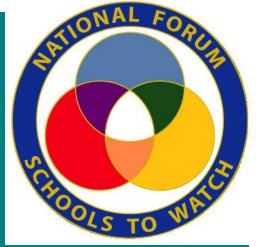


# SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL TO WATCH



## Dutchman Creek Middle School



## 2012-13 School Statistics

Community: Size/characteristics 68,000  
Enrollment: 925 students  
Grade Levels: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>  
School Schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m

### Student Demographics

58%	White
34%	African American
6%	Hispanic
2%	Asian
0%	Filipino
0%	Pacific Islander

47% Free/Reduced Lunch  
5% English Learners

2010 AYP: Met 20 of 21 Objectives  
2011 AYP: Met 22 of 27 Objectives  
2012 ESEA Points and Grade: 87.6 – B

Data Source: South Carolina Department of Education

### Designated in 2013

Dutchman Creek Middle School • Rock Hill District Three  
County York • State SC • Principal Norris Williams  
School Address 4757 Mt Gallant Rd, Rock Hill, SC 29732  
Phone (803) 985-1700,  
E-mail NWilliams@rhmail.org  
School Web site dc.rock-hill.k12.sc.us

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Palmetto Gold Award two consecutive years for growth in PASS testing
- Common planning for Professional Learning Communities
- Professional Learning Communities have created common formative and summative assessments
- Utilization of data walls to show testing growth from year to year
- Daily enrichment time where students receive remediation, reinforcement and Gifted and Talented instruction
- Retest/Retake policy in place for students to achieve mastery
- Interactive Promethean boards are utilized for instruction, as well as slates, ActiVotes, and ActivExpressions
- Utilization of web-based resources such as: Quia, USATestPrep, Edmodo, Compass Learning, and IXL Math

- Offer high school credit courses to eligible 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students including: Algebra 1, English 1, and Geometry

(Continued)

## **South Carolina Schools to Watch** ***Dutchman Creek Middle School***

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### **Academic Excellence** *(continued)*

- Student achievement is recognized every quarter with Gator Cards. Students receive rewards throughout each grading period by showing their card.
- Each Professional Learning Community has areas to display student work

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Each grade level has a school counselor and assistant principal who rotate with them each year.
- Special Education transition nights for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade families and rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade families – help families become aware of resources at the middle and high school level
- Individual Graduation Plan conferences – involves parents and students meeting with a counselor to prepare for high school and college/career readiness
- Male Call – mentoring group for all male students. Monthly activities are hosted by our male faculty members based on interests of male students
- 212 – comprised of male students who have been unsuccessful in passing the standardized tests given in South Carolina and are in one or more subgroups identified by the South Carolina Department of Education.
- 180 – mentor group to instill accountability to an at-risk group of female students
- First Ladies – mentor group for all female students. Monthly activities are hosted by our female faculty members based on interests of female students
- Academic Challenge Team – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders that travel with academic coaches to compete locally
- Junior Beta Club – provide assistance with service opportunities in the community
- Career Day – parents and community members speak with students about careers and future opportunities
- LEO Club (Law Enforcement Opportunities) – lunch and learn sessions based on the law enforcement field
- Classroom guidance – academic achievement, personal/social development and career development
- Step Team – partnership with Winthrop University to teach, mentor and support young ladies at DCMS. They perform traditional step routines throughout the school year
- Dance Team – students learn traditional dance mixed with hip hop, jazz and contemporary dance taught by a local dance teacher. Parents also volunteer to help mentor students that are on the dance team.

- FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) – FCA is a student lead group that meets every other week to encourage each other in their faith.
- King of Gators Club – students interested in video gaming have developed a club to learn new techniques and demonstrate their gaming skills
- Book Club – Students read books with the media specialist per their interest.
- Athletic Teams – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade football, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade wrestling, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball, track, softball and cheerleading

## **Social Equity**

- Instruction is differentiated in each classroom setting to ensure that students have equal opportunity to learn regardless of their developmental level.
- International Club provides students with exposure to different cultures through guest speakers, cultural cuisines and language immersion.
- ESOL Night is open to all Latin families of students of Dutchman Creek Middle and promotes the various resources and support systems available in the community.
- Students are recognized in several ways including “Student of the Week” for each interdisciplinary teams and Gator Cards which are based on quarterly GPAs.
- To maintain open lines of communication with all parents, varied means of communication are utilized such Parent Portal (online access to grades), Email Blast (sent out daily by each interdisciplinary team with information about assignments), Parent Link (automated telephoning system), Parent Updates (bi-weekly e-mails with school news).
- The National First Day of school is an initiative implemented at Dutchman Creek which allows parents and families to participate in the first day of school as support for new students.
- Support is provided for all students in need of academic assistance such as Exceptional Student assistants, peer tutoring, teacher-led tutoring, small group instruction in classroom settings and ICU (Intensive Care Unit) program which provides a structure for students to complete missed assignments.
- All students have access to technology assisted programs (Edmodo, Quia.com, Quizlet) and devices (computers in labs, Ipads, Ipods).

## **Organizational Support**

The Dutchman Creek Faculty believes in interdependent collaboration within the school environment. With continuous team planning as well as interdisciplinary planning, the core curriculums are intertwined within many units of study. The students examine multiple disciplines through inquiry based learning opportunities and maintain a reflective approach to learning.

Professional development opportunities are also abundant. Through the professional development scheduling database, teachers in are offered sessions that include workshops and training, courses, book studies, and lab classroom opportunities. The areas of focus always connect to the components of having Shared Vision and Beliefs, creating a Nurturing Environment, promoting a Future Focus and Designing Quality Work-with the ultimate goal being student engagement and achievement.

In addition to holistic planning at Dutchman Creek, each department within the school analyzes information in order to establish specific goals. In each academic area, teachers develop content specific plans and activities. In addition to content area planning, subject area teachers create common assessments for the units. These assessments are applied and used to analyze student achievement across the grade level.

Dutchman Creek Middle School has a strong partnership with Winthrop University, as well as other colleges and universities, to recruit, prepare, and mentor teachers. Administrators and teachers create strong bonds with the university students through the creation of internships, integral classroom observations, and activities.

DCMS strives to keep families and community leaders informed about the school's goals for student success and the levels of responsibility needed to accomplish the goals. This is achieved in several ways including use of Parent Portal where the students and parents may review grades online. Teachers also issue progress reports every 15 days, email communication in reference to homework, upcoming assignments, and important dates is sent to parents daily, and e-newsletters are sent monthly.