

Hillcrest High School
2011-12 School Improvement Committee Report to the Community.

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. This year several of our teachers have been recognized for their outstanding work. Mr. Bill Evans, English teacher, was inducted into the Speech and Debate Hall of Fame. Ms. Lynn Avant was named the South Carolina Volleyball Coach of the Year. Mrs. Lilly Mikol, HHS French teacher, was selected by her peers to represent Hillcrest as Teacher of the Year. Ms. Mary Grace Owen, Neuro Special Education teacher, was honored with a Golden Apple Award presented by WYFF Channel 4. Mrs. Amanda Walkup, Resource Special Education teacher, was named the 2012 Exceptional Educator of the Year by the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children.

Hillcrest offers a continuum of opportunities for its students beginning with the Freshman Academy for new ninth grade students. The Academy offers a separate location for all freshmen core classes. For the first 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. This year the English and math teachers in the Academy taught on a different schedule with shorter class periods. Teachers offer after school tutoring at least two days each week and regularly communicate student progress to parents.

Upper classmen are offered a full range of academic and career and vocational classes. The school offered fifteen different Advance Placement courses this year. Many of our core courses offer honors sections in preparation for AP classes. Our Agriculture Department is considered a model program across the state and has been featured on South Carolina's ETV. It boasts Hillcrest Greenhouse Industries, which is a student run enterprise. From buying seeds to selling the products, Hillcrest Greenhouse Industries operates a horticulture program that culminates in the Fall Plant Sale, Christmas Tree Sale, and Spring Plant Sale each year. This department also supports several small animal care classes. Our Business and Fine Arts departments are also leaders in the district.

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.

Hillcrest offers a variety of opportunities for student involvement. Each year many of our athletic teams compete for regional, as well as, state championships. This year

Hillcrest holds state titles in Wrestling and Volleyball. Currently our softball team is in the play-offs for the Upper State Championship.

In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular clubs and organizations.

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 \$100,000 in one week in support of a local charity and an underprivileged school. 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.

Both athletic and academic 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 Earle, SIC Chairperson