

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The 2014-2015 school year has been an exciting year for James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy. Our school is helping all students develop the World Class Skills and Life and Career Characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by teaching rigorous standards in all content areas, promoting creativity and innovation, working collaboratively, instilling work ethic, integrity, self-direction, and developing interpersonal skills.

Students and teachers are once again being recognized for outstanding achievements in the classroom. Continued success in Advanced Placement programs led to an AP Human Geography course offering on the BFA Campus where enrollment continues to increase. English 1 EOC scores improved for a third straight school year. The percentage of students passing the Algebra 1 EOC test continues to exceed 98 percent. ACT scores and our graduation rate continue to increase every year. Approximately 100 students began taking course work at RD Anderson Applied Technology Center. Students had the opportunity to take world language courses such as Chinese, French, German, and Spanish. Several BFA students are enrolled and thriving in the Early College and Scholar's Academy Programs. Our school and district continue to excel as a result of determined work by our faculty, students, parents, and community.

Students and faculty again partnered with our community by participating in Relay for Life and Middle Tyger Community Center programs such as food drives, Purses with a Purpose, prom dress collection, March of Dimes, and Storybook Christmas. In addition, over 300 BFA students learned lifesaving CPR skills.

Fine arts programs and students were recognized for outstanding achievement in the arts, band, drama, colorguard, and orchestra. Students performed and had work highlighted at local and state levels. Several students were winners or placed in state wide drama contests. Our award winning ROTC program enjoyed trips to Virginia and Washington, DC. The drill team successfully won or placed in several state competitions and the overall program was again recognized for being a distinguished unit.

Athletic teams enjoyed another tremendous year on the field. The C-Team basketball team experienced another successful season and the C-Team football team went undefeated winning a region championship. Once again, freshmen made significant contributions on the varsity level. Girls and boys lacrosse, softball, baseball, football, and basketball are just some of the sports ninth graders made contributions.

Faculty members continue to be active learners. Several teachers earned advanced degrees while others gained additional certifications and received technology grants. Core subject teachers began standards based unit development to enhance learner outcomes with a leader in professional development. BFA students were introduced to a variety of learning experiences by participating in single gender classes, RD Anderson Applied Technology courses, Reading Rebs, Olweus, and College/Career Day.

BFA continues to thrive through a great working relationship with the district and Byrnes High School. Students at BFA will continue to excel through hard work and support from parents and community members where the focus is "every child every day".

Neel Edwards, Principal and Kyle Baron, SIC Chairman