

Dutchman Creek Middle School

Dutchman Creek Middle School continues to be one of the fastest growing middle schools in York County. Our continual growth is a reflection of the outstanding support of our community and the diversity of our staff. We've celebrated school wide gains for our improvements with the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments and have earned the distinction as a Palmetto Gold school for three consecutive years. Student achievement is maintained by constantly reflecting on the data, planning, and student motivation through clubs, programs, sports and the arts. Additionally, we have an increasing number of students exceeding the requirements for the Honor Roll and Principal Scholars at Dutchman Creek each nine weeks.

At Dutchman Creek Middle School, we thrive on our customer service model. Our goal is to ensure that we provide an excellent education for our stakeholders. Our visibility, availability, and daily character education reminders helps to reduce discipline infractions that may occur otherwise. Dutchman Creek has adopted the Professional Learning Communities philosophy which allows teachers to make data-based decisions in regards to instruction. The use of data and attention to students' abilities and needs allow Dutchman Creek teachers to provide the most supportive learning environment possible.

Student achievement is a top priority at Dutchman Creek. The South Carolina Junior Scholars Program was developed by the South Carolina Department of Education to identify 8th grade students who have extraordinary academic talent for involvement in advanced programs. This coveted title is earned by scoring a 50 or higher on at least one portion of the PSAT in verbal, math or writing in 8th grade or based on their ACT/SAT scores which qualified them for state recognition through the Duke Talent Identification Program in 7th grade. 15 of our 8th grade students earned the honor of being named South Carolina Junior Scholars for the 2013-2014 school. We also had 84 7th grade students who qualified to participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Students qualified based on their PASS scores from 5th and/or 6th grade. As a part of this opportunity, students were able to take the SAT or ACT at a qualifying high school. This year, we had 41 students take advantage of this opportunity in the 7th grade and 8 of these students qualified for state recognition.

We also take great pride in the arts! Our band, chorus, and orchestra all received the highest rating of Superior at their respective state assessments. We also had more than 100 students selected for District, County, Region, and All-State ensembles and many students received Superior ratings at solo and ensemble festivals. Members of the DCMS chorus received Superior ratings from all judges at the Carowinds Music Festival and the Bel Canto Choir earned all Superior ratings at the South Carolina Music Education Association Choral Festival, including a score of 95 in sight reading! In addition to two major performances this year (The Best Christmas Pageant Ever and The Wonderful Wizard of Oz), the Theatre Arts department at Dutchman Creek Middle School attended the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Competition for the first time since the school's opening. The group received a 1st place award in the newcomer category. The students also received a superior rating in the areas of Improvisation.

Our students received six awards at the Center for the Arts Teacher's Choice Art Exhibit where they competed against all other middle schools in Rock Hill. This included two first place awards in the categories of painting and 3D, one second place for Mixed Media, one 3rd place for drawing, and two honorable mentions in painting and 3D. Students also exhibited work at the PTA state art exhibit, where one of our students was selected as one of the top five in the state for the age division in visual arts. In addition, our visual arts program held two art shows this year featuring students in all grade levels.

DCMS students and faculty continue to make a difference in our community. Students raised over \$10,000 for Pennies for Pasta and for specific families in our school community this year. They also collected five 55-gallon drums of supplies for military families in the 178th Engineer Battalion unit at the Rock Hill Armory. We are very appreciative of all the community support to help continue programs like Faculty Fathers, but also in our new endeavors such as our DCMS 5K and Gators Rip the Runway fashion show. Dutchman Creek Middle has two phenomenal mentoring programs that provide support for girls in 6th through 8th grade. They have completed various activities throughout this school year to encourage positive peer relationships and positive self-esteem. First Ladies sponsored a "Girls Night Out" and "Gator Girls Rock Week" to allow all girls an opportunity to display positive self-image and social interactions. 180 mentor students were provided with several activities this school year such as the Gators Rip the Runway Fashion Show, Lunch and Learns and 810 meetings with mentors. The Lunch and Learns were to discuss various topics and issues that middle school girls face during adolescence. Additionally, they were taken on a college tour to the University of South Carolina (Columbia) and Columbia College to help promote academic success.

We also take pride in our athletes! The DCMS athletic department won conference championships in 7th grade football, 7th grade volleyball, wrestling, 8th grade girls basketball, and girls track. Six student athletes completed their career playing two sports for two years while maintaining a cumulative 3.75 or higher GPA. Approximately 1/3 of eligible students at DCMS participate on one or more of our athletic teams. Of the 220 students we have participating 94% maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA. We excelled in every area this year!

We've made significant academic gains, our athletes earned amazing attributes, the Related Arts Department continues to grow and offer more choices for our students. We've also added new clubs and organizations and completed dozens of service learning and charitable contributions. As we prepare for our seventh year, we will continue to focus on increasing the levels of achievement for our students and families, continue to provide a nurturing environment, and maintain a "Customer Service" philosophy.