
GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

David F. Dixon, Principal
Ryan Carpenter, Assistant Principal

'24-'25

Ricky Tillmon, Assistant Principal
Pauli von Moltke, Assistant Principal

LEAD THE GILBERT THE WAY

Message from Mr. Dixon:

I am pleased to share with you the annual report from the Gilbert High School Improvement Council (SIC). As we continue our partnership with families, staff, and the community, this report provides an overview of the progress we have made, the impact we're seeing and the direction we're headed as we support our students' academic growth and overall well-being.

This year, we made meaningful strides toward the goals outlined in our School Work Plan. Our instructional practices have been strengthened through the continued use of the PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycle, which ensures instructional decisions are driven by data and centered on student needs. The expansion of our Club Day model has increased student leadership and engagement, while our LEAD Time initiative continues to provide focused academic support and enrichment opportunities. All of these efforts are guided by our implementation of the interdisciplinary Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), where teachers collaborate across content areas to better support student learning.

Our most recent academic performance data highlights significant growth. Gilbert High School's overall State Report Card rating improved from "Average" to "Good," with an overall score of 62. Additionally, we saw notable increases in EOC exam performance: Algebra I scores improved by 18.2%, Biology by 18.5%, and U.S. History by 8.5%, while English II scores remained stable. These gains reflect our school-wide commitment to instructional quality, collaboration and student-centered strategies. The use of the PDSA cycle has brought greater purpose and intentionality to our collaborative work and has helped us focus on interventions that meet the specific needs of each student.

Improving communication with parents has remained a central priority for the SIC. This year, we relaunched our weekly newsletter, Tomahawk Times, to keep families informed about academic updates, school events, and student celebrations. We also opened our monthly SIC meetings to parents to encourage open dialogue and build transparency. In January, all four Gilbert-area schools hosted a joint SIC meeting to share progress and initiatives. This collaborative effort marks an important step toward building a more cohesive and aligned K-12 educational experience for all students in the Gilbert community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on the momentum of this year's progress. In the coming school year, we will continue to focus on our four key areas—PDSA, LEAD, Club Day and PLCs—while deepening our efforts to strengthen the capacity, behavior and efficacy of both staff and students. Our unwavering commitment to guiding every student to learn, grow and excel remains at the heart of everything we do.

On behalf of the entire School Improvement Council and faculty at Gilbert High School, thank you for your continued support. Together, we are cultivating a school culture where every student can thrive—academically, socially and emotionally. I look forward to all we will accomplish in the year ahead as we continue this important work in partnership with you.

Warm regards,

David F. Dixon
Principal, Gilbert High School

Highlights, Victories and Celebrations

- Wilson Oxner participated in the running for the DAR Good Citizens Award, which recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. Wilson not only wrote the top essay in the Lexington One district but also had the top score in the State of South Carolina.
- Gilbert High School Wind Collective earned a Superior rating at the 2025 SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment.
- GHS Winter Guard placed 6th in their division at the CWEA Color Guard Championship.
- 33 GHS students received the SC Seal of Biliteracy certification.
- 23 GHS Health Science students became licensed Certified Nursing Assistants.
- The 22 GHS Chorus students who auditioned, were all accepted into the 2025 South Carolina American Choral Directors Association Honor Choirs.
- Students Jade McGee and Hilda Ibarra-Fonseca were selected for the 2024 Midlands Region Orchestra.
- 17 members of our student council represented GHS at the South Carolina Association of Student Councils annual state convention.
 - Henry Harmon won a position on SCASC State Council and will be representing GHS as the State Historian.
 - Ella Leaphart won D3 co-chair as well as the prestigious Terry McCoy award, given only to the most motivated and reliable students in their councils.
- Connor Gooding placed 3rd in the running for the 2024 Bridge Builder Excellence Award- South Carolina Football Hall of Fame.
- GHS Baseball, Boys' Golf, and Girls' Cross-Country claimed Region champs.
- Several GHS Track school records were broken:
 - Bennett Reid, 400m Hurdles
 - Blythe Price, 400m Hurdles
 - Ty'trell Smith, 400m
 - Kyle Turpin, Javelin
 - Wynn Meetze, Ryan Rapacciuolo, Bennett Reid, and Ty'trell Smith, 4x100m Relay
 - Ty'trell Smith, Bennett Reid, Demarion Brown, and Asher Lowe, 4x400m Relay
- Boys' Golfer Brady Senn, shot under par twice at the Palmetto Championship Tournament. This was the first time in 10 years in Gilbert Boys Golf history.
- First inaugural season for Girls' Wrestling and Boys' Lacrosse
- Gilbert's HOSA attended the 47th annual State Leadership Conference.
 - HOSA Bowl team Emily Brant, Vikram Cheema, Jackson Taylor, and Julianne Wooten took 1st place.
 - Vikram was also recognized as a top 10 competitor in the Healthcare Issues exam.
 - Matthew Shealy placed 2nd in Researched Persuasive Speaking and Writing and was recognized as Gilbert's Outstanding HOSA Member for his dedication to the chapter and his leadership as an officer.
- As of April 21, 2025, GHS seniors have collectively been awarded approximately \$2,653,349 in scholarships.

At GHS we will intentionally focus on building relationships that raise expectations and on relevant rigor in teaching and learning that empowers faculty and students to be effective learners, ethical people and contributors to a better world.

SIC MEMBERS

Ryan Carpenter	Jennifer Millard
Kelsey Covell	Wilson Oxner
David Dixon	Tina Price
Amanda Guthrie	Mark Sanders
Mihaela Gutu	Nathan Taylor
Tammy Harman	Ricky Tilmon
Ella Leaphart	M. Pauli von Moltke
Frances Meetze	