



# James F. Byrnes High School

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Dr. Jeff Rogers, Principal

## Annual School Improvement Council **Report to the Parents**

2015-2016

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of James F. Byrnes High School is to provide every student quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment, enabling each individual to succeed in life and function as a productive citizen.

### **Vision Statement**

James F. Byrnes High School will pursue exemplary educational opportunities and academic excellence in order to improve the quality of life for our students and community.

### **Beliefs**

We believe that...

- Children are our most valuable resource.
- Public education is a pillar of our society.
- Integrity is taught by example.
- Excellence is achievable.
- Mutual respect is beneficial.
- Knowledge empowers.
- Diversity strengthens.
- Family is the foundation of society.
- Children need supportive adult role models.
- Attitude makes a difference.
- Learning is a lifelong process.
- Personal responsibility serves the common good.
- Stewardship of resources maintains trust.

Over the course of the school year our **School Improvement Council** reviewed the following topics:

- Byrnes High School is going through a tremendous renovation. In November 2014, the Spartanburg District Five Schools Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a large expansion to Byrnes High School. The project includes plans for renovation of existing portions of the school, as well as the construction of a new classroom wing at Byrnes. This new wing will accommodate future growth at the high school, increasing the capacity of the campus by several hundred students. Secondly, with the addition of the best technology and equipment, it will vastly improve the learning environment for students. Most importantly, the project will ensure additional security at Byrnes High School, re-routing transportation patterns to enclose the campus.
- The Rebel Café in the lobby of Schofield gymnasium provides a comfortable hangout for students before and after school. Several televisions have been mounted on the walls. Students can purchase snacks and beverages and check out laptop computers while working on homework assignments.
- Events such as college fairs and College Application Day provided opportunities for seniors to learn about college possibilities. Representatives from many colleges have visited the school throughout the year to share information with students. The annual College Application Day was a success as every senior REBS class was given the chance to apply to at least one college. Several in-state colleges allowed students to apply to their schools for free. Representatives from many schools also visited to answer questions during the application process.
- According to state mandate, juniors at Byrnes took the ACT and WorkKeys assessments. The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Mathematics, Reading and Scientific Reasoning. The State of SC now administers the ACT to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students free of charge. This administration may be used for college admission requirements by the student, and is used for accountability measures for the school and district. WorkKeys is a job skills assessment. The statewide testing program includes three timed tests taking 45 minutes each: Reading for Information (33 items), Applied Mathematics (33 items), and Locating Information (38 items). Results from WorkKeys reveal the employability of the test taker and may be used when individuals apply for jobs.

- The school's IGP registration process is a continued success. During the months of February and March, guidance counselors meet with each student to select classes for the upcoming school year. Students are familiar with this process, as they have participated in the program since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. During the IGP period, each counselor meets with 350 students. Parents and REBS teachers are invited to attend the meetings.
- The cover of the 2016 – 2017 course directory was designed by Christian Gyles, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student. New to the directory this year are courses in Project Lead the Way: Engineering, Business Marketing, and Digital Media Marketing.
- For the 2014 – 2015 school year, Byrnes High School experienced its highest graduation rate of 87.2% - up from 84.2% in 2014.
- Byrnes High School received the “Palmetto Gold” distinction. The award, first established in 1998, recognizes efforts in general performance and closing the achievement gap.
- The Rebel Regiment celebrated their third straight Upper state Championship, AAAAA 1<sup>st</sup> place, superior rating, and a chance to play at the 2016 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, LA.
- The Byrnes orchestra program has tripled in size in just three years. The Byrnes Philharmonic received a superior rating. World renowned electric violinist and founding member of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Mark Wood, spent two days in an intensive workshop with the orchestra. The event culminated in a rock concert when orchestra students performed with Wood. Members of the orchestra also traveled to New York City to see a Broadway show and attend a performance and clinic hosted by the New York Philharmonic at the Lincoln Center.
- The Runnin' Rebels basketball team of Byrnes High School defeated Irmo to win their first state championship in 26 years. This will be the Runnin' Rebels last AAAA title. Byrnes will switch to the AAAAA division next year.

The members of the Byrnes High School Improvement Committee are:

James Alford

Erin Greenway

Cindy Sanders

Jeanette Benson

Maurice Hawkins

Victoria Shaw

Mark Bigby

Amber Hedgpeth

Parker Simmons

Rebecca Brockman

Darrlye Hodges

Rita Simmons

Allison Cavendish

Marcia Howard

Tammy Smith

Wanda Fowler

Kelly Jewett

Jeffery Ward

Charles Freeman

Jeffery Rogers

