in 2011 to achieving a 75.4 CCRPI score with vast increase in achievement on the CRCT in 2012. The administrative team and the entire staff wait anxiously for the result of this year's CCRPI designation and look forward to this year's major assessments with unflagging diligence.

Clements Middle School has a remarkable student body with many notable achievements in extracurricular activities, as well as academic scores. Our Literacy Competition students brought home wins in the 6th Grade and 8th Grade poetry competition for 2012-2013 school year. Our 7th Grade students brought home a win in Ready Writing for the 2012-2013 school year. Clements also had a Spelling Bee runner-up for the district in the 2012-2013 school year.

The Academic Team finished in the top 10 for our region in the 2012-2013 school year, and is holding a top 10 position in the 2013-2014 school year at the present time. Our Academic Team students, along with a few other students, competed in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl in February, 2013.

Student involvement in the Fine Arts department continues to increase as a result of a classically-based curriculum. The Fine Arts teachers continue to involve their programs in different events and assessments in order to increase rigor in their respective departments and students continue to rise to expectation.

Clements Middle School chorus program earned superior ratings at LGPE during the 2011 - 2012 and 2012-2013 school year. The chorus program sent over 15 students to District Honor Chorus in 2012 and 12 students attended in 2013. A Clements Middle School student made All State Chorus for 2013. Four Clements students made 6th Grade State Wide Honor Chorus in 2012, with 3 students attaining this honor in 2013. The chorus program at Clements Middle School has performed at Chimney Park Twilight, has doubled in size in one year, has won Silver at Six Flags singing competition, and has been invited to perform at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

The band program continues to grow and flourish in numbers, participation, and performance. The band earns consistent excellent and superior ratings at GMEA-sponsored large-group performance evaluations and participates in GMEA-sponsored individual performance events.

Clements Middle School has had Science Fair winners for the past two years. In 2012, we had a school winner that went on to Griffin Regional to win and competed at the Georgia State Science and Engineering Fair. This student placed third at State, was invited to the Tellus Museum to present their project and won $100.00. In 2013, we had school winners that won at the county level, regional level and completed at the State level.

Malia Wallace, a student at Clements Middle School, attended the Junior National Young leaders Conference in Washington D.C. in 2012 and in 2013. This was a part of the Foundations of Leadership: Bringing History to Life nomination program.

Clements Middle School has a tremendous amount of notoriety among its staff members as well as its student body. Many staff members hold degrees beyond a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. Our school is a recognized PBIS award winner for decrease in number of discipline issues. This is largely due to faculty and staff successful implementation of PBIS program.

One important program implementation has been the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This program was established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education to give schools capacity-building information and technical assistance for identifying, adapting, and sustaining effective school-wide disciplinary practices (PBIS.org, 2013). With this program implementation, Clements Middle School has seen a significant decrease in the number of discipline referrals from 2012 to 2013. A mentorship program was established to work alongside the PBIS program in decreasing student discipline referrals, while increasing student academic achievement.
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.

Clements Middle School has aligned its purpose and mission with the Newton County School Mission. The Clements Middle School mission is stated as follows: “Clements Middle School strives to promote a quality educational experience by promoting "Excellence Without Excuses" in our daily lives." The Clements Middle School Vision is to meet the individual needs of students and maximize their academic and social potential by utilizing all stakeholders and technological resources with a holistic approach to produce high-school ready, college and career focused, and productive citizens.

Non-negotiables adopted by the Newton County School System including Increased Student Achievement and more Effective Teaching are being reached in all subject areas through technology integration, building background knowledge, research based instructional strategies and professional learning communities. Connections, PE, Counselors and others are also committed to meet the goals and learning needs of our students. Clements Middle School is constantly seeking opportunities for student growth, through consistently assessing, analyzing, remediating, accelerating, planning and monitoring instruction.

Preparing students to become healthy, productive citizens is part of our mission and our vision. The Clements Middle School staff continues to work diligently toward meeting those goals. The Mission of this dedicated group of professionals is stated eloquently. The vision, established as a "new" Clements began is clear and meaningful. Procedures and activities have established with the mission in mind and a dedication to success. The vision of Clements Middle School is evident.
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.

Clements Middle School has experienced continued growth in many academic areas since it has officially been changed back to a regular middle school as of the 2010-2011 academic year. As standardized test scores remain at the forefront of assessment models in the United States, Clements Middle School continues to make decisions that encourage academic growth and improvement in state-mandated assessments.

Over the last three years, standardized scores have continued to climb and for good reason. Clements has shifted the use of the "Enrichment" period toward a more academic pursuit. This schedule was developed to support the rigor of the Springboard program. As a result, Clements has seen an overall gain in every assessment as compared to previous years' results (where available.) Improvement in test scores includes but is not limited to all areas of the CRCT, the Grade 8 Writing Assessment, the 8th Grade Technology Assessment, and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

Improvement in CRCT scores is a major emphasis for Clements Middle School. As state standards and expectations rise, Clements' administrators and staff work tirelessly to facilitate vast improvement in student performance. As a result of different strategies, including a Springboard Enrichment period and a school-wide focus on reading, Clements has enjoyed a substantial increase over the last three years in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding target scores in almost every area of the test.

