

FMMS 2023-2024 Report To Parents

Fort Mill Middle School

Principal's Message

I am honored to serve as the principal for this fantastic school community. Here at Fort Mill Middle, we expect our students to strive for Jacket PRIDE in everything they do, but we also understand that the middle years are a time to try new things, learn from missteps, and to grow socially and emotionally. We are here to help foster their development during this time, while also assisting them to pursue their goals, explore their interests, and refine or discover their skills.

My goal is to support our FMMS students in their journey to attain the knowledge, skills, and life & career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. In order to do this, we will provide rigorous coursework based on the SC state standards, experiences in our related arts classes & extracurriculars, and a focus on positivity, respect, integrity, dedication, and engagement. We have a variety of clubs, sports teams, and organizations for our Jackets to take part in. I encourage all of our students to make the most of their middle school experience by getting involved.

Parents and the community are vitally important to our school. I look forward to partnering with you in your child's education, as parent involvement is crucial to our children's success. Thank you in advance for your support and encouragement.

Dr. Emily H. McQuay

PROFILE OF THE South Carolina Graduate

WORLD-CLASS KNOWLEDGE

Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness

Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences



WORLD-CLASS SKILLS

Creativity and innovation

Critical thinking and problem solving

Collaboration and teamwork

Communication, information, media and technology

Knowing how to learn

LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

Integrity • Self-direction • Global perspective • Perseverance • Work ethic • Interpersonal skills

© SCASA Superintendents' Roundtable

Adopted by: SC Arts in Basic Curriculum Steering Committee, SCASCD, SC Chamber of Commerce, SC Council on Competitiveness, SC Education Oversight Committee, SC State Board of Education, SC State Department of Education, TransformSC Schools and Districts.



AN INITIATIVE OF  SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON
COMPETITIVENESS

Excellence in Academics

Fort Mill Middle achieved an Excellent rating on the South Carolina School Report Card. We received the highest score out of all the middle schools in Fort Mill and the second highest score in the state for a non-magnet middle school.

The Hour of Code event at FMMS was created in an effort to ensure that all students, despite their current classes, would receive an hour and a half of coding experience. During this time, students also get an opportunity to connect with professionals who code in both traditional and nontraditional settings.

Eighth grade FACS students participated in a real world budgeting workshop both semesters. Founders Federal Credit Union sponsored the events.

Sixth grade Spanish students created conversation skits in Spanish using greetings, farewells, questions, and answers. They can now use these expressions in real world to communicate in Spanish. 8th grade Spanish students had lunch at Los Aztecas Mexican Restaurant in Tega Cay. The students enjoyed an authentic lunch by ordering their meal in Spanish!

8th grade students created podcast-style dialogue using research and writing skills to delve into the work and legacy of Progressive Era leaders in many areas of society, both inside South Carolina and around the nation.

Students in 8th grade Social Studies created primary sources to reflect perspective of, and empathy towards, various people in South Carolina during the Great Depression or New Deal eras.



One Book, One School Activities

To continue to build and support our reading community at FMMS, our annual One Book, One School (OBOS) initiative this year was centered around the book *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. As a school, we read the book in one week and completed daily activities related to our reading. We then built upon this experience by reaching out to a local nonprofit organization, Education Equals Hope, to partner with two schools in Kenya (one of the settings in our book) as part of a water filter project. Our entire school was able to meet these students in Kenya via zoom and ask questions about their lives and the need for clean water, as well as begin building relationships.

Students and teachers commented that this was one of the highlights of the entire OBOS experience. As part of our clean water outreach, students and staff participated in a Walk for Water walk-a-thon and raised over \$7,000 to supply water filters to over 100 families from our new sister schools in Kenya. To conclude the entire OBOS initiative, Daniel Ukang, a "Lost Boy of Sudan", visited our school, speaking at two assemblies as well as at our Literacy Night for students and their families about his experiences as a "lost boy" and how it related to the true events in our book. This entire experience is one that touched our hearts, and we hope to continue our partnership with our two sister schools.



Excellence in Athletics

This year in Athletics, the Yellow Jackets brought the swarm with several teams making it to a championship game and 1 Lady Jackets team bringing home a banner. We could not have done this without the hard work of our coaches and support from our parents, Booster, and FMMS staff.

For Fall Sports the 8th grade volleyball team won the FMAC championship with an UNDEFEATED season. The Jackets football team made it to the championship against Indian Land Warriors cheered on by our Lady Jackets Cheer. The cheerleaders went to several competitions throughout the Fall season landing a 1st place title.

As we entered the Winter season for basketball, cheer, and dance, several student-athletes from Fall also made those teams. The 7th grade boys basketball made it to the Semi-Finals and showed great sportsmanship throughout the season. Our 8th-grade girls Basketball team went on to play in the championship game.

The Spring Sports season always brings with it possible rain delays and more than one game a week due to scheduling our teams showed up to bring the SWARM once again. Boys and Girls soccer teams showed sportsmanship and pride to our school as they played against some competitive teams this year both making it into the semi-finals. The baseball team showed great sportsmanship during the season being recognized for it by several coaches and parents. Boys and Girls Track brought the sting as we broke several school and district records.



