

To the Learning Community of Fort Dorchester High School

The faculty, staff and students of Fort Dorchester High School have finished our 21<sup>st</sup> school year. The school has changed a bit this year in terms of enrollment, with 1939 students enrolled on the last day of the school year.

Again for the 2012-2013 school year, there were many accomplishments by Patriots in the areas of clubs, athletics and academics. School spirit was a big focus this year with the creation of a new student spirit organization called 'The Riot'. Students voted on the name and voted on a t-shirt design as well. We saw a big spike in school spirit among the student body.

Fort Dorchester High School earned many academic accolades this school year as well. The 2012 graduation rate rose by 5.6 points, on the South Carolina Report Card we earned an Excellent absolute rating and an Excellent growth rating, helping the district earn an overall Excellent rating as well. Also due to our academic success and growth in student achievement, FDHS earned the Palmetto Gold award.

We continued our Higher Learning Academy and outreach to our at-risk students through the Prevention and Intervention program. This program helped many students recover credits, study and prepare for the HSAP test and helped the graduation rate by having many completers in the Evening School program.

One new program we are very excited about is the Early College program in partnership with Trident Technical College. Through Early College, rising 10th grade students have been selected to be part of a cohort of students who will take dual enrollment courses and have the opportunity to earn an Associate's Degree by the time they graduate from high school. Our goal is to have a cohort of 30 or more students who start the program each year. Students will take the college level courses for free.

We are also very excited about the development of our first EDGE Academy in Hospitality and Culinary Arts. This is a joint venture with The Education Foundation of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. The first EDGE cohort of students will begin in the 2013-2014 school year.

As Fort Dorchester High School moves forward on our journey to becoming a world class high school, our overriding goal is to prepare all students for college or career readiness. The faculty, staff and students of FDHS are very excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and we are ready to embark on our journey to world class status. We are committed to meeting the needs of each student, every day.