

Buford High School

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Greetings Parents and Community Stakeholders,

Buford High School, home of the Yellow Jackets, works to create an environment that builds world-class knowledge, skills, and character in all of our students. We believe that it is our charge to provide students with a variety of experiences that allow for them to grow in these areas. This comes as a result of being exposed to high quality opportunities in the areas of academics, athletics, fine arts, and a variety of extracurricular/co-curricular opportunities. At Buford High School, character is equally as important as one's academic, athletic, and artistic pursuits. Therefore, we instill Jacket P.R.I.D.E. in each of our students. P.R.I.D.E. represents our five core values: Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence. It is through these collective efforts that we hope to build "The Ideal Buford Graduate," one that is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to be successful in life beyond the walls of BHS. This aligns with our district's "Putting Our Children First" vision, which is at the forefront of all that we do.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Buford High School served 572 students between grades 9-12, with 49 percent identifying as female and 51 percent identifying as male. Approximately 63% percent of our faculty held advanced degrees, while the student to teacher ratio was 16:1. In an effort to build world-class knowledge in each of our students, our school provided students with the appropriate level of rigor in each of their courses. We offered 4 Dual Credit Courses on campus and 31 dual-credit opportunities through the University of South Carolina-Lancaster, our local university. In addition, we have 10 Career and Technology Pathways offered to our students in 7 different clusters. Within each of our classrooms, we seek to build world-class skills in our students as well. In addition, our efforts with "Blended Learning" have reaped huge dividends when it comes to student achievement and growth in the set of skills that are necessary to be successful in the world of work.

The BHS staff continued its efforts to institute a Differentiated Professional Development model. This model was built upon the ability of teachers to choose the types of professional development they needed based upon an assessment of their individual professional needs. Teachers have also worked collaboratively within PLC's in an effort to positively impact academic achievement and engagement level of our students. At this point, our entire staff has taken part in the "Blended Learning in Action" book study. This group has researched, collaborated around, and implemented a variety of innovative and traditional approaches to teaching in each of their classrooms. In addition, our Tier II Instructional Cohort have worked

hard to develop intentional and consistent practices that meet the target and differentiated needs of our students through the use of class time and our flex period. Lastly, our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) have worked diligently over the last two years to prioritize and unpack standards in order to develop common assessments that directly align to our state standards. Doing so has allowed groups of teachers to collaborate around the practices and strategies that have led to positive achievement results for their students! We are very proud of our staff and the hard work that they have done and how it has impacted the engagement and achievement levels of our students.

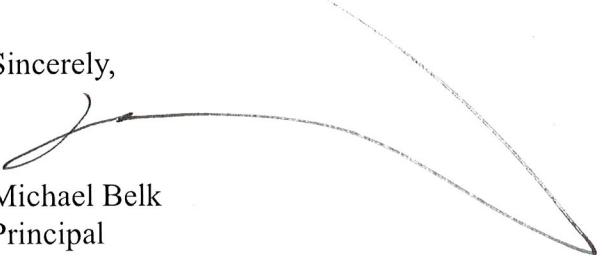
Our students achieved excellence in academics, athletics, and arts. In the 2022-2023 school year, 80.3% of Buford High School students received a Ready to Work certificate on either a platinum, gold, silver, or bronze level. Members of our 2023 graduating class (122 students) were offered \$457,900 in scholarships to various post-secondary institutions. Post-secondary plans for the graduating class include: 65% planning to attend college, 0.6% planning to join the armed forces, and 25% planning to join the workforce.

As stated above, we have worked hard to create a sense of focus on career and character traits in all of our students. It is for this reason that we have created our school motto, "Can't Hide That Jacket P.R.I.D.E." As a result of this effort, we have worked hard to teach, model, and reinforce our five core values on a consistent basis. Our art students have continued to find ways to incorporate Jacket P.R.I.D.E. into the artwork, murals, and other creative projects around campus. We also held Jacket P.R.I.D.E. celebrations to recognize all students that embodied these values on a consistent basis during each grading period of the school year.

Buford High School provides a diverse offering of student-led service organizations. This list includes the BHS Student Council, Tri-M Music Honor Society, National Honor Society, National Beta Club, Educators Rising, JROTC, and the Future Farmers of America. Each group provides students with the opportunity to lead while positively impacting our community on the local, regional, national, and international levels. Students have the opportunity to participate in various clubs and organizations during Flex Time daily.

We are very proud of the great things that our students, staff, and community have accomplished here at Buford High School. The work that has taken place both inside and outside the classroom continues to make us proud. It is further proof that we just "Can't Hide That Jacket P.R.I.D.E."

Sincerely,



Michael Belk
Principal
Buford High School