



## Spring Lake Middle School

612 Spring Avenue · Spring Lake, NC 28390

Office 910.497.1175 · Fax 910.497.3467

**Derek L. McCoy**, Principal

**Molly Abraham**, Assistant Principal

**Leonard Bellamy**, Safe Schools Coordinator

Counselors **Jessika Rodriguez**, **Brian McGeehan**

November 8, 2013

To whom it may concern;

Derek McCoy is an awesome example for the staff and students when it comes to embracing the implementation of technology in the classes, leadership and the development of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Our staff, administrators, faculty, students and parents are now, more than ever, connecting through social media and implementing technology to foster learning in the classrooms. Conducting meetings through Edmodo ( Facebook for teachers and students), flipped classes and sending information to faculty and staff Mr. McCoy models a variety of innovative technological tools and practices. Exemplifying professionalism through his conduct, expectations and engagement with his staff, students, parents and community Mr. McCoy has caused many to conduct self-reflections. Teaching to independence to do, he models what leadership and innovation should look like by sharing pertinent resources, articles and research individuals, departments and leadership. Through his leadership and guidance PLCs are offered weekly to staff members in order to foster collaboration and move from Good to Great. Instructional Support Days (ISD's) are offered in order for staff members to receive a more intensive instruction on how to implement technology in their classes.

Spring Lake Middle School's (SLMS) online presence has grown tremendously since Mr. McCoy has been the administrator. You can now find us on Twitter. SLMS was one of the first schools in NC to receive an impact grant that allowed for 4 computer labs, a versa pod in the media center and 2 class computers and an interactive board in each room. This took place during my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of teaching. Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Mr. McCoy we now have 3 laptop carts and 2 iPad carts circulating throughout the building. Students are learning through Problem Based Learning (PBL) and bringing their own digital devices (BYOD) to class to take ownership of and enhance their learning experience. Teachers are embracing the BYOD by creating activities that will allow students to utilize their devices effectively, efficiently and with netiquette. There are plans to move forward so that the school will have an iPad cart on each hall and student chrome books to replace the severely outdated desktops presently being used. We now have and Instructional Coach, Math Coach, and a Technology Innovation Facilitator (TIF) that collaborate to support staff members with instruction and incorporation technology into their classes. It was not until I became the TIF that my eyes were open to what being a true leader, innovator and networker Mr. McCoy was. Though I was reluctant to join LinkedIn shadowing and having conversations with McCoy has changed my perspective and now I too am connected and networking with other professionals. In the near future my plan is to share my expertise and research through blogging.

Following this trail blazer has caused tremendous growth within Spring Lake Middle School within the Spring Lake community and personally. These resources continue to enhance my professional growth and learning of students, faculty, staff and leadership skills. It is because of his leadership, dedication and passion for being the lead-learner in our school that I proudly recommend Mr. Derek McCoy for the ISTE Digital Principal Award.

Respectfully,

  
Tamika Crumpler

Technology Innovation Facilitator