

Teaching Inclusivity Through Societies



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, LOCAL ACTION

PALMETTO ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

2008 INCLUSIVITY CONFERENCE

FURMAN UNIVERSITY

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Teaching Inclusivity Through Societies



**PRESENTED BY:
MITCHELL SALERNO AND MICHAEL MERCEREAU**

**PREPARED BY:
MITCHELL SALERNO, ADAM CHRISTIANSEN, WENDY CLARK,
STEPHANIE GILL, MICHAEL MERCEREAU, AND MICHAEL SCHOPPS**

STATESVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Our Past...



**WHERE DO WE BELONG?
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE
SCHOOL, OR HIGH SCHOOL?**

Prior to 2007-2008

2005-2006


Elementary • JrK-5

Secondary • 6-12

2006-2007

Elementary • JrK-6

Secondary • 7-12



Current Structure

2007-2008

Three
Developmentally
Appropriate
Divisions

Elementary
JrK-5

Middle 6-8

High 9-12

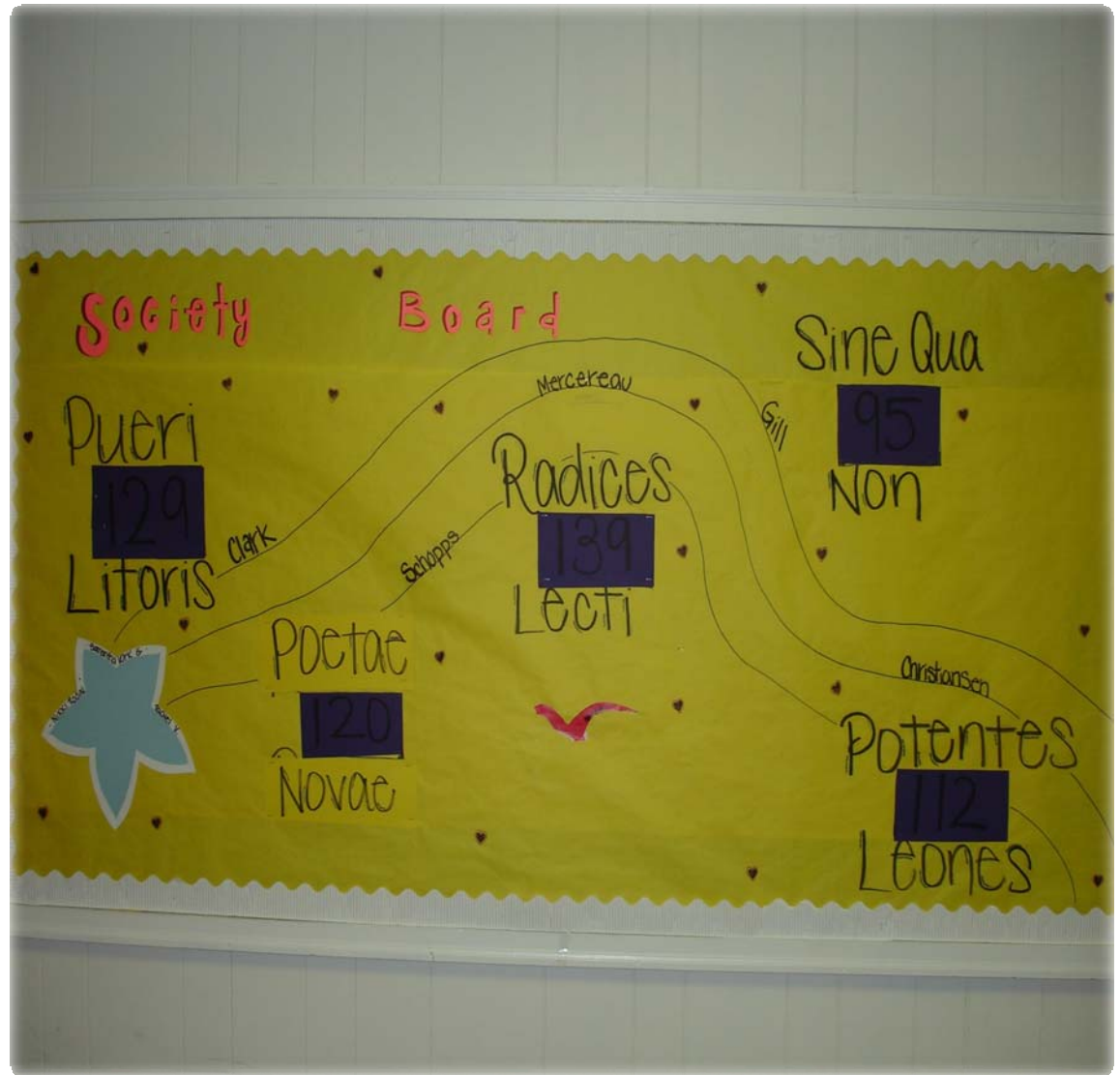
Our Present...



**DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE
ENVIRONMENT WHICH SUPPORTS,
MANAGES, AND FACILITATES
INTELLECTUAL, SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL,
PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL
CHANGE**

Societies

A system where groups of students compete in a variety of athletic, academic, and team-building activities.





Promotes Diversity

“What I like best about societies is being able to get to know some different people. Like now I know the names of about 5 or 6 of the 6th graders when at the beginning of the year I didn’t know barely any. I also like being able to work together even if my team is in last place.” – Katie-Beth, 7th



Vertical Alignment

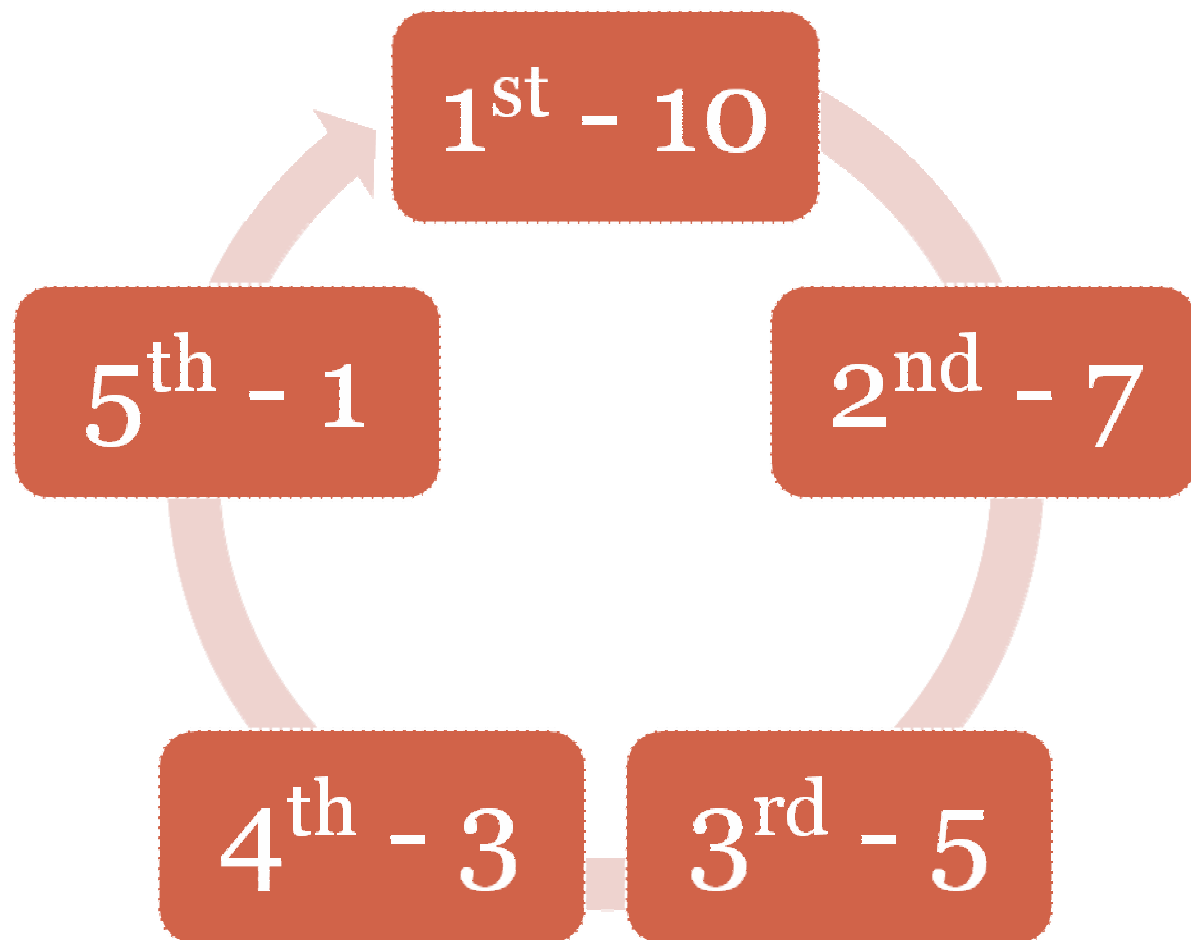
Encourages Relationship

Variety of Activities

Keeping Score

“What I like best is the fact that I have a group of people that is there for us. I know that whether I don’t do great in a game or I do good, my team will cheer me on. They are all very supportive. I really like my society leader.”

- Leighann, 7th



Faculty Involvement

Multiple Personalities

Advisor

Coach

Mentor

Referee

Friend

Sustain Buy-In



At the
Beginning



Throughout
the Year



Appropriate
Closure





Positive Results

“What I like best is that we play team building games and that we get a little break at the end of the week to have fun and socialize.” – Madison, 6th

“I liked having to use teamwork during the events and competing against other people. I also like working with other age levels and getting to know different people and getting to talk to people you would have never talked to.” – Emma, 7th


Leadership

Discipline

Unity

Social
Development

Excitement
and Fun



SCS Middle School students also enjoy “recess” each day. Our lunch is structured so that students have 40 minutes to eat and to play.



Four-square is the game of choice!

It is Your Turn...



IN YOUR SOCIETY...

- 1. CREATE A TOWER OF STARBURSTS**
