

## **School Improvement Committee Report to the Community 2021-22**

Hillcrest is a school that is proud to boast many student and faculty accomplishments. Our teachers are highly qualified in their subject areas, hold doctorate degrees, masters degrees, and Advanced Placement, Gifted and Talented, and National Board Certifications.

Hillcrest offers a variety of opportunities for its students beginning with a Freshmen Orientation led by student council for students and parents. Students made the most of the event despite being moved inside due to rain. Activities included playing games and teaching students spirit cheers before the start of the school year. This successful orientation provided a tour of the building for students and parents to gain knowledge about the school layout, clubs, and athletic opportunities. Additionally, upperclassmen facilitated question and answer sessions. This orientation created a foundation for a close-knit community between freshmen students and teachers.

As a community school, we strive to offer many co-curricular opportunities that foster student growth. We are able to provide a vast array of clubs, athletics, activities and opportunities for our Rams to shine. While offering a unique mix of programs, we are able to compete and participate at the highest level in all that we do.

- The Robotics Team competed in two regional competitions this year, and made it to the quarterfinals for both competitions.
- The Fine Arts Department student won the Best in Show at the Annual Upstate High School Art Exhibition
  - We gave students our Arts program has offered an all arts night and are responsible for many of the new murals in our fine arts wing and faculty lounges
- Hillcrest Ram Voices had 12 students participate in the Greenville County District Honors Choir. The Ram Voices also hosted former choir members to sing the National Anthem and Alma Mater at Homecoming. We were honored to have several from each decade. Our students represented Hillcrest by singing at the Veterans Community Ceremony in Mauldin. The Ram Voices participated in the Carowinds Music Festival.
- Hillcrest had students selected for Greenville All County Band and South Carolina Region 1 Honors band.
  - Four students made the All State call back
  - The marching Band received an excellent rating at the SCBDA 5A State marching Contest and the Symphonic Band received a Superior Rating at the SCBDA CPA Festival
  - The Jazz Band was asked to perform for the Simpsonville Concert Series that takes place in the Heritage Park Amphitheater
- Hillcrest also has one of the top athletic programs in the state with 22 varsity and 24 sub varsity teams that are consistently some of the top athletic teams in our state
  - HHS had 18 student-athletes sign National Letters of Intent to play at sports at the college level during the 20-21 school year
  - The football and girls cross country teams both finished in the top 12 in the 5A class in their sports in the fall
  - The wrestling team won their third straight 5A State Championship, and 5th overall since 2011 in the state's largest class

- Our softball program is ranked #2 in the state in 5A looking to win their 5th state championship in school history
- Girls track program is ranked #1 in the state and looking to build off their 2019 state championship win
- Our baseball program won region championship for the 1st time in 20 years and went on to win a 2021 5A state championship

In addition, Hillcrest recognizes the value of giving back to our community. This year the Hillcrest student body in partnership with the community raised over \$87,000 in one week in support of the Prisma Children's Hospital. We were so excited to sponsor a spirit week this year after not having one the last two years due to Covid-19. The Greenhouse Industries program at Hillcrest conducts transplantation / plant breeding experiments with plant materials as well as sponsors plant sales throughout the year, offering over twenty-five thousand plants and flowers to the public each year. The program has earned over \$250,000 since its inception and is recognized by the state as an exemplary program. In 2020 we were able to add a second state-of-the-art greenhouse to enhance the program even further. The local community strongly supports Hillcrest High School in these endeavors.

Our School Counseling Department works with students and parents to ensure students' needs are met and that students are on track for graduation. Counselors meet annually with students to develop and review each student's Individual Graduation Plan. Through interest assessments, job shadowing, work-site visits, and career speakers, students evaluate their career interests. The school counselors planned and implemented a successful Curriculum Night where current and future students and parents were able to participate in an experience to learn about the different courses and opportunities that Hillcrest offers. Each student meets with their school counselor to determine which classes best suit the student's needs and goals. Students' social and emotional health is supported through the delivery of monthly interactive lessons.

Both academic and athletic booster clubs have a strong presence and are actively involved in providing support in the form of time and money for our students. Our PTSA offers opportunities to our teachers to support classroom instruction and the School Improvement Council promotes all the positive and impactful activities our students and staff contribute to the school and community. This Council chooses a focus each year in order to provide support for our school as a whole. Last year's focus was on the ninth grade transition and how to make it better for all students as they matriculate to high school and the focus this year was looking at how we can help drive parent involvement for students and teachers at the school level. We were able to implement a program called "Dads on Duty" where we have parent volunteers come to our lunches and interact with students weekly. We had parents attend curriculum night to speak with other parents regarding programs their child was involved in. We organized a substitute drive to get parents registered to substitute.

Hillcrest is dedicated to providing a safe, positive learning environment which brings together the resources of staff, family, and our community to create the best future possible for our students.

Dr. Patrick Jarrett  
Principal

Sam Jones  
SIC Chairperson