

SIC Report to Parents, 2019 - 2020
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 our second year as a school, however, DMES is currently creating its first ever Five-Year School Improvement Plan. Thus, this letter will detail other important work happening in our school this year.

In the final weeks of the 2018-19 school year, DMES worked with the Covey Institute to shape the vision and mission of our new school. With the input of our SIC, over two hundred parents, the entire DMES faculty and staff and our Student Council, we created these guidelines for our work together, both in the 2019-2020 school year and beyond:

DMES Vision - DMES is a community of empowered leaders and goal achievers striving for their personal best in academic achievement and life success.

DMES Mission - DMES pledges to live our vision statement by:

- fostering a safe and caring environment.
- building high-trust relationships.
- committing to addressing individual needs and cultivating individual interests.
- encouraging and celebrating all stakeholders.

DMES Core Values

Students come first.
Accountability starts with me.
Be the change I want to see.
Do what's right.
Appreciate and celebrate all.

In the spirit of our newly articulated vision, mission and values, the 2019-2020 goal established by our SIC was to focus on literacy and connect community tutors with struggling students. We held a community meeting to tell potential volunteers about our program. Through this, we were able to place dozens of struggling readers with volunteer tutors. To bolster these efforts, DMES established what we call our "BIG Goal," to have one hundred percent of our children reading on or above grade level. This goal has been widely advertised and discussed via formats such as morning announcements, emails home, social media, and Family First breakfasts. As a community, we've spent time focusing on the positive impacts of being literate, and, via iStation software, set monthly iStation Reading goals. After each month's assessment, we interact with the data to establish new goals and guide instruction. Each month's results are widely communicated via email and through our monthly parent newsletter. Additionally, we've coordinated "buddy readers" between grade levels, providing children with a fun framework for literacy. In partnership with The Junior League of Spartanburg, DMES hosted two "Read and Dine" events during which attendees

SIC Report to Parents, 2019 - 2020
Drayton Mills Elementary School

received a free supper after which students were read a book and parents learned about best literacy practices. All children attending left with a free, high-quality book of their choosing.

To support reading instruction, the DMES Instruction Team has, with the frequent input of faculty, utilized Title I funds to purchase interactive read alouds and leveled text sets for each classroom. These, along with iStation, MAP and SC Ready data, have been the focus of both weekly grade level meetings and all-faculty professional development sessions. Students identified as needing additional support participated in formal supports (such as Reading Recovery or additional small group instruction in their classrooms) and, in some cases, support from the many community tutors who volunteered to help our students.

Also consistent with our vision, mission and values, DMES continued the important work of building community. One of the most exciting elements of this effort has been the establishment of the DMES House System. Each student and faculty member has been “sorted” into one of four houses, and each competes daily to earn the most Dalmatian Dollars in areas related to our vision, mission and values. Real time point totals are displayed on monitors throughout the school, and “House Heroes” are celebrated during PAWs for Applause celebrations. Moreover, during PAWs for Applause, students may earn house points for both academic and social achievements. Additionally, DMES organized and hosted a community meeting – with attendees ranging from churches to the Chamber of Commerce, a fire department to non-profits – seeking to build a broader community to support our children and their families. Our PTO continued to foster community by holding regular events such as open houses, skate night, and fundraisers. Coupled with school events such as Family First breakfasts, Muffins with Moms, Doughnuts with Dads and Grits with Grandparents, we routinely had positive actions with hundreds of DMES family members.

Another important aspect of our efforts to build community was our faculty’s commitment to Responsive Classroom practices. Many faculty members attended a summer training to become Responsive Classroom certified, and volunteers participated in a book club focusing on the important role of language in Responsive Classroom. Every DMES classroom conducted daily Morning Meetings and Closing Circles, a practice many of them even continued remotely as we quarantined for COVID-19.

We are proud of this year’s efforts and greatly anticipate the positive outcomes we believe will result.

Respectfully submitted,

Drayton Mills Elementary School’s School Improvement Council

DMES SIC Members Include...

SIC Report to Parents, 2019 - 2020
Drayton Mills Elementary School

Jackie Nygaard, SIC Chair
jackienygaard@charter.net

Kathy Pool
KEPool@spart7.org

Barikia Tate
BNtate@spart7.org

Amber Thomason
ANThomason@spart7.org

Thomas Webster, Principal (Ex Officio)
twebster@spart7.org

School Contact:
1500 Skylyn Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29307
(864) 586-7979
<https://www.spartanburg7.org/Domain/11>