

# HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTIONS



- **SIC** - School Improvement Council serves as an advisory board to the principal and the school to improve instruction and facilities.
- **PTO** - Parents support the school through volunteer opportunities and fundraisers and assist with school events and family-oriented activities that enhance learning.
- **Warrior Time** - Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Initiative helps establish and maintain an effective school environment that maximizes student learning. Students earn vouchers to participate in activities within the media center, cafeteria and the gymnasium. This occurs daily at WBECHS.
- **Business Partners** - Local businesses and churches work with the school teams to provide incentives for positive student behavior.
- **Empowering Young Men** - This organization helps young men become men through weekly meetings focusing on leadership and etiquette. The facilitator provides support and mentorship for students in the school setting.
- **Ladies First** - This organization helps young ladies become women through weekly meetings focusing on leadership and etiquette. The facilitator provides support and mentorship for students in the school setting.
- **Community Town Halls** - Community Town Halls are informal discussions with parents, community members, administrators and the Superintendent to discuss Beaufort County School District.
- **WBECHS Student Council** - Student Council was revitalized this year.
- **National Honor Society** - This organization represents students who have a 3.5 and above grade point average as well as citizenship, leadership and service.
- **Warrior Nation** - Warrior Nation is our monthly calendar of events emailed to our community.
- **Warrior News** - Warrior News is our live daily news show for the Warrior Nation.
- **Whale Branch Counseling Center**— Whale Branch Counseling center offered over twelve college trips for our Warriors. These trips exposed students to college life as well as the opportunity to apply to the colleges.

## BEST PRACTICES IN TEACHING & LEARNING

- **Early College** - WBECHS is striving to increase numbers in the early college program..
- **Edgenuity** - Edgenuity is differentiated learning in the classroom and at home via a virtual learning environment.
- **Technology Integration** - Technology allows us to bring 21st century interactive learning in every classroom that encourages engagement of students during the instructional process.
- **Response to Intervention (RTI)**- RTI is a daily school-wide academic support period for all students. Warrior Time!
- **College Courses** - We offered twenty-three college courses in English, Mathematics, History, Biology, Computers, CAD, and Electronics at WBECHS in partnership with TCL.
- **Honor Level Courses**— We offered honor level courses within English, Math, Science and History courses.
- **Elective Courses**- Instruction in Art, Band, Chorus, Media Arts, Physical Education, Health, Spanish, MOUS certification and CAD.
- **Instructional Coach**- Onsite professional who teaches educators how to use proven best practices in Literacy, Math, and Technology.
- **Differentiated Instruction** - Differentiated instruction is geared toward the academic ability level of students based on data from MAP, benchmarks, and state testing results.
- **2 Full-time School Counselors, Media Specialist, a part – time Speech/Language Pathologist, and ESOL teacher.**
- **School-wide Professional Development** - This year we focused on differentiation, technology and best practices for literacy and numeracy, LDC and MDC!

*Warriors Are On the War Path for Excellence!*



## WARRIOR NATION

School Improvement Council  
Report to Parents  
2016—2017

### An Update on the Progress of Our School Renewal Plan



**Whale Branch Early College High School**  
169 Detour Road  
Seabrook, SC 29940  
(843) 466-2700

<http://wbh.beaufort.k12.sc.us/>

EX-OFFICIO		
Mona Lise Dickson, <i>Principal</i> Milton Howard, <i>Assistant Principal</i>		
Chanda Alston, <i>SIC Chairperson</i> Lakinsha Swinton, <i>SIC Co– Vice-Chairperson</i> Jancee Morris– <i>SIC Co-Vice-Chairperson</i>		
PARENTS	COMMUNITY MEMBERS/STUDENTS	WBECHS TEACHERS
Chanda Alston	Kenisha Alston	Carlos Cave
Lakinsha Swinton	Marilyn Fields	Kim Fields
Jancee Morris	Joseph Kline	Sonya Wilson
Demesvar Delve		
Lorna Delve		

**We meet the first Monday of each month at 5:30 PM!**  
**Come join Warrior Nation & improve WBECHS!**

The Early College High School Initiative provides students the opportunity to receive a high school diploma and an Associate Degree or up to two years of college credit, by taking a mixture of high school and college classes. This differs from dual enrollment as dual enrollment students are enrolled in a traditional high school and take college classes whereas Early College take high school classes in preparation for full college workloads. At Early Colleges, students also take fewer high school classes because some of their college classes replace their high school classes.

**Mission of Beaufort County School District**

The mission of the Beaufort County School District is to ensure excellence in education for every learner that prepares each with knowledge, skills and personal responsibility to succeed in a rapidly changing global society.

**Mission of Whale Branch Early College High School**

To collaborate with stakeholders in order to provide a safe, caring, rigorous, and engaging learning environment that prepares all students to become Career and College Ready in a global society.

**WHAT ARE OUR CURRENT GOALS?**

- Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment in collaboration with community resources
- Increase student achievement
- Ensure best practices and resources in learning, teaching, leadership
- Actively engage community and stakeholders in the school
- Develop practices, processes and technologies for open, frequent, transparent and effective communication
- Provide resources for appropriate learning environments

**How Are We Achieving Our Goals?**

The goals are reviewed periodically by the SIC, Better Seeking Team, and faculty to monitor progress toward achievement and determine ongoing strategies for successful attainment towards responding to these questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be ?
- How do we close the gap?

The ACT test is a curriculum-based education and career planning tool for high school students that assesses the mastery of college readiness standards. This assessment was given to all eleventh graders in the state of South Carolina to measure each student on their college and career readiness. The percent represents the percentage of students meeting the ACT Benchmark. ACT scores for the 2015-2016 school term:

2015-2016 Results	WBECHS	BCSD	State
English (Score of 18)	27%	41%	40
Mathematics (Score of 22)	9%	24%	24%
Reading (Score of 22)	10%	30%	30%
Science (Score of 23)	6%	23%	21%
Composite (Meeting Benchmark)	2%	14%	13%

Whale Branch Early College High School is a comprehensive high school with a focus on students attaining college credits while in high school. The school opened its doors in 2010. Since that time , students have graduated with Associate degrees and a high number of college credits. A number of students entered their first year of post-secondary institutions as sophomores or juniors as a result of the college credits earned at Whale Branch Early College High School.

The school is located in a rural, high poverty community in the northern area of the county. The school has experienced many successes, both academically and athletically.

- Ms. Elizabeth Thomas is our Teacher of the Year 2016—2017 school year.
- Ms. Virginia Henneberry is our Support Staff of the Year 2016 –2017 school year.
- WBECHS is a 1-to-1 Dell tablet school for students and teachers.
- WBECHS has 18 Seniors eligible for an Associate’s Degree or Certificate with Technical College of the Lowcountry.
- WBECHS inducted 25 members to the National Honor Society.
- WBECHS football & basketball teams made it to the second round of the South Carolina High School League Playoffs.
- WBECHS art students won first prize at the Beaufort Art Association.
- WBECHS had successful Fall & Spring Open House Nights.
- WBECHS Homecoming Court collected over 1300 items to donate to CAPA.
- WBECHS collaborated with cluster schools for the Whale Branch Community Fun Day.
- WBECHS had a joint swim team with Battery Creek High School. .
- WBECHS Marine JROTC Program has increased the numbers of cadets to over 100.
- WBECHS School Counselor, Kimberly Brown won Secondary School Counselor of the Year for 2016-2017.



**Vision of Whale Branch Early College High School**

Students will reach their full potential and become successful, responsible citizens in a diverse, and global society. They will become literate, critical thinkers who will possess the skills needed to join the work force, military or enter post-secondary education institutions.