7th & 8th Boys and Girls Soccer Teams



7th & 8th Football Team



8th Girls Volleyball Team

Cultural Offerings

Queen's University Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Educational Center representatives presented to 8th grade students about the Jewish life cycle, Sabbath, Jewish dietary practices, the Hebrew language, antisemitism, the Holocaust, and Israel as part of our World War Two studies.

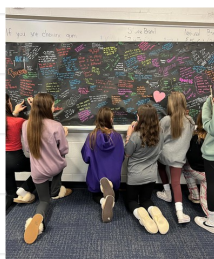
The Mobile Museum of Black Inventors visited FMMS during the month of February. The museum featured the names and inventions of over 100 African-American inventors. Each invention was displayed in observable display cases. Some items were replicas and some were the original inventions.

The theme for this year's Black History Month Program was The Black Renaissance. We had a student-led school-wide assembly with a guest speaker and performances by our Chorus, Band and Step Team. We also had a special performance from the Rock Hill Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Daily facts were presented on the morning announcements and the students participated in various enrichment activities in both their academic and related arts classes throughout the month of February. Classroom doors were also decorated in order to highlight notable African-Americans.

Eighth Grade FACS students enjoyed learning how to make tortillas from scratch and homemade cheese quesadillas thanks to guest speaker Mrs. Brenda Valle, the parent of 8th grader Angela Blanca-Valle.

Eighth grade Spanish students enjoyed a demonstration on street tacos from Mexico. The demonstration was led by Mrs. Janet Falkner, the parent of 8th grader Ben Falkner.

Seventh grade Spanish students enjoyed listening to our guest speaker, Mr. Jorge Guzman, during Hispanic Heritage Month. Mr. Guzman shared his personal experience of moving to the US in order to escape Fidel Castro's regime as a young boy. He didn't know if he would ever see his parents again. Very powerful!



Excellence in Career Education

As an extension in career exploration, students in our Family and Consumer Science and Computer Technology classes research different career options, pick one to focus on/explore in detail, and prepare resumes. 160 eighth grade students then participated in mock interviews. Students interviewed with volunteers from the community. This activity is important for students as they consider their careers, but also as they begin applying and interviewing for their first jobs, college admissions, and scholarships. We, with Mrs. Kati McFadden (Career Development Facilitator for FMMS), prepare students by talking about soft skills and how to answer common interview questions. We conclude the preparation by showing sample interviews - students deciding who we should hire.

8th grade ART students learned about Fashion Design as a Career and then created their own paper fashion wearable outfits for a fashion show in front of their peers.

"The 8th grade Gateway to Technology and Computer Technology classes teamed up to embark on a project entitled, "Shark Tank." The goal of this project is to design a startup business that they present to a group of investors (the class, teachers, and administrators) for startup money. Their product/service must be original. They research the market and potential demand for product/service and conduct focus group discussions, within the class. Then, calculate costs of production and projected supply and demand of the product. They include demonstrations, prototypes, advertisements, and websites that they created using HTML. They do their best to negotiate a deal or decide to walk away."

"The 7th grade Gateway to Technology and Computer Technology classes collaborated in the second semester on the creating and designing logos, names and mascots for the new schools being added to the district."

"The 6th grade Gateway to Technology and Computer Technology classes collaborated quarter 4 on using their technology and design skills for the creation of GIFS."

Eighth graders participated in a financial literacy concert called Funding the Future. Funding the Future is a nonprofit organization that teaches teens vital financial principles by organizing live musical performances at schools across the nation and creating a dialogue around financial literacy between students and musicians. The featured musical group was Carter Hulseley. The concert was sponsored by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office.

Brooks Harper came to speak to the student body about the importance of soft skills. Brooks connects-the-dots between today's choices and tomorrow's options. He helps students "GET IT" (bringing some students back down to earth while lifting other students from it) providing greater understanding of how education and personal development play key roles in the formula for their success; increasing self-worth, intrinsic motivation and performance.

6th grade participated in **STEAM Career** stations hosted by local community workers. It all began with the awe-inspiring landing of a military helicopter on the FMMS turf field! The hands-on activities that followed and the equipment that was displayed intrigued students and inspired thought-provoking questions.

6th grade *Career Day* was a huge success! Students had the opportunity to attend 3 different sessions to engage with professional volunteers who so generously took the time to be here. Presenters shared details of their career, entertained student questions and engaged them in activities for hands-on experience.

JACKET

Positivity

Be the best version of yourself.

Respect

Be kind and listen.

Integrity

Be honest and take responsibility for your actions and words.

Dedication

Be committed to achieving your goals.

Engagement

Be prepared and actively involved.



Excellence in Arts

FMMS 6th-8th grade students performed High School Musical Jr. in December as a school-wide Musical Theatre Production.

FMMS 8th Grade *High School Musical Jr.* performers participated in the Musical Theatre International: Broadway Junior Celebration at the Belk Theatre in Charlotte, NC. Students performed on-stage at the Belk Theatre, took a class from Broadway professionals, and two all stars selected from our school. This was our school's 6th year in attendance of the Celebration.

