



Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts Report to the Community



Year 9

Spring, 2014

School Improvement Report

**Hilton Head Island
Elementary
School for the
Creative Arts
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Administrative Team

Principal
Gretchen Keefner

Assistant Principal
Amy Kaufman

Assistant Principal
Reggie Deas

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Dear School Community,

The School Improvement Council (SIC) of the school is mandated by the state of South Carolina for the purpose of overseeing the school renewal plan and acting in an advisory role to the school's administrative team. Each year the SIC is charged with making an annual report to the school's community. Included in this newsletter you will find important information about the school and the progress and challenges that we face in our school improvement efforts.

Our goals are to ensure that all students are successful academically, to close the achievement gap between subgroups in our school, to provide an arts infused approach to learning, to provide a safe learning environment, to provide good communication and to foster partnerships with our community.

Under our new Superintendent, Dr. Jeffery Moss, a new district plan was written for the 2014-19 school years. Our new school plan for next year is being finalized and will be in place with the opening of the 2014-15 school year.

We are fortunate at our school to have a team approach that includes the administrative team, staff, parents and the community. Our success is related to the commitment and focus of each of these groups. We have been proud to serve as the principal, SIC and PTA chairs for the 2013-14 school year at HHIESCA. Our hope is that each of you will continue or become involved next year in either our PTO or our School Improvement Council. It will take everyone's commitment if we are to continue to see success and improvements.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Keefner Principal	Debbie Meyers SIC Chair	Chantal Horup and Wendy Sampson PTO Co-Presidents
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HHIESCA Vision Statement

We envision that Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts, in collaboration with an engaged community, is committed to actively ensuring that all learners will add value to their lives developing their potential by providing excellent education in a safe, nurturing, learning environment.

HHIESCA Mission Statement

As an Arts Infused School of Choice, Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts strives to support the mission of the Beaufort County School District in such a way that enables all students to be competent, competitive and successful in an ever-changing global society.

Beaufort County School District Vision and Mission

Vision

We will work with families and our diverse community to ensure that students perform at an internationally competitive level in a learning environment that is safe, nurturing and engaging.

Mission

The Beaufort County School District, through a personalized learning approach, will prepare graduates who compete and succeed in an ever-changing global society and career marketplace.

2013-14 Recognition

1. In the fall, 7 current Creative Arts students and 7 previous Creative Arts students now at the Middle School are identified as receiving a perfect score on one or more sections of the 2012-13 PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards) exams for students in grades three through eight.

Grade	Subject(s)	Name
3	Math	Chase Cooke
3	Math	Tess Sanford
4	Writing	Emily Gaddy
4	Writing	Alexandra Gentemann
4	Language Arts	Damon Kenny
4	Math	Rachel Nold (2nd Year)
4	Math	Claire Sanford

2. Governor Nikki Haley visited our school in the fall. She visited with fourth grader Hannah Reed to see Hannah’s computer that she uses for communication that is operated with eye gaze. She then spoke to our third fourth and fifth graders about bullying and the importance of supporting each other against the bully.
3. HHIESCA implements a students’ salad bar in the cafeteria.
4. Gifted & Talented Teacher Michelle Brockway is named 2013-14 HHIESCA Teacher of the Year.
5. HHIESCA Office Manager Kathy Eways is named 2013-14 Support Staff Member of the Year. Mrs. Eways was among five finalists for the District Support Staff Member of the Year.
6. Fifth Grade teacher Lisa Riker participated in the Best Practices Day presentation entitled “Effective Communication: Stand Out from the Crowd” and was featured on South Carolina Educational Television program’s “In Our Schools”.
7. Hilton Head Island Council of Garden Clubs selected fifth grade students from Lisa Riker’s fifth grade Creative Arts class as winners in their “Historic Trees for Historic Places” contest. Students shared their projects and helped plant the 2013 Arbor Day tree at Fort Howell on Hilton Head Island. Winners were: Mike Cornejo, Emily Gaddy and Jack Lewis.

8. HHIESCA students Brandon Gonzalez and Jon Paul Gonzalez submitted essays in the 2013 Promising Picassos Art Exhibition which were framed and displayed at Town Hall for the 350/30 Opening Ceremony. Each essay was read by the Mayor, Town Council and over 300 community visitors and was displayed at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina.
9. HHIESCA received \$7,500.00 in recognition for being an Arts in the Basic Curriculum Model Site from the South Carolina Arts Commission.
10. Fifth grade teacher Julieann Swann received a teacher grant from the Foundation for Educational Excellence for her “Understanding Math Concepts” to support math for students in her classroom.
11. Third graders participated in the district-wide River of Words Project. Winners were: Brayan Garcia Zamora-Art; Charlotte O’Fee-Art; Daniell Putbrense-Art; Claire Sanford-Poetry; Megan Spiehs-Poetry; Lily McDaniel-Poetry. Their exceptional artwork and poetry will be included in this year’s District publication.
12. HHIESCA fifth grader, Yuritzi Garcia was honored by the Captain William Hilton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at their annual awards ceremony and luncheon and received the Good Citizenship Award for HHIESCA for her demonstration of honor, service, leadership and promise as a caring and contributing citizen in her community and country.

