

## REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The 2018-2019 school year has been another excellent school year for James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy. We are excited about the success our students and faculty have experienced this year. Our district/school is helping all students develop the World Class Skills 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 650 students this year. Despite an ever increasing enrollment, our teachers work diligently on differentiated instruction to ensure strong academic outcomes for our students. Algebra 1 EOC scores continue to be in the top ten in the state as ninety-eight percent of our students pass this state test. English 1 EOC scores continue to rise and rank in the top of the state as well with over eighty percent of our students passing. Our ninth grade AP Human Geography students earning college credit increased for the third year in a row.

Technology continues to play an integral role in student educational development. All students receive a laptop at the beginning of the school year. Students have access to Wifi, Schoology, Gmail, Google drive, and other technology resources to receive and submit assignments and research. BFA has a full time technology assistant on campus and works with students and teachers on a daily basis. Laptop maintenance and repair can be completed onsite ensuring little loss of instructional time.

BFA continues to use a program called POWER Hour (Preparing Our World for Educated Rebels). This program increased student engagement and academic achievement. The program allows for tutoring, remediation, re-teaching, and participation in intramural activities. Students earning less than a C average are required to spend extra time on academic enrichment. The goals for this program are to decrease our retention rate and increase our attendance and graduation rates.

A CDF (Career Development Facilitator) position has made a tremendous impact on our student body and community. As a result, job shadowing opportunities significantly increased. BFA hosted our annual career fair with students from grade seven and grade nine interacting with over forty vendors. In addition, several hundred students enjoyed interacting with career guest speakers during the school year.

Finally, our students and staff continued to support our local community through initiatives such as March of Dime, Out of the Darkness walk, Toys for Tots, and canned food drives. BFA earned the top honor as the number one school in Spartanburg County by raising over \$10,000 for Relay for Life.

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 Josie Brown, SIC Chairman