



“LIGHTHOUSE OF LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP”

## BEECH SPRINGS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

200 S. Danzler Road, Duncan, South Carolina 29334

### 2017-2018 School Report to the People

Christopher E. McCants, Principal

Dr. Carla Tucker, Assistant Principal

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Beech Springs continues to help all students develop world-class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by implementing the South Carolina standards in English/language arts, math, science, and social studies. These standards are entrenched with opportunities for students to be critical thinkers, problem-solvers, investigators, leaders of technology, and learning how to work collaboratively with their peers. While our students and teachers have had a remarkable academic year, we will continue working diligently to fulfill the mission of Beech Springs Intermediate School: to provide every student quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment, enabling each individual to succeed in life and function as a productive citizen.

This year, Beech Springs received the designation of a Title I School. The purpose of a Title I School-wide Program is to strengthen the overall educational program in a school in order to improve academic achievement so that all students, particularly the lowest-achieving students, demonstrate proficiency of the state’s academic standards. In order for a school to receive school-wide Title I funding, at least forty percent of the school’s student population must be eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch. Because of the additional amount of funds that Title I have given us, which is over and above our general budget, we were able to add more teaching and student support positions. We added four new classroom teaching positions. This allowed us to have smaller class sizes and gave teachers an opportunity to better individualize and differentiate instruction for all students. We were also able to add a Reading/Math Interventionist who works with students who can achieve their academic goals with an additional small group setting. We were able to add a STEM Facilitator who works with fifth and sixth grade teachers to design lessons that effectively incorporate STEM activities. We have also been able to add additional high-interest reading materials to classroom libraries. Teachers have also benefited from professional development that will equip them to better serve our student population.

Students in fifth and sixth grades were given laptop devices to use as an instructional tool to enhance learning. Students were researching, collaborating, and producing work in alignment with the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. They were also given the responsibility and held accountable for bringing their laptop to school each day and for making sure it was charged and ready to go. Teachers continued working in Professional Development Teams to build engaging and challenging assignments that would create a new excitement for learning with our student body.

In addition to academics, our students have experienced a variety of opportunities to excel in performing arts. Our Band students received a 'Superior' rating for the Concert Performance Assessment and our Orchestra students received a 'Superior' rating at the same event. Our Chorus had several students selected for the SC Elementary Honors Choir. They performed a repertoire of challenging music with hundreds of other elementary students from across South Carolina. We have had students' art work on display at Chapman Cultural Center and our district's Fine Arts Center throughout the year. Our students showcased their acting and singing skills as they took to the stage this spring and performed Disney's Mulan, Jr. For the first time ever, we had a number of students participate in the South Carolina Junior Thespian Festival where several of them received a "Superior" rating.

Leadership opportunities are plentiful for our students. Students were able to participate in the BETA Club, Creations, and Morning News Show Crew. Teachers also gave students an opportunity to earn leadership roles in the classrooms. Students raised funds to support Relay for Life through our Color Run, Clemson/Carolina Penny War, and by purchasing treats throughout the year. They also financially supported March of Dimes and donated clothes to the Middle Tyger Community Center. One of our fifth grade students began an afterschool chess club and another student started an afterschool crocheting club that crocheted recyclable plastic bags into bed mats for the homeless.

A mentoring program has been re-established this year to provide opportunities for identified students to meet weekly with influential community members. In an effort to encourage the love of reading and build reading confidence, a group of male students were selected to be a part of a book club --"Books 'N Bros.", which was led by Principal McCants. The book club had thirty members.

Our Parent Teacher Organization (**PTO**) has been instrumental in helping provide instructional materials for students and teachers and hosting ice-cream celebrations for students who made All A's Honor Roll for each nine weeks, through their fundraising efforts. They have also provided opportunities for students and adults to fellowship by hosting, "Gathering with Grands"; "Doughnuts for Dads"; and "Muffins for Moms." They were also instrumental in recognizing teachers for all that they do throughout the year by hosting faculty and staff luncheons as well as providing treats and fundraising prize incentives.

The School Improvement Council (SIC) is a committee of elected and appointed parents, teachers, and community members who set goals and devise strategies to improve the school. The Council meets monthly to discuss school and community concerns and make recommendations to the principal.

**2017-2018 School Improvement Council Members (SIC)**

Tiffany Darling, Chair  
Tracy Tucker, Secretary  
Joicelyn Huff  
Anthony Nix  
Katina Degler  
Melissa Erwin  
Ange Bolds  
Tracy Hicks

Ex-Officio: Christopher McCants and Carla Tucker