

## **School Improvement Committee Report to the Community 2015-16**

The Golden Strip has been the home of Hillcrest High School for almost sixty years. A source of pride for the Simpsonville-Fountain Inn Community, Hillcrest is proud of its students and faculty and their accomplishments. Many Hillcrest High faculty members hold masters degrees, masters plus thirty, as well as additional degree certifications such as National Board, Advanced Placement, and Gifted and Talented. They are highly qualified in their subject areas. Hillcrest High School continues to see an increase in student test scores. Hillcrest High School students scored an average of 83.2% on all EOC tests as compared to students in high schools like ours scoring an average of 80.4% on all EOC tests. In addition, the graduation rate rose to 87.1% in 2015, and Hillcrest High School received another Excellent Absolute Rating on the School Report Card.

Hillcrest offers many opportunities for its students beginning with the Freshman Academy for first-year ninth grade students. The Academy offers a separate location for all freshmen core classes. The Freshman Academy offered a Parent's night prior to the first day of school and the chorus, the band, student ambassadors and student council were all on hand to offer assistance and support. Parents had an opportunity to visit classrooms, tour the school, and learn about a variety of opportunities available for their rising freshmen. At the same time, the in-coming freshmen participated in their first pep rally, learning school cheers, and learning about a day in the life of a Hillcrest High School student. Approximately 500 of our new ninth grade students and their parents attended this event making it a great success. The teachers in the Academy met before school started to plan that event and continued to collaborate regularly to design activities and monitor the progress of our freshmen.

Hillcrest High School students provides a variety of opportunities for student involvement. Hillcrest has a Speech and Debate program that continuously has district, state and national winners. Hillcrest's Fine Arts Department is also a leader in our school district. This year two several students place in state events. Hillcrest students were selected for All State Chorus, All State Band, and All State Strings. Hillcrest also has one of the top athletic programs in the state with 22 varsity and 24 Sub Varsity teams that are consistently some of the top athletic teams in our state. In addition, Hillcrest offers a variety of extracurricular and academic clubs to students. Once again, our student body in partnership with the community raised over \$89,000 in one week in support of The Barbara Stone Foundation. The local community strongly supports Hillcrest High School in these endeavors. The Greenhouse Industries program at Hillcrest sponsors plant sales throughout the year, offering student-grown plants and flowers to the public. The program has earned over \$20,000 since its inception and is recognized by the state as an exemplary program.

Our Guidance Department works with students and parents to ensure students' needs are met and that students are on track for graduation. Counselors meet annually with students to develop and review each student's Individual Graduation Plan. Through interest assessments, job shadowing, work-site visits, and career speakers, students evaluate their career interests. Each student meets with their guidance counselor to determine which classes best suit the student's needs and goals. Students have ample opportunity to investigate their interests through many outstanding classes at Hillcrest High.

Hillcrest High School boasts solid and active academic and athletic booster clubs. These booster clubs provide support in the form of time and money for our students. Our PTSA offers grant opportunities to our teachers and provides opportunities all students.

Dedicated to providing a safe, positive and ever-growing learning environment, Hillcrest High School strives to bring together the resources of staff, family, and our community to create the best future possible for our students.

Bryan Skipper, Principal

Mandy Watts, SIC Chairperson