

Report to Parents 2018
Silver Bluff High School

The 2017-2018 school year brought many changes for Silver Bluff High School. While our enrollment stayed between 615 and 625 students, we have a new principal and assistant principal, four new teachers, and 2 new staff members and a new focus.

Students and staff have made strides toward becoming a premier high school on many fronts. We were recognized by US News and World Report as a top high school, ranking #34 in the state out of over 200 public high schools, last year's graduation rate improved and we have a school-wide instructional focus and program.

During this school year we have reached out to community partners to make the school stronger and help offer courses and opportunities to our students to become 21st century learners who are ready for college or the career path of their choice. SBHS applied to and was accepted as a member of the National Math & Science Initiative and with the help of Centerra at the Savannah River Nuclear Site, will be part of the NMSI College Readiness Initiative in the coming school year. This program will allow us to offer more Advanced Placement courses in English, Math and Science and will provide training for teachers and study sessions for students. This three-year grant and program will help us bring AP courses to a much larger number of students and will improve overall success on AP examinations.

At Silver Bluff, we also re-introduced our Academy of Advanced Studies, Technology, Engineering and the Arts. The partnership with NMSI and the generous gift by Centerra kicked this effort off. To further strengthen the academy we recently partnered with the 442nd Signal Training Battalion and the US Army Cyber Command at Fort Gordon to enhance our offerings and opportunities in Cyber Security. This will strengthen our participation in the Cyber Patriot Competition, in which our teams earned platinum rating this year. We have expanded our course offerings in Engineering through Project Lead The Way classes and robotics. As we build the academy, there is a focus on increasing course offerings in art and technology as well. We are currently working on a partnership with Aiken Technical College for a dual credit course of study in technology and cyber security.

Building connections in the community has been a focus in the current year as well. Our PTSO, led by a strong governing board, completed many projects and gave money and resources to many clubs and organizations around the school. An effort to connect students to internships and opportunities outside the school has paid off as well. Students took trips to Boeing in Charleston and MTU in Aiken to see how science and technology are intertwined with modern manufacturing plants. A recent partnership with the US Forestry Service at the Savannah River Nuclear Site where four of our students will participate in a paid internship over the summer, the first and only opportunity in our area for students, gives students an opportunity to work with the US Government and learn about the environment.

Teachers, staff, students, parents and community members will begin to evaluate and re-focus our school's mission and vision this summer as our school's alignment to 21st century college and career readiness skills changes. Our goal as we move forward is to offer students access and opportunity to courses of higher academic challenge that will prepare them for real-world situations and careers. We are on the path to becoming a premier school and committed to building strong connections to our community and enhanced opportunities for our students.

Bert Postell, Principal
Tameika Valentine, SIC Chair