



# LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL

2020-2021 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARENTS



## Mission Statement

*The mission of Lamar High School is to prepare all students to become competent, responsible, and productive individuals by providing challenging educational and extracurricular opportunities in a positive, safe environment supported by the community.*

Lamar High School's administration, faculty, and School Improvement Council wholeheartedly embraced this journey to be excellent in everything we do. One major global challenge changed the trajectory of our traditional school platform in a huge way. COVID-19 was a national global health pandemic that forced students and staff to work remotely from home from March 2020 until late September 2020. As we learned to navigate our new E-Learning platform, we fully understood that the COVID-19 pandemic placed enormous strains on families, the community, and our students. Undoubtedly, there were bumps along the way, but the resilience of our Lamar community prevailed. Continuous improvement in the area of socio-emotional learning (SEL) and working toward academic improvement on the ACT were the major goals for SIC. To better educate our families and communities, we conducted virtual Parent University sessions in the following areas: ACT, Schoology, TroubleShooting Technology, and Parent Portal. Although nationally schools have a new normal, the collaborative efforts of our parents, students, and faculty resulted in continuous improvements for our students during the 2020-2021 school year in the four A's -- Academics, Activities, Arts, and Athletics. Successes in the following areas include:

# Academics

- Lamar High School is now the home of The Institute of Biomedical Innovation magnet program.
- LHS is developing and implementing a Freshman Academy for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Effie Copeland represents LHS as a U.S. Presidential Scholar semifinalist candidate.
- Effie Copeland will be recognized as an SC Palmetto Fellow.
- Jamieson Garner and Darius Wingate are a part of the Key to Career program as interns working at Fiber Industries, Darlington, SC, and River Plumbing and Electrical Company, Florence, SC.
- Columbia College (C.C.) recognized 10 students as C.C. Scholar nominees.
- Presbyterian College (P.C.) recognized 5 students as P.C. Fellows for being in the top 10% of their junior class with a 3.5 or higher unweighted GPA.
- Leslie McCathern and David Neff were nominated for the Junior Fellows Program at Lander University.
- The All-In Test Prep Virtual Workshop had 27 student participants.
- Dylan Chapman was nominated for the Pee Dee of Heart Scholarship at Francis Marion University.
- The University of South Carolina-Sumter recognized 12 seniors as scholars to receive up to \$7,500 towards tuition.
- Of the Class of 2021, 86.0% earned a Ready to Work Certificate.
- As of April 2021, the Class of 2021 has received \$913,300 in scholarship offerings.



Darius Wingate



David Neff



Dylan Chapman



Jamieson Garner



Effie Copeland



# Activities

- Student Council and Beta Club sponsored the 12 Days of Hope to benefit the Florence Harvest Hope Food Bank. Thanks to students, staff, and several community donations from Josey's Early Beginners, the Lamar Alumni Association, and the Spaulding Alumni Association, we were able to donate 1,148 items.
- LHS Student Council collected 800 items for the Carolinian Seniors Project.
- Derrick Higgins and Janiya Blyther were recognized as Homecoming King and Queen.
- Effie Copland and Aidan Hunt were recognized as Mr. and Mrs. Silver Fox.
- Mrs. Amber McCoy with the assistance of several awesome students launched a live morning news show called LHSTV News.
- Students from Teacher Cadet, Beta Club and Student Council participated in a reading initiative with Lamar-Spaulding Elementary.
- During Red Ribbon Week, students created videos encouraging Lamar-Spaulding Elementary students to stay drug-free.



# Arts

- Oscar Wright and the Lamar High School Silver Power House band proudly presented virtual winter concert.
- Madison Wallace's artwork represented LHS in the Art in Business competition.



# Athletics

- The Lamar High Silver Fox Football Team is the 1A Region II Champions.
- The Lamar High Silver Fox Football Team played for the Upper-State Championship.
- Kenneth Walton received a full scholarship offer to Coastal Carolina University and was selected Region Two 1A Football Player of the Year and the 2020 Shrine Bowl Team.
- Patrick Anderson, Anthony McFadden, and Kenneth Walton were selected to the 1A Football All-State Team.
- The Lamar Silver Fox Girls Varsity Basketball Team competed in the second round of the South Carolina High School Playoffs.
- Anyia Gates was selected to the 1A Girls Basketball All-State Team.
- Ja'Shyia Ham, Anyia Gates, and Deaquashia Robinson were selected to the Pee-Dee All-Star Team.
- Heidi Anderson signed a letter of intent to play softball at Florence-Darlington Technical College.



Kenneth Walton



Heidi Anderson

Our collaborative efforts centered around SEL, ACT skills, and Parent University focused LHS on meeting the needs of the whole student. We thank those parents, faculty, and community members who have worked with us, and we encourage representation from every student and parent organization that exists at Lamar High School to participate in the efforts of next year's School Improvement Council.

Sincerely,

Marlon L. Thomas, Ed.D., Principal

Julia Hudson, SIC Chairperson

Yolondis Peoples, SIC Vice-Chairperson





# LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL

## Social Media



@LamarSilverFoxes

## Lamar High School Aims

- Excellence in Student Learning
- Meeting Diverse Student Needs
- Safe and Secure Environment
- Quality Teacher and Personnel
- Effective Leadership and Management Resources
- School, Parent, Student, and Community Partnerships

## The LHS Experience



@LHS\_Silverfoxes



Honor Roll Celebration



Military Day



Homecoming PJ Day



Missing our students on virtual day



Science Lab Fun



@LHS\_Silverfoxes



Dr. Thomas and Foxy lead the 2020 Lamar Christmas Parade



College and Career Ready PSAT Students



Counting Harvest Hope Donations



## **The Institute of Biomedical Innovation**

The Institute of Biomedical Innovation program at Lamar High School, in conjunction with the nationally recognized Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences program, offers high achieving students a dynamic curriculum that uses real world experience and hands-on learning. Students with an interest in exploring the variety that health sciences offer will find PLTW's Biomedical Sciences program to be a fantastic doorway for medical professions.

### **Priorities for 2020-2021**

- Continue to expand internship opportunities for all students
- Continue to improve the achievement of students on state and national measures
- Improve programs designed to ensure repeaters get back on track to graduate
- Reduce discipline referrals, suspensions, and recommendations for expulsion
- Increase percentage of students participating in more than one club or organization
- Continue to increase the graduation rate
- Expand professional development opportunities that focus on student achievement
- Increase percentage of students taking Advanced Placement and dual-credit courses
- Continue to reduce the percentage of students retained in ninth grade
- Increase percentage of students who are College and Career Ready

# School Improvement Council 2020-2021

Julia Hudson, *SIC Chair*  
Yolondis Peoples, *SIC Vice Chair*  
Basil Atwood, *Teacher*  
Luke Bolton, *Teacher*  
Alphine Bradley, *Teacher*  
Valarie Roberts, *Teacher*  
Maxine Cottingham, *Teacher*  
Tyra Gainey, *Student*  
Effie Copeland, *Student*  
Chenethia Brown, *Community Member*  
Monyette Carraway, *Community Member*  
Veronica Gainey, *Community Member*  
Karen Konopasek, *Community Member*  
Ginger Windham, *Community Member*  
Dr. Marlon L. Thomas, *Principal*  
Susan Lear, *Assistant Principal*  
Marilyn Nelson, *School Counselor*  
Carlos Burgess, *Athletic Director*

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

*The Darlington County School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics in its programs and activities. All schools in the Darlington County School District are accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.*



## **LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL**

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