

Springfield Middle School



A Year In Review 2012-2013



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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. Teesha Cumbee,
PTA President/Parent

Ms. Tammy Loayza
Athletic Booster Club President/Parent

Mr. Michael Smith
Student Body President

Mr. Trevor Petrucci, Student Body
Vice-President

Ms. Laura Miller Teacher

Ms. Kristy Hernandez, Teacher

Mr. Robert Cicero, Parent

Ms. Kelly Cutrone, Parent

Ms. Gina Kidd, Parent

Ms. Marisa King, Parent

Ms. Lisa Pool, Parent

Dr. David Vawter, Community Member

Ms. Jacci Wagner, Parent

Goals and Progress for the 2012-2013 School Year

Student Achievement

1. We will use the Accelerated Reader program to promote literacy and to increase reading comprehension for all students.
 - A. PASS scores in reading improved as students move from one grade level to the next.
 - B. 98% of our 717 students have read and tested on 10,415 books with 47% scoring 85 or better.
 - C. SMS will have a period of sustained silent reading at least once every two weeks for 30 minutes to promote reading.
2. We will improve the writing of our students across the curriculum.
 - A. A common rubric is established. Teachers will closely monitor each student's progress in writing.
 - B. PASS writing scores improved as students moved from 6th to 7th grade. The PASS writing test will be administered to all students in grades 6 through 8 in the future.
3. We will actively engage students in the learning process.
 - A. Provide support for students through lunch academy, peer tutoring and extra help.
 - B. Provide resources and materials for the use and integration of technology.
 - C. Students will meet with administrators and teachers to discuss ability and effort if they do not meet our standards 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.
4. We will continue to assess using nine-week benchmark tests that will include PASS-like questions.
 - A. These tests will raise expectations and define proficiency for all students.
 - B. USA Test Prep (computer software) will be used to reinforce nine-weeks tests and PASS testing.
5. We will use test data to develop strategies for student and school improvement.
 - A. We compare PASS test data for grade levels and to schools like SMS.
 - B. Conferences are held with individual students to discuss strengths and weaknesses and to set goals for the next school year.
 - C. MAP testing now provides us with diagnostic information to help students.

School Climate

1. We will promote a bully free environment.
 - A. Lesson plans are planned for staff to use during advisory time.
 - B. Resources and training will be provided for teachers demonstrating the behaviors to look for and how to help the victim and the bully.
 - C. Students role play and view situations to raise awareness of bullying.
 - D. Workshops for parents were provided during the year on cyberbullying, the teen age brain, and internet safety.

Goals and Progress for the 2012-2013 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 student leadership program called WEB during the 2013-2014 school year.
 - A. Staff has been trained and student leadership candidates have been meeting.
4. We will communicate effectively with students, teachers, parents, and the community.
 - A. Written communication includes agendas, Friday folders, newsletters, and message board.
 - B. We use all available technology to communicate such as Parent Portal, websites, School Messenger, and email.
 - C. We had a cultural communication night to help with communication for our Hispanic parents.

Major Events, Honors, Groups, and Awards

Springfield Middle School had and is having a very successful year. Major events, honors, and awards are listed below:

- **Gold Award Winner for General Performance related to our 2011-2012 PASS scores.**
- **Continued to be a Partner School with Winthrop University through a grant called NetSCOPE. Allows us to help train future teachers through Winthrop internship.**
- **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.**
- **The SMS Beta Club devoted many hours of community service. They also solicited numerous donations from students and staff to give to charities.**
- **Eighth grade student qualified for the state geography bee**
- **45 eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars**
- **Two All State Band Members, 14 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 8 Excellent ratings at the SC Band Directors Solo and Ensemble Festival.**
- **Band trip to Orlando– Participated in Disney Performing Arts Workshop**
- **Our honors choir or SOL has 62 members this year. They performed at the SMS Choral Department’s Sweet Serenades, attended a show choir workshop at Walt Disney World in Orlando, performed for SMS during the Holiday Assembly, and performed during the Black History Month Assembly.**
- **17 National Board Certified teachers**
- **Gail Vawter, a teacher, was selected as a Seimens STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Institute fellow to represent South Carolina in Washington, DC. She also was selected to present at the Association for Middle Level Education National Conference in November.**
- **Foundation for Fort Mill Schools Grant Teacher Winner– Rebecca Roemer— “The Journey North”**
- **Job shadowing for 8th grade students on March 22nd.**
- **7th grade participated in district-wide career fair at Springfield 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 (JDRE), food collection, Children’s Attention Home, and clothes closet donations. (\$8181.82 in monetary donations to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society—4th in the state)**
- **Our Mock Trial team won their regional competition and advanced to compete in the state competition.**
- **Our Dance Team won the FMSD Expo for dance and our Cheerleaders won 2nd place for cheer. The Dance Team also performed in the Flight 118 Fashion Show and will perform at this year’s Strawberry Festival.**
- **7th Grade Football – won division championship 7-1 overall record**
- **7th Girls Basketball – 11-0 Conference Champions**
- **8th Girls Basketball – 14-0 Conference Champions**
- **7th Boys Basketball – Division Champions**
- **8th Volleyball – conference runnerup**
- **Archery team won St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital Archery Tournament (won equipment), finished 2nd in 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. Our empty spaces will fill in the next three to five years. 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 a welcoming and 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 PASS test has been touted as a source of diagnostic information. 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.
- ◆ The implementation and use of the Common Core Standards is a major shift and change for our language arts and math teachers. 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 are preparing at this time to be fully converted to the Common Core Standards by the 2014 –2015 school year.
- ◆ Technology is another challenging area at all school in the near future. Our school district is considering a bring your own device policy for students and the use of these devices within the classroom. If the April 30th bond referendum passes, there will be a major purchase of devices for all schools in the Fort Mill School District. 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 with the internet and the proper filters are in place to prevent access to inappropriate websites.