

## **St. Marys Middle School Wins Pacesetter Award**

*Middle grades school honored for ensuring each student is engaged in all classrooms through quality instruction aligned with grade-level readiness standards*

July 10, 2019 — St. Marys Middle School in St. Marys, Georgia, is the winner of a 2019 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. St. Marys was honored at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference on July 10 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Pacesetter School Awards recognize schools that are implementing one of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to increases in student graduation rates, readiness for college or careers, and credential attainment.

St. Marys built a strong relationship with SREB that has allowed its teachers to receive training and coaching in literacy, mathematics, problem-based learning, STEM and effective instructional leadership. School leaders and staff created an environment of learning and achievement and committed to ongoing training on how to develop rigorous instruction and assessments and a design process for problem-based learning.

This past year, St. Marys earned an overall grade of A on the Georgia School Grades Reports, placing St. Marys in the top 9 percent of schools overall and the top 5 percent of middle grades schools in the state. Based on their students' performance, 14 teachers received accolades for their students' scores in both the high growth and high achievement categories.

The Making School Work Conference brings together educators from schools that are implementing the instructional strategies of SREB's school improvement programs. These schools have increased their focus on quality career and technical education by redesigning assignments around projects that integrate academic and technical knowledge and skills.

*The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve public education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at [sreb.org](http://sreb.org).*

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