

## Simmons Goes High-Tech

The Hoover City School System strives to remain on the leading edge as a learning laboratory for instructional technology solutions. In 2006, Hoover City Schools was proud to announce the creation and funding of a pilot program called the Hoover Technology Initiative to investigate various instructional technology applications in classrooms across the system. Simmons Middle School was proud to be chosen as a site for two of these classrooms. Teachers agreed to transform their classrooms into learning laboratories through the use of \$13,000 in equipment supplied per classroom. This equipment included a ceiling mounted DLP projector, 100" light screen, digital overhead projector, 2 interactive writing tablets, audio enhancement system, student response polling system, teacher wireless laptop and docking station, as well as 3 wireless laptops for student use. Plans are to expand these classrooms during the 07-08 school year.

## Academic and Athletic Success

Over the past 15 years SMS has been recognized for exceptional accomplishment in both academics and sports. The following are a few of the awards received.

### Academic

Math Team	Consistently among the top in the state
Spelling Bee	State and National Competitors
Geography Bee	State and National Competitors
Writing	Local, State, and National award winners

### Athletic

2005-2006 All-Metro Sports Trophy	
Boys Basketball	6 Metro Championships
Girls Basketball	9 Metro Championships
Cross Country	1 State Championship
Football	10 Metro Championships
Softball	3 Metro Championships
Tennis	2 Undefeated Seasons
Outdoor Track	12 Metro Championships
Volleyball	13 Metro Championships

In addition to the above, Simmons' students consistently excel in other sports such as Indoor track, Cheerleading, Swimming, Diving, Wrestling, Golf, and Dance.

## Distinguished Awards

**Simmons Middle School is proud to have on staff:**

- 5 Nationally Board Certified Teachers
- 50 Teachers holding a Master's degree
- 5 Teachers with other advanced degrees

**Tara Bensinger:**  
Teacher of the Year SMS

**Russann Wood:**  
Secondary Teacher of the Year SMS, HCS, & District 4

**Beverly Bean, Mary Stowe**  
Jacksonville Teacher Hall of Fame

**Susan Ogle, Debbie Simms:**  
Birmingham Post Herald  
Distinguished Teacher of the Year Finalist

**Robert Hanson, Velvet McReynolds:**  
Birmingham Post Herald Distinguished Teacher of the Year

**Beverly Bean, David Brizendine, Kevin Erwin**  
**Robert Hanson, JoAnn Hollis, Dave Scott,**  
Metro Coach of the Year

### Middle School of

Deidra Downs Miss America 2005  
Taylor Hicks American Idol 2006



## Administration

**Brian Cain**  
Principal

**Kimberly White**  
6th and 7th Grade Unit Principal

**Paul Litten**  
8th Grade Unit Principal

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[www.hoover.k12.al.us/sms](http://www.hoover.k12.al.us/sms)

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**SIMMONS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*Hoover City Schools*

*Quality middle school education for students in grades six through eight.*

1575 Patton Chapel Road  
Hoover, Alabama 35226

## Developing the Whole Student:

### Intellectually

### Emotionally

### Socially

In partnership with parents and community, the mission of Simmons Middle School is to educate the whole child and to empower individuals to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens. To accomplish this, students will be provided the opportunities to successfully meet or surpass local, state, and national standards. Our faculty commits to a comprehensive system of support for students, parents, and each other as we pledge to make the goal a reality.

**Enrollment:** 850 students

**Class Size:** Average is 25 students per classroom.

**Student Teacher Ratio:** (14:1)

**School Day:** The school day starts at 7:55 and ends at 3:00.

**Class Format:** Students are taught in a departmentalized environment. All students change classrooms and teachers with each academic course.

**Teaming:** Each student is assigned to an academic team of teachers. This team meets daily throughout the school year to discuss students' academic, social and emotional progress in hopes of assuring a successful middle school experience.

**Academic Courses:** The curriculum includes instruction in language arts, math, social studies, science and reading.

#### Other Special Services:

**Reading Coach:** Identifies and works with students to improve reading. Assists teachers in reading in the content area.

**Counseling Services:** The school provides three counselors to assist students and parents in a variety of issues.

**English Language Learner:** The school offers small-group English instruction for children who speak a primary language other than English.

**Speech and Language Services:** Students with articulation or language development difficulties may be eligible for participation in the speech program.

**Special Education:** The school provides special education programs and services for students with educational disabilities including self-contained classes, and an in-class support resource program.

**Technology:** Students have access to a variety of technology through open computer labs, instructional computer labs, and classroom computers.

**Library Media Center:** The library maintains 18,757 titles in its collection. Two full time library staff members facilitate patron activities. The library houses 20 computers for student use.

#### Electives:

In addition to the academic core curriculum, students at Simmons Middle School participate in elective courses in a variety of subject areas that carry students from basic fundamentals to advanced concepts and skills.

**Art:** Students are exposed to principles of design through a variety of media. Students develop skills and techniques as they establish a vocabulary related to various mediums.

**Band:** As students continue musical education on selected instruments, they also learn the fundamentals of instrumental performance. SMS band students participate in competitions at both local and state levels, perform in concerts, and build school spirit at pep rallies and football games.

**Choir:** Through their exposure to choral music, students have the opportunity to develop sight reading skills, basic theory knowledge, music history fundamentals, as well as vocal technique. Students participate in local and state competitions, and perform in school concerts and other events.

**Technology:** Students receive training on state-of-the-art equipment as they learn keyboarding, software applications and broadcasting. Select students have the opportunity to write scripts, anchor the news, and create video for the production of a weekly news show.

**Theatre:** Students develop skills for acting and play production as they write and perform skits, short plays and improvisations.

**French:** Students enjoy interactive language learning and exposure to the culture of France and the French-speaking world.

**Spanish:** Students build language proficiency skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as they gain knowledge and appreciation of the Hispanic culture.

**Family and Consumer Sciences:** Students explore the basic needs of personal development, grooming, interpersonal relationships; management of food, clothing, time, and housing. Students participate in cooking and sewing labs.



## SMS Stadium



In 2004 Simmons added an athletic complex including a football field, track and softball field, plus spectator seating and a concession stand.

### ACADEMIC TEAMS, CLUBS AND HONORARIES

#### Academic Teams:

Math Team  
Scholars Bowl  
Science Olympiad  
Strategy Club  
Odyssey of the Mind  
Future Problem Solvers

#### Clubs:

BUC-TV Staff  
Chess Club  
Conservation Club  
Family, Community, and Career Leaders of America (FCCLA)  
Library Assistants  
Minority Achievement Council (MAC)  
Peer Assistants  
Peer Mediators  
Peer Tutors  
Student Advisory Council (SAC)  
Classroom Helpers  
Video Club  
Yearbook Staff

#### Fine Arts

SMS and Girls Chorale  
Jazz Band  
Honor and Ensemble Bands

#### Honoraries:

National Junior Honor Society  
Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP)