

# School Improvement Council

## 2024-2025 Report to Parents



### Forest Creek Middle School, est. 2021-2022

Christine McNeil, Principal

Tanya Smith, SIC Chair

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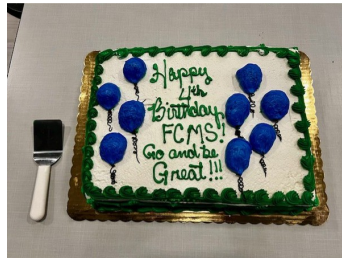
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FCMS Staff ready for our Pursue Greatness Tour



Happy 4th Birthday FCMS



Opening Day Visitors

## A Forest Creek Middle School Story

### FCMS School Spotlight





[🔊Click Here to Listen to an FCMS SIC Overview🔊](#)

This audio podcast wav. file was generated by Notebook LM using 14 sources and offers a detailed "look" at FCMS over the years and into its current theme: Pursue Greatness/Growing in Greatness. The AI duo interpret most of the data correctly.

## Some of our Whatever It Takes Strategies

- Choose one student per cycle.
- 2 minutes per day for 10 days
- Stealth planning - When will you actually do the student?
- Conversation goals:
  - Privacy - 2 min max.
  - Student Voice - Invite them to share something non-academic.
  - Honesty - Model transparency and authenticity by sharing something about yourself.
- Conversation Starters

## 2 x 10 Strategy ~ Making Connections

Mondays  
after  
PACK  
Check!

# #SDR (Stop, Drop, & Read)

**MODEL:** Staff reads too!

**VOLUME:** Quiet. This is not the time for students to catch up or socialize. Focus is on reading something for enjoyment.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Everyone is reading (novels, graphic novels, magazines, newspapers, picture books) #CHOICEREADING

*This is NOT STUDY HALL. IT'S READING!!!*



**DISTRACTIONS:** Distractions OFF. Reading ON.




## #SDR Daily

[illegible]

## PACK Checks (Mondays)

## This Week @ The Creek


**AT CREEK, WE PROMOTE HEALTHY STUDENT STUDIES BY ENCOURAGING OUR STUDENTS TO START EACH WEEK WITH A "THICK CHECK".**

A "THICK CHECK" IS A 5-MINUTE SELF-REFLECTION AND PEER-TO-PEER FEEDBACK TOOL. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING.
 [Click here to learn more about the Thick Check.](#)


**CLICK YOUR GRADE LEVEL BUTTON TO BEGIN.**

6th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

- Proactive parent communication
- Teaching executive function skills



## This Week @ The Creek Teacher Template for a Peek @ Learning

[illegible]

## Digital Data Room ~ Promoting Inclusive Recognition

A graphic for Forest Creek Middle School's Parent Toolbox. It features a green banner at the top with the school's logo on the left, which includes a stylized figure and the text "FOREST CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL". To the right of the logo, the words "PARENT TOOLBOX" are written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the banner, a photograph of the school building is visible. At the bottom of the graphic, the text "Welcome to the Parent Toolbox!" is written in a green, serif font. Below this text is a paragraph of smaller text: "At Forest Creek Middle School, we believe in partnering with parents for student success. This toolbox is your "one-stop shop" for important information, links, tips, and resources you may need throughout the year." At the very bottom, there are three green rectangular buttons with white text: "District Family/Student Agreement", "Request a Meeting", and "Forms to Make a Complaint".

## Parent Toolbox Embedded on FCMS Website



## Vision, Motto, Beliefs, and Family Norms

## Vision

Forest Creek Middle School will provide excellent instruction founded on a growth mindset, adaptability, and innovation.

## Motto

At Forest Creek Middle School, we: **F**ocus on a growth mindset, **C**ommit to excellence, **M**ake meaningful connections, and **S**ucceed together.

## Beliefs

- Positive relationships are vital to the success of our school.
- Instructional excellence must be the focus of every day.
- All people are capable of learning something every day when presented with the opportunity to do so paired with the expectations that they can.
- School must be a safe place to learn. All people must feel safe academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.
- All students must have access to a challenging curriculum and staff must have access to professional development and growth opportunities.
- Collaboration is essential and drives achievement.
- All voices matter.

