

SIC Report to Parents, 2018 - 2019
Drayton Mills Elementary School

The purpose of the SIC Report to Parents is to highlight Drayton Mills Elementary School's (DMES) progress in achieving the goals and objectives of our Five-Year School Improvement Plan and our SIC's annual goals. Given that this is DMES's opening year, however, we do not yet have a Five-Year School Improvement Plan. This document will be developed in the 2019-2020 school year. We are able to report highlights of our inaugural year and progress towards the annual goal established by our SIC.

DMES is comprised of the populations of two elementary schools with long and distinguished histories. Chapman Elementary School, established in 1970, was among the first open classroom schools in our area, and its innovative design was ahead of its time. Houston Elementary School opened in 1955 and is known for, among other things, being a problem based school in partnership with Wake Forest University. DMES retains elements of both: unique and groundbreaking design with a project based learning (PBL) curriculum.

Designed by McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture and built by Harper Construction, DMES was recently featured in *School Planning and Management*. The 128,000-sq. ft. building has a capacity for about 800 students and 43 regular education classrooms. Additionally, DMES hosts three self-contained special education classes. We are our area's first Green Globe School, recognized for exhibiting several environmentally friendly practices, a commitment the school continues with its active composting and recycling programs.

DMES's PBL effort is in partnership with the Buck Institute for Education (BIE), a California based organization recognized as one of the world leaders in PBL. All our faculty is certified by BIE in a course called PBL 101. Our PBL efforts have helped us to make learning more relevant to our students and helps them frame their learning in terms of issues that matter most to them. PBL includes sustained inquiry, student voice and choice, and authentic learning experiences. Public products have included weather reports, a wax museum, and televised political speeches. Students have been able to utilize our production lab's green screen to create professional looking commercials and our makerspace to interact with robotics and coding.

Situated in a district that places a high value on arts and innovation, our 5th grade students can participate in band and orchestra. DMES students have added their works to several art shows and contests. Students have enjoyed artists in residence such as musicians, African drummers and storytellers, and ballet dancers. All students, K5 – 3rd enjoy twelve-week-long rotations of French, Spanish, and Mandarin, and 4th and 5th graders can specialize in French or Spanish.

The 2018-2019 goal established by our SIC was to identify and measure core academic competencies at each grade level. We have called this effort "Earn Your Spots," (EYS) and, to date, each grade level has identified the measures and created assessments for each. We will begin next school year by establishing baseline data on EYS and measuring and discussing them monthly.

Currently, the school is working with the Covey Institute to shape – along with students, parents, community, and faculty – our mission and vision. We look forward to continuing

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to define who we are and continuing our young effort to offer an exceptional education to our community.

DMES SIC Members Include...

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