



# SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

*A Year in Review*  
2016-2017

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.



## GOALS FOR THE 2016-2017 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.
  - B. All teaching staff will develop a uniform way to identify the objective of the lesson and will make the objective measurable.
  - C. Staff development sessions during staff meetings, department meetings, and planning that are related to instructional technology will allow staff to institute best practices.
  - D. SMS will provide a systematic approach for job-embedded professional development to increase literacy development across all content areas.
2. Springfield Middle will develop a comprehensive program for using data to promote student growth and school improvement.
  - A. Teachers and administration will develop a systemic approach to using formative common assessments to analyze student strengths and weaknesses.
  - B. All teachers and administration will systematically review summative data.
  - C. A data committee consisting of administration, teachers, and support staff will meet to analyze data about people, practices, and perception.
  - D. Professional development opportunities will be offered to train teachers in using 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.
  - 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.
  - B. Educate teachers on effective strategies for teaching boys and children of poverty.
4. The number of students who are in historically low achieving groups will improve their passing rate on standardized testing.
  - A. Provide support for students through lunch academy, peer tutoring, and extra help.
  - B. Extra help sessions will be provided for students after school for one hour two days a week and bus transportation is provided.
  - C. Students will meet with administrators and teachers to discuss ability and effort if they do not meet standard for their grade level.
  - D. Parents are notified by letter and asked to conference with teachers if the student is below standards with grades. Strategies for improvement are discussed.
  - E. Students will set goals for academic success in their homerooms.

1711 SPRINGFIELD PARKWAY  
FORT MILL, SC 29715  
803.548.8199

## Members of Springfield Middle School Improvement Council

Ashley Schemine  
SIC Chairperson/Parent

Keith Griffin  
Principal

Christy Matkovich  
Assistant Principal

Jim Wilke  
Assistant Principal

Brynne Fisher  
PTO President/Parent

Grant Hennessy  
Athletic Booster Club/ Parent

Ben Larranaga  
Student Body President

Albert Nguyen  
Student Body Vice-President

Erin Barnott  
Teacher

Patrice Drakeford  
Guidance Counselor

David Vawter  
Community Member

Gerta Ayers  
Parent

Steven Dunlap  
Parent

Pressley Ridgill  
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

- Second 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. We also were recognized and presented at the national NFMGR conference in June in Washington, DC.
- The Fort Mill School District and Springfield Middle School were 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 Winthrop student interns this school year and those students worked with individual Springfield students in a program called STAR.
- 10 National Board Certified teachers.
- Five Foundation for Fort Mill Schools Grant Teacher Winners and an Administrative Grant Winner.
- Seventh grade participated in district-wide career fair on November 18th.
- Job shadowing for eighth grade students on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Sixth grade students will investigate potential careers through virtual job shadowing in May.
- A teacher was the winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching which is a national award.

## Fine Arts/Culture

- Nine All-State Band Members, 29 All Region Band Members, 23 York County Band Honor Members.
- Our band had an Overall "Superior with Distinction" Rating at the SC Band Directors Association Concert Band Performance State Assessment.
- Our band received Superior and Excellent ratings at the SC Band Directors Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Eighth grade band trip to Orlando - Participated in the STARS performing arts program at Universal Studios Florida.
- Seventh grade band will perform in Carowinds Festival of Music.
- Our band program will receive the SC Band Directors Association "Outstanding Performance Award"; the highest achievement awarded to bands in South Carolina. This is awarded due to the band's overall performance and success.
- Our honors choir (SOL) has 51 members this year. They had a show choir performance at Universal Studios in Orlando and performed for SMS during many other assemblies for our student body. They also performed at the Tega Cay Fall Festival.
- African American History program on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Guest speakers were Mr. and Mrs. John Sanders.

## Student Achievement

- 37 eighth graders were designated as Junior Scholars.
- 19 students qualified for the Duke TIP program.
- An eighth grader qualified for the state geography bee and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state.
- Three seventh graders were the top three chosen for the Fort Mill Optimists' Essay contest.
- Seventh grade students submitted Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) projects in our school STEM fair. Students won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Physics, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in general science, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in biology. One project also won the Navy Award. All of these awards were from the Piedmont Regional Science Fair.
- The Tween Library Council took home 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the South Carolina Junior Book Award Banner contest.
- Our Math Counts team finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Chapter Competition.
- 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.
- Eighth grade Beta Club service projects included food drives, supplies for children, cards for community workers, and school cleanup.
- Seventh grade Beta Club donated to The Havens Nursing Home, Toys for Tots, Operation Christmas Child, and our Friday Club read to elementary students.
- The seventh grade sent a donation to the Saint Jude's Research Hospital.
- Our Student Council was involved in many successful fundraising ventures such as the Autism Society, Children's Attention Home, the Townsville shooting victims, and Prader-Willi Syndrome. We also gave food collections and clothes closet donations.
- We sent more than 1000 books to the Louisiana flood victims.
- Our sixth grade collected more than 1000 pairs of socks in Socktober for homeless.
- The Blanket of Hope Club made 14 blankets for Piedmont Medical Pediatrics Hospital.

## Athletics

- Our teams won one division or conference championship 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.
- Seventh grade volleyball team - York County Champions and Rock Hill High Invitational Champions
  - Eighth grade girls' basketball - Rock Hill High Preseason Tipoff Tournament Champions
  - The Dance Team had a great year. Below are their accomplishments:
    - Fort Mill Dance Team Invitational:
      - 1<sup>st</sup> place in Pom category
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Jazz category
    - Capital City Dance Team Championship:
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Pom category
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Jazz category
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Hip Hop category
    - Dorman Dance Team Invitational:
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Jazz category
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Pom category
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Hip Hop category
- 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 continues to 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. We have close to 730 students in a building with a capacity of 900 students. We do expect continued growth and stress on our school as we grow in the next year. We will have some relief beginning with the 2017-2018 school year when Pleasant Knoll Middle School opens. We will open the 2017-2018 school year with close to 600 students. Springfield Middle has never been that small in its eleven year history.

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. Our two regular counselors are busy with their regular duties and all of the issues that take up so much of their time. We are lucky enough to have a part-time career development facilitator who helps our guidance counselors in that area.

The use of data and technology to improve instruction is an area we would like to improve. We currently have over 400 devices to be shared by our 600 students next year. Ideally, we would like to equip students with their own devices, whether it be their personal device or a school device. In this era of technology, it is imperative for all our students to have access to the technology required. Our AdvanceEd visit exposed our need to use data to adjust instruction so that we may better serve our students. This represents a goal for our district and our school. 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.

We did begin our goal to improve literacy through our School's Literacy Plan this year. In order to do this, the SC State Legislature has mandated that all teachers take reading courses. The number of courses depends on each teacher's degree and certification. Finding the funds, time and resources will be a key challenge while continuing our "Read to Succeed" program. Teachers are attending Read To Succeed classes and adjusting to decreased planning time.

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. This is a 25 % increase from the previous year. Our challenge is to help parents and 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, school newsletter and our school sign. We are always open to suggestions for other ways of communicating with our students, parents, and community.