

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy has experienced an exciting 2016-2017 school year. We have worked diligently to help 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.

BFA's primary goal is to create a strong foundation for student achievement throughout high school. Our Academy instructed over 630 students this year. Traditionally, ninety-nine percent of our student body is promoted to the tenth grade. Our Algebra I EOC scores have averaged ninety-eight percent or higher the last five years. We continued this successful trend by maintaining ninety-eight percent passing in 2016-2017. Our English 1 EOC scores have been steadily increasing over the last five years. Nearly eighty percent passed the English 1 EOC in 2016-2017.

Dual credit opportunities through AP Human Geography, Scholar's Academy, Accelerate Program, and Early College help prepare students for college success while in high school. Students can engage in virtual tour and job shadowing opportunities, attend yearly IGP conferences, and learn a curriculum that offers rigorous standards in all content areas to prepare for 21st Century careers.

In 2017, BFA will launch a new program called POWER Hour (Preparing Our World for Educated Rebels). This program will increase student involvement and academic achievement. The goal of this program is to increase our attendance and graduation rates by students strengthening their ownership of learning, as well as, making faculty/staff and various resources available to students during the school day. The program will allow for tutoring, remediation, re-teaching, and intramural activities, etc. Students earning less than a C average will be required to spend extra time on academic enrichment.

Another new initiative next year for BFA will be incorporating 1:1 technology. All students will receive a laptop that will be used to increase student engagement in learning. Our faculty regularly incorporates Schoology, Remind 101, and other programs to keep students focused on assignments and academic progress. Several teachers have become "model" classroom teachers and have been assisting other faculty members prepare for increased technology use in their classrooms next year.

The faculty and staff of BFA are extremely proud of our many successes. We are committed to continuous improvement from within to make our students life-long learners and productive members in a global society. Our focus will continue to be "every child, every day".

Neel Edwards, Principal and Ryan Cothran, SIC Chairman