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

This year's SIC goals focused on improving SC Ready Science by expanding STEM initiatives, strengthening parent involvement, and expanding volunteer opportunities. STEM efforts included Friday Science classes with our STEM Coach, in-school STEM presentations from the Science Center, support from our Reading and Math Interventionist, and Kid's Club STEM lessons. Parent involvement opportunities continued to grow through Dads on Duty, PPP Parent Programs, the Fall Festival, parent meetings for Reading and Math, and the Read and Dine initiative.

A major focus this year was strengthening communication with families and increasing participation in parent programs. To better understand parents' needs, DMES surveyed all families for the second consecutive year. Results showed a strong preference for communication via Class Dojo and email, with a slight interest in the school website or Facebook page. In response, DMES implemented a weekly DMES Sunday message, emailed schoolwide, and expanded the use of Bright Arrow, which sends both emails and text messages. These changes were well-received and increased the readership of our monthly school newsletter and our social media presence.

Parent programming also expanded, offering sessions to support students' academic and social-emotional development. Our PTO and Parent Facilitator provided opportunities for families to engage in parenting classes, academic support strategies, technology guidance, and summer learning preparation. DMES 2nd-grade and SPED teachers continued the second year of LETRS training**,** a two-year program requiring more than one hundred hours and widely regarded as the gold standard in reading instruction. Faculty also participated in ongoing professional development aligned with district instructional priorities, including Mastery Connect, iReady weekly practice, Instructional Technology PD sessions, and Responsive Classroom practices.

Instruction received additional support through three tutoring initiatives. During the school day, three Title I–funded tutors provided small-group instruction in reading, math, and science. In the second semester, DMES faculty offered after-school tutoring, also funded through Title I. Certified teachers further supported after-school learning by participating in Power Hour tutoring. Students benefited from high-interest learning experiences such as the 5th-grade trip to Charleston, and STEM-focused Hour of Code activities. The number of students qualifying for the district's gifted and talented program continued to grow, and many students served on Student Council or were inducted into Jr. Beta Club. DMES was again named a National Beta Club School of Merit, recognizing our commitment to academic excellence and celebration of student achievement.

Parent engagement was a major highlight this year. Led by our Parent Involvement Facilitator, DMES hosted three well-attended Triple P Parenting seminars. Events such as Doughnuts with Data and Muffins n' Measures brought families into the school to review their child's iReady data with staff support. Additional opportunities included Lunch N' Library, PTO Family Nights,

the Veterans Day assembly, the PTO Hero's Dance, and Read and Dine/STEM Night. It was wonderful to see our building filled with families once again.

A point of special pride is that every DMES student had the opportunity to perform for an audience this year. Performances included band, orchestra, Ukulele Club, recorder band, and chorus. Two students were selected for the State Honors Choir. Our Hispanic Heritage presentation and Black History Program were also showcased throughout the year. Students interested in the visual arts had their work displayed at the Chapman Cultural Center and Drayton Mills Lofts.

In summary, DMES had a year marked by strong academic growth, vibrant engagement in the arts, and meaningful involvement by parents and guardians. Our school community continues to thrive.