

The 2010 school year was a year of challenges, opportunities, and successes here at Fort Mill Middle School. For the second year in a row, Fort Mill Middle School was the proud recipient of the Palmetto Gold Award. During the fall of 2010, Fort Mill Middle received a Technical Review Visit by a three person team from Making Middle Grades Work. The team reported that "The staff and administration are working hard to advance learning and implement changes to provide effective and efficient instruction that ensures student learning."

The team found that the overriding challenge for FMMS "is to close achievement gaps so all student groups may achieve at high levels." To answer this challenge, we instituted Academic Plus Time at all three grade levels. This extra period one day per week allows students the opportunity to complete assignments, receive remediation, or take advantage of enrichment activities in an effort to improve academic performance among all groups of students. We also began a comprehensive review and assessment of our school "re-do" policy for student assignments.

One hundred percent of our eighth graders who were enrolled in Algebra I scored A's and B's on the End of Course Exam and eighty percent scored A's and B's on the English I exam. Our students continue to excel at high levels with thirty-six percent of our student enrolled in our Gifted and Talented Program. Notable student accomplishments included the district spelling bee champion, and another student fourth in the National Geographic Geography Bee at the state level.

In spite of budget cutback, we were able to offer a wide array of extra-curricular opportunities. We were able to continue to offer middle school sports due the formation of a district wide middle level booster club that raised the money to fund middle school athletics. In addition, our Link Crew completed its second year. This character education and mentoring program for seventh graders allows them to make positive connections with sixth graders as they transition from elementary to middle school.

We successfully completed our third annual Job Shadow Day with over ninety percent of our students participating in real world job experiences outside of school. Also, we held our third annual summer Bridges Camp for rising sixth graders. This week long camp for selected rising sixth graders introduces them to the middle school setting and promotes and fosters character education and academic skills.

With many successes and challenges we continue to strive to provide the best education possible for our students.

Greg Norton, Principal, and Kellie McCorvey, School Improvement Council Chair