

Delmae Heights Elementary School School Improvement Council Report to Parents



2016-2017

At Delmae Heights Elementary our “**Future is...Under Construction**” as we work to help all students develop the world class knowledge, skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate. At Delmae, we work to insure that we provide exposure to world class knowledge, world class skills and opportunities so that our students exhibit life and career characteristics. We are accomplishing this by providing the following:

- Highly qualified teachers and staff
- Instruction focused on standards and driven by data
- Differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students
- Rigorous and research-based student centered lessons and activities
- Increased opportunities for project-based and problem solving learning
- Opportunities to incorporate technology into daily instruction
- Professional Development focused on rigor and data
- School Home and Community Partnerships that enhance student achievement
- Instructional programs that extend beyond basic basal instruction
- Opportunities for extra-curricular activities that extend beyond the school day
- Opportunities to participate in STEAM focused learning opportunities

Our highly qualified staff consists of National Board Certified Teachers, District Honor Roll Teachers, teachers with advanced degrees and teachers involved in continuous learning and growth opportunities. Our staff engages in on-going professional development provided by “in house experts” and outside consultants that focuses on rigor in the classroom, project and problem- based learning, high expectations for students and the use of data to change and focus instruction.

Our school wide instructional focus is standards and data driven. Our teachers work collaboratively to plan for instruction. The instructional program includes differentiated instruction, research-based supplemental programs (Every Day Calendar Counts Math, Accelerated Reading and Math, Thinking Maps, Literacy Work

Stations, Cooperative Learning, Science Foss Kits, and Engineering is Elementary Units). In addition, our staff participates in Verizon's Project Lead the Way Grant, and in the district's Discovery Learning Digital Pathfinders Program. Delmae has recently received AdvancED STEM Certification.

Early intervention is key to student academic success. Through our Kindergarten Literacy Lab, our Reading Recovery Program and First Grade Literacy Lab, we are able to provide early literacy support to our students. Our Academic Assistance Team which includes our administrative leadership team, our school counselors and our classroom teachers provide guidance and support to insure that we address the needs of all students providing both remediation and enrichment.

Excellence is our goal at Delmae. This is evident in our school being the recipient of the state's Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards for excellence in academic performance and consecutive NNPS (National Network of Partnership School) Awards.

Through funding from our APT, teacher and school grants, we have increased the availability and use of technology. In addition to our Technology and Compass Labs, students have access to computers, iPads, flash masters, smartboards, response clickers and other technology on a daily basis in the classroom. All teachers have recently completed Google in the Classroom training and are extending the use of technology for instruction beyond the school day.

Instruction goes beyond the school day at Delmae through after school tutorial programs, extended day after school program, extra-curricular activities (chorus, drama, science, technology and fitness clubs), Lego Robotics Team, Step Team and a 4-H Club.

Community partnerships with Francis Marion University, Florence Darlington Technical College, Coker College, local churches and businesses provide opportunities to teach collaboration (Skype Reading Program with FMU and Read for A Bead with business partners), integrity, teamwork, character (Good News Club) and global perspectives. We are also a member of NNPS (National Network of Partnership Schools) which focuses on home and community partnerships that support student achievement. Community partnerships also include our business partners that support our school in a variety of ways (Firehouse Subs, Dickey's Barbecue, Golden Corral, Sonics, Orangeleaf, Skateland, Chuckee Cheese and Walmart).

The school home connection is essential to student school success. We provide numerous opportunities for families to participate in school sponsored fun activities (Back to School Blast, Celebrating Our Diversity and Spring Fling) in addition to providing Title One Parent Academy Nights (MAP, STEAM Carnival and Test Prep) to help parents support student learning. Grade levels also provide grade level specific programs that

provide opportunities for the home school connection (Second Grade's Women in History Program and Third Grade's South Carolina Wax Museum).

Service projects are a way to develop world class skills in our students. Our students are engaged in several service projects throughout the school year. These include Harvest Hope Food Drive, Jump Rope for Heart, Pennies for Patients, and Operation Christmas Child.

As a result of all of these things our students are moving "Full *STEAM* Ahead" to be prepared to exhibit world class knowledge and skills along with the characteristics to be successful in a Global 21st Century Society.