



Florence Chapel Middle School

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*"Cougars Lead the Way"***

Report to the People

Florence Chapel Middle School is helping all students develop the World Class Skills of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by providing every student quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing and engaging environment. We will provide exemplary opportunities and pursue academic excellence to improve the quality of life for our students and community.

Our faculty and staff are committed to providing each student with the world class knowledge, skills, and life and career characteristics they will need to succeed. 100% of our faculty members are highly qualified and work in collaborative Professional Learning Communities to make data-based decisions that drive our lessons and assessments. Our students have the opportunity to study multiple languages and participate in weekly Olweus Classroom Meetings that promote good citizenship and discourage bullying.

FCMS students are encouraged to think critically and creatively, using innovative ideas and problem solving strategies. Students in 7th Grade ELA courses participated in Genius Hour projects this year, researching and then leading a class presentation to discuss the findings of an issue of their choosing. Teachers assess students in multiple methods, using performance tasks and projects to gauge mastery of content and standards. Both the math and ELA curriculum have been rewritten by committees to include these performance tasks. Station learning is also utilized when appropriate to encourage collaboration and teamwork among students. This was very limited this year due to social distancing guidelines. Teachers have also been intentional with their use of iReady assessment data to drill down to helping meet the instructional needs of students' strengths and weaknesses.

FCMS students are critical thinkers and problem solvers. Almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of our student population participated in high school credit English and Algebra 1 and 2 courses. Approximately 120 additional students participated in Spanish 1 and technology courses, which also earn high school credit. Half of our student population earned high school credits prior to entering high school. Rigor is an expectation for teachers and students.

FCMS students are well-versed in communication, information, media and technology. All students received a laptop as part of our district's 1:1 initiative. Our media center has included eBooks for student to checkout and over half of our classrooms are equipped with the Connect-G technology. All classrooms have Promethean Boards for teacher and

student use. Students and teachers utilize the Schoology platform for online classroom management. Assignments and assessments are stored in this virtual classroom platform that allows for digital access to content anywhere.

FCMS students are collaborative and continue to represent the school well in state and national competitions. This year, our Vex Robotics team, The Renegades, won the state competition. They also received an invite to participate in the World Championships held in Kentucky. Due to travel and social distancing restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, they were not able to participate in the World Championship competition. The technology and robotics programs at FCMS are thriving. Our Fine Arts programs remain as one of the top programs in the state. Both the Orchestra and Band programs earned Superior ratings at the State Concert Performance Assessment. In addition, several students created artwork that was displayed at the Chapman Cultural Center. Our Chorus and Drama students continued working on standards based instructional lessons.

FCMS students maintain a global perspective. The Beta Club and Student Government Association are active and growing, providing students opportunities to serve and grow as responsible citizens. In order to raise community awareness, these two groups served on the school's beautification project that was fully funded by Lowe's Home Improvement Hometown Heroes program.

In the face of a difficult and unusual school year, Florence Chapel Middle School remains committed to providing each student with an excellent education that will prepare them for the future. All of this is possible because of the continuous support provided by our parents, PTO and School Improvement Council, Spartanburg District Five School Board, as well as business leaders. Students within our building are developing world-class skills necessary for becoming successful and productive citizens within our communities.

2020-2021 School Improvement Council

**Christopher E. McCants, Principal
Ingrid Anderson, Assistant Principal
Joshua Kay, Assistant Principal
Alicia Crutchlow, SIC Chairperson
Brook Wiant, Parent Representative
Ginger McGarity, Parent Representative
Cathy Damm, Teacher Representative
Cherise Crosby, Community Representative
Officer Theresa Ferguson, Community Representative**