## Current Enrollment (April 30, 2025) = 758 students (increase of 24 from 23-24 school year)

Grade 6 = 255

Grade 7 = 245

Grade 8 = 258

## School Report Card Update and Improvement Plan Strategies

### Focus Areas and Strategies Updates

#### **Student Achievement, Including Sub-groups (Our targeted subgroup was male readers.)**

Compared to the state, our ELA performance data for Spring 2024 was 23% points higher for meets or exceeds expectations. Our Math data was 27.1% higher. With this in mind, we examined our ELA data further and identified a gap in reading performance between our male and female students and continue to move forward with that as our school priority area until the end of our current School Improvement Plan cycle. According to our Spring 2024 SC Ready ELA Reading Assessment data for our students in grades 6-8, the number of female students who performed at the meets or exceeds level was 80.1% compared to 76.5% of our male students. Performance Goal Area 2 for the 2024-2025 school year is to decrease this gap by 1.6% with the long term goal of a 1% or less achievement gap between our male and female students in their reading performance. **Strategies include implementing school-wide tier 2 intervention system (BOOST) to address literacy and reading gaps, incorporate greater student choice in reading materials, and hosting a male author to share with our students the importance of having motivation, a positive attitude, and courage to learn as much as you can and do as much as you can despite any obstacles that get in the way.**

#### **Teaching/Administrator Quality**

Compared to our state as well as our district, our rating (7.95/10) is greater than that of the state (7.53) and district (7.65). After examining the items in the Spring 2024 SCDE Teacher Climate Survey, we found that 98.2% of our teachers were satisfied with the working conditions at FCMS. Performance Goal Area 1 for the 2024-2025 is to increase teacher satisfaction related to working conditions to 98.5% with the long-term goal of 100% satisfaction being reported. **Strategies include creating opportunities for increased classroom visits and observations with feedback, providing tier 1 professional development to assist with classroom management and instructional strategies, reducing the number of weekdays required for lunch duty, providing free breakfast for our staff on Wednesdays, and outlining specific Coyote Way systems for accountability and clarity.**



## School Climate

Results of the SCDE Teacher, Parent, and Student Survey indicates 98.2% of our teachers are satisfied with the social and physical environment at FCMS, along with 92.6% of parents, and 93.3% of students. Performance Goal area 3 for 2024-2025 school year includes increasing this satisfaction rate as follows: teachers from 98.2% to 99% / parents from 93.3% to 95%. **Strategies include: celebrating all students by the end of year in our Spring Pep Rally/Assembly, utilizing a three-year data recognition spreadsheet to identify students who have not been recognized, sending Happy mail and emails home to students and teachers, implementing the Coyote Jack Pot for positive student behavior, providing rotating enrichment groups (BOOST) for students and staff to be able to make greater connections with more students across campus. This year, we celebrate a staff member each week via Coyote Spotlight and celebrate all student and staff birthdays via our morning announcements.**

Our district has also chosen to focus on a different student survey response item within our School Improvement Plans as suggested in the Cognia review. Our district utilizes question #21 related to the satisfaction with the cleanliness of the bathrooms at FCMS: Our goal is to raise this satisfaction score from 69.7% to 76% at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year.

## 2024-2025 Theme: Pursue Greatness



## Pursuit of Greatness via Student Learning Objective



2024 Professional Goals Worksheet.pdf

[Download](#)

72.8 KB



# Home and School Communication and Collaboration



The Coyote Way\_ Communication and Collaboration Between Home and School.pdf

[Download](#)

57.6 KB

## BOOST and Coyote Chats Implementation

BOOST (**B**uilding **O**pportunities for **O**ngoing **S**uccess and **T**hinking) TIME!



We're launching a new program to support every student's academic journey! Starting soon, all students will participate in targeted **Intervention** or **Enrichment** sessions every Tuesday and Thursday. These sessions will focus on either closing skill gaps in ELA and Math or encouraging exploration and creativity in subjects of interest. Rotations will occur every three weeks, alternating between Math and ELA (if receiving intervention) or another enrichment activity, based on your child's academic needs as determined by their teachers. Let's work together to ensure every student succeeds and thrives during BOOST Time!

