

Dutch Fork Middle School

Annual Report

2013-2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL & SIC CHAIR

SIC Members

Bobby Wilbur
(Chair)

Gloria Bowman
Vice-Chair)

Mandy Goldsmith
(Secretary)

Angelo Anderson

Ben Aplin

Dr. Jacquetta Chatman

Scott Crittenden

Mandy DaWalt

Erin Doty

Charlie Divita

Dr. Gerald Gary

Brandi Harper

Brianna Looby

George Lusk

Bailey McMahon

Alexis Miller

Grant Niles

Sandy Reading

Vernon Sava

Kimberly Taylor

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 as evidenced by our most recent rating of "Excellent" on the South Carolina Department of Education School Report Card and "A" rating on the Federal Accountability Report Card, formerly known as AYP.

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 what ever is necessary to produce the best educational setting for all students on a daily basis.

Respectfully,

Dr. Gerald Gary
Principal

Bobby Wilbur
SIC Chair

Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

Student Achievement

1. The percentage of students meeting standard on PASS (Met or Exemplary) will increase by two percentage points each year for all four contents areas: ELA, math, science and social studies.
2. The percentage of students who meet their growth target on Spring Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) reading and math will increase by 2 percentage points each year.
3. The percentage of IEP students who are Met or Exemplary will increase by 5 percentage points each year.

School Climate

4. The number of discipline infractions for African-American students will be reduced by 10 percent.
5. We will increase by 2 percentage points:
 - the percentage of 8th grade students satisfied with the learning environment;
 - the percentage of all teachers satisfied with the learning environment;
 - the percentage of parents satisfied with home and school relations.

Teacher Quality

6. Teacher response on the NDSC survey will increase two tenths of a percentage point in response to questions in the areas of *Evaluation* and *Learning*.

Fine Arts Highlights

In 2013 The DFMS Band earned the Outstanding Performance Award, received a Superior rating at Concert Festival and Excellent ratings at Carowinds. The DFMS Jazz Band performed at the CRMS band clinic as well as several school functions and pep rallies.

During the first semester, dance students delved into several professional styles of dance including ballet, hip hop, jazz, and modern. Students showcased what they learned in a Winter performance and school-wide assembly.

Seventh and Eighth grade Chorus students showcased their talents during a Winter concert and school-wide assembly. They will compete at the Music Festival this spring.

In 2013 both 7th and 8th grade orchestras received superior ratings at completion. DFMS had 14 students selected for the Midlands Region Orchestra. DFMS also has four students that competed against the best orchestra students in the state and were accepted to participate in the SCMEA All-State Orchestra event held at Furman University.

The first semester 2D Design, 3D Design, 7th grade art, and 8th grade art classes had a semester art show which showcased their artwork created throughout the entire semester. Students received awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each project for each art section offered.



“Shaping the future... Making connections”

Instructional Philosophy

Our instructional program is driven by the three R's: *rigor, relevance* and *relationships*. At DFMS we meet students at their current academic level and challenge them with *rigorous* coursework so they 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

PASS Performance Spring 2013

Percent of students scoring Met or Exemplary in each subject

ELA	Writing	Math	Science	Social Studies
83%	87%	86%	87%	85%

End of Course Test

Course	A's	B's	C's	D's	F's	Total #
Algebra I	171	95	47	3	0	316
English 1	91	95	64	10	1	261

School Highlights

Clubs, Organizations, and Athletics

- * This year the Beta Club focused on practicing their motto - "Lead by serving others." The members of Beta Club along with Student Council sponsored a food drive in December, provided wrapping paper for the school's Angel Tree project, helped the DFHS Kit Den develop a classroom library, and provided needed supplies for the school back pack program.
- * This year DFMS had two Robotics teams compete in the state qualifier with one of those teams winning the "Gracious Professionalism" Award.
- * After dominating the regionals, the DFMS Mock Trial Team placed third in the state competition where they won three most effective witness awards and one most effective attorney award. In addition, they continued on to compete at the Battle of the Carolinas against the top three schools from North and South Carolina.
- * The Student Council of Dutch Fork Middle School attended the 65th SCASC State Convention held at Waccamaw High School on Pawley's Island, SC in March, 2013! Our school's council received the following awards: Gold Honor Council, Best Fundraiser Project Award for "DFMS Valentine's Day Fruit-Grams--Got Fruit?", and Bronze Gavel Award denoting DFMS Student Council as the Third Best Middle School Student Council in the state.
- * Members of the Math Counts Team participated in American Mathematics Competition 8th grade test in November. We had two Honor Roll students scoring in the top 5% and a First Place Winner. The team had 3 students participate in the countdown round and sent 3 team members to compete in the state competition.
- * The 2013-2014 C-Team Football team had an undefeated season and went onto to win the PAC 13 Championship.
- * The 2013-2014 C-Team Basketball team also went undefeated in the regular season and advanced to the semi-finals PAC 13 Championship tournament.
- * In addition to our their 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.

** 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

Teacher and Support Employee of the Year



**Mandy Goldsmith
and
Randy Long**

Ms. Goldsmith is a 7th grade English Language Arts teacher who has been teaching for 13 years. She serves as the 7th grade ELA Data Team Co-Chair Facilitator, an ELA Leadership Team Member, Mock Trial Sponsor, and a Homebound teacher. Ms. Goldsmith is

most proud of how the faculty and staff is always ready to assist or lend a helping hand.

Mr. Long began working here at Dutch Fork Middle School in 2011. Mr. Long states that he is most proud of his custodial staff and all of their hard work and the support they are always willing to give.

Both Ms. Goldsmith and Mr. Long clearly show dedication and pride in what they do here at Dutch Fork Middle School.

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.