

# 2018-2019 Dutch Fork Middle School Annual Report

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL & SIC CHAIR

### SIC Members

Dr. John Lukowski  
(Chair)

James Cubie

Cheryl Blanks  
(Secretary)

Allen Bullard

Jennifer Sandsted

Telesia Davis

Mary Ciesielski

Latonya McDuffie

Dave Mitchell

Jenny Adams

Jennifer Grogan

Kelly Thacker

Sharisse Lee

Lilly Margaret O'Leary

Neveah Williams

Mimi DeMasi

Asia Lebbby

Addie Bates

Danielle Major-Murphy

Vernon Sava

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.

Our SIC, PTSA, and School Counseling Office, along with several businesses and agencies throughout the community worked on multiple student and parent outreach evenings during the school year. In the Fall, our School Counseling Office hosted an event titled "Shatter the Myth," in which students and parents learned about the trends of, attitudes towards, and dangers of vaping. In the Spring, through a grant provided by Facebook, our SIC and PTSA partnered to host an event titled "Digital Families Community Event: Navigating the Digital Age," in which students and parents interacted with one another to develop a deeper understanding of today's technology and social media use.

As a part of our planning process, we continue to review district and school data to make good instructional decisions for groups of students as well as the individual child. We 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.

Our SIC along with our PTSA

Respectfully,

*Mr. Vernon Sava*

Principal

*Dr. John Lukowski*

SIC Chair

## Initiatives and Strategies for School

- 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.

## Fine Arts Highlights

◇ 8th Grade Band received a Superior with Distinction at the SC State Concert Performance Assessment. This is the highest score possible. We had 2 students chosen to participate in All State Band this year and 16 students chosen to participate in Region Band this year. The 8th Grade Band had a fabulous trip and performance at Disney World. The students were able to participate in a studio recording session. They got to hear about how music is recorded for movies and hear about the career opportunity of being a studio musician. They recorded a portion of the Tarzan sound track and we were given a video of the animation with our music as the sound track.

The 7th grade band is looking forward to a successful performance on May 3 at Carowinds Music Festival and the Band program is on track to receive the Outstanding Performance Award from the South Carolina Band Director's Association for the 8th year in a row.

- ◇ The Dazzlers Dance Team class performed 2 dances they learned at 3 local competitions and won the following awards this year:
  - Most Innovative Choreography
  - Coolest Choreography
  - 1st Overall for the Middle School division
  - Five 1st place trophies
  - 3 Judges awards for solos that were performed
- ◇ Two students from the Drama Program were cast in the District Musical, Willy Wonka.
- ◇ First semester 7th Grade Art, 8th Grade Art, 7th Grade Honors Art, 8th Grade Honors Art, 2D Design and 3D Design students had their Fall Semester Art Show in January. Our students then participated in the Accumulative Art @ 5 District Art Show, featuring artwork highlighting the talents of students all throughout the school district of Lexington-Richland 5 at the Main Street Gallery of Irmo High School in March—April.
- ◇ Second semester Art students are continuing to work diligently towards their final project goals in preparation for their Spring Art show on May 28th.
- ◇ The Orchestra had 20 students selected for SCMEA Region Orchestra and 1 alternative. Five students were selected for SCMEA All-State Orchestra. The Honors Orchestra was a featured performing group at the SCMEA Conference in February. Capriccio, Concert and Honors Orchestra received Superiors at the SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment. Honors and Concert Orchestra traveled to Orlando, FL and participated in the Disney Performing Workshop.



*"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 following achievement data represents students that scored “Met” and “Exceeds” on the SC Ready assessment, students that scored “Meets” and “Exceeds” on the SC PASS Science Assessment and students that scored “Met” and “Exemplary” on the SC PASS Social Studies Assessment.**

### SC REPORT CARD

2017-2018 OVERALL RATING - GOOD (51)

<b>SC READY</b>	<b>DFMS</b>	<b>STATE</b>
SC READY - ELA	56%	41.7%
SC READY - MATH	52%	44.6%
<b>SC PASS</b>		
SC PASS - SCIENCE	68.4%	48.7%
SC PASS - SOCIAL STUDIES	88.3%	66.4%

### **EOCEP**

ALGEBRA - 99.6%

ENGLISH 1 - 100%

# School Highlights

## Clubs, Organizations, and Athletics

- DFMS had 222 students take the PSAT this year and 68 of those students were recognized as Junior Scholars based on their scores.
- DFMS had two teams compete at the USC PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Engineering Challenge for Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics. Both teams represented DFMS well. The Robotics Team won the Best Engineering Notebook Award and the Design and Modeling Team won the Innovation Award. Both teams qualified for the State championship with an Excellence Award at a regional competition, and both finished in the top 10 at State.
- DFMS Automation and Robotics classes participated in both an actual and a virtual field trip this year. Both events allowed students to see connections between classroom activities and career opportunities.
- The 2018-2019 Boys C-Team Basketball team finished the season 18-0 and won the PAC 16 Conference Championship for the 7th time.
- The 2018-2019 C- Team Football Team won the PAC 16 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.
- DFMS Academic Team placed 2nd in the state during the Fall 321 Competition. They also placed 1st in the state during the Spring 321 Competition.
- DFMS Jr. Beta Club received recognition as a National Merit School. The club's 235 members completed more than 700 hours of volunteer service in our community.
- DFMS had 8 Duke TIP State qualifiers and 1 Duke TIP Grand qualifier for 2018-2019.
- DFMS Student Council received 5 out of 6 awards at the SCASC Convention this year at CHS. Student Council received the status of Gold Honor council, which is the highest award a council can receive. We also received the Terry McCoy Award, Gold Scrapbook, Recognition and School Spirit awards. The members worked hard to put on various activities and programs to promote Fox Pride and School Spirit. This year we implemented First Friday which was a huge success to recognize our students and staff for their day to day accomplishments.

\*\* 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.

## 2018-19 Teacher and Support Employees of the Year



### Jennifer Grogan and Andy Smith

*“Helping students empower themselves to become independent, lifelong learners is one of the most fulfilling careers a person could choose.”*

**Jennifer Grogan**

**2018-2019 Teacher of the Year**

Mrs. Grogan is a special education teacher at DFMS with 5 years of teaching experience. Mrs. Grogan’s responsibilities consist of co-teaching 7th and 8th grade ELA, Special Education District Leadership Member, SIC Member, Faculty Advisory Community Member, Code Blue Team Member, CPI Member and Teacher Mentor. She is also a new mother to a beautiful baby boy.



*“Fox Pride is not just our Motto, it’s our way of life. From the walkways to the classroom and beyond, we must take PRIDE in everything we do.”*

**Andy Smith**

**2018-2019 Support Employee of the Year**

Mr. Smith is starting his 19th year at DFMS. Along with being the receptionist, Mr. Smith is also the Boys C-Team Basketball coach. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, watching sports and relaxing.

***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.***