- 2. THE TALLEST TOWER WINS**
- 3. YOU MAY USE ANY DESIGN BUT
MAY ONLY USE THE STARBURSTS
AND TOOTHPICKS**

Our Future...



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Future Improvements

68% of rising 6th graders indicate they are excited about Societies

94% of rising 6th graders are excited about lockers

“I really like societies! I liked it because I got to run around with kids that I usually don’t play with.” – Mallory, 5th Grade

Further Integration into School Day

Group Lockers by Society

Create Pageantry

Announce New Members at Orientation

Involve School Community

It is worth the Time!



WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT SOCIETIES?

“Nothing, absolutely nothing. This is the most fun I have had in a group ever. I enjoy everything and my group is nice to me.” –Dustin, 6th

Societies...

- Promote leadership
- Break down cliques
- Reorganize social groups
- Let others shine
- Build relationships
- Permit a full academic schedule
- Create a safe environment for exploration
- Promote inclusivity
- Are fun!



Scooter Soccer in the Gymnasium



Mitchell Salerno,
M.S.Ed, MS/HS
Principal

Adam Christiansen,
M.A., Bible Teacher

Wendy Clark, B.A.,
English Teacher

Stephanie Gill, B.S.,
Science Teacher

Michael Mercereau,
B.A., History
Teacher

Michael Schopps,
B.S., Math Teacher



Statesville Christian School Middle School Team

References



- Caskey, M. M., & Anfara, V. A., Jr. (2007). *Research summary: Young adolescents' developmental characteristics*. Retrieved January 26, 2007, from <http://www.nmsa.org/Research/ResearchSummaries/DevelopmentalCharacteristics/tabid/1414/Default.aspx>
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Contact Information



Mitchell Salerno

msalerno@statesvillechristian.org

704.873.9511 x222

Michael Mercereau

mmercereau@statesvillechristian.org

704.873.9511 x307

www.statesvillechristian.org

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“PAIS Presentation”**