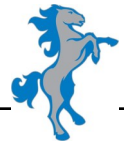


Springfield Middle School



The Year In Review 2013-2014



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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 goals, 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.



Members of the Springfield
Middle School Improvement
Council

Ms. Kelly Cutrone,
School Improvement Council
Chairperson/Parent

Mr. Keith Griffin
Principal

Ms. Christy Matkovich
Assistant Principal

Mr. Michael Pratt
Assistant Principal

Ms. Teesha Cumbee
PTA President/Parent

Ms. Tiffany Queen
Athletic Booster Club President/
Parent

Ms. Abby Walker
Student Body President

Mr. Bruce Sawyer, Student Body
Vice-President

Mr. Jim Wilke, Teacher

Ms. Gina Kidd, Parent

Mr. Greg Yeager, Parent

Ms. Rhonda Perry, Parent

Ms. Lisa Pool, Parent

Ms. Wendy Matherly,
Community Member

Goals and Progress for the 2013-2014 School Year

Student Achievement

- Students will independently read a variety of nonfiction books and informational text.
 - We will use literacy days during our Horsepower Half Hour to promote this reading independence.
 - Reading in language arts classes focused on nonfiction and informational text.
- We will improve the writing of our students across the curriculum. Students will restate the writing prompt and provide textual support when answering questions requiring written responses.
 - A common rubric is established. Teachers will closely monitor each student's progress in writing.
 - Training was provided for teachers for what to look for and how to restate the prompts while using Mustangs Reading for Meaning.
- We will actively engage students in the learning process.
 - Provide support for students through lunch academy, peer tutoring and extra help.
 - Extra help sessions are provided for students after school for one hour three days a week and bus transportation is provided.
 - Students will meet with administrators and teachers to discuss ability and effort if they do not meet our standards for their grade level.
 - Parents are notified by letter and asked to conference with teachers if the student is below standards with grades. Strategies for improvement are discussed.
 - Students are allowed to redo work when the work is below standard.

School Climate

- We will continue to implement the scope and sequence of “Overcoming Obstacles” Life Skills program school-wide.
 - Lesson plans are available for staff to use during advisory time.
 - Resources and training will be provided for teachers demonstrating the behaviors to look for and how to help the victim and the bully.
 - This is implemented during our Horsepower Half Hour during Advisory time.
 - Workshops for parents were provided during the year on cyberbullying, the teenage brain, and internet safety.
- We will provide an orientation for new students and will welcome them to SMS.
 - Our ambassador program continues. New ambassadors will be carefully selected.
 - We implemented a student leadership program called WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) that allowed sixth graders to be welcomed and led by seventh and eighth grade WEB leaders.
- We will communicate effectively with students, teachers, parents, and the community.
 - Communication includes agendas, Friday folders, newsletters, and message board.
 - We use all available technology to communicate such as Parent Portal, websites, teacher web pages, School Messenger, and email.
 - We will celebrate cultural differences during a culture night at the end of the school year.

Major Events, Honors, Groups, and Awards

Student Achievement

- 46 Eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars.
- An Eighth grade student won the district spelling bee and participated in the Charlotte Observer Regional spelling bee.
- A Sixth grade student qualified for the state geography bee.
- Seventh grade students submitted Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) projects in our school STEM fair. A student won first place in Biology and a student won honorable mention in Math at the Piedmont Regional science fair.
- A 7th grade student will participate in the National History Day competition.

Service

- The SMS Beta Club devoted many hours of community service and also solicited numerous donations from students and staff to give to charities.
- During our Horsepower Half Hour (H3) period, groups of students made "Welcome Spring" goody bags for kindergarten students and the childrens' ward at Piedmont Medical Center.
- Our students were involved in many successful fundraising ventures such as the Pasta for Pennies, food collection, Children's Attention Home, and clothes closet donations. (\$5693.62 in donations to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society)
- During H3, students provided beautification for our gym entrance. They also worked on literacy and writing strategies regarding gardening.

Athletics

- Our Dance Team and Cheerleaders participated in the Fort Mill District Dance and Cheer Expo.
- Our Dance Team won the academic award for all winter sports teams at Springfield Middle with the highest grade point average.
- The following teams won Eastern Division Championships in the York Country Middle School Conference:
 - 8th Grade Football
 - 7th Girls Basketball
 - 7th Boys Basketball
 - 8th Boys Basketball
 - Girls Track
- Archery team finished 3rd in the State Archery Tournament.

Springfield Middle School has had and is continuing to have a very successful year. Major events, honors, and awards are listed below:

School Honors

- Gold Award Winner for General Performance related to our 2012-2013 PASS scores.
- 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.
- 17 National Board Certified teachers
- Foundation for Fort Mill Schools Grant Teacher Winner— Rebecca Roemer— "The Journey North"
- Seventh grade participated in district-wide career fair on November 1st.
- Job shadowing for Eighth grade students and virtual job shadowing for Sixth grade students on March 28th.
- We continue to operate as a Red Carpet School for our customer service and parent friendly atmosphere. This designation is sponsored by the SC State Department of Education.

Fine Arts/Culture

- Three All State Band Members, 25 All Region Band Members, 25 York County Band Honor Members.
- Our band had an Overall Superior Rating at the SC Band Directors Association Concert Band Festival.
- Our band received 25 Superior and 7 Excellent ratings at the SC Band Directors Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Band trip to Orlando— Participated on City Walk at Universal Studios.
- Seventh grade band performed in Carowinds Band Festival.
- Our honors choir or SOL has 43 members this year. They will have a show choir performance at Universal Studios in Orlando, performed for SMS during the Holiday Assembly, and performed during the African American History Month Assembly.
- African American History program on February 21st. Guest speaker was Ms. Audrina Bigos, WCCB Charlotte News reporter.

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.

- ◆ A major challenge for our school is growth. 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. We have close to 720 students in a building with a capacity of 900 students. We do expect continued growth and stress on our school as this growth causes us to reach capacity. Our empty spaces will fill in the next three to five years. Constant changes in the number of grade level teachers from year to year forces changes in our teaming structure. This causes us to find creative ways to make teacher certification work within the teaming structure.
- ◆ Diversity within our student body is a challenge. We continue to increase our number of minority students. We have a large number of different cultures which are represented by our students. Diversity training within our school district and our school for our staff will be very important as we move into the future. We will recruit students of various backgrounds and cultures to be a part of our Diversity Council for the next school year. We hope to provide a welcoming and inviting school for students and parents of all backgrounds.
- ◆ The use of data to improve instruction is an area we would like to improve. The PASS test has been touted as a source of diagnostic information. This will help us with diagnostic information for each student. We will continue to look for ways to assess each student's needs so that he/she improves academically.
- ◆ The implementation and use of the Common Core Standards is a major shift and change for our language arts and math teachers. These standards will require coordination between all four academic areas. There will be an emphasis on higher level thinking across the curriculum. There will also be an emphasis on non-fiction and reading informational text in core areas. We are preparing at this time to be fully converted to the Common Core Standards by the 2014-2015 school year.
- ◆ Technology is another challenging area at all school in the near future. Our school has a bring your own device policy for students and the use of these devices within the classroom. There was a major purchase of devices for all schools in the Fort Mill School District with the possible purchase of more devices in the future. We will need major staff development for all teachers and there will be a need for student cooperation in their learning. All schools in our district now have wireless connections with the internet and the proper filters are in place to prevent access to inappropriate websites.