

School Improvement Committee Report to the Community 2020-21

Hillcrest is a school that is proud to have the ability to boast many student and faculty accomplishments. Our teachers are highly qualified in their subject areas, hold masters degrees, and hold Advanced Placement, Gifted and Talented, and National Board certifications. On the 2019 School Report Card, Hillcrest earned a "Good" Rating, supporting the increase in EOC scores and quality of teachers we employ.

Hillcrest offers a variety of opportunities for its students beginning with the Freshman Academy for first-year ninth graders. This year, the Freshman Academy held a virtual Freshman Orientation prior to the start of the school year. Through this successful orientation, we provided a virtual tour of the building for students and parents to gain knowledge about the school layout, information about clubs and athletic opportunities, as well as current student facilitated question and answer sessions. The Academy is a place for student growth as well as a tight knit program run by the teachers. They meet regularly to plan activities and monitor the instructional progress of our freshmen as well as keep in mind the social and emotional growth that occurs throughout the freshman year.

As a community school, we strive to offer many opportunities for involvement among our students. We are able to provide a vast array of clubs, athletics, extracurricular activities and opportunities for our Rams to shine. While we offer a unique mix of programs, we are also continuing to compete and participate at the highest level in all that we do.

- Our Robotics Team competed in the state-wide competition this year
- Speech and Debate continuously has district, state and national winners
- Hillcrest's Fine Arts Department student won the Best in Show at the Annual Upstate High School Art Exhibition
- Hillcrest had students selected for Greenville All County Band and South Carolina Region 1 Honors band
- 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

In addition, Hillcrest recognizes the value of giving back to our community. Last year the Hillcrest student body in partnership with the community raised over \$102,000 in one week in support of the Battle Buddies, a service dog provider for veterans. We were unable to sponsor a spirit week this year due to Covid-19 but look forward to the possibility of hosting one in future years. The Greenhouse Industries program at Hillcrest sponsors plant sales throughout the year, offering student-grown plants and flowers to the public. The program has earned almost \$50,000

since its inception and is recognized by the state as an exemplary program. 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 Virtual Curriculum Night where current and future students and parents were able to participate in a break out room 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.

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 grant 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 make Google Classrooms more streamlined for students and teachers. We also helped support the 1st annual Rams Reach Out Week where we focused on different mental health concerns facing our students.

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. G. Bryan Skipper
Principal

Dr. Scott Buhr
SIC Chairperson