

# Springfield Middle School



## A Year In Review 2011-2012



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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. Wendy Matherly,  
School Improvement Council  
Chairperson/Parent

Mr. Keith Griffin,  
Principal

Ms. Tommie Craig,  
Assistant Principal

Mr. Grey Young,  
Assistant Principal

Ms. Glenda Mize,  
PTA President/Parent

Mr. Steve Sappe  
Athletic Booster Club President/Parent

Ms. Shelbi Ream  
Student Body President

Ms. Natalie Chuck Student Body  
Vice-President

Ms. Laura Miller Teacher

Mr. Steve Grimes, Teacher

Mr. Robert Cicero, Parent

Ms. Laurie Farmer, Community Member

Ms. Brynne Fisher, Parent

Mr. Alan Jackson, Parent

Ms. Marisa King, Parent

Ms. Ali Kishbaugh, Parent/Community Member

Dr. David Vawter, Community Member

Ms. Jacci Wagner, Parent

### Goals and Progress for the 2011-2012 School Year

#### Student Achievement

- We will use the Accelerated Reader program to promote literacy and to increase reading comprehension for all students.
  - PASS scores in reading improved as students moved from 6th to 7th grade and from 7th to 8th grade.
  - 99% of our 720 students have read and tested on 8,129 books with 42% scoring 85 or better.
  - SMS will have a period of sustained silent reading at least once every two weeks for 30 minutes to promote reading.
- We will improve the writing of our students across the curriculum.
  - A common rubric is established. Teachers will closely monitor each student's progress in writing.
  - PASS writing scores improved as students moved from 7th to 8th grade. This is the last year we can compare a class as it goes through middle school. The PASS writing test is only administered in the 8th grade at this time.
- We will actively engage students in the learning process.
  - Provide support for developmentally appropriate strategies.
  - Provide resources and materials for the use and integration of technology.
  - Students will meet with administrators and teachers to discuss ability and effort if students do not meet our standards for their grade level.
- We will continue to assess using nine-week benchmark tests that will include PASS- like questions.
  - These tests will raise expectations and define proficiency for all students.
  - USA Test Prep (computer software) will be used to reinforce nine-weeks tests, PASS testing, and MAP testing.
- We will use test data to develop strategies for student and school improvement.
  - We compare PASS test data for grade levels to schools like SMS.
  - Conferences are held with individual students to discuss strengths and weaknesses and to set goals for the next school year.
  - MAP testing now provides us with diagnostic information to help students.

#### School Climate

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

## Goals and Progress for the 2011-2012 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 General Performance related to our 2010-2011 PASS scores.**
- **Silver Award Winner for closing the achievement gap based on academic gains made by students who fall into four subgroups 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.**
- **2012 State Middle School Archery Champions. Two of our students were Boys and Girls Individual State Champions.**
- **Beta Club – many hours of community service – numerous donations collected from students and staff and given to charities.**
- **Seventh grade student qualified for the state geography bee.**
- **Nineteen National Board Certified teachers**
- **Fifty-two eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars**
- **Forty-two seventh grade students qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP), one student will be recognized at the Grand Recognition Ceremony at Duke University.**
- **Two All State Band Members, ten All Region Band Members, twelve All County Band Members**
- **Band trip to Orlando- STARS Concert Festival**
- **Our honors choir or SOL had fifty-three members this year. They performed the National Anthem at a Charlotte Bobcats game, at the chorus department's annual SMS Spaghetti Serenades, and at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida. They also performed for SMS during the holiday assembly as well as the Black History Month Assembly**
- **Foundation for Fort Mill Schools Grant Winner– Flo Ramsey— “Recreational Games”**
- **More than 400 parents joined us on February 16th for “Invite Parents to School Day”**
- **Job shadowing for 8th grade students on March 30th.**
- **7th grade participated in district-wide career fair at Banks Trail Middle on March 9th.**
- **6th grade participated in virtual job shadowing on March 30th.**
- **Our students were involved in many successful fundraising ventures such as the Pasta for Pennies, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), Humane Society, food collection, Children’s Attention Home, and clothes closet donations. (Over \$8400 in monetary donations to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society—3rd in the state)**
- **Dance team won the FMSD Expo for dance and our cheerleaders won 2nd place for cheer.**
- **7th and 8th football teams won their division as well as the 8th grade boys and 7th grade girls basketball won their division.**

# 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 have lost academic support positions and school support positions in the past few years. This will continue to cause strain for our students and school staff in many ways.
2. Our 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 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. We welcomed the addition of Banks Trail Middle School to the Fort Mill School District for the 2011– 2012 school year. This movement of students has given us empty space in our school for the first time in four years. Unfortunately, this space will fill in the next three to five years.
3. 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.
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.

