

***Fort Mill Middle School  
School Improvement Council  
Report to Parents  
2016-2017***

Our main focus for the 2016-2017 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.”*

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 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in National Novel Writers Month (**NaNoWriMo**) again this year which allowed all our 8<sup>th</sup> graders to have their novels published.

**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, club opportunities, and character education. 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. Character education takes place once a month on a Friday in place of #SDR.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> grade, our students receive career lessons from our school counselors and take the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) assessment; 7<sup>th</sup> graders take the SCOIS assessment and attend the Fort Mill School District Career Fair; 8<sup>th</sup> 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 placed fourth as a team, and we had the overall individual highest scorer of the 113 students who participated.

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 and competed at the state competition.

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-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. This year the regional tournament was hosted by Fort Mill High School. Our teams did not qualify for states this year (which we came in 1st and 2nd in the state in the previous two years, respectively), but all three of our teams had a great season, and we are looking forward to competing again next year!

Athletics: We offer a variety of interscholastic sports for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at FMMS. Girls Volleyball, Football, Dance, Cheer, Girls and Boys 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to join a middle school or high school team.

## **Assemblies**

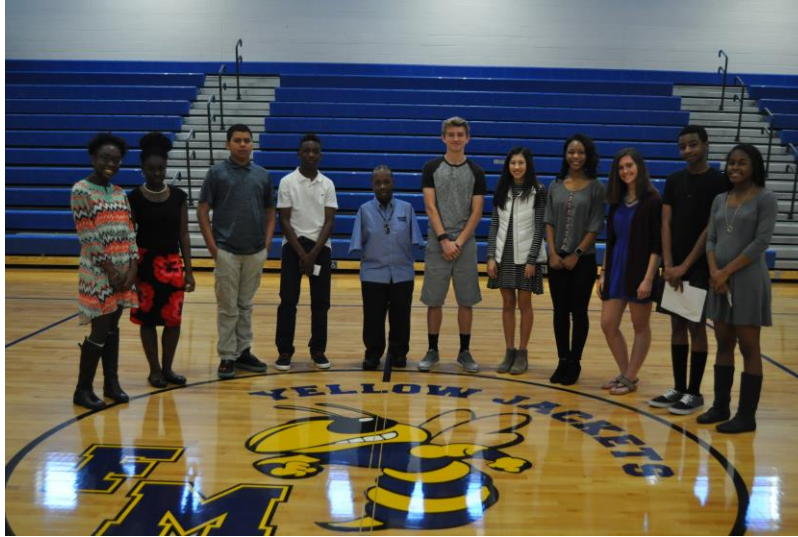
We had several assemblies this year for our students to allow them to hear from special guests who provided powerful messages for our students on how to be successful as students, and more importantly, as people.

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 Senior Airman, Christopher Gunn. He provided a character lesson with a much needed, anti-bullying message to our students.



Senior Airman, Christopher Gunn

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. Our guest speaker was Mr. Richie Parker, Vehicle Design Group Manager for the four NASCAR Sprint Cup Series teams of Hendrick Motorsports. He gave a powerful speech on overcoming obstacles and embracing the challenges that students will face in life.



FMMS Student presenters with Mr. Richie Parker

Nation Ford High School JROTC: Each year we invite the NFHS JROTC to provide information to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Colonel Sean Mulcahy brought several cadets with him and presented their program to our students as an option for them next year at NFHS. Colonel Mulcahy 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade students each year. The program is designed to promote recycling and taking care of our environment. Each year our 6<sup>th</sup> graders and staff enjoy the show put on by character, "Les Litter."

Guest Author: This was the second year that our PTO has financially sponsored a guest author to come to our school and speak to our students. Last year, our speaker was Alan Gratz and this year, we invited Dan Gemeinhart. We had three assemblies, one for each grade level. Mr. Gemeinhart provided a powerful message on perseverance and the difference between dreams and goals. He also attended the Rock 'n Read Family Literacy Night and signed books for our students. We hope to keep this new tradition of guest authors on campus for years to come.



Dan Gemeinhart signing books for FMMS Students

### **Family Nights**

The School Improvement Council (SIC) has provided and supported evening programs for our families on a variety of subjects over the years. This year, the SIC sponsored three events: Middle School Night in October, Future Falcon Night in January, and Rock 'n Read Literacy Night in April.

