

The purpose of the School Improvement Council (SIC) Report to Parents is to highlight Drayton Mills Elementary School's (DMES) progress toward achieving the goals and objectives outlined in our Five-Year School Improvement Plan and our SIC's annual goals.

We entered this school year with an "Average" rating on the State Report Card. On SC Ready, in both ELA and Math, we surpassed the goals set in our Strategic Plan. We are dedicated to maintaining these gains and earning the six points needed to achieve a rating of "Good."

This year's SIC goal focuses on continued improvements in parent communication and increasing attendance in our parent programs. Last year, and again this year, we have taken steps in these efforts by surveying all DMES parents to gain a better understanding of their needs. The results of this survey revealed that the majority of our parents prefer communicating via Class Dojo and email. Very few respondents indicated that the school's website or Facebook page were their preferred methods of communication. Consequently, the DMES teachers have continued to use Class Dojo as a communication tool and have intensified our efforts to utilize the Bright Arrow system, which sends parents both emails and texts. This has been well received by our parents and has, for instance, increased the number of people reading our monthly school newsletter. We have also aimed to increase the number of parent programs offered at the school, introducing various topics and methods to support students academically and socially-emotionally. Our PTO and Parent Facilitator have provided numerous opportunities for parents to participate in parenting classes, academic/homework assistance strategies, technology, and summer planning.

This year, DMES 2nd grade teachers and SPED teachers began the rigorous journey of LETRS training. LETRS is considered the gold standard of reading instruction, and these teachers will complete the one hundred plus hours over a two-year period. Additionally, through grade level meetings and day-long staff development, DMES faculty and staff continued to train on our district's four priorities, including our instructional framework, iReady, Fountas and Pinnell reading curriculum, and Responsive Classroom.

To further enhance instruction, two tutoring programs were launched, supported by Title 1 funding. These programs allowed three tutors to work with small groups of students, offering targeted support in reading and math. In the second semester, DMES faculty led an after-school tutoring initiative. Additionally, we continued our partnership with Kid's Club to provide further academic support through "Power Hour" beyond the school day. Students were also able to engage in high-interest academic adventures like 5<sup>th</sup> grade educational trip to Charleston and STEM (Hour of Code) activities. We continue to have a growing number of children qualifying for our district's gifted and talented program, and a significant number of our students served on the DMES Student Council and/or were inducted into Jr. Beta Club. In fact, DMES was again named as a National Beta Club School of Merit for our "dedication to academic excellence and commitment to celebrating (our) students' achievements."

Among our most successful efforts this year involved learning opportunities for DMES parents/guardians. Led by our school's parent involvement facilitator, DMES hosted three Triple P Parenting seminars, all of which were well attended. Moreover, two other efforts – Doughnuts with Data and Muffins n' Measures involved parents coming to school for breakfast and an opportunity to receive their child's iReady data while school faculty were present to explain what they meant and how they could help their child improve. Other opportunities for parent involvement included Lunch N' Library, PTO Family Skate Nights, our Veteran's Day assembly, PTO Hero's Dance, and Read and Dine/STEM Night. It was good to once again have families in abundance in our building!

Finally, a special point of pride at DMES is that every one of our children again had the opportunity to perform at least once in front of an audience. Among these efforts were our band and orchestra programs, Ukulele Club, recorder band, and chorus with four students making Honors Choir for the State. We were especially proud of our Hispanic Heritage showcase and Black History Program, during which our students honored Inventors: Past and Present. Our students inclined towards visual arts had work entered into art shows at the Chapman Cultural Center, and in an art show at Drayton Mills Lofts.

In summary, DMES had a successful year marked by strong student achievement, vibrant engagement in the arts, and active involvement from our families.