

# BURKE HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PARENTS 2017-2018

244 PRESIDENT ST, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403 | 843-579-4815 | [www.burke.ccsdschools.com](http://www.burke.ccsdschools.com)



## OUR SCHOOL



### Administration

#### Executive Principal

Cheryl Swinton

#### Associate Principal

Sarah Earle

#### Assistant Principals

Alan Smith

Jerome Macdaniel

#### Director of School Counseling

Michele Garris

The 2017-2018 school year represents a period of transition and growth for Burke High School. First it was the first full year with principal Cheryl Swinton as school leader. Burke High School enrolled 372 students this year. Poverty Index is 92.1% and includes 96% African American, 2% Caucasian and 4% more than or race. Our graduation rate continues to rise to 78%.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES, AND GOALS

Project-Based Learning (PBL) through the California-based New Tech Network. The purpose of PBL is to have students direct their own learning through collaborative projects that ideally connect to local issues and involve local community partners. During the 2017-18 school year, PBL has been rolled out in freshman and sophomore classes, and the process of integration will add junior and senior classes over the next two years, respectively. Capturing Kids' Hearts program, which stresses the need to build positive relationships between staff and students as a prerequisite for both effective teaching and learning.

### MAKING THE CONNECTION AT BURKE

Burke High School's programs model the village concept. At Burke, we believe strong partnerships with parents, community and school pay off with great dividends. School highlights cited below are examples of how our students are benefitting from strong collaborations with agencies and communities in our school community and how our school is giving back to the community.



### Mission Statement

The mission of Burke High School is to foster independent and responsible lifelong learners so that upon graduation, students will enter college, the military, or the workforce with the necessary skills to compete with their peers and become positive members of society.

### STRATEGIES AND GOALS

- Increase ACT scores by implementing ACT prep course and school wide use of ACT/SAT vocabulary.
- Improve EOCEP passage rates through continued rigor and high expectations for all students.
- Continue use of digital platform (Achieve 3000, Alex, Algebra Nation) to improve reading and math ability for all students.
- MAP results indicate growth in both reading and math with 59% of grade 9 students meeting growth projections.



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Burke continues to build relationships with families through the Parenting Partnership Program—a series of workshops designed to help parents navigate a range of developmental issues.
- JROTC students participated in Veteran's Day events and organized a Blood Drive.
- JROTC students helped at 180 Place with the holiday toy drive and food drop off event.
- The Commission of the Ralph H. Johnson ceremony was attended by our cadets who proudly represented Burke.
- Freshman RHSL students (Ms. Mindel's Marvelous Mentors) partnered with Mitchell Elementary where they read to students and helped them to develop literacy skills.
- Drama students performed the children's theatre play, "The Three Piggy Opera" for elementary students from Burke's feeder schools.
- Teacher Cadets students partnered with Simmons-Pinckney Middle and Charleston Development Academy for observation and student-teaching experiences.



## BULLDOG PRIDE HIGHLIGHTS

### NewTech and Project Based Learning

- NewTech awarded English teacher Amelia Navarrete and Social Studies teacher, Edgar Johnson the NewTech Network's 2018 Best in Network award for the PBL project created by the blended learning students and partnered with Charleston County Library. The project titled Finding a Voice was chosen as an exemplary model of the integration of active exploration, application, authenticity and academic rigor. Our award winning students explored marginalized or disenfranchised groups of people and conducted research and wrote and designed graphic novel which portrayed the experiences of these people. Bulldog Pride!
- Burke students participated in many project-based learning (PBL) experiences with local partners.
- Spanish-language students interacted with Spanish speakers as they partnered with the North Charleston Food Bank
- Spanish students partnered with the Riverdogs and Midland Park Primary for other projects
- Social Studies and English Language Arts students partnered with the Charleston County Library and the Citadel for two different projects.
- Other project-based learning experiences focused on local or real-life experiences relevant to our lives.
- Earth Science students researched the water flow of various countries and discussed the implications for Charleston's flooding issues; and
- Health Science students researched hand washing practices and the impact it has on health and student attendance.

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READY EXPERIENCES

- Engineering and CTE students toured Bosch, Inc. along with local educators to see the manufacturing and production processes at their Charleston facility.
- Gear Up exposed Burke students to colleges and universities by arranging tours to Clemson, North Greenville University, North Carolina A & T, Coastal Carolina, and Francis Marion University this past fall. Additionally, Gear Up sponsored and arranged for students to travel to career fairs.
- The Culinary department opened up the Bistro for faculty lunches this spring; successfully prepared a meal for State Senators; and participated in Black Expo's Taste of Charleston.
- JROTC students experienced STEM first hand at Boeing. Trips to Fort Jackson provided cadets the opportunity to experience military options and careers.
- The Women in Engineering group met with visitors from MIT and toured the Boeing facility in North Charleston. This group has partnered with Boeing and Bosch for the second year.
- Career and College Fair & Symposium 2018 featured guests representing Spawar, the DEA, Charleston Department of Transportation, Strayer University, Newberry College, MUSC College of Pharmacy, Top of the Line Barbering College, Palmetto School of Career Development, Kudzu Staffing, and the Hilton Garden Hotel.
- Burke and Wando science students continue to collaborate through exploration of the local environment by studying Bulls Island.
- Burke students participated in a Leadership and Ethics Conference hosted by the Citadel.
- English 4 students participated in the Career, Technology, and Education Job Shadowing program with members of Charleston City Government. Students were able to shadow in the area of Emergency Medical Services, Transportation, The Drug and Alcohol Counseling Services, and

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# OUR SCHOOL



### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

"This report is issued by the Burke High School Improvement Council (BHSIC) in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the school administration, faculty, students and the BHSIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."

### ROLE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

School Improvement Councils are broad-based bodies that advise the principal and help establish and monitor School improvement goals and assist the principal. According to South Carolina law, all K-12 public schools must have and SIC. The body consists of parents, students, teachers, and community members who meet regularly to assist and advise the principal.

### SIC ACTIVITIES

#### SIC Activities

The SIC set two main goals for its activities during the 2017-2018 academic year: 1) Improving parent engagement; and 2) School Advocacy.

- Parent Engagement: It is well known that parent involvement is essential for school success. Therefore, the SIC has set the goal of improving parent participation and ensuring that the school climate is inviting for parents and families.
- School Advocacy: The SIC set the aim of advocacy to find ways to engage the larger Charleston-area community and to find ways to tell our story instead of letting outsiders tell it for us.

### OUR STUDENTS EXCEL

- Burke Athletics continued to show success in Basketball where boys and girls teams made the playoffs; in wrestling, where Cory Prioleau and Vyshonne Haynes both won Lower State Titles; and Soccer also had a great season, making it into the second round of the playoffs.
- Burke students participated in a Leadership and Ethics Conference hosted by the Citadel.
- Graphic Design students are designing and producing school-related products through the Paw Prints label: hats, mugs, keychains, shirts and more are available for purchase.
- Burke sophomore Raven Gamble received the World Affairs Council of Charleston Award for Excellence in Global Studies based on her academic achievement and her interest in international affairs.
- Senior JROTC cadets admitted to the Citadel. Congratulations to Oren Brown, Kysia Holston.
- Burke's band students continue to excel in performance and in regional competitions. This year band students returned to perform at Laura Secord Secondary School in Toronto, continuing a valuable partnership for both parties.
- Burke juniors are MUSC Scholars through participation in SC CURE (Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience) program. The program has brought MUSC specialists to Burke to teach courses on cancer biology and cancer epidemiology and on cancer health disparities.
- Freshman and sophomore engineering students won first place in the Bridge Building Competition sponsored by the County Department of Traffic and Transportation, designing a bridge that broke all previous records for the weight.
- The Architects, Contractors, Engineers (ACE) Mentoring Program is in its 5th successful year at Burke. This year's project focuses on developing the Low Line in Charleston.
- The Burke Robotics team placed in the top half of all competitors in the nationwide robotics competition held in Myrtle Beach.
- Students read 2998 informational articles this year using Achieve 3000 reading program. Many students moved up at least one grade level in reading.



## SIC MEMBERS

**Principal:** Cheryl Swinton

**SIC Chair:** Eric Jackson

**SIC Secretary:** Dan Ryan

### Faculty

Shernette Tolley

Dan Ryan

Karen Reed-Perrineau

Whitney Brooks

Amy Allen

### Parents

Tyasha Drayton

Gale Singletary

Community Members

Millicent Brown

Michael Maher

Maxine Frasier-Riley

Sonya Maxwell

Jennifer Albert

### Students

Madyson Harris

Shade'a Kelly

Ex-Officio Members

Cheryl Swinton

Sarah Earle

Alan Smith

Barbara Holmes

Barbara Dilligard

## LOOKING AHEAD

SIC elections must be held by October 15 of each year and the SIC sets goals each year. Individuals interested in serving on the SIC should contact Principal Swinton or SIC Chair Eric Jackson for information

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