

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The 2013-2014 school year has been another success for James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy. Our students and teachers are once again being recognized for outstanding achievements in the classroom and in the community. Our school was awarded Palmetto Gold Awards for both outstanding academic performance as well as closing the achievement gap. Continued success in Advanced Placement programs led to an AP Human Geography course offering on the BFA Campus. EOC scores, ACT scores, and our graduation rate continue to rise. Our school and district continues 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. BFA hosted its Fifth Annual FCA 5K Run at Willow Creek Golf Community where participants enjoyed beautiful scenery and a great running course.

Several 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 Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington, DC. The drill team successfully 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 football team experienced another successful season and the C-Team basketball team won a second straight 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 participated. Our student athletes also achieved success in the classroom as many are academic leaders in our school.

Faculty members continue to be active learners. Several teachers earned advanced degrees while others attended conferences on technology, leadership, and state standards. BFA students were introduced to a variety of learning experiences by participating in Orientation Day, single gender classes, RD Anderson Applied Technology field trips, Reading Rebs, and College/Career Day. Students and teachers also began full implementation of the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program.

BFA students also took part in the district's Visioning Day to promote technology. Students and faculty are embracing new technological advances in learning by incorporating leading technology innovations and lessons to support students and our ever changing curriculum. We also successfully incorporated a bring your own device policy for students.

BFA continues to strive 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 Shancie Burnett, SIC Chairman