

## DO YOU KNOW?

9<sup>th</sup> grade core classes have reduced class sizes and are located separately in our Freshman Academy. These classes are taught by 9<sup>th</sup> 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 new athletic facilities and is 1 of 3 schools in GCSD with an upgraded rubberized track.

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

## RECENT CLASS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Recipients

National Merit Scholars

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  
Duke University

## ATHLETICS

Hillcrest 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, as well as having many students who are college bound athletes. This year Hillcrest won the State Championships in Volleyball and last year won in Volleyball, Wrestling, and Softball. This year, Hillcrest has 47 All Region athletes, 14 All State selections, and 6 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, Ram Readers Book Club, Solid Rock, Math Club, Juniors, Theatre Company, Crisis in Caring Club, Common Ground, CAN Club, Freshman Pride, Speech and Debate.

### School Improvement Council 2012-13:

Chair: Mr. Mark Drango, teacher  
Vice Chair: Mrs. Lillian Hall, parent  
Secretary: Mrs. L'Adair Franks, teacher  
Dr. Phillip Baldwin, community member  
Mr. Charles Dendy, community member  
Mr. Daniel Fort, community member  
Mrs. Beth Gar, parent  
Miss Ashlyn Greer, student  
Mr. Steve Genoble, community member  
Ms. Monica Pea, parent  
Ms. Kristy Ray, teacher  
Mrs. Kim Reid, parent  
Miss Olivia Trone, student  
Mrs. Lynda Watson, parent  
Mr. Larry Weeks, parent  
Ms. Whilma Whitlatch, community member  
Mr. Steve Chamness, ex-officio member  
Ms. Jada Kidd, ex-officio member  
Mrs. Lynn Tuten, ex-officio member

## Hillcrest High School Annual School Improvement Council "Report to Parents" 2012-13

*"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. In addition, the graduation rate and other areas in the SC School Report Card have seen an improvement. This is due to the quality of teachers and dedicated student-body at Hillcrest.

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 in oratory, congressional debate, and interpretive events. Hillcrest's Fine Arts Department is also a leader in our school district and many times hosts the All County Chorus concert, as well as, the All County concert. 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, as well as having many students who are college bound athletes. 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.

Hillcrest continues to seek avenues in which students can exercise goodwill and leadership. Once again, our student body in partnership with the community raised nearly \$86,000 in one week in support for Connie Maxwell Children's Home and Washington Center. 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 earned over \$20,000 since its inception and is recognized by the state as an exemplary program.

Hillcrest's 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

## 2012-13 SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Significant continued improvement in EOC scores (rates will be published with the School Report Card in the fall)

Over 500 AP exams taken this year

USC study recognizing HHS Special Education program as most successful in South Carolina

HHS Science Club Competition Team won 3<sup>rd</sup> at the SC Junior Academy of Science Fall Workshop at Furman University.

Numerous student awards at district and state levels in Speech & Debate, Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Strings, Broadcasting, and Art

Numerous teacher recognitions including:

Jada Kidd – State Assistant Principal of the Year & National Semi-Finalist

Anna Cuyar and Buck Wall – AP Readers

Valerie Conner and Anna Cuyar – Class Nobel Educators of Distinction

Shanlee Perrone – Greenville Co. Science Teachers Assoc. Teacher of the Year nominee

Amanda Walkup – 2012 Exceptional Educator of the Year by SC Council for Exceptional Children

Pilot use of iPads in classrooms

Pilot “Bring Your Own Device” technology program