



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



Year 12

Proud To Be A Title 1 School

Spring, 2017

School Improvement Report

**Hilton Head Island
Elementary
School for the
Creative Arts**
10 Bus Drive
HHI, SC 29926
843-342-4380
[http://
hhisca.beaufortschools.net/](http://hhisca.beaufortschools.net/)

**Administrative
Team**
Principal
Gretchen Keefner

Assistant Principals
Matthew Hunt
Nikki Lucas

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Dear School Community,

The School Improvement Council (SIC) 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. This year staff and students started planning and implementing **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) units of study and began the process to be STEM certified.

Under our Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Moss, a district plan was written for the 2014-19 school years that then provided the framework for our school's plan. Our SIC reviewed and updated the school's plan, noting progress made.

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 PTO chairs for the 2016-17 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

Stephanie Cauller
SIC Chair

Anne Finn and Jessica Howard
PTO Co-Presidents

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 an Arts Infused, safe and 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.

2016-17 Recognition

1. HHIESCA is recognized by the South Carolina Department of Education as an Excellent School and earned a Palmetto Award of student academic achievement
2. Forty-five after-school theatre club students representing Creative Arts and HH Middle at the ITheatric’s Junior Theatre Festival win the trophy for Excellence in Music at the festival held annually in Atlanta with over 125 different theatre organizations/schools and 5830 people competing from 26 states, Australia and New Zealand.
3. Theatre Teacher, Angelo Cerniglia, was presented with the Freddie G. Fellowship Junior Spirit Award. He was selected from the II group Directors at the ITheatric’s Junior Theatre Competition.
4. Third grade teacher Jennifer Friend-Kerr is named 2016-17 HHIESCA Teacher of the Year.
5. Music Teacher Melinda Smith receives National Board recertification.
6. HHIESCA Nurse Margaret Borasky is named 2016-17 Support Staff Member of the Year.
7. Music Teacher Melinda Smith has a song, “Circle Unbroken” that she wrote, premiered at the Beaufort County School District’s Honor Choir Concert.
7. Julianna Vega’s Pelican artwork is selected for the “River of Words” district publication.
8. 5th grade students had their artwork or poetry published in the District’s River of Words publication:
 - Kaitlyn Bell - Artwork
 - Daniela Barrios Garcia– Poetry
 - Mary Cahillane - Poetry
 - Conor Casey - Artwork
 - Jenna Jacobs– Artwork
 - Kenzie Jacoby - Artwork
 - Rosemary Losch - Artwork
 - Shaina Lugo— Poetry
 - Elphna Hernandez— Poetry
 - Jeimy Peraza—Artowrk
 - Sofia Piraino—Artwork
 - Madison Reilley—Artwork
 - Natalie Sturm—Poetry
 - Julianna Vega—Artwork
9. Fourth grade students Samuel Gregory, Shelby Kline, Michelle Ocampo and Kaya Tolly received perfect scores on their SC READY state test as third graders.
10. Fifth grade student Gabriela Rivera places third place in the community Martin Luther King Essay Contest “My Beloved Community”.
11. Jada Green, fifth grade student, was the Creative Arts recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award.
12. Literacy Coach Karen Cauller receives Read To Succeed” Literacy Coach and Teacher Endorsement
13. Two Literacy Teachers, Cora Lugo and Gretchen Mando receive “Read To Succeed” Teacher Endorsement
14. The following SCA students were selected to perform in the Beaufort County Honor Choir Concert:

Landon Brockway	Constanza Martinez
Brody Doyle	Kinsey Mayoh
Noah Hooks	Michelle Ocampo
Riden Howard	Ahniyah Pinckney
Sloane Kiggans	Jessica Staigar

Opportunities for Students

- Robotics Club
- Garden Club
- Singers
- Calypso BOOM
- Calypso Belles
- After-school Drama
- Chorus
- Dance
- Seahawk Girls Basketball and Cheer Camp Camps
- Technology Club

HHIESCA Performance Goals

School Renewal Plan Goals for 2016-17

The five 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: Purpose and Direction: *As part of the Beaufort County School District, Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts maintains and communicates at all levels of the organization a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.*

Goal 2: Resources and Support Systems: *Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts as part of Beaufort County School District has resources and provides services in all schools that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.*

Goal 3: Teaching and Assessing for Student Learning: *Beaufort County School District's curriculum, instructional design and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.*

Goal 4: Documenting & Using Results for Continuous Improvement: *Beaufort County School District implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.*

Goal 5: Governance and Leadership: *Beaufort County School District operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and system effectiveness.*



2016-17 School Improvement Council

The school renewal plan was updated and reviewed as required.

The school again received a Palmetto Achievement award based on state testing. The rating validates the work and commitment of the school and the SIC to student achievement.

In addition to monitoring the School Renewal Plan, the Council elected to focus on the recommitment and focus on being an exemplary arts focused school and supported the administrations recommendation to begin the accreditation process of becoming a model STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) school. The Council continued to focus on issues relating to student academic achievement, School Climate, Teacher Retention/Morale and communication.

Parent Involvement

- Meet and Greet before start of school
- Open House
- Active PTO
- 97% of students had parent/teacher conferences.
- STEAM Parent Night
- ESOL Parent Education Program
- PTO supported the arts program at HHIESCA by donating funds to purchase a musical piece of playground equipment.
- PTO organized and ran Calypso Closet for school supplies and uniforms.
- PTO organized parent support with set up and tear down of performances.
- PTO organized and sponsored fundraiser
- PTO organized Staff Appreciation Week in April.
- 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 supported Staff member of the Month activity and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) certification.

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.

- Initiated parent/student grade level “Letting Off Steam” days
- Family STEAM Night initiated
- All grade levels have opportunity to work with one or more Artist in Residence Programs
- Participation in Beaufort County Dance Festival
- Participation in Beaufort County School District Elementary Drama Festival
- Beaufort County Honor Choir Performance
- Annual community/school-wide performance or Expos by each grade level
- After-school Theatre Club presents “School House Rock Live JR..”
- After-school Theatre Club presents “Disney’s The Jungle Book Kids”
- HHIESCA students participated in the BCSD River of Words project enabling students’ writing and artwork to be displayed and/or published.
- Winter Choral Program Featuring Calypso Boom, Calypso Belles, Singers and over 150 students grades 1-5
- Audition Chorus—Singers
- Island School Council for the Arts “Promising Picassos” Art Exhibition

Accomplishments

- HHIESCA is Proud to be a Title I School
- HHIESCA Palmetto Gold Award and an excellent rating from the South Carolina Department of Education
- HHIESCA is recognized by the South Carolina Arts Commission as an “Arts in the Basic Curriculum” school and is awarded a \$10,799.00 grant.
- Teachers recipients of Donor’s Choose Grants
- All grade levels have Artist in Residence Programs
- Student winner for the Cover of District “River of Words Publication”
- Teachers in grades 1-2 were provided staff development through the Savannah Musical Explorer’s Grant.
- SCA STEAM Leadership team participated in staff development with South Carolina STEM consultants to begin process of STEAM certification.

Respectfully Submitted by 2016-17 SIC Committee Members

- Chair: Stephanie Cauller**
- Secretary: Brooke Newsome**
- Parents: Jennifer DeHart Stacie Bear Mike Quigley Cindy Bullock**
- Staff: Spencer Jackson Molly Lloyd**
- Community: Marion Payne Brooke Newsome Karen Tinnerholm**
- Ex-Officio: Jessica Howard-PTO Principal: Gretchen Keefner**