



**Academic Magnet High School
School Improvement Council
Annual Report 2015 – 2016**

Academic Magnet High School
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Review of key SIC issues and actions for 2015 – 2016: The current year for AMHS SIC has been productive and included the work of volunteers, community members, parents and teachers. The primary focus of the year has been developing a cohesive and purposeful coalition of the primary parent groups: SIC, PIE (Partners in Education), AMF (Academic Magnet Foundation), and the Booster Club, and the signature activities have included the following:

Parent Leadership Brochure: Responding to a parent concern for a clear communication of opportunities for parent participation in the AMHS community life, members of SIC, PIE, AMF and the Booster club developed and distributed a "parent leadership" brochure highlighting the groups, contact information, and budget plans/needs. The design of the endeavor was to connect the parent groups for focused financial and academic support of the students at AMHS. The brochure was available at the Open House, has been distributed to new parents and shared with community outlets.

Summer Scholars Program 2015: The SSP 2015 with financial support from AMF, PIE, AMHS and several community sponsors was a four day program for incoming 9th grade students and included academic awareness sessions, team building activities, and summer fun as a first activity for the new students to begin to understand what it means to be a "high school" student and to make friends for the coming year. The program has been very instrumental in reducing stresses associated with high school unknowns and in building confidence and new friendships.

Chinese 101, 102, 201 and 202: Students have been asking for additional college level electives, and the Chinese classes, sponsored by the College of Charleston and taught by an adjunct professor from The Citadel, have been quite successful. Taught at AMHS, the class became part of the students' school day, and it was supported by the Academic Magnet Foundation. Its success has spawned a movement to add two additional college classes: Philosophy 101 and Personal Finance. Without the parent support for these classes, students would not have the opportunity for work at this level.

The Power of the Mentor: A signature piece of the AMHS program is the Senior Thesis, and each year almost 150 community professionals serve as mentors to the students. The combined parent groups (PIE, AMF and SIC) sponsored a celebration of the mentor contributions to AMHS, and it included brief speeches by several students and a long time AMHS teacher as well as longer addresses by Lauren Adderly, AMHS graduate, recent mentor and teacher in CCSD, and William Kennard, former chairman of the FCC and Ambassador to the European Union. It was an outstanding inaugural event and reflected the "power" of this newly orchestrated cooperative synergy.

AMHS Strategic Plan: With guidance, direction and assistance from Vicky Ingalls AMHS faculty and SIC have worked on, and have almost completed, a strategic plan for AMHS. The plan is designed to affirm the school's mission with actions and procedures as well as to identify areas for improvement and help from the parent community and the local professional community. The plan is expected to be ready for publication early this summer.

Mardi Gras Celebration: Support for AMHS, its students and faculty, and support for the activities/events listed does require a commitment of dollars, and this year the coalition of parent groups worked together on two fundraising activities. The most recent one was Mardi Gras at the Founders Hall in Charlestowne Landing; it was an evening of silent and live auctions and socializing. It was well attended by parents, faculty and friends of AMHS. The evening was another event which incorporated the efforts of parents and the parent leadership groups.

The AMHS School Improvement Council has begun the work of uniting our parent groups, and it looks forward to even greater cohesiveness as all the parent groups work together to ensure that AMHS can continue to offer its students a high school experience of the highest quality.

Judith Peterson, Principal

Stacey Lindbergh, SIC Chair (Parent)