

SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Year in Review
2022-2023

This report, entitled “A Year In Review,” was developed by 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, and awards plus challenges for our school. Our hope is that we keep our community informed about the challenges and successes of our school for the current school year.



MAIN GOAL FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR FROM THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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This school year, our SIC began discussing ways to collect feedback from parents and other stakeholders that will provide us with actionable steps we can take as a school community to:

- Reassure students and parents that our school is safe and to know that SMS staff keeps safety a priority at all times.
- Ensure parents receive timely communication in a medium that can be reviewed quickly and that the information is meaningful to your family.
- Provide communication in the primary language of our SMS families.
- Reassure parents that we review and value their feedback, and act upon the feedback we receive. We also discussed ways we can communicate with parents about reasons why we may not be able to act upon certain feedback.

Our goal is to include our parents and community in the decision-making process at Springfield Middle School. According to the latest surveys, 96% of parents think we communicate in a timely manner; however, only 75% of parents think we consider changes based on their feedback.

We started working on this goal this year and plan to continue this work into next year. We started with small, three question surveys in the Weekly Roundup (our parent newsletter.) Our plan was to consider the feedback from these surveys and report to parents any changes we initiated based on it. Unfortunately, we received a low response rate on those surveys. Next year, we hope to have all parents actively using the

Members of Springfield Middle School Improvement Council

Christy Matkovich
Principal

Cardio Mack
Assistant Principal

Jim Wilke
Assistant Principal

Buffy Foor
PTO President/Parent

Rob Jacobson
Booster Club President/Parent

Mickey Joslin
SIC Chairperson/Parent

Kristi Josephson
Parent

Carolyn Kerr
Parent

Peter Olinger
Parent

Garrett Shipley
Teacher

Toiya Warthen
Parent

Amber White

<p>REMIND app, where they will receive small surveys and communication as a text message in their home's language. We have found that people tend to respond to text messages more than email.</p> <p>SIC meetings are open to ALL of our parents. If you are interested in attending a meeting, we would love to have you. If you are interested in being part of communications to our parents and community next year, please let us know and sign up to join SIC. We would like an SIC that also sponsors informational nights for parents on relevant topics.</p>	<p>Parent JoAnne Walker Parent</p>
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**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:

<u>School Honors and Activities</u>	<u>Fine Arts/Culture</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue as a Partner School with Winthrop University. We've had numerous interns in our building throughout the year and are excited to hire some as future teachers. ● Job shadowing for 8th grade, and Career Days for 6th and 7th grade was successful. ● Seventh grade was trained on the SC Occupational Interest System (SCOIS). ● Sixth grade received an orientation about the high school career clusters through SCOIS. ● An FBI Agent talked to our students about the dangers of meeting strangers on social media platforms. ● Brooks Harper, a College and Workforce Readiness speaker, spoke to our sixth graders about discovering their strengths and how to focus on those things. He "connected the dots between today's choices and tomorrow's options." Everyone is good at something! ● 8th Grade participated in our first STEAM DAY. A real helicopter landed on our football field! Students also rotated through a variety of stations which demonstrated where STEAM is used in the workplace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Band program doubled in size and started with 113 sixth graders. Eight students made All-Region, with one receiving an all-State callback. ● Fourteen sixth graders took part in Solo and Ensemble with 13 receiving superiors (several with perfect scores) and one excellent). ● Our band was awarded Superior at the state concert performance assessment! Superior is the highest award you can receive. ● The 7th and 8th Grade Band performed at Universal Studios in Florida. ● Our Band and Chorus performed a wonderful concert in December at Springfield. ● African American History month included a Door Decorating Contest with many outstanding depictions of Black History. ● An African American and Hispanic Assembly was created by a group of our students and it was performed at an assembly for our school community. ● Springfield Out Loud (SOL) is our honors show chorus. They performed numerous times at pep-rallies and in Florida at Universal Studios. ● The seventh-grade honors chorus performed at Carowinds and earned an Excellent Rating Award. ● We performed the school play "The Brother Grimm's Spectaculathon." Our student actors and behind the sceners are SO talented.

