



SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Year in Review
2019-2020

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, 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 FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Our goal is to provide instructional practices that will actively engage students, increase rigor, and provide opportunities for life applications.
 - A. The district technology department provided monthly training to our teachers related to best practices for the use of chromebooks as an instructional tool.
 - B. Our school technology committee met to discuss procedures and rules for student technology use in the classroom and our school. The committee also developed practices related to using the chromebooks as instructional tools in the classroom.
 - C. Our school district gave us Dyknow (monitoring software) to monitor the use of chromebooks by students.
2. Teachers and administrators will participate in district-wide STEAM professional development.
 - A. STEAM Leaders presented information at staff meetings. STEAM strategies were taught that can be used by teachers in all classrooms.
 - B. Administrators were trained by a STEAM leader from Discovery Education on four days during the school year.
 - C. Teachers and administrators were engaged in technology training and strategies related to our one-to-one initiative with Discovery Education.
3. We will meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of all subgroups so that all students can be successful academically.
 - A. We utilized a report from PowerSchool or Enrich daily to identify those students who are falling below the threshold in attendance, grades, and discipline referrals.
 - B. We began an academic and mentoring program for many of our Hispanic students in their neighborhoods.
 - C. We discussed strategies with our staff to keep all students out of our In-School Suspension room and in the classroom.
4. At the end of our third quarter, the pandemic interrupted our school year. At that time, we developed a goal to provide all students with eLearning through packets or through electronic means.
 - A. We worked together to provide a consistent electronic platform through Google Classroom for student reception of work, students working on the work, and submission of the work.
 - B. Teachers were able to provide feedback and focused on learning rather than grades. There was some differentiation of work for varying levels.
 - C. We provided much time and opportunity to turn in work for students.
 - D. Teachers and staff attempted to stay as connected as possible with students during this time. Teachers made phone calls and sent emails to students and parents to check in. Teachers also utilized Zoom or other face-to-face technology to help students with answering questions about their work, describing the lessons in more detail, or just connecting with groups of students to check in and say hello.
 - E. We attempted to provide as many resources as possible for students and parents, such as some electronic devices for students, food packs for families, guidance services, and an open line of communication with all involved.

Members of Springfield Middle School Improvement Council

Jamie Wosje
SIC Chairperson/Parent

Keith Griffin
Principal

Christy Matkovich
Assistant Principal

Jim Wilke
Assistant Principal

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PTO President/Parent

Laura Podlasek
Athletic Booster Club/ Parent

Jane Kirkwood
Student Body President

Isabella Weileman
Student Body Vice-President

Logan Hudak
Teacher

Matthew Savage
Teacher

Kathleen Mills
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Tara Miller
Parent

Sara Layton
Parent

Takesha Pollock
Parent

Astian Glenn
Parent

Stephanie Couch
Parent

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:

School Honors

- We are in the second year of Schools to Watch; 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.
- We had six monthly Meet Me Mondays - This is a Career Speaker Series for eighth graders. Job shadowing for 8th grade was on November 4th.
- Seventh grade district-wide career fair was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Sixth grade students participated in STEAM Career Speaker Day on January 31st with career speakers in the classrooms.
- Seventh grade was trained on the South Carolina Occupational Interest System (SCOIS)
- Sixth grade was given an orientation on the high school career clusters.
- One student team participated in the inaugural Innovation in Nuclear Science (I²NS) competition. The team received an award, but the award program was postponed due to the pandemic.

Fine Arts/Culture

- One All-State Band Member, 14 All Region Band Members), 10 York County Band Honor Members.
- 8th grade band trip to Orlando Florida, the Concert Performance Assessment, and the Carowinds Festival of Music were all cancelled this year due to the pandemic.
- Our honors choir (SOL) had 53 members this year. They performed at many assemblies for our student body, such as the Black History Program. Their trip to Orlando was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- African American History program was held in February and the guest speaker was Ms. Gina Jenkins.
- Our culture club sponsored an assembly for many different cultures for our student body.

Student Achievement

- 20 eighth graders designated as Junior Scholars.
- 12 students qualified for the Duke TIP program, 4 received state recognition, and 3 of those received national recognition.
- Our school is leading the way for Do The Right Thing nominations for the Town of Fort Mill.
- Fifteen students took part in Springfield Middle School's competitive robotics program. The students competed against other middle schools in our district. As of this report, the Springfield Middle School team is undefeated and district champions.

Great work by all of our students!

Service

- The SMS Beta Clubs devoted many hours of community service and also solicited numerous donations from students and staff to give to charities including the Fort Mill Care Center and Nursing Homes.
- 8th Grade Beta Club service projects included a food drive in the fall.
- Both Beta Clubs raised over \$1100 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of a former staff member's child.
- Our school participated in a Day of Service. We were given a chance to be completely and utterly selfless during an entire day of school.

678 Students
2712 Hours of Service
26 locations including nursing homes, food pantries, charitable organizations, and schools

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 seventh grade boys basketball team won the regular season and conference tournament championships.
- Unfortunately, our spring sports seasons ended very early in the season due to the pandemic.

Congratulation to all of our sports teams!

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.

The pandemic and eLearning is our biggest challenge as we finish the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The unknowns related to the new school year are weighing heavily as we think about how to best open the 2020 – 2021 school year. At the time of this writing, we are waiting on information from the state so that our district and school can develop a plan that will provide the best education possible under the current and future circumstances.

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 and the school system will continue to attract people to our area. We could get students from other school attendance areas when those schools have a frozen enrollment in the future. This will cause us to grow rapidly.

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 do not 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.

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.

Providing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math) activities in the classroom is a challenge that we are striving to accomplish through our partnership with Discovery Education. There is a FMSD four year plan and we are presently in the third year. Coaching and mentoring are provided by Discovery Education. We are in the process of providing each student with an innovative, personalized, and rigorous education that empowers all of our students to achieve their greatest success. This school year, all students had access to their own personal chrome books during the school day. In this era of technology, it is imperative for all our students to have access to the technology required.

The mental health of our students is a concern. We should work to help and support all students as it relates to their mental health. We have 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.

The use of data and technology to improve instruction is an area we would like to improve. 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. All teams of teachers are using a program called All In Learning. This program allows teachers to compare common assessments and it helps them grade faster. This results in more data discussion in our Professional Learning Communities.