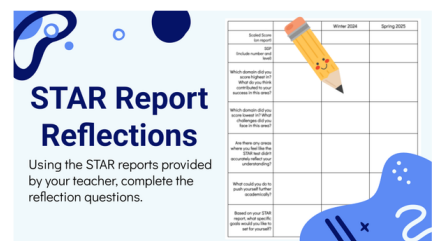
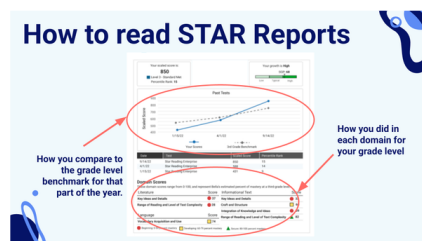
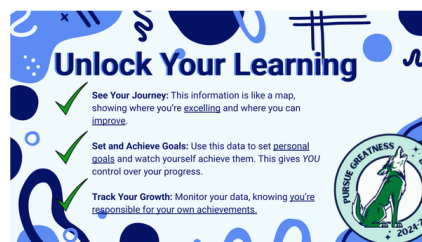
## Coyote Chats

We are excited to introduce you to our Coyote Chats program! During Coyote Chat sessions, students will review their STAR Scores, which provide a look at their academic progress and growth. Additionally, they participate in a self-reflection exercise where they evaluate their performance in terms of the "Coyote Way" - giving respect, responsibility, and best effort.

This reflective process helps students gain insight into their strengths and areas for improvement and encourages them to take ownership of their learning journey. We believe that these conversations foster a growth mindset and build a strong foundation for academic and personal success.



Respectful	Responsibility	Best Effort
Listen and pay attention to speaker	Is prepared and ready to work	Work to the best of your ability and ask questions if you don't understand something
Keep hands, feet, and object to self	Take care of and properly use school property including books, technology, furniture, etc	Use your time wisely
Respect classroom environment, including people ideas and materials	Exercise self-control	Complete your own work



Coyote Data Chats\_Student Check Ins.pdf

Download  
746.7 KB

## Coyote Council for 24-25



A banner for the Coyote Council for 24-25. It features a dark blue background with a large, stylized 'Congratulations!' in gold cursive at the top. Below this, a list of names is displayed in white: ISHAAN SINGH, BEN PETERSON, LILLY HOFFMAN, ISLA PRENDERGAST, and NIARA BOATWRIGHT. To the left of the names is a blue megaphone icon. To the right is a photo of five students standing together. At the bottom, the text '2024-25 COYOTE COUNCIL' is written in large, bold, green letters. The banner is flanked by two green paw print icons.

**Congratulations!**

ISHAAN SINGH  
BEN PETERSON  
LILLY HOFFMAN  
ISLA PRENDERGAST  
NIARA BOATWRIGHT

**2024-25 COYOTE COUNCIL**

### Our 24-25 Coyotes of the Year



A banner for the Coyotes of the Year. It features a dark blue background with a central graphic that says 'COYOTES FOREST CREEK' in white and green. Below this graphic are two portraits of women. To the left of the portraits is the text '2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR' and to the right is 'SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR'. Below the portraits are their names and titles: 'Ebony Bankhead 7TH GRADE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR' and 'Carissa Carlson Grover SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'. A large green paw print icon is centered below the portraits.

**COYOTES FOREST CREEK**

**2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR**

*Ebony Bankhead*  
7TH GRADE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

*Carissa Carlson Grover*  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

## Highlights and Achievements from Our Pursue Greatness Tour

### 24-25 List

- We participated in Hurricane Helene relief in September and early October collecting and distributing several truckloads of essential items to those affected.



