

FORT SETTLEMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fostering Excellence the Fort Settlement Way

Written by Julie Battelle

Select Photos by Marisa Hugonnett

Since Fort Settlement Middle School first opened its doors in August of 2001, its teachers have been opening minds and sparking the imagination of its students. With nearly 70 faculty members and more than 1,000 students, FSMS is making its mark in Fort Bend ISD as a campus of the highest caliber. The fighting Falcons proudly show off their crimson and silver with high achievement in sports and academics, as well as a willingness to reach out to the community.

Rising to the Top

Having earned an exemplary rating from the Texas Education Agency, FSMS was also recently recognized for its commitment to excellence by the Texas Business and Education Coalition, which named the campus an honor roll school for the fourth year. To receive this distinction, a school must have a high percentage of students meeting state standards on every TAKS test for three consecutive years. Honor roll schools also have the highest percentage of students performing at the commended level – the state's most rigorous standard – in every subject. As a campus demonstrating the highest level of academic achievement year after year, FSMS is joined by only 34 other honor roll middle schools in the state.

With teachers who inspire, outstanding parent involvement, and students who love to learn, the school hopes to soar to new heights in coming years. "Our campus goal is to improve learning for all students. Wherever anybody is, we want to move them forward," says FSMS Principal Julie Diaz.

Fort Settlement Middle School is an Exemplary rated campus



FORT SETTLEMENT FAST FACTS

Principal

Julie Diaz

Assistant Principal

Jennifer Williams

Opened

2001

Location

5440 Elkins Rd.
Sugar Land

Colors

Crimson, silver, and black

Mascot

Falcon

History

Located within Stephen F. Austin's original Texas colony in Fort Bend County, known as Fort Settlement



Students Michael Li and Scott Zheng competed in the Mars Solar Rover contest

Engaging Extracurriculars

In recent years, FSMS has certainly excelled, with teachers offering engaging lessons that help students shine in extracurricular activities. The Falcon Band is one of seven middle school bands in the nation selected to attend the annual Middle School National Band Festival in Indianapolis. Music students will have the chance to shine at the festival, presenting a concert and working with nationally recognized music educators in clinics.

Students recently fused art with science to create lunar rovers for the University of Houston Mars Solar Rover Competition. FSMS took three entries to compete in the event, taking first and fourth place for their extraordinary designs.

Eager to Reach Out

Fed by eager young learners from Colony Meadows Elementary, FSMS students go beyond book smarts, participating in a wide range of service projects. "We're constantly looking for ways we can reach out and help the community," says Diaz. Students have learned the value of reaching out to others through projects like collecting and refurbishing used computers to donate to worthy causes, spearheaded by Frank Winston, the school's industrial technology teacher. The student council proved the value of hands-on helping by raising money to purchase flowers for the front of the school and then planting them. The Grant-A-Starr Research Foundation is a special cause close the heart of FSMS and was started after elementary student Grant Starr died of an undiagnosed, unidentifiable virus. Through the foundation, students learn the importance of taking care of each other by raising money to develop quick methods of diagnosing viruses and bacteria.

"I think we've been given so much, now it's about how we can give back," says Diaz. "We're trying to raise our kids that way and teach them that it's not about getting, it's about giving and serving." If you know of a local school accomplishing extraordinary goals, email editor@sugarlandmagazine.com. SLM

JULIE BATTELLE, a Sugar Land native, is a freelance writer and single mom extraordinaire to her awesome daughters, Bailey and Allie.



NOMINATE YOUR SCHOOL

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FSMS students helped raise money for the Grant-A-Starr Foundation



The Falcon Band was selected for the Middle School National Band Festival

Imagine...



Grades
Pre-K-12

Learn more about FBBA at our
January Preview Events
High School - January 11
Middle School - January 14
Elementary School - January 12

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the future built
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