

***Fort Mill Middle School
School Improvement Council
Report to Parents
2017-2018***

Our main focus for the 2017-2018 school year was to follow our mission statement in everything we provide for our students. The Fort Mill Middle School Mission Statement reads, “*Our mission is to nurture and educate our students while providing a successful transition between their elementary and secondary years.*” FMMS continues to support all students in developing the world-class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

Throughout the school year, we have provided opportunities for our students in a variety of areas to assist them in providing a challenging and supportive education, opportunities to explore and identify interests, extra-curricular opportunities, lessons from special guest speakers, special events at the school, and teaching and encouraging self-advocacy. The following is a more detailed explanation of how we carried out our mission statement this year:

Academics

We provide a rigorous curriculum that is aligned to the state standards, has high expectations for all our students and provides many learning opportunities throughout the year. Our teachers post weekly lesson plans on our school website at the end of the first day of each school week to allow our parents an opportunity to see what their children will be learning throughout the week. We provide morning tutoring for math in the media center Tuesdays – Fridays and Computer Lab 201 is open every morning prior to school to afford students the opportunity to get help and complete assignments. Our 8th grade students participated in National Novel Writers Month (**NaNoWriMo**) again this year, which allowed all our 8th graders to have their novels published. This year was our first year of the school district’s STEAM initiative through Discovery Education. We selected four STEAM Leaders: Naomi Elkin, Daniel Stone, April Morrison, and George Latzos. They have had the opportunity to meet with the Discovery Education Coach assigned to our school.

Academic Plus (A+)

We have a 30-minute block each morning that we call Academic Plus (A+) that provides students with academic assistance, designated reading time and club opportunities. Mondays and Fridays are Stop, Drop, and Read (#SDR) days, Tuesday and Thursdays are for core classes on a rotation basis, and Wednesdays are club days. The following is a list of clubs that were offered this year to students: #Destination DYI, #mygradescomefirst, #SDR!3, 30 for 30, Four-Square, Academic Challenge Team, Mock Trial Team, Active Squad, Anime, Art, Board Games, Card Games, Chess, Coloring Club, Cornball, Crack the Code, Cross-Stitch, Garden, Jacket News Network, Kindness, Mancala, Mandala, Mission Improvable, Musical Theatre Props and Performances, Photography, Robotics, Silent Ball, Soccer, Yearbook, and Zombie Tag.

Career Interest

We provided opportunities for all our students to explore career options and interests in an effort to assist students and families with some career goals in selecting courses at the high school. In 6th grade, our students receive career lessons from our school counselors and take the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) assessment; 7th graders take the SCOIS assessment and attend the Fort Mill School District Career Fair; 8th graders participate in Job Shadow Day and Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meetings to select their high school classes.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At FMMS, we have several activities for students to participate in based on their interests and skills.

MATHCOUNTS: MATHCOUNTS is a national math program that provides students an opportunity to solve higher-level math problems in both individual and group settings starting in September. In December, we have a school-wide math competition, and only the top 8 students are selected to be part of the MATHCOUNTS team. The selected team competed in February in the Chapter Competition in Rock Hill against other middle schools from Rock Hill, Clover, York, and Lancaster. This year, we won the chapter championship and placed eighth in the state competition!

Mock Trial: Mock Trial is a program that allows students to learn about the judicial system and become a lawyer or witness for a fictional trial. Our teams are assembled through a tryout process where students will select a story and write an opening statement as the lawyer defending the client or as a lawyer prosecuting the accused client. A team of judges (two lawyers and teacher advisors) will determine who performed the best and place students on the Defense or Prosecution teams. Mock Trial is fiercely fun and competitive! Our teams go head to head at Regional Championships and the winning teams then advance to the State Competition. This year our team won the regional competition for the second year in a row and won the state championship for the first time in school history!

Academic Challenge: Academic Challenge is a quiz-bowl style competition where students answer questions about a wide range of academic subjects. At Fort Mill Middle School, we have tryouts for the highly competitive team in December where any interested 6th thru 8th grade student takes a written, multi-subject test to determine his/her areas of academic strength. Once our three grade-level teams are assembled, the season runs from January through March, where our teams compete against other schools in the area. The season concludes with a regional tournament followed by a state tournament. The 8th grade team did not place, the 7th grade team made it to the semi-finals, and our 6th grade team finished in second place at the tournament.