### **Guidance Department**

Sixth and Seventh Grade Students were treated to a powerful message during grade level assemblies on April 13. Victoria DiNatale, a junior at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia, shared her experiences as a former victim of severe bullying. Her "story" and anti-bullying message were amazing. We heard many positive comments from students that the assembly was helpful, thought provoking, and terrific. Some comments that we received from students include the following:

"Victoria sharing her story really made me think about what can happen with bullying."

"Victoria was awesome. Her story was really sad but good. It made me feel better to see that someone who had gone through bullying made it."

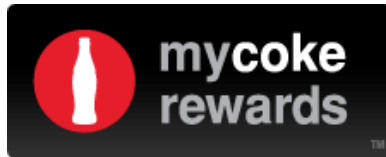
"Victoria was great! After the presentation, a kid told me he was sorry for picking on me. Wow!"

Victoria has spoken with thousands of students on bullying in both public and private schools in Georgia and South Carolina. She has also communicated her anti-bullying message through multiple media outlets including radio, television, newspaper, and an online blog.

Victoria shared the following resources with our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders: <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>

- Suicide Prevention Hotline--- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- 1-877-SAY-STOP---A 24-hour, toll-free, anti-bullying hotline
- Victoria 's anti-bullying message on her profession Facebook page at [facebook.com/bullyinghurts](https://www.facebook.com/bullyinghurts)

Please talk with your child about this assembly. We want to continue to spread kindness and stop bullying behavior.



SFMS is collecting Coke Reward points in order to recognize the achievements of students. Please send in bottle caps, tear-offs from 12 packs or the code from the wrapped multi-packs of Coke products.

Codes can be found on 15 brands: Coca Cola, Coke Zero, Diet Coke, Sprite, Dasani Water, Powerade, Minute Maid, Fanta, Vault, Barq's, Fresca, Pibb, Mello Yellow, Nestea, and Seagram's.

### **Springfield Our Loud SÓL**

Springfield Middle School's premier performing group *SÓL (Springfield Out Loud)* has its final choral performance on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> on the Nation Ford High School stage. The performance begins promptly at 7:00PM and is sure to please. Don't miss out!

### **PASS Testing**

Please mark your calendars for May 8 – 11 when students will be taking the state PASS test. Testing will begin each morning after homeroom, therefore, students need to be at school and on time during that week. If at all possible, please arrange appointments so students will not miss the testing sessions. Each child needs to get a good night's sleep and have breakfast to be prepared for testing!

Thank you for your assistance.

**Sports Updates**

Congratulations to all of our Spring Sports teams on successful seasons so far!

**Track** – Springfield Middle School Track Team is “On a Roll”!!

The Springfield Middle School Track Team consists of an outstanding group of athletes this season. The boys’ and girls’ teams have experienced lots of fun, in addition to a taste of success this season and have continued to improve as a team. Although, some of our practices may have been tough, some of your competition fast, some days hot, some days cold, they kept their motivation and determination high and intense. The determination paid off as we have placed in each track meet thus far. Thank you for all of your hard work. Your coaching staff appreciates everything you have done and knows that the sky is the limit if you continue to work hard. Springfield Middle School and its coaches are very proud of this hard-working, wonderful group of young athletes. We look forward to more outstanding performances and great outcomes at the Conference meet scheduled for May 1-2 at Nation Ford High School. Please come out and support this outstanding group of young people. See you there!  
Go MUSTANGS!!