<u>Student Achievement</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Athletics</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Twenty-two 8th graders were designated as Junior Scholars. ● Our Academic Team performed well this year. They moved up a level in competition and still came in 1st in their region. They had an excellent performance at State. ● The SMS Yearbook Crew was nationally recognized for design and journalism by Jostens. This is the 5th year in a row they've been recognized. ● Chinmayi Venkatesan won 2nd place in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for the Fort Mill Club. She then won 3rd place for York County. She will compete in the state contest this Saturday. ● Jake Olinger won 3rd in the Nation at the National History Competition. ● Miah Burgess received 3rd place at the district Art Show and Megan White received an honorable mention. ● Chi Duong won the Peace Poster Contest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On November 22nd, all of our Mustangs set out to serve our community. Students loaded buses and went to locations all over our community and spent their day working on whatever projects these organizations needed. When they returned, we reflected with them on how well they served and what it means to truly serve others. ● Springfield Middle raised over \$9,000 for the Special Olympics. ● A Springfield Middle family-initiated food drive helped stock our pantry to provide food for our own families in need. ● Our PTO did amazing things for our school, students, and staff under the direction of our PTO President, Ms. Buffy Foor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our Springfield Middle athletic teams worked hard this year. We are so proud of their dedication and sportsmanship. Our teams made it to four different championship games. Unfortunately, we didn't walk away with the big win but we did walk away knowing we tried our best and our Mustang athletes are amazing young men and women! Their futures are bright. ● Congratulations to our sports teams for learning and growing as young people! What you learned as a member of a team will be valuable to you. There are many life lessons when you give it your all and compete. ● Our Athletic Booster Club did a wonderful job for our athletes and coaches under the direction of our Booster Club President, Ms. Rachel Walters.

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 SCHOOL.

Our number one challenge continues to be the mental and emotional health of our students. Student behaviors are still an area of concern. Negative behavior is how some students cope with tough emotions they are experiencing. Many students are dealing with situations that most adults have either never had to deal with or have never faced until they were into their adult lives. Some students cope with these emotions in an external way and others cope with them in an internal way. Both can be concerning, and it is challenging for teachers and other staff to know exactly how to help in a way that shows support but also maintains classrooms that are conducive to learning for all students. Our guidance counselors, mental health professionals, and staff have worked overtime to help our students.

Another challenge we face that parallels the mental health mentioned above is social media. Social media often influences our children to behave in a negative manner and goes against the values

that you as parents and we as a school are trying to instill in our students. Social media can persuade our students to behave poorly or have superficial values. Of course our students are discovering who they are and who they want to be. In a perfect world, they would make these decisions based on healthy, positive feedback. Social media often teaches a darker way to think; it is the ultimate peer pressure. We love and accept our students just the way they are. We work daily at school to send the message that “the most powerful weapon you have on a daily basis are the words you choose to use with each other. You can choose to use your words to lift others up or tear them down.” This area is where we need help from parents. Please stay aware of what your child is doing on social media and provide limits for them.

Next year, all middle schools will be introduced to a framework called Ci3T. It focuses on students’ needs: academic, behavioral, and emotional. We will use emotional rating scales to identify students that need extra support, allowing us to identify these students earlier than we can now. Our students that show their emotions externally are easy to identify. Those that show their emotions internally are more challenging to identify, and we need to be able to help them so they can find their passions in life and appreciate what makes them special and unique. Our goal is to develop student empathy, a difficult concept for many middle schoolers. Their brains and hormones at this age are designed focus on themselves, and they need guidance to understand others and what they are going through in life. With empathy comes less bullying and less negative talk to each other.

We continue to have the most diverse group of students among the district’s middle schools and we strive to find ways to meet the needs of our students. This is an ongoing challenge and we know we can meet it each year. We aim to provide our teachers with strategies and information about how best to meet the needs of our student body and the community. We have made great strides forward in this area. We have two amazing multilingual teachers that have worked hard with teachers to enmesh these students into our classrooms and to help them feel part of our school community. We will continue to work with all groups of students to help them feel comfortable and valued at Springfield Middle and in the community.

To make our school environment homier and less institutional looking, we are sprucing up our student bathrooms. Parent JoAnne Walker has begun painting our bathrooms and will continue over the summer. We want to provide our female students with items they may need in the restrooms (to relieve some of their stress that they carry in middle school.) We want our bathrooms clean so students do not have to worry about entering restrooms that are not sanitary. Unfortunately, this year we’ve had students vandalizing our restrooms. We are thinking of starting a Mom and Dad’s program to greet our students in the morning and monitor our restrooms during the day. It would help keep our restrooms clean and our students would feel comfortable using the restrooms during the day.