

The 2012-13 school year was one of challenges, opportunities, and unique success for Fort Mill Middle School. For the fourth year in a row, FMMS was the proud recipient of the Palmetto Gold Award. This award was created for South Carolina schools attaining high levels of absolute performance, high rates of growth and substantial progress in closing achievement gaps among groups of students.

During the school year, our staff immersed themselves in the new Common Core standards. Our math department spent much of the year investigating a new math text that aligns to the new math standards. In the spring of 2013, we piloted with our sixth graders the new Common Core assessment known as SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment consortium). As this new assessment is fully implemented, all the testing will be computer based and will offer us more and varied tools to improve instruction and academic performance.

Our School Improvement Council was active throughout the year sponsoring a fall program on parenting, sharing information with our school community on a spring bond referendum, and promoting parental involvement in our school.

To enhance and promote character education, leadership skills, and provide for a smooth transition to middle school for our sixth graders, we have provided more training to our staff for WEB (Where Everybody Belongs). WEB is a national program that is part of the Boomerang Project, and FMMS is the only middle school in South Carolina that offers WEB with a trained facilitator. In addition, we implemented a new character education program called Overcoming Obstacles. Our summer bridges camp for selected rising 6th graders continued to grow and prosper for the fifth straight year.

Two of our students were recognized for their state and regional accomplishments. An eighth grade Family and Consumer Science student was the winner of the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association/Domino's Pizza recipe contest for all of North and South Carolina. In addition, a seventh grade art student was the South Carolina winner of the Doodles for Google contest sponsored by Google. Both students received prizes for their achievements and the school received a cash award to help support our Family Consumer Science program.