

# GAFFNEY HIGH SCHOOL

School Improvement Council 2022-2023

2022 EDITION

## Parent and Community Report: Top Stories



New Leadership, New Direction



Making an Impact: Student Athletes



Celebrating Graduates: Class of 2022



Awards, Accolades, and Scholarships

## New Leadership, New Direction

Dr. Eric Blanton is neither a stranger to the Gaffney community nor to Gaffney High School. As a Gaffney native, he has grown up right here in this area. As a Gaffney High School graduate, he is fully invested in improving and enhancing the student learning experience. His experience in the Cherokee County School District is one that is honored and respected among the faculty, students, parents and community.

Dr. Blanton's team of leadership, some familiar to GHS and others new to GHS, are making significant changes to increase student and faculty morale, encourage transparent school communication, implement consistent rules and safety procedures, and **make** the school setting a safe and beautiful place to learn and grow together.

**Specific Goals Addressed:** Improving Gaffney High School's physical environment, supporting and retaining professional staff, cultivating appropriate student scholastic mindsets for success (class rigor, dress code, and behavior), and consistent practices and transparent communication.

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## Making an Impact

What an incredible feeling it is to be a part of a team: to practice with your peers, to learn new strategies, and to perform in a competitive arena. What **students** often **forget** is the impact they have on the community and especially younger generations. Gaffney High School recognized student leadership by removing them from their respective fields and placing them in unfamiliar territories.

Student athletes have made early morning visits to neighboring elementary schools to assist faculty in opening car doors and welcoming young students to school. As influential as student athletes typically are, this brought the expectation of the "whole" athlete to a new spectrum.

As important as student athletes are to school morale, they are equally important to the **community and its children**. This single effort has "opened doors" for children to see that athletes are more than just physically exceptional figures on a field, but also personable, kind, helpful, encouraging, and genuinely passionate for education.

**Athletic Accomplishments:** Players, coaches, and fans unite and fight

**Academic Accomplishments:** School-wide AVID implementation

**Arts Accomplishments:** 2022 District-wide Art Expo

## Celebrating 2022 Graduates

As we celebrated the graduating class of 2022, the faculty, staff, parents and community acknowledged various student talents, rewarded personal accomplishments, and awarded diplomas to demonstrate completion of secondary academic goals. Congratulations to the class of 2022.

**Graduates:** 367

**Scholarship Amount:** \$16,968,658.00

## Awards, Accolades, and Scholarships

At the beginning of each new year, it is essential to examine last year's strengths, weaknesses, goals, and accomplishments to determine the current year's path. Gaffney High School is ever growing and continuing to set higher academic and professional expectations with each new school year.

Gaffney High School ventured out into a new territory with Varsity Brands. Varsity Brands partners with educators, coaches, and students to build school pride, student engagement, and community spirit. The Varsity Brands awards are sponsored by BSN Sports, Varsity Spirit, and Herff Jones. There were twelve total categories and GHS had representation in six categories and won one category. Congratulations to Gaffney High School's own, Karen Denton, who was awarded the 2022 Varsity Brands Teacher of the Year. What an amazing accomplishment and teacher.

### Who are We?

We are a school of CHAMPIONS! Gaffney High School is one of two high schools in the Cherokee County School District. The mission of our district and school allows us to grow and progress in an ever-changing society.

### Where are We Going?

Our continued goal is to move Gaffney High School from good to GREAT. Our focus this year is on goal 3 which is the school store. This effort will serve as a source of learning, independence, and planning. This opportunity will serve as a transitional experience to prepare students for real-world professional skills while also serving the student body, faculty, parents, and community with reasonably priced retail, snacks, and supplies. Gaffney High School's School Improvement council will partner with Special Services to provide an established venue for the merchandise, plan and coordinate staffing, and provide a supportive environment for learning and professional responsibility and skills. Previously, we established the on-site store's name as "Chop Shop," but with careful consideration decided that the already established "Indian Enterprise" would be a better fit for our goal; two are better than one. We are looking forward to watching this project come to life.

**The mission of Cherokee County School District**, steeped in pride and tradition, in partnership with all stakeholders, is to ensure that all students have the education necessary to succeed as responsible, productive citizens by providing excellent opportunities in academics, athletics, and the arts.

