

# SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL TO WATCH

Dutchman Creek Middle School

*School picture here*

## **Designated in 2012-2013; Redesignated 2015-2016**

Dutchman Creek Middle School • District Rock Hill District  
Three County York • State SC • Principal Dr. Norris  
Williams • 4757 Mount Gallant Road Rock Hill SC 29732  
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["http://dc.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/"](http://dc.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/) <http://dc.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/>

## 2015-2016 School Statistics

Community: Rural Community  
Enrollment: 950 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

8% Hispanic  
55% White  
30% African American  
4% American Indian  
3% Multiracial  
3% Asian  
<1% Pacific Islander

54.7% Free/Reduced Lunch  
7% English Learners

### State Ratings History of School

Year	Absolute	Growth
2014	Excellent	Excellent
2013	Excellent	Good
2012	Excellent	Excellent

Data Source: South Carolina Department of  
Education

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Palmetto Gold Award five consecutive years for growth in PASS testing
- Professional Learning Communities have created common formative and summative assessments
- Daily enrichment time where students receive remediation, reinforcement and Gifted and Talented instruction
- Offer high school credit courses to eligible 7th and 8th grade students including: Algebra 1, English 1, and Spanish
- Students are provided with interventions to achieve excellence in academics
- Students learn through a variety of challenging & engaging activities in class
- Students are evaluated/assessed in multiple ways

(Continued)

## ***Dutchman Creek Middle School***

### **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**

- Transition programs for rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students include student tours, individual conferences, and boot camp.
- Each grade level has a school counselor and assistant principal who rotate with them each year.
- Special Education transition nights for incoming 6th grade families and rising 9th 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
- 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 – 7th & 8th 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
- 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
- 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 – 7th & 8th grade football, 7th & 8th grade girls basketball, 7th & 8th grade boys basketball, 7th & 8th grade wrestling, 7th & 8th 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.
- 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 as Canvas (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, and iPads).
- Literacy Night is open to all families of students of Dutchman Creek and promotes literature among families along with having fun while increasing reading.

## **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.
- Teachers belong to various professional organizations to learn more about their craft.
- Analyzing data and using it to create plans for instruction.
- 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 Canvas where the students and parents may review grades online.
- Teachers also email communication in reference to homework, upcoming assignments, and important dates to parents daily, and e-newsletters (Parent Updates) are sent monthly.
- Additionally, we continue with programs such as National First Day of school which allows parents to stay informed and a part of the school culture.