



# SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## *A Year in Review* 2017-2018

This report, which is entitled "A Year In Review," was developed by the staff at Springfield Middle School in conjunction with our School Improvement Council. We are including goals for improvement, progress related to our goal, major events, honors, awards and challenges for our school. Our hope is that we keep our community informed about the challenges and successes of our school, students, parents and teachers for the current school year.



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### GOALS AND PROGRESS FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Instructional practices will actively engage students, increase rigor, and also provide opportunities for life applications.
  - A. Core area teachers will develop a post test to determine that students have retained prerequisite information.  
*Update: Currently all teachers give a pre- and post- test on five priority standards. Nine Weeks Exams are also given. All exams are common exams among teachers in the same grade level with the same content.*
  - B. All teaching staff will develop a uniform way to identify the objective of the lesson and will make the objective measurable.  
*Update: All lesson objectives are posted on the right hand side of the board and stated in the form "I Can . . ."*
  - C. Staff development sessions during staff meetings, department meetings, and planning that are related to instructional technology and will allow staff to institute best practices.  
*Update: We do have monthly professional development and staff meetings. This year the focus has been on small group instruction, new teacher evaluation program and PLCs. We will be adding technology training next year as we look towards going one-to-one the following year.*
  - D. SMS will provide a systematic approach for job-embedded professional development to increase literacy development across all content areas  
*Update: Our monthly professional development sessions always include literacy strategies that can be used in classrooms. Many times we will conduct the training using a strategy that teachers can implement in the classroom. Professional development on literacy strategies is also conducted during PLC meetings.*
2. Springfield Middle will develop a comprehensive program for using data to promote student growth and school improvement.  
*Update: We began Tuesday data meetings this year that are held in our data room. The data gives us information on students in the following areas: standardized testing, attendance, homework completion, reading level, and discipline. We use a form we fill out weekly to identify students struggling in class. We are working on how to manage all the information and use it to drive instruction.*
  - A. Teachers and administration will develop a systemic approach to using formative common assessments to analyze student strengths and weaknesses.  
*Update: PLCs use common assessments for all unit tests and nine weeks exams. As far as formative assessments, the majority of our PLCs use common quizzes and exit slips as well. Data is analyzed every Tuesday during data meetings.*
  - B. All teachers and administration will systematically review summative data.  
*Update: All summative data is distributed to staff members and reviewed often in relation to how students are doing in classes compared to their projected ability. Data is reviewed every Tuesday with each PLC.*
  - C. A data committee consisting of administration, teachers, and support staff will meet to analyze data about people, practices, and perception.  
*Update: We began this towards the end of the 2017-2018 school year. We have a data committee of just teachers. Administrators and Guidance Counselors will begin meeting every Monday in the data room to look at students who are struggling and discuss if there are guidance reasons that need to be addressed as well.*
  - D. Professional development opportunities will be offered to train teachers to use data to affect student learning.
3. We will meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of all subgroups so that all students can be successful academically.  
*Update: Our data meetings have allowed us to identify more accurately what our needs are in the student population. Teachers are trained through weekly PLC how to review data and what actions need to be taken to improve student learning. We are continuously trying to improve in this area.*
  - A. Identify at risk students using data from a variety of sources and provide mentoring and other support services in order to increase their chances of academic success.  
*Update: We have mentors that regularly meet with students who have been identified "at risk." This year we attended the Volunteer Fair at Carolina Orchards to recruit members of their community. We had several volunteers sign up. We are still looking for ways to recruit more volunteers. We have created a brochure that lists all the ways someone could be involved.*

### Members of Springfield Middle School Improvement Council

Jennifer Ryan  
SIC Chairperson

Keith Griffin  
Principal

Christy Matkovich  
Assistant Principal

Jim Wilke  
Assistant Principal

Buffy Foor  
PTO President/Parent

Teresa Fugazzi Riga  
Athletic Booster Club/ Parent

Marley McKee  
Student Body President

Mine Karatas  
Student Body Vice-President

Logan Hudak  
Teacher

Sara Layton  
Parent

Tara Miller  
Parent

Venkat Nimmagadda  
Parent

Pressley Ridgill  
Parent

Boyd Rogers  
Parent

# MAJOR EVENTS, HONORS, GROUPS AND AWARDS

**SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL HAD AND IS CONTINUING TO HAVE A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR. MAJOR EVENTS, HONORS AND AWARDS ARE LISTED BELOW:**

## School Honors

- Third year of Schools to Watch designation from the National Forum on Middle Grades Reform (NFMGR). We were recognized and presented to the SC State Middle School Conference in March
- The Fort Mill School District and Springfield Middle School are nationally accredited by AdvancEd.
- Continued to be a Partner School with Winthrop University's NetSCOPE program. We help train future teachers through Winthrop internship. We had six W.U. student interns this school year and Winthrop students worked with individual Springfield students in a program called STAR.
- 10 National Board Certified teachers.
- Seventh grade participated in district-wide career fair on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Job shadowing for eighth grade students on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Sixth grade students will investigate potential careers through virtual job shadowing in May.

