

Springfield Middle School



A Year In Review 2010-2011



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Mr. Steve Grimes, Teacher

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Ms. Wendy Matherly, Parent

Ms. Ashley Schemine, Parent

Dr. David Vawter, Community Member

Ms. Jaci Wagner, Parent

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.



Goals and Progress for the 2010-2011 School Year

Student Achievement

1. We will use the Accelerated Reader program to promote literacy and to increase reading comprehension for all students.
 - A. PASS scores in reading should show improvement. We will receive these scores for our students in August, 2011.
 - B. 98% of our students have read and tested on almost 8,000 books with 50% scoring 85 or better.
2. We will improve the writing of our students across the curriculum.
 - A. A common rubric was established. Teachers will closely monitor each student's progress in writing.
3. We will actively engage students in the learning process.
 - A. Provide support for developmentally appropriate strategies
 - B. Provide resources and materials for the use and integration of technology.
4. We will use our ReDo Café to improve student achievement.
 - A. Students are allowed to use this to re-do assessments and other work.
5. We will implement nine-week benchmark tests that will include PASS-like questions.
 - A. These tests will raise expectations and define proficiency for all students.
6. We will use test data to develop strategies for student and school improvement.
 - A. We compare PASS test data for grade levels and to schools like SMS.
 - B. Conferences are held with individual students to discuss strengths and weaknesses and to set goals for the next school year.
 - C. MAP testing now provides us with diagnostic information to help students.

School Climate

1. We will promote a bully free environment.
 - A. Lesson plans are planned for staff to use during advisory time.
 - B. Resources and training will be provided for teachers to help with what to look for and how to help the victim and the bully.
 - C. Students role play and view situations to raise awareness of bullying.

Goals and Progress for the 2010-2011 School Year

2. We will provide an orientation for new students and will welcome them to SMS.
 - A. Our ambassador program will continue and new ambassadors will be carefully selected.
3. We will implement a training program for mentors and continue the mentoring program for those in need.
4. We will communicate effectively with students, teachers, parents, and the community.
 - A. Written communication includes agendas, Friday folders, newsletters, and message board.
 - B. Use all available technology to communicate such as Parent Portal, websites, AlertNow, and email.

Major Events, Honors, Groups, and Awards

Springfield Middle School had a very successful year. Major events, honors, and awards are listed below:

- **Gold Award Winner for Student Achievement with an EXCELLENT Absolute Performance Rating and an EXCELLENT Improvement Rating.**
- **Silver Award Winner for closing the achievement gap based on academic gains made by students who fall into four sub-groups of historically low achieving students**
- **Partner School with Winthrop University through a grant called NetSCOPE. Allows us to help train future teachers through Winthrop internship.**
- **Red Carpet School for our customer service and parent friendly atmosphere by the State Department of Education.**
- **2011 State Middle School Archery Champions**
- **Piedmont Regional Science Fair – Middle School Overall Winner, Eight students won awards at the regional level.**
- **Beta Club – 61 members – 1081 hours of community service – Numerous donations collected from students and staff and given to charities.**
- **Eighth grade student finished in the top 10 in the state geography bee.**
- **Seventh grade student finished second in the district spelling bee.**
- **23 National Board Certified teachers**
- **46 eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars**
- **68 seventh grade students qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP)**
- **Six All State Band Members, 12 All Region Band Members, 25 All County Band Members**
- **Band trip to Orlando- STARS Concert Festival**
- **Our honors choir or SOL had 45 members this year. They performed the National Anthem at a Charlotte Bobcats and Charlotte Knights game, at the Chorus Department's annual SMS Spaghetti Serenades, at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, at the Festival of Music at Carowinds where they received an overall rating of "EXCELLENT", at the 2011 Strawberry Festival, and they performed for SMS during the Holiday Assembly as well as the Black History Month Assembly**
- **Artist in Residence included three framed mosaics by 8th grade students located in the main hallway and the 7th grade class worked on painting picnic tables which are located in the patio area outside the media center and art room. We had a State Finalist for Doodle 4 Google contest for 2011. Three students were selected from our school to participate in the Banner Contest this year and had their banners displayed around downtown.**
- **Three student winners at the 2011 Earth Day Art Competition.**
- **Foundation for Fort Mill Schools Grant Winner– Lou Wylie— “Technology Savvy Students”**
- **More than 400 parents joined us on February 11th for “Invite Parents to School Day”**
- **School-Wide job shadowing for students on March 17.**
- **Eighth grade participated in the Career Exploration Day at York Technical College on April 1st.**
- **Autism Awareness Day on October 4th was coordinated district-wide by a SMS student. This student also received the Home Town Hero Award from CN2 and a national Speak Out Award from Autism Speaks.**
- **Our students were involved in many successful fundraising ventures such as the Pasta for Patients, Japanese Relief Fund, Humane Society donation, food collection, and clothes closet donations. (Over \$9200 in monetary donations)**
- **Lego Robotics Team won 1st place Teamwork Award at the Aiken Regional Competition.**
- **Cheerleaders won first place in three areas at the UCA Cheerleading Camp.**
- **Softball team — conference champions — Undefeated with a 10-0 record**

