

Dillon High School places great emphasis on academic excellence, which is the primary function of the school. All efforts of our teachers and staff are focused on providing quality educational opportunities for all students. In view of the current economic climate with a double-digit unemployment rate in our county and as our community becomes more multicultural and diversified, we are even more committed to the precept that every student has the right to receive the best education possible. Dillon High serves a divergent student body in an area where 44.3% of families are below the poverty level. As our community becomes more multicultural and the economy more restricted, under-resourced students often become disengaged with the education system. This has required us to renew our commitment to educating all children and to seek alternative resources to realize our goals. We remain focused on our mission to prepare students to achieve excellence through a learning community that promotes skills needed in a continuously changing world. We remain committed to preparing students for a productive life after graduation.

We are proud of the improvements we have made in the overall school climate and in student performance. Our end-of-course test scores as well as performance on HSAP surpass those of high schools like ours. Certified teachers hold after- and before-school review sessions to serve the academic needs of students. Through a continuing partnership with the National Dropout Prevention Center, we are instituting innovative programs in credit recovery, reading enrichment, and writing development while providing assistance and encouragement to students who are at risk for dropping out of school. Interact Club, Key Club, Anchor Club, and other service organizations and mentoring programs are creating positive relationships within the school family and in the culture of the school. This year our chapter of the National Honor Society by inducting 18 students into membership.

Our students continue to demonstrate their altruism by supporting several important causes. They have sponsored a Veterans Day tribute, participated in Relay for Life, March of Dimes Walk for Babies, Memory Walk for Awareness, water drive for Hope for Haiti, beautification projects, as well as supporting fundraisers for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, UNICEF, Juvenile Diabetes Walk-for-a-Cure, Toys for Tots, Palmetto Animal Rescue, and local food drives.

This year in athletics, the Wildcats successfully defended their reign as champions and brought home our second consecutive state Lower 2A football championship. The Dillon High Lady Cats also reclaimed their championship title by repeating as 2A Region Girls volleyball champions. The soccer team also won their second region championship. Many athletes in all sports have been selected as All Star Players. Our school provides structured activities for both male and female athletes that foster team building, sportsmanship, and increased self-esteem.

In addition to our excellent athletic record, our marching Cats continue their outstanding performances. Several members of our band qualified for State Concert Band, and our JROTC core of cadets continues to hold the honor unit with distinction. Dillon High School continues to be the home of champions.

Our mission is to continue working for academic and athletic excellence through collaborative initiatives. We are proud of our accomplishments and are excited about the promise of greater rewards as we focus on our vision to provide exceptional, quality educational opportunities for every student.

Lynda B. Cottingham, Principal

Holly Jacobs, SIC Chairperson