FMMS hosted our inaugural Multicultural Night Talent and Fashion Show celebrating the diverse cultures and countries represented in our school population. Students and families from across grade levels participated in the talent performance, fashion show, and hallway display.

The 8th Grade Honors Chorus along with the 8th Grade Band and Theatre Students presented a school-wide Veterans Day Assembly featuring guest speaker Sgt. Major John Logan with the JROTC program at Nation Ford High School.

FMMS Honors Chorus: The 8th Grade Honors Chorus visited local Assisted Living Facilities to perform a holiday concert series. The 7th Grade Honors Chorus participated in the 2024 Carowinds Festival of Music and received a Superior rating. Both Honors Choruses performed at Winthrop University for Volleyball and Men's Basketball Games as well as performing for the community in two end of semester concerts.

Eight FMMS ART students had their artwork featured at the District Art Show.

A 8th grade FMMS ART student won the Lion's Club Peace Poster contest in our area.

Three students won the school based bookmark design contest and advanced to the state level. At the state level competition, sponsored by the SC Association of School Librarians, students from FMMS took first and second place in the state with their designs.

The 1st Semester 7th grade ART students went on a field trip to the Mint Museum. The students experienced a tour of the STEAM artworks.

The FMMS Band students participated in the first ever "Stateline" Honor Band hosted by Nation Ford High School in December.

Eleven FMMS Band students were named to the All-Region Honor Band and One student earned a seat in the SC All-State Band

The 7th Grade Band earned an "Excellent" Rating at the Carowinds Music Festival in April.

7th grade chorus and FACS classes went on a field trip in the fall to see the show Cookin' at Knight Theater.

8th grade Spanish students traveled to Columbia and Charlotte to watch the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet, a live theater and dance cultural performance. The students experienced the vibrant cultures of Latin America and Spain in an exciting way!

8th grade students went to see Step Afrika! Step Afrika! ranks as one of the top ten African-American dance companies in the United States. The group promotes stepping as an educational tool for young people, focusing on teamwork, academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding.

The Step Team watched the Syncopated Ladies – a female tap dance troupe from Los Angeles, CA in Charlotte, NC at the Knight Theater.



Band and Chorus Concert



Highschool Musical



FMMS Art

Excellence in Extracurricular Activities

Professional BMX Racers from Team Mongoose visited 8th Grade at FMMS for the USA BMX Foundation's STEM Motivational Speaking Program.

FMMS Mathcounts earned first place team overall in the Catawba Chapter Competition in February. Out of over fifty competitors, two of our students received second and fourth place as individuals. In March, our team competed at the state level and received fourth place overall in Columbia.

FMMS Beta Club honored our students with an induction ceremony earlier this year, and students continue to log their volunteer hours throughout the year. One highlight has been our partnership with Defend the Fatherless, with support from FMMS parent Mrs. Caitlin Sund. Our own Mrs. Lake kindly hosted student chefs after school twice this year to prepare freezer-friendly meals with notes of encouragement for foster families.



BMX Racers



Mathcounts



Beta Club

Additional Achievements

On April 12, 2024, our Special Olympics Unified Club participated in the Unified Spring Games at Nation Ford High School. A Unified Club is a club with members who have intellectual disabilities and members who do not have intellectual disabilities. At FMMS, we have a total of 12 members. 9 of them are the Special Olympic athletes, and 11 of them are our general education peer buddies. During the games, our peer buddies ran alongside their athlete during their race. After the games were done and medals were awarded, the entire group participated in field day activities.



About the FMMS SIC

Parent/ Community Members

Kristin Arnold

Dr. Christi DeWaele

Jenn Godwin (Chairperson)

Jessica Hall

Beth Kowalczyk

Laurabree Monday

Sonya Schwede

Stacia Simpson

Louise Southern
Tirany Tyler

Faculty Members

Joshua Berdux
Leslie Donegan
Dr. Tori Hill
Bailey Lauth
Matthew Mallery
Dr. Emily McQuay
Dawn O'Donnell
Jennifer Wilson

Link to 2023-2024 SIC Agendas

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15kcZwPvteMjXy3XpSXLUgy1knEWnBW_iIEz6fh2t3M0/edit?usp=sharing

Teacher of the Year, Joquin Fuller, and Support Staff of the Year, Heather Alazzi





Purpose of This Report

This report is issued by the Fort Mill Middle School School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.

For more information regarding the Fort Mill Middle School SIC please contact Emily McQuay at mcquaye@fortmillschools.org.



Fort Mill Middle School

Dr. Emily McQuay
Principal

Email: mcquaye@fortmillschools.org

Website: fmms.fortmillschools.org

Location: [200 Springfield Pkwy, Fort Mill, SC, USA](#)

Phone: [8035475553](tel:8035475553)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FMMSJackets>

Twitter: [@FMMSJackets](https://twitter.com/FMMSJackets)



Emily McQuay

Emily is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