**Cherokee County School District's Vision:** Cherokee County School District is committed to strengthening the professionalism of all of its stakeholders, including students. Students should be prepared to compete on the local, state, national, and international levels and focused on these areas, all schools and the district will move toward this path.

**Gaffney High School's Mission Statement:** The mission of Gaffney High School in partnership with the local community, is to ensure an excellent education in a safe, diverse environment focused on academics, athletics, technology, and the arts, so all students are equipped to contribute as productive global citizens with pride and tradition.

### School Improvement Council Mission:

The mission of the South Carolina School Improvement Council is to facilitate meaningful parent and community involvement in our state's public schools by providing resources, tools and strategies to local School Improvement Councils and other stakeholder groups.

### Gaffney High School's School Improvement Council Goals 2020-2021

#### Goal: Paint It. Park It.

Purpose and Rational: **Community and Family Involvement** are two very important factors in a successful educational institution. This project encourages positive relationships and participation with all stakeholders to allow positive exterior change to our building. The idea is to incorporate and support the arts which will encourage all children to express themselves in a positive and productive way. All moneys collected from the yearly implementation of this project go directly to other improvement projects and goals.

#### 2021-2022 Goal: Tribal Treats

Purpose and Rational: **Positive School and Student Relationships** will keep this project alive each year. A positive event, such as this, ignites positive relationships, comradery, and acceptable behavior which are all essential in the school environment.

#### 2022-2023 Goal: Indian Enterprise (School Store)

Purpose and Rational: A **School Environment** that is reflective of our vision for true personal and academic success. As we are a School of Champions, our desire is to provide an established area that provides students with opportunities for growth, learning, support, and fun. As we partner with valued stakeholders and teachers, this project is one that will remain an essential part of Gaffney High School.

### Gaffney High School 2022 Information

Student Enrollment: 1802

The school performance grade is 49 out of a possible 100 with a rating of "below average". This rating occurs from the data collected from various avenues all centered on the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate criteria.

Academic Achievement: Scored "below average" in the South Carolina Report Card.

Student Preparation for Success: Scored "unsatisfactory" in the South Carolina Report Card.

College and Career Readiness: Scored "average" in the South Carolina Report Card.

Graduation Rate and Data: Scored "good" in the South Carolina Report Card.

~Total Number of Graduates: 367

~Dropout Rate: 2.2 % up from 1.7% in 2021

~Dropout Recovery Rate: 7.5% up from 6.3% in 2021

## School Improvement Council Roster for 2022-2023

### GHS Staff and GHS Staff Parents

**Chairperson:** Heather White

**Co-Chairperson:** TBD

**Secretary:** TBD

Heather White Elected

Jill Hanna Elected

Angel Moss Elected

Chris Hardy Elected

Brett Wallen Elected

Evetta Montgomery Appointed/GHS Sec.

Hyacinth Phillips Elected

Jennifer Bedford Appointed/Interest

Jessica Ramsey Elected

Karen Denton Elected

Kim Barnes Appointed/tech

Kiri Shehan Appointed/TOY 2021

LaKeisha Sims Appointed/Bookkeeper

Leslie Kaczmarczyk Elected

Rachel Smiley Elected

Traci Dill Elected

Traci Scruggs Elected

Lawanda Moorner Appointed/TOY 2022

### Parents

Ashley Wyatt

Veronica Shippy

Aeysha Morman-Robb

Lucretia Garcia

Earle D Posey

Lacey Lemmons

Renee Hill

Julie Bates

Sarah Franks

Labresha Ratchford

Summer Neal

### Community

Jewette Patterson

Brandon Watkins

Scott Powell

### Ex-Officio

Ex Officio: Eric Blanton

### Committee Designation for 2022-2023

Jose Figueroa

Andy Holmes

Kevin Miller

Laura Brooks

Mary McDaniel

Matthew Macmahon

Austin Phillips

Shenae Robbs

Jeff Mages

### Student Nominations (via Beta Club and AVID)

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Lyndsay Hathaway

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Noah Fowler

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nyla Harris

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Parth Patel

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ghader Alhadrami

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Savanna Scruggs

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kaedon Harris

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Emily Crowe

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ta'Ja Lattimore