

## Lancaster High School Improvement Council

The LHS School Improvement Council meets on the first Monday of each month.

*Chair: Ms. Kemesha Lowery, Parent*  
[Kclsafeandbright@yahoo.com](mailto:Kclsafeandbright@yahoo.com)

*Vice Chair: Mrs. Faynette Waldrop, Parent*  
[faynettef@yahoo.com](mailto:faynettef@yahoo.com)

*Principal: Dr. Joe Keenan*  
[joe.keenan@lcsdmail.net](mailto:joe.keenan@lcsdmail.net)

### Lancaster High School Administrators

Dr. Joseph C. Keenan,  
Principal

Mr. Richard Pringle  
Lead Assistant Principal

Mr. Vernon Thompson  
Assistant Principal

Mr. Paul Crenshaw  
Assistant Principal

Mr. Bill Farrar  
Assistant Principal

Ms. Rosalyn Mood  
Assistant Principal

## General Information

Lancaster High School was erected in 1993. This 319,755 square foot facility is home to 1,369 students and 104 teachers, along with twenty-five classified staff members, six administrators, five counselors, three media specialists, two resource officers, two nurses and Indy, a German Shepard canine law enforcement assistant. There is also an adjacent career center which functions as part of the comprehensive high school. LHS services a widely diverse student population; 46% of the student body population is white, while 47% of the student body population is African-American. Another 1.6 % of the student body population is Hispanic and the final .7% is considered to be 'other.' 61% of the student body is served through either free or reduced lunch.

### Purpose of the Report

*"This Report is issued by the Myschool School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."*

## Lancaster High School School Improvement Council "Report to the Parents" 2014-15



Dr. Joseph C. Keenan, Principal  
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### Mission Statement

Lancaster High School aims to prepare our students for a responsible and productive future by providing challenging and relevant experiences in a positive environment supported by the community.

From the Desk of the Principal, Joe Keenan



We continually strive to provide our students with the best educational opportunities. This Annual School Summary provides an update on the progress that we have made toward our school's major goals.

We have improved our parent communication in several ways. The use of PowerSchool Parent Portal has increased from 41% to 71%. We have upgraded our school website to facilitate communication between parents, teachers and students. We have improved the effectiveness of our Blackboard Connect calling system by making a concerted effort to have accurate data.

We embrace the belief that the most important factor in a student's academic achievement is the effectiveness of the instruction that he/she receives. We continue to seek excellence in teaching by focusing our professional development on the instructional needs of our faculty. We continue to use data driven decision making as we target our efforts to improve student achievement.

The LHS SIC examined the effectiveness of several school programs: BEAR Facts (advisory program); DEAR (Drop Everything And Read); Tardy policy; and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy. Based upon input from parents, students, staff and community members, recommendations for the 2015-16 school year were made. The LHS SIC also worked on options for our Commencement Ceremony. After seeking input from all stakeholders, the LHS SIC decided to continue with our current format for our graduation exercises.

## Student Achievement

On the 2014 State Report Card, we received an *Absolute Rating* of "Average" and a *Growth Rating* of "At-Risk".

We are pleased that our graduation rate held steady at 76% and that our dropout rate has decreased from 4.3% to 2.1%. We are significantly lower than the high schools with students like ours.

Our overall HSAP (Exit Exam) passage rate was 88%, however, our first-time passage rate on both subtests (Math and ELA) was 58%.

End of Course (EOC) Test performance continues to be an area of challenge for us. The data below indicates the percentage of students who made a 70 or above:

- Algebra 1/Math Tech 2 55%
- English 1 63%
- Biology 1 56%
- US History 46%
- All subjects 55%

In response to these needs, all teachers now have access to USA TestPrep software which addresses EOC test preparation. Teachers have incorporated practice questions into their daily instruction.

*"For more information, you may view Myschool's "S.C. School Report Card" for the previous school year online at [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov)."*

We have also implemented several new programs which address the needs of the "whole" child.

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy provides a transition for our freshman as they move into the high school setting. A guidance counselor and administrator are assigned to the Academy.
- The Read Right Reading Program provides our students with support in improving reading proficiency
- An on-site mental health counselor works with students who are dealing with mental/emotional difficulties.
- The PowerHouse program addresses the needs of male students who are struggling with peer pressure as well as academic challenges.

We are extremely proud of all of our students. We are particularly proud of our Varsity Girls' Basketball team. They had an undefeated (27-0) season and they won the 3A State Championship.

Several of our coaches were honored with being chosen to coach all-star events. Coach Priester-Boys Basketball; Coach O'Shields-Girls' Volleyball; Coach Perry-Girls' Softball; Coach Brown-Varsity Football.

Our students are civic-minded and volunteer hundreds of hours of time to various charitable organizations through their work in Junior Civitans/Civinettes, National Honor Society, National Beta Club and National Art Honor Society.

Our Career Technical programs continue to produce students who are prepared academically and technologically to enter the world of work.