- Our Mock Trial team were State Champions this year and recognized at the State House in Columbia, SC.
- We continued to celebrate positive behaviors this year with our Coyote Central cart where students redeem tickets for snacks and other prizes. This year, we included FLEX Fun in the Gym.
- Our Coyote Crew hosted our newcomer's breakfast again this year and continues to mentor our 6th grade students as well as lead other events such as the Rising 6th grade meeting and School Spirit events.
- Our cheer team created a Coyote Pride Paw fundraiser this year where families purchased a paw print that was painted with their student's jersey number and sport on our campus highlighting that Coyote Spirit!
- Our 8th grade volleyball team were conference champions.
- We celebrated our honor roll students with a dairy treat at lunch each quarter. This year, we continued to recognize almost 500 students each time.
- Ishaan Singh, 8th grader, represented FCMS and Fort Mill Schools at the SC Scripps Spelling Bee.
- Some of our Coyotes are members of the CRHS Band and participated in the Grand National Championship in Indianapolis where they finished 19th overall of 113 bands and won 2nd place in Class 2A.
- Junior Beta Club members participated in the annual installation of the Fort Mill Scarecrows for the Crawl hosted by the Town of Fort Mill showcasing their community spirit and creativity.
- We have had several faculty members recognized this year as outstanding teachers via the FSI All-Star program with three being selected as top 10 monthly finalists: Kyle Herendeen, Kristy Weg, and Elida Westerman.
- Our PTO hosted its 2nd annual Music Bingo and Games Family Night with over 90 participants and continues to sponsor other student and staff events (Blue Ice, Boo Grams, Teacher Holiday Treats and Gifts).
- We had continued success with our MathCounts and Academic Challenge teams.
- Our SIC hosted Connor McKemmy of MAC Mentality this year who shared his story of Life Ignited and the need to practice the MAC Mentality: motivation, attitude, and courage on a daily basis.
- 8th grade students, Liam Woessner, Ben Peterson, and Lilly Hoffman, successfully earned a chance to move to the next level of the Geography Bee and possibly qualify for the National Bee.
- Our FACS teacher, Mrs. Rivard, and FACS students continue to partner with local businesses and schools to support her curriculum including finance and cooking standards.
- We raised over \$3500 for the Special Olympics of SC via our Polar Plunge efforts!
- We participated in World Down Syndrome Day on 3/21 by wearing crazy socks. This was a fun day to encourage each other to express their uniqueness.
- We hosted our 6th grade Career Speaker day, attended the district 7th Grade Career Fair, and our 8th graders participated in Job Shadowing day.
- In addition to Coyote Central, we held quarterly Coyote Jackpot celebrations in our cafeteria to recognize students who had consistently demonstrated positive behavior.
- Our Coyote Council continues to make our AM announcements that include celebrating student and staff birthdays this year and welcomed our FMS
- We continue to recognize positive character traits such as respect, commitment, patience, humility, selflessness, kindness, courage, forgiveness, and joyfulness in our students and celebrate staff members of the month via our Thankful Thursday entries.

- We inducted over 35 students into the Junior Beta Club this year at our February ceremony.
- We recognized 42 Junior Scholars at our Junior Scholar Award Night.
- Our students did an amazing job performing Suessical Jr., the Musical, our fourth school production led by Ms. VanValkenburgh, Mrs. Burnett, and Mrs. Rivard.
- Our Band received SUPERIOR ratings again this year for their CPA.
- Happy Mail and Happy Email continued to be delivered this year from Mrs. McNeil and staff.
- We offer several sports at FCMS, including, football, volleyball, basketball, cheer, dance, baseball, and soccer. This year, we also participated in girls flag football via a district partnership with Carolina Panthers. FCMS was also the recipient of the FMAC trophy this year.
- Two of our 8th grade athletes, Emma Gambrell and Jamaar Green. represented FCMS at the SCHSL Middle School Leadership Summit.
- BOOST was launched which offered students opportunities to participate in enrichment activities while meeting a majority of staff and making connections as well as receive remediation as needed in Math and Language Arts.
- Coyote Chats were used this year to increase student self-efficacy regarding learning and positive behavior.
- We introduced Coyote Spotlight this year where we recognize a staff member weekly via email and social media highlighting things peers and students have said about them.
- We hosted a team from Indian Land Middle School who met with our Instructional Team and admin to discuss our MTSS program (BOOST) and FLEX schedule.
- Our 8th grade students will attend Washington, DC in May for a culminating middle school field trip experience.
- We launched staff guiding coalition teams to help solve school-wide problems such as MTSS and Grading Practices, increasing teacher voice and leadership capacity.
- We continued participating in Battle of the Books, Read-In @ the Greenway, and faculty book clubs.
- Our staff continues to enjoy monthly family gatherings organized by Mrs. Miller to build staff connections outside of school.
- Our PTO continues to support our teachers with our monthly Snack Cart gifted by various community partners.
- Our partnership with the Houser Group continues with their monthly sponsorship of our Teacher/Staff of the Month gift packages.
- River Rock Community Church continues to provide the Coffee Bus for our staff as well as breakfast bars and treats.
- We continued our 'Yotesgiving tradition this year with the help of our PTO and River Rock Community Church.
- Fun-Fridays continue with our Friday jokes submitted by students and staff.

