



GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS TO WATCH

SOUTH FORSYTH MIDDLE SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

South Forsyth Middle School—Established 1998



South Forsyth Middle School

<https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/domain/3974>

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2018-2019 School Statistics

Community: Suburb of south metro Atlanta
Enrollment: 1296
Grade Levels: 6-8

Student Demographics

5% Hispanic
50% White
2% African American
38% Asian
5% Other
3% Free and Reduced

Faculty and Staff

90 Total Staff members
3 Administrators
2 Instructional Specialists
1 Media Specialist
2 Counselors
11 Support Personnel
7 Special Education Teachers
76 Certified Teachers

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Using the Forsyth County Schools' Learner Profile as a guide, teachers prepare students for future opportunities by embedding the Learner Profile attributes into daily routines and lessons.
- On-level, advanced, gifted, and accelerated courses are offered with 8th graders having the opportunity to earn up to three high school credits in Algebra or Accelerated Coordinate Algebra/Analytical Geometry, Physical Science, and Spanish.
- South Forsyth Middle School provided a rich variety of Connection courses including Health, Physical Education, Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts, Band, Chorus, Broadcasting, Yearbook, Marketing, Business and Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, and Healthcare Science.
- South Forsyth Middle School has a flexible schedule which provides for Learning Support Time built into the school day for remediation and enrichment.
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- The mission statement of SFMS, *Educating, Motivating, and Empowering today's students for tomorrow's opportunities*, guides the work of creating engaging educational experiences preparing all students for current and future success.

Developmental Responsiveness

- South Forsyth Middle School creates an environment that supports academic success while at the same time supporting each student's social and emotional needs.
- All students participate in activities which encompass the 7 Mindsets philosophy which helps students discover who they are and what is important to them.
- Students in 7th and 8th grade participate in a Day of Service where they provide man-hours to the local charitable organizations.
- Several programs, Kick It Up Club, Sources of Strength, Student Advisory, and Peer Buddies, provide students opportunities to serve in leadership roles.
- South Forsyth Middle has over 40 clubs and organizations offered before and after school. Students compete competitively in Academic Bowl, Math Club, Science Olympiad, Debate, Robotics, DECA, HOSA and FBLA.
- Competitive athletics is open to 7th and 8th grade students and include football, cheerleading, basketball, golf, and track and field.

Social Equity

- Teachers at South Forsyth Middle School design differentiated lessons based on the needs and learning styles of each student.
- Learning Support Time (LST) is offered for forty minutes twice a week for students to work in small groups as teachers provide additional instruction and practice.
- Students who are below grade level in math and/or reading are assigned a literacy class where the teacher uses data daily to identify weaknesses and provide instruction to close gaps in learning.
- Students in sixth and seventh grade are taught research-based instructional strategies, Strategic Instruction Model[®] (SIM), to support reading, writing, remembering, studying and test taking skills.
- Passion Projects (6th grade) and Awareness Campaigns (7th grade) are the basis for instruction in the ELA Enrichment classes where students utilize research and writing strategies to complete these projects.
- Students are encouraged to participate in the school's annual Eagle Summit Showcase, an event designed for students to showcase their school and extracurricular projects.

Organizational Supports

- The school's motto "excellence Never Rests" sets the tone for continuous improvement and engagement for all.
- Staff members participate in grade level, content Data Teams utilizing formative, summative, and benchmark data to inform instruction and personalize learning.
- Professional Learning Communities are utilized to support teacher growth through exploration and sharing of educational practices.
- All teachers are encouraged to present best practices at our bi-monthly Breakfast Club.
- South Forsyth Middle has an active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Local School Council (LSC), providing insight and guidance on the organizational processes of school.
- Staff members are given opportunities to serve on the Local School Council, Leadership Team, 7 Mindsets Committee, and/or New Teacher Orientation Team.