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.

1. Our number one challenge is funding. We hope to keep class size and our school size at a manageable level. State funding for our district has been reduced due to the Property Tax Relief Act or Act 388 and the economy. This will impact our class sizes in the next few years. We are also losing a support staff position from our school. The media assistant and technology assistant positions will be combined to form one media/technology assistant position. This will strain our school staff in many ways.
2. The number two challenge 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 820 students in a building with a capacity of 900 students. We did not use mobile classrooms during the 2010-2011 school year, but every space inside our building is being used. We welcome the addition of Banks Trail Middle School to the Fort Mill School District for the 2011– 2012 school year. Our total student enrollment will decline to close to 750 students during the 2011– 2012 year due to this shift in attendance lines. With this shift in student population, we also will lose four grade level teachers for next school year to BTMS.
3. Teacher certification and endorsements at the middle school level. Middle school teachers were impacted the most by the No Child Left Behind federal legislation. Our teachers must be highly qualified in their subject areas and are bombarded with the certification criteria. Many teachers may not want to go through some of these requirements and this will create a problem with recruitment of teachers at the middle school level.
4. The use of data to improve instruction is an area in which we would like to improve. The new PASS test has also been touted as a source of diagnostic information. MAP or Measure of Academic Progress is back. After losing MAP for several years, it is being added back to the middle schools. 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.

Final report cards will be mailed to each student's home address. In order for parents to take advantage of the tax free weekends, supply lists for each grade level will be mailed with the report card. Students who do not bring in the fee or have outstanding charges (lost book, library books, library fines, cafeteria charges, etc.) will have to come to the school office to pick up their report card and supply list.

SMS summer hours will be 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. This work schedule will be in effect from June 6 to July 28 with the following exceptions:

Tuesday, July 5 - Thursday, July 7th—observance of July 4th holiday

Please look for grade level supply lists and a PTA flash drive order form with your child's report card if you will return to SMS for the 2011—2012 school year.

Dates to Remember:

6/6 Summer Office Hours begin—See below for more details

6/6-6/9 & 6-13-6/16 1ST Session Summer School

6/20-6/23 & 6/27-6/30 2ND Session Summer School

8/5—Student schedules are mailed to homes

8/10-8/16 Teacher Workdays—no student attendance

8/15 - 6th Grade Open House—6:00 PM—Homeroom class

8/17/2011- First day for students— Classes begin at 8:20 AM

Summer School Schedule (to be held at Springfield Middle School)

Session I

June 6 - 9 (Monday - Thursday)

June 13- 16 (Monday - Thursday)

Session II

June 20 - 23 (Monday - Thursday)

June 27 - 30 (Monday - Thursday)

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. daily

The cost of each summer school course is \$125. If a student needs to take both math and language arts, the cost would equal \$250. If needed, the summer school registration form may be obtained from your school's guidance office.

Summer Reading Lists:

Students will be required to read two books from the 2010-2011 South Carolina Junior Book Award lists.

You may visit our school home page website to see a list of books and details on each book on the media center tab at our home page: <http://sfms.fort-mill.k12.sc.us/home>

During the first two weeks of school, students will be tested on the books they read. These books should be available from libraries, bookstores, and online.

**Have a safe and happy summer—
best wishes to our class of 2011 at
their respective high schools.**