

School Improvement Council Report to the Community 2023-2024

Hillcrest High School located in Simpsonville, South Carolina, 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, master's degrees, and Advanced Placement, Gifted and Talented, and National Board Certifications. Hillcrest students continue to show growth and learning through a variety of measurable outcomes, including the highest growth in graduation rate of all Greenville County Schools, improved achievement in all four core subject areas as measured by the states' EOC assessments for the second consecutive year (the only GCS school with this distinction), increased percentages of our students who are college- and/or career-ready, and an increase in the total amount of scholarship dollars earned by our seniors.

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. Some examples of the successes our students achieved through our co-curricular activities include:

- Our RamRodz Robotics team qualified for the World Championships and competed against the top 600 teams from across the world, placing 42nd overall.
- Our Red and Black Brigade, Hillcrest Symphonic Band, Ram Voices Ensemble and Orchestra all earned a "Superior" or higher rating during their Concert Performance Assessments.
- Our Arts program offered an all arts night and are responsible for many of the new murals in our fine arts wing and faculty lounges.
- 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.

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 \$83,000 in one week in support of the Hope Vision School Foundation. 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, worksite 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 increasing parental involvement and presence at the school. 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

Mark McGrail

SIC Chairperson