

Our School is helping all students develop the World Class Skills of the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*. This year, 2017-2018, this effort has been enhanced by the return of the *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEMS) Program* to Carver-Edisto Middle School. This year, students were offered three STEMS courses: Design and Modeling which teaches students to sketch and complete 3-D drawings using CAD software; Automation and Robotics which teaches students to code; and Flight and Space which teaches students the history of flight and forces of flight. Next year, the goal is to add Apps Creation to teach students to build their own Apps. The class's instructor is certified in both middle and secondary math and science, which will provide a solid foundation to teach these classes. In addition, the instructor takes classes to prepare for these particular courses. A state-of-the-art computer lab with current software was added to the school to support these classes.

Project Based Learning is a collaborative teaching method that includes all subjects: reading, writing, social studies, science, math, technology, and the arts. Students work in teams to gain knowledge and skills, and this year time was built into the schedule for students to be part of an elective Project Based Learning class. Students work for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. The teachers have been very pleased at how the students have taken ownership of the projects and how much time, energy, and brain power they have invested in the activities. This upcoming school year, the school will again offer Project Lead the Way course work.

The STEMS program, along with the continued implementation of Project Based Learning, is helping all students develop the world class skills, and the life and career characteristics outlined in the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*. World class skills targeted are creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and problem solving. These courses demand that students and teachers work collaborative as a team. The programs develop students' self-direction, a global perspective, perseverance, interpersonal skills, and a respectable work ethic. Our teachers are helping develop the characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by using the information gleaned from continuous data-team meetings to demand rigorous work in all disciplines from all students.

Recent test data from the South Carolina State Department indicates that the diligence by our students and teachers is producing positive results. The State Department calculated academic gains over the past three years. The results are based on state testing which includes SC Ready English Language Arts and math, as well as PASS science and social studies. Results include the following: English Language Arts (all grade levels) shows that students made more progress than the Growth Standard, or one year's academic growth; math (sixth and eighth grades) made more progress than the Growth Standard, or one year's academic growth; science (sixth and seventh grades) made more progress than the Growth Standard, or one year's academic growth; and social studies (sixth and seventh grades) made more progress than the Growth Standard, or one year's academic growth. Last year, CEMS students who took the End of Course Exam in English 1 Honors and Algebra 1 Honors passed their exam. This increased the numbers of students in both National Junior Beta Club and National Junior Honor Society. To help struggling students, they were placed in flexible classes to address individual student academic needs. To target students reading well below grade level, the Media Specialist and two other teachers taught

reading skills to small groups of students. Through these combined efforts, it is evident that rigorous coursework and high expectations work!

Although the primary goal for all students at Carver-Edisto Middle School is high academic learning, we also strive to provide a rich variety of extra-curricular opportunities and Character Education. First, a full scale Advisee program was built into the schedule; small groups of students were assigned to adults in the building. The groups met four times a week and addressed a variety of topics, including Character Education. Furthermore, the “Lifeskills” curriculum was taught during this time. Next, many of the students have participated in a variety of athletic competitions and in cheerleading, while students interested in technology took keyboarding, Microsoft Word, and Journalism classes, producing an annual yearbook. In addition, students interested in the teaching profession were given the opportunity to take a Pro-Team class. Likewise, Drama and Choral students teamed up three times this year to perform an “Evening Showcase”; this year’s culminating production was “The Not So Very Scary Musical.” Finally, students participated in the award winning CEMS Band, and our visual arts students created colorful and creative artwork on recycled broom handles. Collectively, these programs added to a rich academic program have offered rigorous learning opportunities for all students.

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