



SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Year in Review
2015-2016

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.



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GOALS AND PROGRESS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Our school will emphasize our school motto of "Honor and Integrity Above All".
 - A. Our student handbook has our expectations for character traits that we expect of all students on page 2 in our student handbook.
 - B. Our honor code and consequences for dishonesty are in our student handbook on p. 11.
 - C. Responsibility cards are in our student handbook on p. 14-15. These R Cards are related to doing homework and assignments.
2. Students will improve their writing across the curriculum.
 - A. The development and use of a common rubric for writing was used by some teachers with the intention of all teachers using this in the future.
 - B. Our literacy specialist worked with teachers in all content areas on how to implement literacy strategies into their curriculum.
3. All students will increase the number of minutes that they read on a daily basis.
 - A. Mustangs Read will be used in all classrooms and posters are present. This can be found under Mustangs Read on page 14 in the student agenda/handbook.
 - B. Our homeroom time increased so that we could have more individual reading time.
 - C. Literacy will be incorporated into all core content areas.
4. The number of students who are in historically low achieving groups will improve their passing rate on standardized testing.
 - A. Provided support for students through lunch academy, peer tutoring, and extra help.
 - B. Extra help sessions are 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
5. Teachers will use formative assessment on a daily basis and this will drive their instruction. (Formative assessment including diagnostic testing is a range of formal and informal assessment procedures employed by teachers during the learning process in order to modify teaching and learning activities to improve student learning.)
 - A. Our teachers will work together in Professional Learning Communities (PLC or grade level core groups such as 8th grade math teachers) to discuss formative assessment and how to best use that data in the classroom.
 - B. We will flip more classrooms where teachers will give online instruction on a unit to be viewed at home and then the class will become practice time for this subject or material.
 - C. Our teachers will discuss adjustments made and will provide information of this in their plans and weekly reports.
 - D. Our data committee is searching for professional development activities related to formative assessment.

Members of Springfield Middle School Improvement Council

Steve Dunlap,
SIC Chairperson/Parent

Keith Griffin
Principal

Christy Matkovich
Assistant Principal

Jim Wilke
Assistant Principal

Glenda Mize
PTA President/Parent

Grant Hennessy Athletic Booster
Club/ Parent

Frank Martinez
Student Body President

Natalie Sawyer, Student Body Vice-
President

Leanne Olinger, Teacher

Brandon Sanders, Teacher

David Vawter, Community Member

Jeffrey Mize, Parent

Pressley Ridgill, Parent

Gary Robb, Parent

Ashley Schemine, Parent

MAJOR EVENTS, HONORS, GROUPS AND AWARDS

SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS HAD AND IS CONTINUING TO HAVE A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR. MAJOR EVENTS, HONORS AND AWARDS ARE LISTED BELOW:

School Honors

- 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 and will be recognized and will present at the national NFMGR conference in June in Washington, DC.
- Gold Award Winner for General Performance related to our 2014-2015 PASS scores.
- Silver Award Winner for Closing the Achievement Gap for Historically Underachieving Groups of Students related to our 2014-2015 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.
- 12 National Board Certified teachers.
- Foundation for Fort Mill Schools Grant Teacher Winner was a group of SMS teachers who will develop a "Raised Garden" with grant funds.
- Seventh grade participated in district-wide career fair on November 13th.
- Job shadowing for eighth grade students on March 4th.
- Sixth grade students will investigate potential careers through virtual job shadowing in May.

Fine Arts/Culture

- Six All State Band Members, 30 All Region Band Members, 24 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 34 Superior and 4 Excellent ratings at the SC Band Directors Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- 8th grade band trip to Orlando- Participated in the STARS performing arts program at Universal Studios Florida.
- Seventh grade band performed in Carowinds Festival of Music.
- Our band program received 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.
- Our honors choir or SOL has 51 members this year. They did have a show choir performance at Universal Studios in Orlando, performed for SMS during many other assemblies for our student body.
- African American History program on February 19. Guest speaker was Ms. Brenda Robinson, the first female African-American Naval pilot.

Student Achievement

- 53 eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars.
- A seventh grader qualified for the state geography bee.
- A seventh grader qualified in the local and zone for the Optimists' Oratorical contest.
- Three seventh graders were in the top three in the Fort Mill School District for the Optimists' Essay contest
- Seventh grade students submitted Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) projects in our school STEM fair. Students won Honorable Mention in Physics and the Spartanburg science center award from Piedmont Regional science Fair.
- A student qualified for the State Math Counts.
- Four seventh grade students participated in the National History Day competition. One of the group projects won the award for political science.
- The Tween Library Council took home 3rd place in the South Carolina Junior Book Award Banner contest.

Service

- The SMS Beta Club devoted many hours of community service and also solicited numerous donations from students and staff to give to charities. They also spent many hours tutoring in math and reading to elementary students.
- During our Horsepower Half Hour (H³) period, our SHIELD group supported a book drive and made patient goody bags for hospital patients. Our 8th grade made 40 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our 6th grade did a sock drive for the homeless. A club also read to elementary students.
- Our Student Council was involved in many successful fundraising ventures such as the Wounded Warrior fund, Children's Attention Home, food collection and clothes closet donations. \$4032.05 was donated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Over \$1900 was donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Athletics

- Our teams did not win any division or conference championships this school year, but our athletes were champions of effort, desire, attitude, and sportsmanship. We congratulate them on a wonderful year in sports and competition.
- A new digital school sign was purchased by our PTO with some help from our athletic booster club.
- A new scoreboard purchased by our athletic booster club was added to our baseball field

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.

Staffing needs are a huge concern. District growth, budget cuts and shifts in priorities have caused us to lose some valuable positions on our staff. We no longer have a math specialist or media assistant. An additional guidance counselor would be a very valuable position and would help our existing guidance counselors who have a 365 to one ratio for students to counselors. Our two regular counselors are busy with their regular duties and all of the issues that take up so much of their time.

The use of data to improve instruction is an area we would like to improve. We currently have 400 devices to be shared by over 720 students. Ideally, we would like to equip each student with their own device, 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. 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.

We have a goal to improve literacy through our School's Literacy Plan, which is now under development. In order to do this, the SC State Legislature has mandated that all teachers take reading courses. The number of courses depends on the teacher's degree and certification. Finding the funds, time and resources will be a key challenge in getting our "Read to Succeed" program going. We are being as creative as possible and using in-house resources to do as much of the instruction as possible.

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 25% parent participation. Clearly we are not accessing all opinions when we have so little participation. 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.