Athletics: We offer a variety of interscholastic sports for our 7th and 8th grade students at FMMS. Girls Volleyball, Football, Dance, Cheer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Boys and Girls Track, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Baseball. The following are sports that we do not offer at FMMS; however, our students are eligible to participate in these sports at Nation Ford High School: Boys and Girls Tennis, Boys and Girls Swimming, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys and Girls Golf, and Girls Softball. Our athletic program is governed by the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL), which does not permit 6th grade students to join a middle school or high school team. This was the first season of the newly formed Fort Mill Athletic Conference

(FMAC), which includes the following middle schools: Fort Mill, Gold Hill, Springfield, Pleasant Knoll, and Indian Land. Our 8th Grade Girls Basketball team won the FMAC Championship.

Assemblies

We had several assemblies this year for our students to allow them to hear from special guests who provided powerful messages on how to be successful as students, and more importantly, as people.

Veterans Day Assembly: We celebrated our veterans with a school day assembly and a community program in the evening. Our band and chorus performed, we recognized local and family veterans, and we hosted a guest speaker. This year, our guest speaker was Manning Kimmel, grandson of Rear Admiral Husband Kimmel who was the commanding officer of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He discussed the events of the attack and the tireless effort that his family had to go through to clear his grandfather who was made out to be the scapegoat.



NFHS JROTC Presenting the Colors



Mr. Manning Kimmel



Black History Month Assembly: We concluded our Black History Month celebration with a school-wide assembly. We had many of our students participate in readings, and our chorus performed. Mr. John Sanders, Fort Mill resident, and Dr. Lester McCorn, President of Clinton Junior College, delivered inspiring presentations on having plans in place to follow your dreams and aspirations.



Mr. John Sanders



Dr. Lester McCorn

Nation Ford High School JROTC: Each year we invite the NFHS JROTC to provide information to our 8th grade students. Sergeant Major Logan brought several cadets with him and presented their program to our students as an option for them next year at NFHS. Sergeant Major Logan provided a message and then allowed his cadets to speak about the program.

Dr. T the Trashologist: York County Environmental Education provides a free assembly to our 6th grade students each year. The program is designed to promote recycling and taking care of our environment. Each year our 6th graders and staff enjoy the show put on by character, "Les Litter."

Guest Author: This was the third year consecutively that our PTO has financially sponsored a guest author to come to our school and speak to our students. The first year, our speaker was Alan Gratz and the second year was Dan Gemeinhart. This year we invited Caitlin Alifirenka, co-author of the book, *I Will Always Write Back*. This was extra special because our school engaged in a **one book, one school** initiative for the first time, and *I Will Always Write Back* was the book we had read as a school. We had one school-wide assembly in the afternoon. Mrs. Alifirenka provided a powerful message of what the power of caring for another human

being can do in this world. She left our students and staff with the importance of being kind by having us believe that “Kindness is contagious.” She also attended the 2nd Annual FMMS Family Literacy Night that evening and signed books for our students and staff. We hope to keep this tradition of guest authors on campus for years to come.



Caitlin Alifirenka at the assembly

Family Nights

The FMMS School Improvement Council (SIC) has provided and supported evening programs for our families on a variety of subjects over the past several years. This year, the SIC sponsored three events: Future Falcon Night in January, Bond Referendum Meeting in February and Internet Safety in May.

Future Falcon Night: This was the third year that the SIC sponsored this event for rising 9th graders and their parents. During the meeting, we had representatives from NFHS, current and former parents, and three current NFHS 9th grade students (who were former FMMS students) provide information based on their experiences as freshmen in an effort to prepare our rising 9th graders for life at high school. All three years we have received positive feedback from both students and parents.

Bond Referendum Committee: In conjunction with FMES, the council hosted the Bond Referendum Committee to speak about the upcoming bond vote (March 20, 2018). Their goal was to educate local residents about the impact that growth has made in Fort Mill Schools and the available options for providing public education to these new residents. Guests included parents, staff, administration and students associated with FMMS and FMES as well as any Fort Mill Resident.

Internet Safety: This will be a return visit to FMMS from FBI Agent, John Letterhos. Agent Letterhos is a local resident who provides valuable information to our parents and students on

the dangers of inappropriate use on the internet, social media, and websites. He also presents to our entire 7th grade each year.

Field Trips and Guest Speakers

Throughout the year, we try and provide our students with opportunities to learn academics and life skills from other sources beyond our teachers. With that said, we went on a variety of field trips off campus, had many lessons brought to our school, and several guest speakers.