Middle School Night: This program was designed to give a brief history of middle school life in Fort Mill and the changes that have taken place over the years; Information on technology in the schools; the adolescent brain; and ways that parents can help their students be successful in school.

Future Falcon Night: This was the second year that the SIC sponsored this event for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. During the meeting, we had representatives from NFHS, current and former parents, and a current NFHS student provide information to our families in an effort to prepare them for life at high school. Both years we have received positive feedback from both students and parents. This is a program that we will continue to provide for our families.



Future Falcon Night

**Rock 'n Read Family Literacy Night:** This was a first for us, and it was a huge success! This evening was an opportunity for our school to celebrate literacy and to show our families and community how we use literacy throughout our building. We had many students present and perform at this event which drew approximately 500 people. We are in the discussion phase for next year's program.

### **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.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students took field trips to Discovery Place, the NASCAR Hall of Fame, to FMHS for the production of *The Wizard of Oz*, and will take their annual field trip on the Anne Springs Close Greenway in May.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students had learning opportunities that mainly took place on campus. The following lessons/presentations were provided from guests during the year: Internet Safety class by the FBI, The Raptor Center, Holocaust education through the eyes of a Holocaust Survivor's Daughter, and a representative from Levine Children's Hospital.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students went to a play by the Chamber Theater, where they performed five small plays based upon stories that the students had read in Literature class. We will also have the LEGO Bricks group come to our school for a STEM-related, hands-on experience that tied into concepts they had covered in both science and math classes in May.

### **Service Learning Projects**

We provide several service learning opportunities each year for our students to embrace. We have these each year in attempt 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 Better Bones** – Raised money and awareness in support of Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) research.
- **Children's Attention Home** – Collected products for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Beta Club to take to Rock Hill Children's Home.
- **Vet V-Day** - Created Valentines cards to send to the VA Hospital.
- **Kickball Tourney** – Raised funds for Wounded Warriors.
- **Second Harvest** - Collected canned goods collections for Second Harvest
- **Giving 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.
- **Book Drive** – Organized book donations for children at the Rock Hill Children's Attention Home.

#### Club Based

- **Little Ballers Mini Camp** – Four- day mini basketball camp for staff elementary children.
- **Rock N Read Literacy Facts Booth** – Student designed literacy brochure for students.
- **Staff Appreciation** – Thank you note cards and mini candy bars from 7<sup>th</sup> Beta Club for all FMMS staff.
- **Cafeteria Support** - Help wipe down tables at lunch.
- **Gear Up** - Motivational group to support students.
- **Library Helpers** - Help FMES librarian before school.
- **Locker Love** - Encouragement group that will leave notes of encouragement on 7th hall.
- **Special Needs Support:** Support students of our two self-contained special needs classrooms in the mornings prior to the start of the school day.

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 2015 – 2016**

### **SC Ready ELA**

Grade	Number of Students Tested	% Not Meeting Grade Level Standard
6	283	4.2
7	260	7.3
8	220	6.8

### **SC Ready Math**

Grade	Number of Students Tested	% Not Meeting Grade Level Standard
6	283	10.2
7	260	10.0
8	220	7.3

### **SC PASS Science**

Grade	Number of Students Tested	% Not Meeting Grade Level Standard
6	283	10.2
7	259	8.5
8	220	8.6

### **SC PASS Social Studies**

Grade	Number of Students Tested	% Not Meeting Grade Level Standard
6	283	5.3
7	259	13.5
8	220	11.4

## **School Improvement Council Members**

Celia McCarter, Chair

Rachael Kincaid, Co-Chair

Christy Kissel, Secretary



8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Representatives

Robin Ketner

Rachael Kincaid

Celia McCarter

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Representatives

Christy Kissel

Kelly Wilson

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Representatives

Sara McCart

Kelly Thomas

Appointed Members

Suzanne Kuebler

Melissa Cota

Community Member

David Bivins

School Members

Ginger DuPree – Teacher

Daniel Stone – Teacher

April Morrison – Teacher

Christine McNeil – Assistant Principal

Cory Johnson – Assistant Principal

Tony Caricari - Principal