## **Honor Roll Stats Year 4**

Q1 A/Bs 518 ~ All A's 191

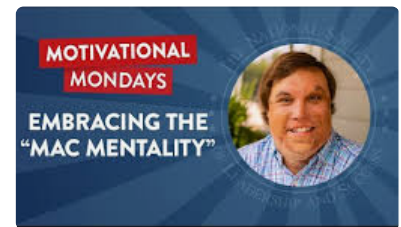
Q2 A/Bs 514 ~ All A's 174

Q3 A/Bs 493 ~ All A's 190

## **SIC Event for 2024-2025**

**SIC Hosts Connor McKemmey who shares his MAC Mentality Philosophy**

We launched the 2nd semester with guest speaker and Fort Mill graduate, Connor McKemmy who shared how Motivation, Attitude, and Courage contribute to success as humans.



## Our PTO Supports FCMS Students and Staff



**The PTO Snack Cart celebrates Our Cafe Staff**



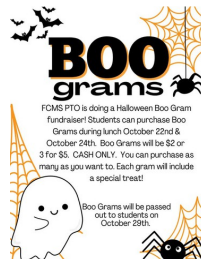
**The PTO Snack Cart celebrates Our Guidance Staff and Nurse Jones**



**The PTO Snack Cart celebrates Team 6B**



**PTO Provides Coyote Jackpot Prizes**



**PTO Boo Grams for Students**



**PTO Family Night**

## More Highlights



**Hurricane Helene Relief**



**Mock Trial Wins**



**Coyote Council Welcomes School Board**





**Paw Pride**



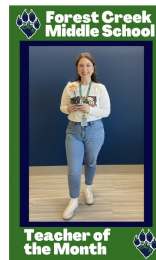
**8th Volleyball Conference Champs**



**State Spelling Bee Qualifier**



**Beta Club Induction**



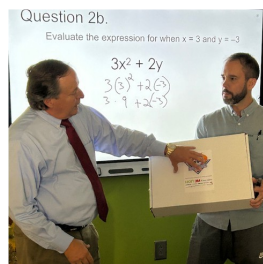
**Celebrating a Teacher of the Month (Ms. Floyd)**



**Celebrating a Student of the Month (Trey H.)**



**Happy Mail Continues**



**FSI All Star ~ Mrs. Westerman**



**Coyote Spotlight ~ Mrs. Lay**



**Spirit Week ~ Holiday Countdown**



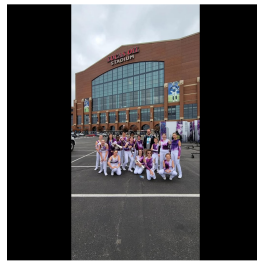
**Coyote Jackpot**



**Jr. Beta Volunteers ~ Fort Mill Scarecrow Crawl**



**SCHSL Middle Level Summit Participants**



**Colorguard Wins**



**Geography Bee Finalists**



**Coyote Central Ticket Redemption**



**Girls Flag Football**



**Celebrating Uniqueness**

## River Rock Community Church Partnership ~ Heart for Schools Church



## FCMS SIC 24-25

## ***Elected Members***

	<b><u>Last Name</u></b>	<b><u>First Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
1.	Barney	Joanna	Parent
2.	Bhide	Harshad	Parent
3.	Byrd	Wendy	Teacher
4.	Smith	Tanya	Teacher <b>(Chair)</b>

## ***Appointed Members***

	<b><u>Last Name</u></b>	<b><u>First Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
1.	Brown	Shannon	Community Member
2.	Collins	Kendra	Community Member

## ***Ex-officio Members***

	<b><u>Last Name</u></b>	<b><u>First Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
1.	Cook	James	Assistant Principal
2.	Latzos	George	Other
3.	McNeil	Christine	Principal
4.	Rhodes	Amy	Assistant Principal
5.	Wilke	James	Assistant Principal

*This report is issued by the Forest Creek Middle School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law.*



**Christine McNeil**

Christine is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters