

June 6, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

William L. Runyon, III
Principal

Dr. Nancy J. McGinley
Superintendent of Schools

Louis J. Martin, Jr.
Associate Superintendent

St. John's High School

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The 2012 – 2013 Academic Year has quickly drawn to a close and this year has truly been a Renaissance experience. As a school, we have much to be proud of in all areas. The Mighty Islanders have represented themselves admirably in the classrooms, the community and in competition as we continue to grow the success of our community high school.

We have accepted the challenge of The CCSD Achieving Excellence / Vision 2016 Plan built upon closing the academic achievement gap, elevating the achievement of all students and improving our graduation rate. In the Fall of 2012, we earned an Absolute State Report Card Rating of "Average" for the first time in school history. I am proud to report that our On-Time Graduation Rate has risen to 67.1% and The Class of 2013 projects to take this achievement to an even higher level! Our student's passage rate on State End – Of – Course Exams, 57.1%, exceeded "Schools Like Ours" by 10% and, again the performance this academic year projects to exceed this accomplishment. Most importantly, 100% of The Class of 2013 at St. John's High School was accepted to a 2 or 4 year college while earning \$687, 200 in scholarship money to date!

Programmatically, I am pleased to report the re-establishment of The Mighty Islanders Band under the direction of Mr. Jarrard Coleman. The Band, thirty-five students strong, produced two quality performances, while also providing all the music at this year's Commencement Ceremony held June 5, 2013 at The North Charleston Performing Arts Center. Also in Performing Arts, this year witnessed the presentation by our much – improved Drama Program of *The Brothers Grimm* under the direction of Ms. Cameron Beaty and Ms. Windee Little. These two programs compliment our outstanding Art Program that collected numerous district and state honors once again. The year also saw the formal establishment of Pre-Engineering at our school. Taught by Mr. James Wilkin, this four course program now gives us the opportunity to offer rigorous engineering preparation to students through *Project Lead The Way* (PLTW).

This year was also a banner year for The Mighty Islanders Athletic Department. We competed in football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, wrestling, track, soccer, baseball and softball. Well over 100 student-athletes participated on 14 school teams. The Mighty Islanders earned Region Championships in wrestling, baseball and soccer while nine teams competed in The South Carolina High School League Playoffs.

We continued to implement personalized learning strategies in all classes through our School Improvement Grant with 1:1 IPAD implementation. Additionally, we were named one of the top districts and schools in the nation by APPLE Corp. for

our innovative approach to learning using IPADS. As a part of the success to date here, CCSD was awarded a \$19.6 million dollar Race To The Top Grant to infuse this successful learning platform into all District 9 Schools through 2017. Most importantly, we were named a 2012 Palmetto Gold School for elevated achievement and notified by The State Department of Education that our school no longer is categorized as At-Risk! We look forward to collecting the final data from 2012 - 2013 and providing you updates. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or contact me by e-mail (William_Runyon@charleston.k12.sc.us). I thank you on behalf of our 273 students and 55 employees for your support this year. We look forward to providing you each much to be proud of in the future here at St. John's high School, home of The Mighty Islanders!

Yours in Educational Excellence,

William L. Runyon III

William L. Runyon III, Principal
St. John's High School

Olivia Burch
School Improvement Council
Chairperson