**Boy’s Soccer** – Record is 9-1-1. They will be the #2 seed in the conference tournament which starts April 30.

The Boy’s Soccer team has continued its successful season. After a 4-0 start, they currently have a record of 9-1-1. The team has recorded victories over Banks Trail (twice), Clover, Sullivan, and Oakridge. The Mustangs lost their first game of the season in a 1-0 battle with Gold Hill Middle. The second time the Mustangs played Gold Hill, the Mustangs played to a 1-1 tie and ruined the Bulldogs perfect season.

We want to set a few records with this year’s team. Currently the defense has 6 shutout games. One more shutout and we will tie the record for most shutouts in a season. On the offense side of the ball, the team has scored 39 goals. With three more goals, we will set a new record for the most goals in a season. The team also set a new record this year with 13 different players recording a goal.

The Mustangs will enter the conference tournament as the second seed and will play on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:15. The tournament is being hosted by Oakridge Middle School.

**Girl’s Soccer** – Record is 8-2-2. They will be the #2 seed in the conference tournament which starts April 30.

**Softball** – Record is 6-6 overall. The Mustangs beat York in District Play-off game.

**Baseball** – Finished season on Friday night. The team made great improvements through the season and left something strong to build on going into next season.

**Upcoming Events**

Cheer Tryouts – May 3 after school in the gym

Dance Tryouts – May 14-17 after school

Spring Football – May 1 – 3 and May 14-17. You must have a valid physical before trying out.

**P.E. News**

Ms. Ramsey would like to congratulate the following students for achieving the Presidential Physical Fitness Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:

Chad Cope #2

Cheree Stauffer #6

Courtney Templeton #1

Avery Teatsorth #1

Trysten Cullon #2

John Hord #1

Chris Downs #1

Carter Jarrett #1

**Dress code**

Please review the school dress code with your child. The dress code can be found on page 5 in the student agenda.



The SMS PTA is currently accepting nominations for Executive Board positions for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. We need to fill the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions as soon as possible so that we can make a seamless transition by August.

If a Board position isn't for you, there are MANY other ways that you can get involved: making copies in to copy for a teacher, helping with Literacy Lounge, passing out Bruster's Blue Pops once a month, making or sending in items for Teacher Luncheons, helping to pull weeds for an hour or two. Every little bit helps.

Unfortunately, with the state of the current economy and the need for so many parents to seek paid employment, volunteers have been few and far between this year. Please remember that every contribution, be it monetary, material or physical, is given directly to the school. The PTA is in place solely to compensate for what our District and State can not or will not provide to our Students and Teachers.

This is OUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL, this is OUR SCHOOL, everything we do makes a difference and you cannot imagine how much it is appreciated by the Staff and Teachers as well.

If you or someone you know would be interested in serving the SMS PTA by becoming an Executive Board Member, or feel your time or talents can be shared through one of our committees, please let us know. The nomination form that went out last month is available at the front office or you may download it from our website at [www.springfieldmiddlepta.com](http://www.springfieldmiddlepta.com).

Thank you for your time and as always, thank YOU for everything that you do! If I can be of any assistance, please email me at the address below.

Kelly Cutrone  
SMS PTA VP  
[VP1@SpringfieldMiddlePTA.com](mailto:VP1@SpringfieldMiddlePTA.com)



Teacher Luncheon - May 3. Last one of the year, let's make it the best one yet!! Theme is a cookout picnic. If you would like to help or donate a food item contact Michele Branning at [m.branning@hotmail.com](mailto:m.branning@hotmail.com).



\$618.70! Where did that come from? \$618.70 is how much money SMS has made this year just by clipping Box Tops! Let's clear out our drawers for one last push for Box Tops this year. All you have to do is clip your Box Tops, place them in a baggie with your name on it and you are automatically entered for the last prize of the year. Thanks for all of your help!

Congratulations to Frances Williams, Caroline Compton and Lauren Matherly for sending in the most Box Tops in February!



#### Upcoming Events:

April 30 - May 4 - Teacher Appreciation Week  
May 3 - Faculty & Staff Luncheon provided by PTA  
May 17 - Blue Pops served in Cafeteria at lunch  
May 18 - Literacy Lounge  
May 24 - 8:30 AM, PTA End-of-Year Mtg. in B106, voting in of new Board  
May 25 - Field Day  
May 30 - 5:30 AM—10 PM, SMS Spirit DAY at Hardee's