

# 2016-2017

# Dutch Fork Middle School

# Annual Report

## SIC Members

Thomas Moore  
(Chair)

Justin Thomas  
(Vice-Chair)

Cheryl Blanks  
(Secretary)

Russell Canzater

Dr. John Lukowski

Markita Kubicova

Erin Doty

Stacey French

Dr. Gerald Gary

Tracy McCoy

Teresa Ward

Priya Desai

Justin Thomas

April Beale

Erica James

Tia Li

Veronique Chayer

Jorja Rice

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL & SIC CHAIR

Dear Parents/Guardians and Stakeholders,

This report is issued by the DFMS School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various school goals, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments throughout the school year.

Because of the support of our parents and the consistent hard work of our teachers and students, we continue to enjoy exemplary student achievement and local and state recognition as evidenced by our second consecutive designation as a Palmetto Finest Finalist School for the 2016-17 School year.

As a part of our planning process, we will continue to review district and school data to make good instructional decisions for groups of students as well as the individual child. We will also continue to use data teams to differentiate instruction for all learners and PBIS to improve our already positive school climate. At DFMS, we understand that many variables are included in providing the very best learning environment for all students and look forward to working with our stakeholders to continue to do whatever is necessary to produce the best educational setting for all students on a daily basis.

Respectfully,

*Dr. Gerald Gary*

Principal

*Thomas Moore*

SIC Chair

## Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

Improve the Social and Physical environment of the school.

Implement a school-wide STEAM focus in 100% of our classrooms.

Plan and deliver instruction that meets the individual needs of all of our students.

Increase opportunities for parent and community involvement.

## Fine Arts Highlights

In 2017 the DFMS's dance program grew from a half-time program to full-time. The program has expanded from 110 students to 159 as a result, and offers the ability to have smaller class sizes for more one-on-one instruction. The Dazzlers dance team of DFMS has performed at various school functions and competed in a regional event, placing 1st in Jazz and 2nd in Hip Hop.

Our Band program had 9 students selected for Region Band and one selected for All -State.

Our Orchestra program had 19 students selected for SCMEA Region Orchestra and five students selected for SCMEA All-State Orchestra.

Seventh and Eighth grade Chorus students showcased their talents during a Winter concert and evening program. They will compete at the Music Festival this spring.

First semester 7th, 8th, 2D Design, and 3D design students had their art show on January 12th, and produced some of the best work in the program's history.



***“Shaping the future... Making connections”***

## Instructional Philosophy

Our instructional program is driven by the three Rs: *rigor, relevance* and *relationships*. At DFMS, we meet students at their current academic level and challenge them with *rigorous* coursework so they can grow and reach the next level. DFMS teachers make the curriculum standards *relevant* to the lives of our adolescent students. This requires the infusion of technology and literacy across the curriculum. Finally, all interactions at DFMS are based on building positive *relationships*. This is paramount to developing our sense of school

## Academic Highlights

The first chart below represents how our students performed on the past 3 state assessments in ELA and Math (SC Pass, ACT Aspire, and SC Ready). The number represents the percentage of our students who “Met” grade level expectations on each assessment. The second chart shows how students across the State scored on the same assessments.

Content Area	DFMS		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
ELA	83%	83%	91%
Math	85%	84%	83%

Content Area	State of SC		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
ELA	73%	68%	77%
Math	72%	46%	75%

# School Highlights

## Clubs, Organizations, and Athletics

- \* This year Dutch Fork Middle School was recognized as a Palmetto's Finest Middle School by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.
- \* DFMS had 299 students take the PSAT this year and 88 of them qualified as National Junior Scholars.
- \* DFMS has two Vex Robotics teams this year that have both been very successful. Team A competed in the Palmetto State VEX Robotics Competition and won on 1/28 while Team B won the Skills Challenge on 12/11 and was Tournament champions on 2/11 as well the Excellence Award on 12/3. As tournament champs, both teams qualify for the state competition and Team B won the "Excellence Award" and qualified for the World Competition.
- \* Members of the Math Counts team participated in the 2017 Math Counts Chapter Competition at the University of South Carolina. They won second place and will compete in the state competition later this year..
- \* The 2016-2017 C-Team Basketball team went undefeated in the regular season and won the PAC 15 Championship for the third consecutive year.
- \* In addition to participation in C-Team sports, we had many DFMS students who found success participating in high school sports such as: Cross Country, JV basketball, Lacrosse, Swimming, Tennis, JV and Varsity Cheerleading, Baseball, and Track.
- \* ACTION is a new student-led organization at DFMS that builds community partnerships through purposeful acts of kindness in an effort to promote unity. This year, they have donated 2,074 cookies and 227 inspirational placemats for our prison outreach, collected 358 news toys and \$600 for sick children in our local hospitals, and sponsored monthly "Coffee with a Cop" meetings between the RCSD and our parents. ACTION's projects include painting a diversity fence for the outdoor classroom, creating an anti-bullying video in collaboration with RCSD, LCSD, and WACH-Fox, sponsoring a "Be an Upstander" art and writing contest, publishing an ACTION literary magazine, and organizing two school-wide

\*\* School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in admission to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. Inquiries should be directed to: Director of Human Resources for Title IX, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, at 476-8198 and the Director of Special Services and 504 Coordinator, at 476-8222 and at 1020 Dutch Fork Rd Ballentine, S.C. 29002. Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in a program or activity sponsored by Dutch Fork Middle School should contact the principal at least 48 hours prior to the program or activity.

## 2016-17 Teacher and Support Employees of the Year

**Erica James  
and  
Kimberly Morris**



*"I feel the presence of greatness when I walk around the school."*

**Erica James**

Ms. James has been a science teacher here at DFMS for 6 years. Some of her responsibilities consist of being the 7th grade Data Team Facilitator, on the STEAM Leadership Committee, Textbook Adoption Committee, and a Homebound Teacher.



*"Someone always steps up to fill in the gaps... everyone looks out for each other."*

**Kim Morris**

It is refreshing to work with a caring and energetic staff that always puts the most important thing first –Our Students.

Kim-

berly Morris

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Mrs. Morris has been part of our Media staff for the past four years. She started out in our district as a parent volunteer who

***The mission of Dutch Fork Middle School, in partnership with our community, is to ensure that our students succeed through a rigorous academic program in a nurturing environment.***