

# 2017-2018

# Dutch Fork Middle School

# Annual Report

## SIC Members

Dr. John Lukowski  
(Chair)

Thomas Moore  
(Vice-Chair)

Cheryl Blanks  
(Secretary)

Heather Hardy

Latonya McDuffie

Patrice McFadden

Erin Schoolmeester

Jenny Adams

Stacey French

Melissa Gary

Erica James

Lynette Koon

Tracey McCoy

Jennifer Sandsted

Reginald McFadden

Addie Bates

Meena Jackson

Lilly O'Leary

Mimi DeMasi

Danielle Major-Murphy

Vernon Sava

## 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 in academics, arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

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,

*Mr. Vernon Sava*

Principal

*Dr. John Lukowski*

SIC Chair

## Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

- Continue the improvements towards the social and physical environment of the school.
- Expand the school-wide STEAM focus in 100% of our classrooms.
- Plan and deliver instruction that meets the individual needs of all students.
- Increase opportunities for parent and community involvement.

## Fine Arts Highlights

Our Band program had 10 students selected for Region Band and 1 alternate to All-State.

The 8th grade band received Superior with Distinction at our State Concert Performance Assessment and Silver standard at the Southern Star Music Festival.

The jazz band scored straight superior ratings at the state Jazz Performance Assessment.

Our Orchestra program had 24 students selected for SCMEA Region Orchestra and 2 alternates. Four students were selected for SCMEA All-State Orchestra.

Capriccio, Concert and Honors Orchestra received superiors at the SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment.

Honors Orchestra and Concert Orchestra received the Gold standard award at the Southern Star Music Festival. Concert Orchestra was awarded the Sweepstakes and Grand Champion Award at the Southern Star Music Festival.

Chorus students traveled to Carowinds near the end of the year and both groups received an Excellent Rating for their performances.

A new Honors Ensemble, made up of auditioned students at DFMS has begun to meet on Fridays, from 3:45 to 5:00. These truly dedicated students perform music at a higher level than even our Honors Chorus Students and this ensemble gives students that are not enrolled in chorus an avenue for choral music.

First semester 7th Grade Art, 8th Grade Art, 7th Grade Honors Art, 8th Grade Honors Art, 2D Design, and 3D Design students had their Art Show in January. Our students then participated in the Art @ 5 District Art show which was held at Irmo High School in the Main Street Gallery on March 21st.



***“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 community.

## Academic Highlights

The first chart below represents how our students performed on the past 4 state assessments in ELA and Math (SC Pass, ACT Aspire, 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.

### DFMS

Content Area	2013-14 SC PASS	2014-15 ACT Aspire	2015-16 SC Ready	2016-17 SC Ready
ELA	83%	83%	91%	87%
Math	85%	84%	83%	83%

### South Carolina

Content Area	2013-14 SC PASS	2014-15 ACT Aspire	2015-16 SC Ready	2016-17 SC Ready
ELA	73%	68%	77%	73%
Math	72%	46%	75%	74%

# School Highlights

## Clubs, Organizations, and Athletics

- \*DFMS had 229 students take the PSAT this year and 63 of them qualified as National Junior Scholars.
- \*DFMS had two teams compete at the USC PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Engineering Challenge for Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics. Both teams represented DF well, and the robotics team won the Design Award.
- \* DFMS has two Vex Robotics teams this year that have both been very successful. Both teams qualified for the state competition with high skills challenge scores and Team A won the State Championship title and qualified for the World Competition.
- \* Members of the Math Counts team participated in the 2018 Math Counts Chapter Competition at the University of South Carolina. Two individuals from our team scored well enough to move on to the State competition.
- \* The 2017-2018 Boys C-Team Basketball team won their fifth consecutive regular Season Championship. We finished runner-up in the Conference Championship.
- \* 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 students meet with career mentors throughout the year to design and implement service projects that relate to the students' career aspirations. Projects include creating an anti-bullying video with the S.C. State Museum and WACH Fox, designing and planting a bio swale and butterfly garden with a horticulturist, and completing a music memory iPod project to support caregivers and those with Alzheimer's. The club mentors students with special needs, participates in Special Olympics, organizes a toy drive for sick children, sponsors the "Be an Upstander" contest, hosts the annual Black History Month Celebration, and promotes Holocaust education. ACTION won Nystrom's National Civil Liberties Award and was named Champions of the Environment by DHEC.
- \*Mock Trial - won the regional competition and came in 4th place at the state competition. Multiple students won most effective witness and attorneys awards at both competitions.

\*\* 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.

## 2017-18 Teacher and Support Employees of the Year

### Jenny Adams and Kaye Leysath



*"It is fulfilling to see students grow as individuals while gaining an understanding for others that may be different from themselves."*

**Jenny Adams**

**2017-2018 Teacher of the Year**

Ms. Adams has taught for 14 years and has been an 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher at DFMS for 10 years. Some of her responsibilities consist of being 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies Department Chair, Member of PIC, Social Studies District Leadership Team Member, Social Studies District Curriculum Writing Committee Member, Discovery Education/STEAM Team Member and Mentor and USC Coaching Teacher.



*"It is critical to provide support for our administration, teachers and staff, so they can continue to excel in their positions."*

**Kaye Leysath**

**2017-2018 Support Employee of the Year**

Mrs. Leysath has been an Instructional Assistant at DFMS for the past six years. Prior to joining District Five, she taught K5-second grade for 26 years. She has volunteered as a tutor for at-risk youth, read with senior citizens and rendered inspirational services at retirement/nursing homes.

***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.***