

## REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy has experienced an exciting 2015-2016 school year in 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.

For the fourth straight year, English 1 EOC scores increased at BFA. Eighty nine percent of our Freshman passed the English 1 EOC during the first semester. In addition, one hundred percent of our students passed the Algebra 1 EOC during the same grading period. All students have the opportunity to use electronic devices in our classrooms using either their own device under our Bring Your Own Device Policy or using a district provided laptop to support learning, research, and collaboration. This school year over 60 percent of our students were able to use district provided laptops in our classrooms.

Within two years, our entire district will be providing laptops for 100 percent of our students. All English, Math, Science, and Social Studies teachers have Promethean Boards installed in their classrooms. Teachers participated in monthly professional development sessions to learn innovative and interactive teaching strategies to engage students in the use of technology. Some of the session topics included software, Schoology, blended learning, best practices, tools for review, and lesson development. Some teachers within the English and Social Studies departments were identified as model classroom teachers where they incorporated 1:1 technology on a daily basis and led instruction for other staff members through peer observations.

Our JROTC was recognized as a distinguished unit for the 2015-2016 school year. The drill team participated in five meets garnering over 15 trophies and accolades. Cadets continued to be positive role models by exhibiting leadership skills, self-discipline, teamwork, and citizenship. The unit participated in two curriculum in action field trips to Orlando and Louisville. A Veterans Day program recognized and honored many men and women who serve, protect, and defend our community, state, and nation.

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. All of our students learned lifesaving CPR skills.

Ninth graders made significant contributions to our athletic programs. JV Girls Basketball had a stellar season and were co-champions of our conference. Many freshmen made significant contributions on the varsity level in track, cross country, swimming, tennis, girls and boys lacrosse, softball, baseball, football, and golf.

BFA students continued to participate in RD Anderson Applied Technology Center courses off campus and our enrollment in AP and Scholars Academy programs increased. Reading Rebs, Olweus, and a career fair exposed students to a wide range of exciting careers.

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 Ryan Cothran, SIC Chairman