

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The 2017-2018 school year has been another excellent school year for James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy. We are excited at the success our students and faculty have shared 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 to ensure strong academic expectations for our students. Traditionally, slightly over ninety-nine percent of our student body is promoted to the tenth grade. 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-two 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 received a laptop at the beginning of the school year. Students have access to Wifi, Schoology, Gmail, and several other technology resources to receive and submit assignments and research. Approximately one-third of our staff has received "model" classroom training. This training allows teachers to be more innovative and creative in the use of technology. It also allows our teachers to be able to train one another in a collaborative manner.

BFA had great success with a new 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 began this year. As a result, job shadowing opportunities significantly increased. Ninth graders hosted a career fair and enjoyed the county wide Spartanburg Showcase. Students also had opportunities to meet career guest speakers.

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 Terry Lane, SIC Chairman