



## GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS TO WATCH MIDDLE SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Feagin Mill Middle School

*School picture here*

#### Designated in 2015-16

**District-** Houston County Schools

**County -** Houston

**State –** Georgia

**Principal –** Dr. Jesse Davis

**Address-** 1200 Feagin Mill Road

**Phone Number-**478-953-0430

**School Website –** [fmms.hcbe.net](http://fmms.hcbe.net)

### 2015-2016 School Statistics

- Community: Warner Robins, GA- pop. 74,000
- Enrollment: 800
- Grade Levels: 6-8
- School Schedule: Traditional 6-period

#### Student Demographics

- 7% Hispanic
- 49% White
- 31% African American
- 0% Filipino
- 7% Asian
- 0% Pacific Islander
- 36.5 % Free/Reduced Lunch
- 1% English Learners

2010 AYP: Yes

2011 AYP: Yes

2012 CCRPI score: 85.7

2013 CCRPI score: 87

2014 CCRPI score: 88.5

2015 CCRPI score: 83.5

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Feagin Mill implements several behavioral interventions, both for positive and negative behaviors.
- Teachers implement behavior and success cards to document a student's daily behavioral and academic behaviors. Rewarding success is a top priority.
- Every teacher employed by Feagin Mill is highly-qualified in their subject area.
- Teachers at Feagin Mill are required to plan with their subject-area, grade level, and county-level subject-area.
- Teachers implement a wide array of teaching styles in the classroom direct instruction, cooperative learning, project-based learning, simulations, hands-on learning, integrated technology, group and individual work

- Students are provided with rubrics and exemplary work samples to show the ways to achieve academic excellence.
- We use varied approaches to reach parents and students through technology.
- Teachers, regular education teachers, and gifted teachers all meet to discuss content.
- Teachers offer tutoring during off hours.
- Multiple opportunities are available for students to show mastery of content.
- Feagin Mill's students achieve highly at county and state science and social studies fairs, as well as in extra-curricular academic team competitions.
- Guidance counselors initiate and oversee RTI interventions at the school.
- Administration has placed a goal that all teachers will be gifted certified in the next two years.
- We utilize a rotating schedule which allows academic classes to be taken at various times throughout the week.

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Feagin Mill is dedicated to providing a safe, equitable, and supportive environment advantageous to each student's personal maturation.
- Teachers create lessons that are engaging and age-appropriate.
- Positive reinforcement encourages student pride in the school and learning environment.
- Grade levels are divided into teams and then, smaller heterogeneous groups to foster relationship-building between student and teacher.
- Homeroom teachers serve as an advisor to answer questions or to counsel students as needed.
- Each team is assigned a school counselor who tracks attendance and provides emotional and behavioral support to both students and teachers.
- "Teachers as Advisors (TAA)" lessons are taught every other week during our PAWS time (Preparing All Wolves for Success), with the homeroom teacher serving as the advisor. TAA lessons cover topics such as bullying, academic honesty, and study skills.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Leadership Council- made up of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students chosen by their teachers, operate a recycling system for Feagin Mill, raise money to purchase food for families in need.
- Feagin Mill also has partnerships with local businesses to provide "Snack Packs" to be taken home on Fridays for those families in need.
- Feagin Mill has an open-door policy when it comes to communication with parents, students, and teachers.
- School expectations are clearly defined in our student agenda and school handbook for both parents and students.
- 5<sup>th</sup> graders visit and take student-led tours of our school to aid in the transition from elementary to middle school. A Parent Night is held with the parents of upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders, so they may tour the school and ask questions, as well.
- Feagin Mill offers a plethora of clubs and activities to help students discover their passion. Examples include: Hands Across Houston County, Partners Club, Beta Club, FCCLA, FBLA, FCA, 8th Grade Leadership (Student Council), Chess Club, Art Club, and 4H. Students may also participate on the Math Team and Academic Team.
- Feagin Mill has an award-winning band program that serves all three grades.
- Seventh and eighth grade students may participate in competitive sports.