6th Grade: The 6th grade students took field trips to Nation Ford High School to see *Seussical the Musical*, went to Regal Cinemas in Rock Hill to See *A Wrinkle in Time* after doing a book study, and will take their annual field trip on the Anne Springs Close Greenway in May.

7th Grade: The 7th grade students had learning opportunities that mainly took place on or around our campus. The following lessons/presentations were provided from guests during the year: Internet Safety class by the FBI, The Carolina Raptor Center, Holocaust education through the eyes of a Holocaust Survivor's Daughter, and a representative from Levine Children's Hospital. They also had educational experiences on the Anne Springs Close Greenway and at the district career fair.

8th Grade: The 8th grade students traveled to Camp Canaan in Rock Hill for team building activities to start the year, attended a play by the Chamber Theater in Clover (where they performed five small plays based upon stories that the students had read in Literature class), participated in Job Shadow Day, and attended Teen CEO Day at Winthrop University.

Service Learning Projects

We provide several service learning opportunities each year for our students to embrace. We have these each year to allow our students the opportunity and appreciation of a caring and giving spirit. These activities are strictly on a voluntary basis. The following is a list of some of the projects that have taken place or are still in progress this year:

School-Wide

- **Blue Jeans for All-Inclusive Playground** – Raised money and awareness in support of an all-inclusive playground that will be built in Fort Mill that allows special needs students full access to all activities.
- **Children's Attention Home** – Collected products for 8th grade Beta Club to take to Rock Hill Children's Home.
- **Vet V-Day** - Created Valentine's cards to send to the VA Hospital.
- **Canned Food Drive:** - Collected canned goods for the Fort Mill Care Center.
- **Angel Tree** – Provided gifts over the holiday for underprivileged children in the Fort Mill area to Fort Mill Care Center.
- **Levine Children's Hospital** – Collected Calendars and gifts for children at Levine Children's Hospital.
- **One School + Education = Hope (1S+E=H)** - FMMS teamed up with a local organization called Education = Hope to provide students in Ecuador with the essentials that they need in order to receive an education.
- **Can Tabs Collection:** This effort is in support of the Ronald McDonald House.

As a school, we make every attempt to provide our students with as many activities and opportunities to engage them as a student and person. Although our mission is to nurture and educate our students while providing a successful transition between their elementary and secondary years, our goal is also to assist our students in finding where they may fit in society. By providing them with countless opportunities, we believe that we have provided our students with the information, tools, and skills necessary to be successful in high school and beyond.

State Assessment Data from 2016 – 2017

SC Ready ELA

Grade	Column Labels				Meets +
	Not Met	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds
6	8.5%	28.4%	34.3%	28.8%	63.1%
7	11.0%	39.2%	34.7%	15.1%	49.8%
8	10.3%	32.1%	34.3%	23.2%	57.6%
Total	10.0%	33.4%	34.5%	22.2%	56.7%

SC Ready Math

Grade	Column Labels				Meets +
	Not Met	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds
6	7.4%	21.0%	28.8%	42.8%	71.6%
7	9.6%	32.6%	26.5%	31.3%	57.7%
8	11.8%	29.5%	29.5%	29.2%	58.7%
Total	9.6%	27.9%	28.2%	34.3%	62.5%

SC PASS Science

Grade					Meets +
	Not Met	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds
6	10.7%	12.5%	24.0%	52.8%	76.8%
7	6.9%	14.8%	27.5%	50.9%	78.4%
8	9.6%	18.8%	39.5%	32.1%	71.6%
Total	9.0%	15.4%	30.3%	45.4%	75.6%

SC PASS Social Studies

Grade				Met +
	Not Met	Met	Exemplary	Exempl
6	5.9%	30.6%	63.5%	94.1%
7	12.7%	30.9%	56.4%	87.3%
8	12.9%	26.6%	60.5%	87.1%
Total	10.6%	29.4%	60.0%	89.4%

School Improvement Council Members

Celia McCarter, Chair

Jennifer Bowman, Vice Chair

8th Grade Parent Representatives

Jennifer Bowman

John Heffernan

7th Grade Parent Representatives

Suzanne Kuebler

6th Grade Parent Representatives

Jennifer Bowman

Linging Guo

Appointed Member

Melissa Cota

Debbie Giudice

Community Member

Chari Young

School Members

Ginger DuPree – Teacher

Lisa Pait – Teacher

Christine McNeil – Assistant Principal

Cory Johnson – Assistant Principal

Tony Caricari – Principal