

Dear North Central High School Parents:

It is the mission of North Central High School to work with our community to empower our students to become responsible, life-long learners, by establishing and maintaining a safe and positive environment and implementing a challenging curriculum. It is with great pleasure that I inform you this mission is being accomplished through the hard work and collaboration of teachers, students, parents, and administration.

The 2011-2012 School Year has been a year marked by many academic and athletic accomplishments. One of these accomplishments is the establishment of our school-wide reading across the curriculum program. This program involves every class, including elective courses, at North Central High School integrating a book into their content area. In addition to our reading across the curriculum initiative, we also started a silent sustained reading program. This program involves everyone in the school stopping all activities to read at least 10 minutes every day. Due to these two initiatives, we have seen an increase in the amount of reading inside of the classroom and outside of the classroom, and we believe both of these initiatives should benefit our students' academics for years to come. Other academic highlights this past year include an 89% passage rate on our Algebra I EOC test, a 76% graduation rate, and receiving a Palmetto Silver Award for Closing the Achievement Gap. Our outstanding teacher of the year for 2011-2012 was Mr. George Morrow (Agriculture). On the extracurricular front our Hospitality and Tourism team won the South Carolina State Championship, our ROTC Academic Team advanced to the national level of competitions, and our school clubs raised over \$5000 for United Way and the American Red Cross. Athletically, we continue to be very competitive and good stewards of sportsmanship. Some athletic bright spots for the year include our girls volleyball, boys cross country, boys track and competitive cheerleading teams winning the Region 3A championships. In boys wrestling, we won the individual region and state championship in 1A/2A (Daniel Whitmore). Also, two of our coaches received Region Coach of the Year (Andy Johnson/Volleyball and Chad Dixon/Cross Country).

As NCHS moves forward to the year 2012-2013, we have many challenges to meet. Our biggest challenge is to meet the literacy needs of our high poverty population while meeting the demands put forth in the new Common Core Standards. These new standards rely heavily on the premise that all students should be able to read, write, and speak fluently in many different content areas while being able to communicate effectively and think critically about key concepts. We believe that our literacy program established this past year has us on the right track, but we will be looking for ways to build upon these programs in the future.

As you can see North Central High School is committed to making sure that all students have the chance to gain the needed skills to leave our beloved school and compete in the global workforce. We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders as we continue this mission.

Worth Thomasson, Principal

Steve Leigh, SIC Chairperson