

DO YOU KNOW?

9th grade core classes have reduced class sizes and are located separately in our Freshman Academy. These classes are taught by 9th grade teachers exclusively.

All students are encouraged to take the SAT/ACT and our graduation rate is one of the leading in GCSD.

HHS has Promethean boards in all regular classrooms as well as Ipad and laptop carts available for use in classrooms. There are also three computer labs for instructional use in addition to five computer labs for business application classes.

A strong outreach program is promoted through our annual Spirit Week and food drive. HHS students have given more than half a million dollars over the past few years to charities and underprivileged schools.

RECENT CLASS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Recipients

Over \$10 million in scholarship money awarded yearly

AP Scholars

Acceptances to outstanding colleges and universities:

Clemson University, Honors Program
University of SC, USC Honors Program
Winthrop University
Furman University

School Improvement Council 2013-14

Chair: Mr. Mark Drango, teacher

Vice Chair: Mrs. Lillian Hall, parent

Secretary: Mrs. Amanda Walkup, teacher

Mr. Jarod Barksdale, student

Mr. Dan Bruce, teacher

Miss Kayla Cook, student

Mr. Charles Dendy, community member

Mr. Daniel Fort, community member

Mr. Curt Jarrell, parent

Mr. Chris McRae, community member

Mr. Colin Owens, student

Mrs. Kim Reid, community member

Mrs. Lynda Watson, parent

Mr. Steve Chamness, ex-officio member

Mrs. Melissa Stover, ex-officio member

Mrs. Lynn Tuten, ex-officio member

Hillcrest High School Annual School Improvement Council “Report to Community” 2013-14

*“Today’s Learners,
Tomorrow’s Leaders”*



Steve Chamness, Principal

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The mission of Hillcrest High School is to educate all students to become positive, productive citizens, equipped to meet the challenges of today’s global society.

Report to Parents

For almost sixty years, Hillcrest High School has been a source of pride for the Simpsonville-Fountain Inn community. Hillcrest is proud of its students and faculty and their accomplishments. Hillcrest High teachers are highly qualified in their subject area. Many of our teachers hold masters degrees, masters plus thirty, as well as additional degree certifications such as National Board, Advanced Placement, and Gifted and Talented. The quality of teachers at Hillcrest is shown in the increase of scores in 2012-13 Algebra I, Biology, English and US History End-of-Course passing rates. Algebra I, Biology I, and English I passage rates jumped into the high 80 percentages with English being the second highest passage rate in the district. In addition, the graduation rate rose to 79.3%. Hillcrest High School received an Excellent rating for both its Absolute Rating and Growth Rating on the 2013 School Report Card.

Hillcrest offers a continuum of opportunities for its students beginning with the Freshman Academy for first-year ninth grade students. The Academy offers a separate location for all freshmen core classes. For the second time, the Academy held a Freshman Day prior to the start of school. Approximately 400 of our new ninth grade students attended this event making it a great success. They toured the building, met their teachers, heard about clubs and athletic opportunities and even learned cheers. The teachers in the Academy meet regularly to plan activities and monitor the progress of our freshmen.

Hillcrest offers a variety of opportunities for student involvement. Hillcrest has a Speech and Debate program that continuously have district, state and national winners. Hillcrest's Fine Arts Department is also a leader in our school district. Nine of the eighteen Greenville County School District students chosen for All State Chorus came from Hillcrest High School. 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 offers the following clubs to students: Academic Team, Beta Club, Drama Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Freshman Pride and others.

Students at Hillcrest High have opportunities to demonstrate goodwill and leadership. Once again, our student body in partnership with the community raised nearly \$78,000 in one week in support of the Neuro Center of the Greenville Hospital System. Students are also active in other charities such as hosting food drives and natural disaster relief for various areas in need. The local community strongly supports Hillcrest High School in these endeavors. 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 over \$20,000 since its inception and is recognized by the state as an exemplary program.

Our Guidance 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 Career Development Facilitator provides various opportunities for students to explore their interests and develop their goals. Each student meets with their guidance counselor to determine which classes best suit the student's needs and goals. Students have ample opportunity to investigate their interests through many outstanding classes at Hillcrest High.

Both academic and athletic booster clubs are strong and actively involved in providing support in the form of time and money for our students. Our PTSA offers grant opportunities to our teachers. 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.

Stephen Chamness, Principal
Mark Drango, SIC Chairperson

RECENT SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>EOC Pass Rates</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Algebra 1	88.2 % **
English 1	86.5 % *
Biology 1	87 %
US History	72.4 %

*English passage rate 2nd highest in GCSD

**Math passage rate 4th highest in GCSD

600 + students took an AP exam this year

Group of teachers implementing Ipad use in their classrooms and several teachers piloted the flipped classroom.

Hillcrest has one of the top athletic programs in the state including many students who are college bound athletes. Hillcrest won the State Championship in Volleyball, was State runner-up in Boys Basketball and top eight in the state in Wrestling, Girls Track, Boys Golf, and Girls Lacrosse. This year, Hillcrest has 72 All Region athletes, 17 All State selections, and 10 Senior North/South All Star selections. Athletic teams at HHS include Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Dance Team, Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

Clubs/Organizations

There is a place for everyone at HHS:

Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Spanish NHS, FCA, Science Club, Interact, Student Council, Invisible Children's Club, SADD, Solid Rock, Math Club, Junioresettes, Theatre Company, FFA, Common Ground, CAN Club, Freshman Pride, Speech and Debate.