Improvement in CRCT scores is a major emphasis for Clements Middle School. As state standards and expectations rise, Clements' administrators and staff work tirelessly to facilitate vast improvement in student performance. As a result of different strategies, including a Springboard Enrichment period and a school-wide focus on reading, Clements has enjoyed a substantial increase over the last three years in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding target scores in almost every area of the test. Sixth Grade in and of itself had an average increase of 15.98 per cent of students exceeding the target score and an average increase of 19.16 per cent of students meeting and exceeding the target score. An increase of an average of 12.72 per cent of students in the seventh grade exceeded the target score and an average of 5.58 per cent of seventh graders met and exceeded the target score. The eighth grade saw an average increase of 9.6 per cent in the "exceeds" category and an average increase of 13.08 per cent in the "meets and exceeds" category.

Particular areas of achievement with an increase of over ten per cent include sixth grade reading, ELA, math, science, and social studies; seventh grade ELA, math, and social studies; and eighth grade reading and social studies. On the other hand, areas with growth of less than three percent include seventh grade ELA (meets and exceeds,) math, and science. However, this indicates that a higher percentage of students are moving from the "meets and exceeds" category to the "exceeds" category. Eighth grade math continues to need attention with an increase in the percentage of students exceeding at only one point two. On the other hand, all other areas showed significant gain in the percentage of students exceeding or meeting and exceeding the target score.

Other mandated assessment improvements include the 8th Grade Technology Assessment which has shown an increase from "basic" to "proficient," which can perhaps be attributed to the emphasis on the classroom and student use of technological devices. The 8th Grade Writing Assessment showed a slight increase in the "exceeds category," but a slight decline in the "meets" category as of 2012. For the 2013 year, Clements saw an increase in the "does not meet" category. To counteract this decline in achievement, the administration has implemented a school-wide writing program to include drawing in the Connections team to lend support in this area. ITBS scores continue to remain stable with the "Grade Equivalent of Average Standard Score" hovers between 5.1 and 6.2. Improvement in this area is incumbent upon the elementary schools as the test is administered in early fall of the sixth grade.

In conclusion, Clements stands as a model of improvement in different areas of assessment whether it be academic, CTAE, Fine Arts, or
extra-curricular. Clements Middle School has developed from a new school just short of making AYP in 2011 to achieving a 75.4 CCRPI score with vast increase in achievement on the CRCT in 2012. The administrative team and the entire staff wait anxiously for the result of this year's CCRPI designation and look forward to this year's major assessments with unflagging diligence.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Clements Middle School has a remarkable student body with many notable achievements in extracurricular activities, as well as academic scores. Our Literacy students brought home wins in the 6th Grade and 8th Grade poetry competition for 2012-2013 school year. Our 7th Grade students brought home a win in Ready Writing for the 2012-2013 school year. Clements also boasts a Spelling Bee runner-up for the district in the 2012-2013 school year.

The Academic Team finished in the top 10 for our region in the 2012-2013 school year, and is holding a top 10 position in the 2013-2014 school year at the present time. Our Academic Team students, along with a few other students, competed in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl in February, 2013.

Student involvement in the Fine Arts department continues to increase as a result of a classically-based curriculum. The Fine Arts teachers continue to involve their programs in different events and assessments in order to increase rigor in their respective departments and students continue to rise to expectation.

Clements Middle School chorus program earned superior ratings at LGPE. The chorus program sent over 15 students to District Honor Chorus in 2012 and 12 students attended in 2013. A Clements Middle School student made All State Chorus for 2013. Four Clements students made 6th Grade State Wide Honor Chorus in 2012, with 3 students attaining this honor in 2013. The chorus program at Clements Middle School has performed at Chimney Park Twilight, has doubled in size in one year, has won Silver at Six Flags singing competition, and has been invited to perform at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

The band program continues to grow and flourish in numbers, participation, and performance. The band earns consistent excellent and superior ratings at GMEA-sponsored large-group performance evaluations and participates in GMEA-sponsored individual performance events.

Clements Middle School has had Science Fair winners for the past two years. 2012 we had a school winner that went on to Griffin Regional to win and competed at the Georgia State Science and Engineering Fair. This student placed third at State, was invited to the Tellus Museum to present their project and won $100.00. In 2013 we had school winners that won at the county level, regional level and completed at the State level.

Malia Wallace, a student at Clements Middle School attended the Junior National Young leaders Conference in Washington D.C. In 2012 and in 2013. This was a part of the Foundations of Leadership: Bringing History to Life nomination program.

Clements Middle School has a tremendous amount of notoriety among its staff members as well as its student body. Many staff members hold degrees beyond a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. Our school is a recognized PBIS award winner for decrease in number of discipline issues. This is largely due to faculty and staff successful implementation of PBIS program.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATIONS

One important program implementation has been the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This program was established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education to give schools capacity-building information and technical assistance for identifying, adapting, and sustaining effective school-wide disciplinary practices (PBIS.org, 2013). With this program implementation, Clements Middle School has seen a significant decrease in the number of discipline referrals from 2012 to 2013. A mentorship program was established to work alongside the PBIS program in decreasing student discipline referrals, while increasing student academic achievement.
Additional Information

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

Clements Middle School has undergone many changes throughout the years with changing to a Theme School in 2009 and then back to a regular middle school in 2010. With that change, there was a completely new staff that merged with the former Theme School staff in 2010. Clements Middle School also has a mobility rate that fluctuates between 22 - 25%. This means that there is an unusually high percent of students who transfer in and out due to living situations that are beyond the school and the student's control. This also has an adverse effect on the students who attends the same classes with students who move in and out frequently in such a way that proves to have a negative effect on student achievement. In addition to a high mobility rate, Clements Middle School has experienced four different administrative teams since its reestablishment in 2010. Through a strong commitment of all staff, Clements Middle School strives each day to provide a quality educational experience by promoting excellence without excuses despite all of its transitions and changes that it has witnessed over the past four years.