



# Strom Thurmond High School 2017 – 2018 Report to the Community



## Principal - Joshua Black Assistant Principals - Louis Scott and Jerrilyn Harmon

The Strom Thurmond High School administration and faculty seek to help all students reach their full potential by making informed decisions. The administration will offer practical tools and strategies to help the faculty become strong advocates for every student in our school. Over the past year, we have continued working on several initiatives to strengthen the educational experience for our students.

Our purpose as a school is to create a safe, energetic, and rigorous learning environment that will engage, empower, and enrich all students. To reach these goals, our administration and staff continue to work on making the subtle shift toward a more personalized approach to teaching and learning. Programs and initiatives are now becoming more focused upon the individual student. For example, Strom Thurmond's Rebel Recon class has evolved to provide enrichment opportunities and educational support based upon student interest and need. In one week, students spend three days during this 50-minute period in an enrichment class of their choice, one day is spent seeking extra help in a chosen subject, and one day in High School 101.

High School 101 is designed to help students with academic advisement, career/college guidance sessions, and skill/knowledge development. HS101 is also used as a platform to hold school wide assemblies and presentations, such as our Black History Month Program and Prom Promise Mock Crash. Videos of these programs can be found by following the links at the bottom of this page. Along with HS101, students are also placed into Homeroom classes which meet periodically throughout the school year for non-instructional activities (club and class meetings) to improve our school

culture without sacrificing instructional time. We will continue our systematic approach to gain an accurate picture of our school community's strengths and weaknesses. This information will be used to improve student achievement and meet challenging academic standards in our state. Administrators and teachers will continue to use the AdvancED process that collects and examines information about school wide issues. We will then utilize our data to determine priority goals, to develop a plan, and to allocate funds and resources. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other community members will be asked to participate in the data collection process through surveys and program studies. We are continuing to research emerging trends that will help us improve our school. STHS maintains a clear focus by giving students rigorous opportunities to

succeed and preparing them for postsecondary training, careers, and citizenship in the 21st Century. We will continue to utilize a professional development model that provides ongoing opportunities for our teachers to incorporate best practices in the classroom. From the comprehensive instructional and extracurricular programs to the high standards for teaching and learning, STHS strives to provide opportunities that parallel our values and beliefs. We believe these opportunities will improve the quality of instruction, teacher-student interactions, school climate, and safety. We plan to continue studying and utilizing the Profile of the South Carolina and the Edgefield County Graduate to ensure our students are prepared with college and workforce readiness skills. At Strom Thurmond High, we work daily to fulfill our mission, purpose, and direction.

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### Student Enrollment

812

### Teachers

49

### Chromebook Devices

525

### Four Year Graduation Rate

84.8%

### Average ACT Composite Score

17.4

### Students Receiving a National Career Readiness Certificate

82%



### Student Program Videos

#### Black History Month Program

<https://stctc.viebit.com/player.php?hash=PjSXXK46lo9W>

#### NJROTC Program

<https://stctc.viebit.com/player.php?hash=DNtSo2CwBLIL>

#### Prom Promise Program

<https://youtu.be/zxW85mzRI48>

# Strom Thurmond Career and Technology Center 2017-2018 Report to the Community

## Director—Arthur Northrop

Strom Thurmond Career and Technology Center's (STCTC) '17-'18 academic year has been a success. In '16-'17 the AdvancED Accreditation process brought several needs that should be addressed to the forefront. IN '17-'18, the staff and administration addressed these needs in a focused and collaborative manner.

First, students expressed their lack of understanding of how they are assessed. STCTC's staff analyzed the students' concerns and concluded the use of rubrics would help students understand the appropriate performances in order to master the standards and competencies in each program. Teachers in '17-'18 have significantly increased the number of rubrics used in each of STCTC's programs. These teacher created rubrics provide clarity to both students and teachers and have positively impacted student performance.

In order to create and utilize effective rubrics, STCTC's PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) received professional development covering the development of effective rubrics. The PLCs also provided professional development on the development of UbD (Understanding by Design) stages 1 and 2 and the SLOs (Student Learning Objectives). Over half of STCTC's staff chose to measure the soft skill characteristics described in the Characteristics of an Edgefield Graduate.

Next, parents and guardians expressed that STCTC's staff and administration needed to communicate more effectively. In order to address this need, each staff member created a webpage for the school's website. These webpages provide contact information, schedule and listings of each course's standards. In addition, STCTC's new printing class created "Fatheads" with teacher contact information and they were mailed to all parents and guardians. Teachers have also increased the number and frequency of personal contacts with parents and guardians.

STCTC's student membership in student organizations remains strong. Students in each of these organizations participated in academic competitions on the district, state and national level, helped their community through service projects and engaged their peers through school initiatives. Students completed multiple and a wide range of community service projects and assist civic and business organizations with their service projects.

STCTC's community outreach opportunities for students included landscaping services for community members, automotive students shadowing technicians in the local dealerships, Welding Technology students fabricating items for local industries and Health Science students completing a wide range of clinicals. STCTC is also actively seeking opportunities for students to gain real-life cooperative experiences. Students are applying for internships that include the school district's Food Service, IT and HVAC Departments. Opportunities also are available at the County's bus maintenance shop, the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority and Edgefield County Government in their maintenance and Building Inspection Depart-

ments. These experiences ensured STCTC's students applied the knowledge and skills developed in the classroom to real life situations. In many of these instances students earned high school credits through the Work-based and Service Learning programs.

The community outreach activities along with their classroom instruction provided the foundation for students to earn business and industry certifications and credentials. Students earned ASE (Automotive Service Excellence), CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) and South Carolina State Cosmetology Board certifications in addition to passing South Carolina Department of Education EOC (End of Course) tests in Welding, Business Management Administration and agriculture.

STCTC's main focus is ensuring students are on a career path when they graduate. For four years, STCTC's placement rate for completers who take four courses in a curriculum cluster is over 90%. Military experience, employment in the student's field of study, or higher education at a two or four-year college is considered a positive placement for students. STCTC is committed to providing an "Education That Works to Engage, Empower and Enrich," all students.