HHIESCA Performance Goals

School Renewal Plan Goals for 2013-14

The eight goals listed below followed the framework of the Beaufort County School District Five Year Strategic Plan. Within our school renewal plan are specific strategies and activities that are implemented, monitored and updated annually. A copy of the entire plan is on file at the school and available upon request for review.

Goal 1: Increase student achievement within five years to exceed state and national averages.

Goal 2: Ensure best practices and resources in learning, teaching and leadership, consistently and equitably across grade levels at HHIESCA and equitable to district practices.

Goal 3: Actively engage community and stakeholders in HHIESCA to foster partnerships to encourage great academic and cultural opportunities for students.

Goal 4: Provide resources for appropriate learning environments.

Goal 5: Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.

Goal 6: Develop practices, processes and technologies for open, frequent, transparent and effective communication, both internally and externally.

Goal 7: Implement Strategic Arts Plan developed during the 2012-13 school year.

Goal 8: Increase student achievement to exceed state and national levels with specific emphasis on closing the student achievement gap in the subgroups of African American, Hispanic, Limited English Proficient, Free and Reduced Lunch and Special Education.

2013-14 School Improvement Council

Goals

In addition to monitoring the School Renewal Plan, the Council elected to focus on three specific areas: Academic Achievement, Health and Safety and Communication. All SIC members served on one of the three committees with one of the members serving as the chair and the principal serving on all three committees.

The Academic Achievement committee reviewed assessment and report card data related to academic achievement. They then focused on doing an assessment of interventions available to students at the school. The committee saw the implementation of a tutoring program using high school students, particularly student athletes, during their off-sport seasons.

The Health and Safety Committee reviewed the school safety procedures. The committee also oversaw the implementation of a student salad bar.

The Communication Committee focused on the school web page and monthly newsletter. A school-wide email list will be in place in the fall to contact parents in case of emergencies.



Parent Involvement

- Meet and Greet before start of school
- Open House
- Active PTO
- 99.7% of students had parent/teacher conferences.
- PTO supported the arts program at HHIESCA by donating \$500.00 per grade level performance for costumes, props and supplies.
- Arts Guild organized costumes for all performances
- PTO organized parent support with set up and tear down of grade level performances.
- PTO donated \$7.00 per student to attend a curriculum-related field trip.
- PTO organized and sponsored *See Our Spirit* fundraiser and student carnival.
- PTO organized Staff Appreciation Week in May.
- PTO participated in Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year Recognition Program.
- PTO participated in submission of monthly articles for monthly school newsletter.
- School Improvement Council met monthly.
- Informational Parent Nights were held.

Opportunities for Students

- Robotics Club
- Garden Club
- Singers
- Chorus
- Dance
- After-School Drama
- Strings
- Student Council
- Before/After School Compass Learning

Events

Belief: It is our belief that as an arts-focused school, students should display/exhibit their work in a variety of venues both in the school and the community.

- Beaufort County Dance Festival
- Beaufort County School District Elementary Drama Festival
- Annual community/school-wide performance or Expos by each grade level
- Creative Arts Players presents “An Evening of Monologues” Dessert Theatre featuring Calypso’s Dancers and the elementary String Ensemble
- Creative Arts Players presents “Charlotte’s Web”.
- Creative Arts Players presents “The Little Mermaid, Jr.”.
- HHIESCA students participated in the BCSD River of Words project enabling students’ writing and artwork to be displayed and/or published.
- Winter Choral Program
- Audition Chorus
- Island School Council for the Arts “Promising Picassos” Art Exhibition
- BRAVO! Celebrate the Arts – Spring Choral Program and School-wide Arts, Science, Social Studies and Creative Writing Exposition which is open to the community as part of the Chamber of Commerce’s Arts and Cultural Committee Program

Accomplishments

- Theatre Teacher Harry Culpepper, Jr. was named to the Board of the South Carolina Theatre Association
- 100% of HHIESCA certified staff is highly qualified.

Respectfully Submitted by 2013-14 SIC Committee Members

Chair: Debbie Myers
Vice Chair: Jane Castellini
Secretary: Karen Harrington
Parents: Shaquita Byson
 Susan Hughson
Staff: Liz Henry
 Karen Harrington
Community: Cheryl Campbell
 Stephanie Cauller
Ex-Officio: Stephanie Tebrake-PTO

Debbie Myers
Kyle Wallace
Jane Castellini
Caroline Johnson
Sandra Walsh
Laura McCandless
Harriet Greenberg
Gretchen Keefner