



“A LIGHTHOUSE OF LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP”

BEECH SPRINGS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

200 S. Danzler Road, Duncan, South Carolina 29334

2015-2016 School Report to the People

Christopher E. McCants, Principal

Kim Henderson, Assistant Principal

Beech Springs supports all students in developing world-class skills and life and career characteristics of the South Carolina Graduate Profile 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, and leaders of technology, all while 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: *providing 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.*

The fifth grade classes of Beech Springs were chosen to pilot the Spartanburg School District Five 1:1 Technology Initiative this year. All fifth grade students received a DELL laptop computer for school and home use. In order for students to take home the new laptops, families were invited to attend one of two available technology information sessions. In addition, a \$30 technology fee was collected that covered the costs of possible damage to the computer. These sessions had amazing attendance, and at the conclusion of both meetings, over 50% of our families had paid the technology fee.

During the summer of 2015, fifth grade teachers received rigorous training from DELL and District Five technology representatives. Once the school year began, students and teachers spent the first nine weeks of the year learning effective ways to integrate technology into the classrooms. The students were researching, collaborating, and producing work in alignment with the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Our teachers worked in Professional Development Teams to build engaging and challenging assignments that would create a new excitement for learning with our student body. Throughout the year, teachers and students were observed integrating technology into lessons by other administrators and teachers within the district.

This initiative was a major task, but our teachers and students persevered as a team. The outcomes have proven to be highly successful. Next year, both fifth and sixth grade students will receive this wonderful new technology.

All Beech Springs's classrooms were equipped with Promethean Boards and teachers received training to effectively incorporate the use of it in their lessons.

School Report Card

Beech Springs received an overall **“Good” Performance Rating** and an **“Average” Improvement Rating** on the SC School Report Card.

Related/Fine Arts

In addition to academics, our students have experienced a variety of opportunities to excel in performing arts. Our Band students received a “Superior” rating at Concert Festival and our Orchestra students received an “Excellent” rating at the same event. Our Chorus has performed winter and spring concerts and lent their vocal talents to our school’s spring drama production. We also had several chorus students make the South Carolina Elementary Honors Choir. Our students’ art work has been on display at the Chapman Cultural Center and at our district’s Fine Arts Center throughout the year. Also, one of our artists had art work chosen to be displayed on a city-wide billboard. Finally, our students took to the stage in what will go down as one of Beech Springs’ best productions to date as they presented Disney’s *“Lion King Jr.”*

Leadership Opportunities

As the ‘Lighthouse of Learning and Leadership’, Beech Springs provides many opportunities for students to become leaders. Students participated in the iLead program, F.E.L.A.S (Future Entrepreneurs Leading, Achieving, and Succeeding), BETA Club, Creations, and the 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 and donated a copious amount of canned goods to the Middle Tyger Community Center’s food bank. A mentoring program was also re-established this year to provide opportunities for identified students to meet weekly with influential community members. Other leadership initiatives are being developed for subsequent years.

Our **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)** has been instrumental in helping provide instructional materials for students and teachers. Also, through their fundraising efforts, they have hosted ice-cream celebrations for students who made All A’s Honor Roll for each nine weeks, provided limo rides for fundraiser winners, provided snacks for students during standardized testing, and organized and worked our annual “Family Beech Blast.”

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 our school. The Council meets monthly to discuss school and community concerns and make recommendations to the administration.

2015-2016 School Improvement Council Members

Virginia Creel, Chair

Tracy Tucker, Secretary

Cathy Brewton

Reginald Brown

Kristy Fulbright

Chris Kinard

Andrea Moore

David Walker

Ex-Officio: Christopher McCants and Kim Henderson