



SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Year in Review
2014-2015

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 AND PROGRESS FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Student Achievement

1. Students with learning disabilities will increase their Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores by 5%.
 - A. The use of the inclusion model will be used.
 - B. Community members and parents will be used as mentors and tutors.
 - C. Literacy groups with common reading levels will be closely monitored.
 - D. Computer programs such as Think Through Math will be used to reinforce and remediate.
2. All teachers will implement a common reading strategy when reading informational text.
 - A. Mustangs Read will be used in all classrooms and posters are present. This can be found under Mustang Reads on page 14 in the student agenda/handbook.
 - B. Mondays will be used as literacy days during our Horsepower Half Hour or H³.
 - C. Literacy will be incorporated into all core content areas.
3. The number of students in historically low achieving groups will improve their passing rate in standardized testing by 5%.
 - A. Provide 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 are allowed to redo work when the work is below standard.
4. 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 eighth grade math teachers) to discuss formative assessment and how to best use the 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.
5. We will use a common language while writing in all curriculum areas.
 - A. Mustang writing rules can be found on page 14 in the student agenda/handbook.

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Members of Springfield Middle School Improvement Council

Mr. Michael Wheeler
Chairperson/Parent

Mr. Keith Griffin
Principal

Ms. Christy Matkovich
Assistant Principal

Mr. Mike Pratt
Assistant Principal

Ms. Glenda Mize
PTO President/Parent

Ms. Laura Kell
Athletic Booster Club President/Parent

Mr. Josh Causey
Student Body President

Mr. Zach Christensen
Student Body Vice President

Ms. Amy Bartholomew
Teacher

Ms. Jennifer Ryan
Teacher

Mr. David Vawter
Community Member

Mr. Greg Yeager
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

- Gold Award Winner for General Performance related to our 2013-2014 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.
- 14 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 7th.
- Job shadowing for eighth grade students on May 15.
- Sixth grade students will investigate potential careers through virtual job shadowing in May.
- We continue to operate as a Red Carpet School for our customer service and parent friendly atmosphere. This designation is sponsored by the SC State Department of Education.

Fine Arts/Culture

- Two All State Band Members, 24 All Region Band Members, 21 York County Band Honor Members.
- Our band had an Overall Superior Rating at the SC Band Directors Association Concert Band Festival.
- Our band received 34 Superior and 4 Excellent ratings at the SC Band Directors Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- 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.
- Our honors choir or SOL has 43 members this year. They will have a show choir performance at Universal Studios in Orlando, performed for SMS during the Holiday Assembly, and performed during the African American History Month Assembly.
- African American History program on February 27. Guest speakers were John L. Sanders III - "I Have A Dream" & Trooper Henri A. LeGendre, a Buffalo Soldier. Members of the fraternity, Nu Chi Phi Beta Sigma performed a step routine.

Student Achievement

- 49 eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars.
- An eighth grade student won the district spelling bee and participated in the Charlotte Observer Regional spelling bee while finishing third.
- A sixth grade student qualified for the state geography bee.
- Seventh grade students submitted Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) projects in our school STEM fair. Students won first place in Biology, second and third places in Behavioral Sciences, honorable mention in Biology, the Navy Award, and the runner-up for the overall winner at the Piedmont Regional science fair.
- Four seventh grade students participated in the National History Day competition. One of the group projects won the award for political science.

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.
- During our Horsepower Half Hour (H³) period, one student group called SHEILD read to kindergarten and first grade classes at Springfield Elementary, provided a free breakfast cart for teachers, put together hygiene bags for Fort Mill Care Center to give to clients, 52 pounds worth of donations, and put together "manna" bags to help out a church who gives out bags to people on the street. Manna bags are filled with non-perishable food, water, etc.
- Our students were involved in many successful fundraising ventures such as the Pasta for Pennies, food collection and clothes closet donations. The Pasta for Pennies donation was third place in the state with \$7095.00 for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
- Eighth grade academic team was second at Regionals and 1st in the FM School District.

Athletics

- The following teams won Eastern Division Championships in the York County Middle School Conference:
 - Eighth grade volleyball
 - Eighth grade boys basketball
- The following teams won conference championships:
 - Eighth grade girls basketball, tournament champions also.
 - Eighth boys soccer, tournament champions also.
 - Eighth girls soccer
- Girls track, York County Champions.
- Archery team finished sixth in the State Archery Tournament.

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.

A major challenge for our school 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. The passage of the recent bond referendum will help tremendously with the opening of middle school #5 for the 2017 -2018 school year. Constant changes in the number of grade level teachers from year to year forces changes in our teaming structure. This causes us to find creative ways to make teacher certification work within the teaming structure.

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 an inviting school for students and parents of all backgrounds.

The use of data to improve instruction is an area we would like to improve. The new ACT Aspire test in language arts and math will give us a year of baseline data and information that will help us help students. There is PASS testing in science and social studies this school year. We are not sure of the standardized testing for next school year and this in itself is a challenge when we don't know how we will be assessed. We will continue to look for ways to assess each student's needs so that he/she improves academically.

The new South Carolina Curriculum Standards in language arts and math presents somewhat of a challenge. These standards will require coordination between all four academic areas. There will be an emphasis on higher level thinking across the curriculum. There will also be an emphasis on non-fiction and reading informational text in core areas. We will continue to work in our school district to implement these new standards.

Technology is another challenging area. There was a major purchase of devices for all schools in the Fort Mill School District with the possible purchase of more devices in the future. We will need major staff development for all teachers and there will be a need for student cooperation in their learning. All schools in our district now have wireless connections to the internet and the proper filters are in place to prevent access to inappropriate websites. As technology changes, training and adaptability will become more important so that we can keep up with advances. Cyber security will be a constant challenge. The inappropriate use of technology by students will always be a concern.