## **Social Equity**

- Our school's lunch program is outstanding in providing nutritionally-balanced breakfasts and lunches.

- Each Friday afternoon, students from disadvantaged households receive snack bags to take home for the weekend.
- Our school campus is well-maintained, offering a clean environment in which our students can learn.
- The safety of our students is our top priority. We provide many drills and scenarios throughout the year to practice emergency preparedness.
- We offer anti-bullying education to students and parents annually.
- Parent Drop In and Open House are held annually.
- Delivery of instruction conforms to IDEA, and all school programs, clubs, organizations, and teams are Title IX compliant.
- The number and variety of extracurricular groups offers a place for every wolf to find his or her passion.
- Communication between the Mill and home occurs in multiple ways (agenda, school messenger, Infinite Campus, Channel 17, team newsletters, teacher webpages, online posts, and student email through Edmodo, etc.).
- Positive behavior interventions and strategies are used throughout the building.
- Mentoring coupled with a check in/check out program encourages wolves to modify negative behaviors.
- Teachers as Advisors lessons promote good character and choices.
- A certified teacher coordinates the in-school suspension program where emphasis is placed on focused high academic achievement rather than punitive measures.
- Students who make good choices throughout the week are offered incentives for their good choices.
- Using ASPIRE, our students with disabilities lead their annual IEP meetings.
- Diversity is celebrated through novel studies, Georgia scrapbooks, and an annual Culture Day.
- Student successes are highlighted throughout the school.
- Student learning style and interest inventories, as well as summative and formative assessments, inform classroom differentiation.
- Teachers model and teach organizational methods through the use of interactive student notebooks, spirals, writing folders, and binders.
- Time management and prioritizing assignments are taught through Teachers as Advisors lessons and through the daily use of the student agendas.
- Professional learning aids with the development of real-world problems, learning games, experiments and labs, instructional use of technology, and project-based learning.
- Community-based instruction and the Coffee Mill benefit our wolves with special needs.
- Giving back to the community is important to Feagin Mill. Our students volunteer money, time, and talents for Jay's Hope, the United Way, Hoops for the Heart, our school-sponsored annual 5K, canned food drives, and various other causes through our Hands Across Houston County club.
- Feagin Mill partners with the local Happy Hour organization by participating in its paper recycling program
- Our computer class saves the environment by recycling ink cartridges while earning cash for needed supplies.

## **Organizational Support**

- The Mission of Feagin Mill Middle School is to empower all students with the skills necessary to discover their passion and reach personal excellence.
- Our principal, a "National Distinguished Principal" recipient. He leads our school with a progressive, sensible, and positive attitude that is contagious.
- The Better Seeking Team (BST) meets on a regular basis to review policies, procedures, and practices as they impact our mission, ensuring that they are vertically aligned with our system's mission and goals.

- The willingness to try new things, experiment, and reflect upon our practice is school-wide.
- Teachers and administration reflect and complete assessments for TKES/LKES in which feedback is collected via student, staff, and parent surveys.
- Our teachers are life-long learners attending conferences, seeking higher degrees and obtaining new endorsements.
- We were the first middle school to incorporate Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD) in our district.
- Common assessments and benchmarks are analyzed to discover gaps to drive instruction.
- We have designated a set block of time, known as “PAWS,” to remediate and enrich students daily.
- Opportunities to assist students and parents transitioning to and from middle school are also in place.
- Our student athletes are even given the opportunity to train at the high school to prepare them for the next level of competition.
- High school special education teachers attend IEP meetings to familiarize themselves with upcoming students.
- Teachers at Feagin Mill are supported to promote a positive learning environment.
- We have a very active Sunshine Club, a social committee, and an administration that values the staff.
- On occasion, teachers are provided lunch, extra planning time, treats, praise, and recognition.
- In addition, our school reaches out to the community by participating in local and professional organizations.
- Feagin Mill Middle School is a dedicated community that constantly seeks growth in all facets of education.