

2022-2023 Dutch Fork Middle School Annual Report

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL & SIC CHAIR

SIC Members

Zee Williams
(Chair)

Lana Gribova
(Vice-Chair)

Kelly Thacker
(Secretary)

Yolanda Ross

Scott Johnson

Kelly Brown

Laura Atkinson

Grace McKlveen

Zakia Azhar

Claire Ecrement

Amanda Pifer

Katelyn Burnside

Evan Thacker

Tara Safriet

Vernon Sava

Dear Parents/Guardians and Stakeholders,

Each year, in accordance with South Carolina law, the DFMS School Improvement Council (SIC) issues this report to share information on our school's progress, goals, and accomplishments.

Dutch Fork Middle School was rated as an "Excellent" school on the South Carolina State Report Card. The support of our parents and the consistent hard work of our teachers, staff, and students has helped us attain this exemplary achievement. DFMS has also received several local and state recognitions in performing arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

As part of our planning process, we will continue to review district and school data to make sound decisions to meet the needs of all students.

One particular area of focus for this school year has been the importance of spreading kindness. Through our "Kindness Initiative" students and staff have been celebrating acts of kindness through "positive referrals." These notes of appreciation have encouraged a positive climate at our school. Student-led projects that showcase various acts of kindness throughout our school will be published on our social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

There are many variables that are included in providing the best learning environment for all students. Dutch Fork Middle School is dedicated to working with our stakeholders in order to provide the best educational setting for everyone, on a daily basis.

Respectfully,

Mr. Vernon Sava

Principal

Mrs. Zee Williams

SIC Chair

Initiatives and Strategies for School

- Continue improvements toward the social, emotional, and physical environment.
- Utilize STEAM components for planning and instruction within the classrooms.
- Implement new teaching strategies to help improve the math and reading growth.
- Increase opportunities for parent and community involvement.
- Extend professional development in order to help faculty and staff best utilize performance.

Fine Arts Highlights

- ◇ The 8th grade band received a Superior with Distinction rating at the SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment. In addition, certain band members participated in recording music and producing voice overs that were added to a clip of the film *Despicable Me* in Orlando, FL. Also, eleven band students qualified to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festivals. The 7th grade band is preparing to compete at the Carowinds Music Festival at the end of May. Both grade levels created and performed at winter and spring concerts for their parents, families, and the community.
- ◇ The Fine Arts Department will hold their fourth annual “Fine Arts Feature” where our Visual Arts Program will be highlighted with performances by student dancers, singers, and musicians.
- ◇ Chorus students performed “mini-concerts” in the hallways of the school during the 9/11 anniversary and during DFMS Spirit Week. The honors choral groups sang the National Anthem at home basketball games and pep rallies. The 8th grade honors art students worked side by side with the drama students in the production of the musical *Annie, Jr.* During the Concert Performance Assessment, 7th graders received an Excellent rating and 8th graders received a Superior with Distinction rating. 7th and 8th grade students qualified to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Sixty chorus students will participate in the Carowinds Music Festival in May. In addition, 7th and 8th grade honors students will be attending America Sings in Nashville, TN.
- ◇ The Dazzlers Dance Team placed in every competition they attended this school year. The Dazzlers brought home several trophies and finished the competition season at the state championship with 2nd place in the Hip Hop category and 3rd place in the Jazz category.



“Shaping the future... Making connections”

Instructional Philosophy

The mission of Dutch Fork Middle School is to **S**trategically implement an engaging and challenging curriculum that will integrate **T**echnology while encouraging students to **E**ffectively communicate, critically think, collaborate, and be creative. By partnering with our community, students will be **A**ccountable for their learning as they are **M**entored to be successful contributors to a global society.

Academic Highlights

The following achievement data represents the percentage of students who scored “Met” and “Exceeds” on the SC Ready assessment, as well as the percentage of students who “Passed” the End of Course Exam in Algebra I.

2021-2022

	DFMS	STATE
SC READY - ELA	55.6%	46.6%
SC READY - MATH	37.4%	38.9%
End-of-Course Exam (EOC) — Algebra I	96.2%	66.0%

School Highlights

Clubs, Organizations, and Athletics

- ◇ C-Team Boys Basketball played Irmo and won the conference championship for the third year in a row.
- ◇ C-Team Girls Basketball made it to the semi-finals in the conference championship.
- ◇ C-Team Football team finished 2nd in the conference.
- ◇ C-Team Volleyball made it to the finals.
- ◇ C-Team Wrestling finished the season with a 15-4 record and won the conference championship. They finished 12th in the state out of 95 teams with 5 wrestlers qualifying for the state tournament.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) met and hosted guest speakers, participated in prayer walks, and completed a service project for Operation Christmas Child.
- ◇ The Academic Team placed 1st in the state in the Fall 321 competition.
- ◇ DFMS had several Science Fair Winners:
7th Grade-1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners and 1st, 2nd & 3rd place Honorable Mentions.
8th Grade-1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners and 1st, 2nd & 3rd place Honorable Mentions.
At the District level, DFMS had a student place 1st and another place 2nd.
- ◇ The MathCounts team placed 3rd at the Chapter Competition and had 3 students place, individually, in the Top 16. Two students placed in the top 16 at the state competition.
- ◇ Dutch Fork Middle School Student Council focused on creating a positive and engaging culture throughout the school year. They planned pep rallies, which included teacher participation to increase and maintain the positive rapport with students. Student Council members created posters that were hung up around the school to show support for various staff appreciation days. Student Council fundraisers included flower grams, which were created by art classes and students purchased them for one another, and preparing the 8th Grade Formal.
- ◇ The Mock Trial team competed at the regional competition where they simulated a real courtroom experience for middle school students and competed against other schools.

2022-2023 Teacher and Support Employees of the Year

Laura Atkinson and Celeste Creel

*“Impacting young lives to embrace their full learning potential
feeds the soul with purpose.”*

Laura Atkinson

2022-2023 Teacher of the Year



Laura is a back-to-back Teacher of the Year. This is her 26th year teaching in Lexington Richland Five and her 25th year teaching at Dutch Fork Middle School. Mrs. Atkinson earned her Secondary Education Mathematics degree from The University of South Carolina and her Masters in Education from Walden University. She has been a National Board Certified Teacher for the past 18 years. Mrs. Atkinson currently teaches Math 8 and Geometry Honors and is the sponsor for the Academic Team and MathCounts Team.



Celeste Creel

2022-2023 Support Employee of the Year

Mrs. Creel has been the School Counseling Office Assistant at DFMS for 4 years. She enjoys spending time with her family, going to the beach and cheering for the Gamecocks.

** 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.