



# SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

*A Year in Review*

2020-2021

This report, 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, 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.



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## GOALS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

1. We will keep students engaged on their off day on the A/B school schedule during the part of the school year when students came to school every other school day.
  - A. Many A/B students were issued chromebooks to keep at home if there were not enough devices in the home
  - B. Students were invited to work at school on their day at home if they were not getting work done at home.
  - C. Students were required to do their assignments. If assignments were not done at home, students were given an opportunity to get work done in our Extra Care Unit.
2. We will ensure that virtual students are engaged and receiving a quality education.
  - A. Teachers were in regular contact with virtual students and parents about the engagement of these students learning from home.
  - B. Teachers, administration, and guidance counselors check with students and parents to determine their levels of engagement.
3. We will meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of all subgroups so that all students can be successful academically.
  - A. Our school initiative is “I Matter.” Every student created personal “I Matter” statements to be used with their photo. Each photo/statement is posted in the students’ hallways.
  - B. Our One Book One School is “Count Me In.” This book shows the damage that can be done through bullying and violence toward immigrants. It also explores the effects of racism and shows the battles that take place in most communities. Students learned many lessons through this book.
  - C. Many teachers gave students the opportunity to have daily check-ins. Students could communicate how they felt, if there were problems in their lives, and if they needed help in any way.
4. To provide a safe place for students to learn and for our staff to work and teach.
  - A. At the beginning of the school year, students were in three groups for school. Group A and Group B were on an alternating day schedule and came to school every other day. They were expected to do assignments on their days at home. Group C was our Fort Mill Virtual Academy students. They were assigned virtual teachers. They were involved in online classes.
  - B. There is a one-way traffic pattern for students and staff traveling in our halls.
  - C. The lunches were split by team so there are two lunches per grade level. Students were, and still are, socially distanced by at least six feet at their tables and while waiting in line for lunch.
  - D. All staff meetings were through a virtual format.
  - E. Shields were added to student desks so that our social distance could be three feet between students when A/B students came back to school five days a week.
  - F. Students are separated by six feet when arriving early to school and at dismissal for car riders.
  - G. Hand sanitizer dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and water bottle stations were added for better sanitation and less spread of COVID-19.

## Members of Springfield Middle School Improvement Council

Jamie Wosje  
SIC Chairperson/Parent

Keith Griffin  
Principal

Christy Matkovich  
Assistant Principal

Jim Wilke  
Assistant Principal

Amy Bartholomew  
Teacher

Stephanie Couch  
Parent

Astian Glenn  
Parent

Melissa Hampton  
PTO President/Parent

Logan Hudak  
Teacher

Kristi Josephson  
Parent

Sara Layton  
Parent

Tara Miller  
SIC Secretary/Parent

Kathleen Mills  
Parent

Laura Podlasek  
Booster Club President

Takesha Pollock  
Parent

# MAJOR EVENTS, HONORS, GROUPS AND AWARDS 2020-2021

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

## School Honors

- We are in the second year of our Schools to Watch designation; we previously received our re-designation from the National Forum on Middle Grades Reform (NFMGR.)
- The Fort Mill School District and Springfield Middle School are nationally accredited by AdvancEd.
- Continued to be a Partner School with Winthrop University's NetSCOPE program. We help train future teachers through Winthrop internships.
- Job shadowing for 8<sup>th</sup> grade was December 15 – 18 and included career videos.
- Seventh grade district-wide career fair was cancelled but there is on-going discussion about possible exposure to careers.
- Sixth grade students had a live virtual STEAM Career Speakers Day.
- Seventh grade was trained on the SC Occupational Interest System (SCOIS) March 22 – 26.
- Sixth grade was given an orientation on the high school career clusters through SCOIS.
- A student won 1st place in the Fort Mill Community Optimist Oratorical contest. The same student placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Clover Optimist essay contest. He also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the York County Oratorical contest and will move to state competition. WOW!

## Fine Arts/Culture

- One band student was all-region. One student performed a Solo and Ensemble and received a superior rating. Band activities were limited due to the pandemic.
- African American History month included a Door Decorating Contest with many outstanding depictions of Black History.
- A PowerPoint was developed by our African American History Committee. The PowerPoint was shown in February to our students. It highlighted little known facts, prominent African Americans, and times of importance in history.
- Many of our events for this past school year were cancelled due to the pandemic.

## Student Achievement

- Thirteen 8th graders were designated as Junior Scholars.
- Our Academic Team had seven members and ended the season with five wins and one loss.

Many of our opportunities for competition and achievement were postponed for a year during this pandemic.

Great work by all of our students who were involved in competitions and opportunities for achievement!

## Service

- Eighth Grade Beta Club service projects included a food drive in the fall.
- Sewing Club (Fall 2020) donated their pillows and pillow cases to the Fort Mill Care Center.
- We ran a day of "Kidz in Lids" to raise money for the Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas. This organization provides comprehensive support and loving compassion to families whose children are battling cancer to improve their overall quality of life. For \$1, our students wore a hat or a hoodie in school. We raised \$401.56!

## Athletics

- Our teams won one division and 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.
- Our eighth grade boys basketball team won the regular season and conference tournament championships.
- Our boys soccer team won the regular season and conference tournament championships.

Congratulation to all of our sports teams for always displaying good sportsmanship!

# OUR CHALLENGES

## 2020-2021

**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.**

The pandemic is our biggest challenge as we finish the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The changes of this past school year were remarkable. Our staff worked hard to help students during very difficult times. We hope that the next school year will allow more normalcy as we plan for 2021-2022. The unknown is a challenge.

We continue to have the most diverse group of students among the district's middle schools. We strive to find ways to meet the needs of our students. This is a challenge that we plan to meet. We want to provide our teachers with strategies and information about how best to meet the needs of our student body and the community. We will develop committees that will work to develop strategies to battle racism. We will work with all groups of students to help them feel comfortable and valued at Springfield Middle and in the community.

The mental health of our students is a concern. We will work to help and support all students as it relates to their mental health along with their academic gaps. Our school has mental health support personnel in place and we have to utilize their skills and talents. A designed program, which will identify those who need help, is important and necessary. We continue to develop a system of interventions for all students' mental and academic health.

We are working to determine the Gap Skills of our students, especially in math and language arts through STAR testing. Gap skills are those skills that students are missing between where they are academically and where they should be. The pandemic has caused students to miss regular school instruction. We are developing strategies to help those students.

Re-integrating the virtual students into the regular school day is a challenge as we move into the 2021-2022 school year. The fear of the virus and learning in person may require a slow transition back to in-person learning. Many of our virtual students have not been in a school building since March, 2020. We will develop a plan to help these students with this transition. We want all of our students to feel comfortable with our school and environment.

Staffing needs are a huge concern. Teaming at the middle school level is important. The certification of teachers dictates how teams are configured. When we don't 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. The pool for available teachers is getting smaller each year.

Growth will always 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 continues to attract people to our area. The Fort Mill School District has a great reputation. Because of that, we will continue to attract young families to our area. Housing developments continue to be developed in our attendance zone, contributing to our growth.