## Fine Arts/Culture

- Six All-State Band Members, 26 All Region Band Members, 17 York County Band Honor Members.
- Our band received Superior and Excellent ratings at the SC Band Directors Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade band trip to Orlando- Participated in the Disney Performing Arts program at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.
- Seventh grade band will perform in Carowinds Festival of Music.
- Our honors choir or SOL has 41 members this year. They did have a show choir performance at Universal Studios in Orlando, performed for SMS during many other assemblies for our student body.
- African American History program on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Guest speaker was Dr. Antwon Sutton.
- Our culture club sponsored various assemblies for many different cultures.

## Student Achievement

- 25 eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars.
- 12 students qualified for the Duke TIP program
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Academic Challenge Team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Olde English Consortium
- An eighth grader qualified for the state geography bee
- Seven students entered STEM projects in the Piedmont Regional Science Fair at USC Upstate in March. One student was recognized by winning the Navy Award.
- Our Math Counts team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the York Co. Competition.
- Our school is leading the way for Do The Right Thing nominations for the Town of Fort Mill and a grand prize winner.
- Great work by all of our students!

## Service

- The SMS Beta Clubs devoted many hours of community service and also solicited numerous donations from students and staff to give to charities.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Beta Club service projects included food drives, supplies for children, cards for community workers, and school cleanup.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beta Club donated to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade to help fund the Charleston field trip and the Friday Club read to elementary students.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade sent a donation to the Saint Jude's Research Hospital for \$1000
- Our Student Council was involved in many successful fundraisers. The largest was over \$3700 for hurricane relief.
- The SMS Staff donated \$260 to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.
- Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Family and Consumer Science students stuffed 70 pillows to the Piedmont Medical Center Pediatric Unit.

## Athletics

Our teams won one conference championships this school year and our athletes were champions of effort, desire, attitude, and sportsmanship. We congratulate them on a wonderful year in sports and competition.

- Boys Soccer - Regular season conference champions.
- Fort Mill Dance Team Invitational: 1<sup>st</sup> place in Pom Category

Our Dance Team also performed at the Fort Mill High School Winter Choreography Showcase and the Fort Mill Christmas Parade. They also perform at pep rallies and assemblies. Congratulation to all of our sports teams!

# OUR CHALLENGES

**CHALLENGES ARE AREAS OR CONCERNS THAT WE ARE WORKING TO RESOLVE SO THEY DO NOT BECOME PROBLEMS. WE LOOK AT THESE CHALLENGES AS HURDLES THAT WE MUST CROSS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF OUR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM.**

Growth will always be a major challenge for our school district. York County is among the fastest growing regions in the United States. We know that the quality of life in the Fort Mill/Tega Cay area and the school system will continue to attract people to our area. Presently, we have fewer students than ever in our school, but we could get students from other school attendance areas when those schools have a frozen enrollment in the future. This will cause us to grow rapidly.

Staffing needs are a huge concern. Teaming at the middle school level is important. The certification of teachers dictates how the teams are configured. When we do not have a number of teachers on a grade level that is a multiple of four, we can have problems with certification. It does help that we have a number of teachers with multiple certifications in subject areas.

We continue to have the most diverse group of students among the district's middle schools. We strive to find ways to meet the needs of our students. This is a challenge that we plan to meet. We want to provide our teachers with strategies and information about how best to meet the needs of our student body and the community.

Providing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math) activities in the classroom is a challenge that we are striving to accomplish through our partnership with Discovery Education. There is a FMSD four year plan and we are presently in the first year. Coaching and mentoring are provided by Discovery Education. We are in the process of providing each student with an innovative, personalized, and rigorous education that empowers all of our students to achieve their greatest success. This process takes time, effort, and energy, but it will be worth it!

Inquiry-based instruction is a challenge. It is about activating a student's curiosity and triggering inquiry. This is not easy. It takes enthusiasm and creativity for teachers to develop an inquiry-based learning activity. We continue to look at ways to increase inquiry-based instruction in our classrooms through training and staff development.

The use of data and technology to improve instruction is an area we would like to improve. We currently have over 475 devices that are shared by our 600 students this past year. In this era of technology, it is imperative for all our students to have access to the technology required. We need to be able to share data across the district so that we can analyze it at the school level and compare within the district, state, and nation. This will give us the ability to modify instruction based on what is yielding the best results. All teams of teachers are using a program called All In Learning. This program allows teachers to compare common assessments and it helps them grade faster. This results in more data discussion in our Professional Learning Communities.

Parent and community involvement is critical to our overall success. For example, we need to increase parent/guardian participation in our school surveys. During a recent eighth grade parent survey, we received only 50% parent participation. Our challenge is to help our parents and the community feel a part of our learning environment. We strive to hear as many outside voices and opinions as possible to continue to improve our school. We are communicating with parents through teacher, school, and principal email plus our website, phone calls, Friday communication folders, and our school sign. We are always open to suggestions for other ways of communicating with our students, parents, and community.