

Our school, Castle Heights Middle School, is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the SC Graduate by continuously seeking ways to improve and expand our instructional programs. Effective and rigorous instruction supports students' development of the knowledge, skills, and characteristics they will need to be successful as they move through middle school to the high school and to career and higher education goals beyond.

The 2016-2017 school year proved to be another successful one at Castle Heights Middle School. Much of our work this year focused on identifying a set of essential learning standards in each of the four content areas that we guarantee students will learn during the school year. Our teachers worked within their Professional Learning Communities to plan differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all learners and to create flexible groupings and schedules to effectively deliver quality instruction. The integration of technology continues to play an integral role in our delivery model. Our students each have a laptop, which allows teachers the ability to provide students with more choice in how he or she chooses to demonstrate mastery of content. We continued to improve and develop a more clear and effective process to provide our students with enrichment opportunities. Each student receives forty-five minutes of re-teaching or extension activities daily. During this block students continue to work towards mastery of essential skills, or are given the opportunity to go beyond the essentials and go deeper into certain subjects and topics. During the year our teachers continued to model what life-long learning looks like by attending numerous professional development conferences, workshops, classes and by visiting other schools and classrooms.

One of our goals for this school year was to give our students more voice as stakeholders in our school community. We formed a Student Advisory Board, which is comprised of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade elected members. This young group of leaders has done an amazing job in year one assisting our students in advocating for changes and improvements in their middle school experiences. We continue to have an active Beta Club that competed at the state convention this year for the first time and we look forward to future success gained from the experience this year. Our students in the music department, which is a source of great pride, competed and placed in a number of competitions as well as performed at several events throughout the year. To further allow more student choice and to address and support special interests our students have we implemented Club Day. One hundred percent of our staff and students participated monthly in one of forty-four club offerings during the school day. Next year our plan is to increase to twice a month. Our athletic teams represented our school well both on and off the field. They developed their talents and abilities, but most importantly gained an appreciation of leadership, team building, and resiliency. At Castle Heights we strive to instill in all of our students a sense of civic responsibility. This year our students sponsored and led a number of fundraising and awareness projects such as Toys for Tots, The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Autism Awareness, The American Heart Association, and The Make a Wish Foundation to name a few. We have a very

active parent community that lead through their efforts in both PTO and the School Improvement Council. Finally, we are most proud that Castle Heights was re-designated for the third time as a School to Watch for the years 2016-2019. We are one of only a small handful of schools nation wide to achieve this accreditation three times.

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