



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



Year 8

Spring, 2013

School Improvement Report

**Hilton Head Island
Elementary
School for the
Creative Arts
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HHI, SC 29926
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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.

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 2012-13 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	Gina Dunn 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 each learner develops his/her potential by providing an excellent education in a safe, nurturing, learning environment through the arts.

HHIESCA Mission Statement

Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts, in partnership with parents and the community, will challenge all students to attain educational excellence. An Arts Integrated program creates a learning environment using state and national standards in Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Theatre, Creative Writing and Multimedia Technology to promote meaningful connections between the curriculum, the children and the world around them. The focus is on academic achievement, the arts, character, citizenship, and life skills.

Beaufort County School District Vision and Mission

Vision

We envision that Beaufort County School District, in collaboration with an engaged community, is committed to actively ensuring that each learner develops his/her potential by providing an excellent education in a safe, nurturing, learning environment.

Mission

To ensure excellence in education for every learner that prepares each with the knowledge, skills and personal responsibility to compete in a rapidly changing global society.

2012-13 Recognition

- 1 In the fall, thirteen Creative Arts students are identified as receiving a perfect score on one or more sections of the 2011-12 PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards) exams for students in grades three through eight. For the second year we had more students than any other Beaufort County school obtain this achievement.

Grade	Subject(s)	Name
3	Reading	Chloe Izant
3	Reading and Social Studies	Rachael Nold
3	Math	Haleigh Gartner
3	Math	Damon Kenny
3	Math	Charlotte O'Fee
3	Math	Megan Spiehs
3	Math	Kathleen Watts
4	Reading	Kaitlin Cooke
4	Math	Delaney Yurco
5	Writing and Reading	Madison Boyd
5	Reading	Kalie Clark
5	Reading	Pierce Daly
5	Math	Sydney Mink

- 2 Principal Gretchen Keefner is named the 2012 Arts Administrator of the Year by the South Carolina Alliance for Arts Education at the fall conference in Columbia, SC. Each year the Alliance honors an individual in South Carolina for doing an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of the education of their students.
- 3 HHIESCA is designated as a Bronze Level South Carolina Healthy School by the SC Dept. of Education and the SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control.
- 4 Fourth Grade teacher Sandra Courtney is named the 2012-13 HHIESCA Teacher of the Year.
- 5 HHIESCA Bookkeeper Karen Tinnerholm is named 2012-13 Support Staff Member of the Year.
- 6 HHIESCA was featured on South Carolina Educational Television programs "In Our Schools" and "The Big Picture".
- 7 Hilton Head Island Council of Garden Clubs selected third grade students from Creative Arts as winners in their "Trees around the World" contest. Students shared their projects and helped plant the 2012 Arbor Day tree at Town

Hall. Winners were:

- ◆ 1st Place: Esteban Quintero – "Redwood"
- ◆ 2nd Place: Sadie Callen *and* Cassie Cobia – "Bamboo"
- ◆ 3rd Place: Zayda Clark - "Palmetto"
- ◆ Honorable Mention: Leah Anderson – "Red Maple"
- ◆ Honorable Mention: Avery Wallace *and* Alexis Schubat – "Japanese Cherry"

- 7 Original artwork from Creative Arts third graders Erik Lopez and Caleb Hutchinson and fourth graders Alexandra Gentemann and Meghan Spiehs was selected to be displayed in the Bank of America room at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina as part of the Island School Council for the Arts 2013 Promising Picasso's Student Art Exhibition.
- 8 HHIESCA received \$5,794.00 in recognition for being an Arts in the Basic Curriculum Model Site from the South Carolina Arts Commission.
- 9 Second grade teacher Erin Davis received a \$350.00 teacher grant from the Foundation for Educational Excellence for her "Math Packs" backpack program to support math for students in her classroom.
- 10 Third graders participated in the district-wide River of Words Project. Winners selected for the Beaufort Premiere Exhibition were Tess Sanford, Eddie Antley, Sadie Hamby, Charlea Lobaugh, Eliza Jane Coulter, Alex Fisher and Brooks Stamp. Students selected for the Hilton Head River of Words Exhibit at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina were Daisy Ponce, Cesar Lagunas, Alexandra Thompson and Aleena Wiley.
- 11 HHIESCA fifth grader, Valeria Morales 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.
- 12 Third grader Jake Richardson won first place in the regional Elk's Club Hoop Shoot Contest.

HHIESCA Performance Goals

School Renewal Plan Goals for 2012-13

The eight goals listed below follow 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: Arts Plan
- 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.

2012-13 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 will attempt to implement a tutoring program at the school beginning in the fall using high school students, particularly student athletes, during their off-sport seasons.

The Health and Safety Committee reviewed the school safety procedures. A parent meeting will be held in the fall to discuss school safety measures that are in place. The committee will also work over the summer with food services to put a salad bar in place for students when school opens in August.

The goal of the Communication Committee was to get the new web page up and in operation. The committee also determined that a school-wide email list is needed to contact parents in case of emergencies. Parents will enter in an email address when updating school information in the fall.



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 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

- Walking 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 by each grade level
- Creative Arts Players presents “Broadway to Hollywood” Dessert Theatre featuring Calypso’s Dancers and the elementary String Ensemble
- 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
- Arts Center of Coastal Carolina – Art Expo
- 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 that is open to the community as part of the Chamber of Commerce’s Arts and Cultural Committee Program

Staff Accomplishments

- Erin Duffey and Bel Gallagher completed Master’s Degrees as part of BCSD’s Math and Science Cohort.
- 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 2012-13 SIC Committee Members

Chair: Gina Dunn

Vice Chair: Brian Cosacchi

Secretary: Cindy Strandt

**Parents: Caroline Jones
Melissa Babcock**

**Staff: Liz Henry
Michelle Brockway**

Community: Harriett Greenburg

Ex-Officio: Stephanie Tebrake-PTO

**Debbie Myers
Gina Dunn**

**Cindy Strandt
Cheryl Campbell**

Penelope Jackson

Jennifer Jenkins

Brian Cosacchi

**Erin Richter
Karen Tinnerholm**

Gretchen Keefner