

Gilbert High School

Annual School Report

May 2013



Gilbert School
Improvement Council
Members

Parents

Kayla Arsi
Ron Hill
Nan Ricard
Monica Motes

Students

Alex Arsi
Lexi Kalec
Caleb Taylor

Community

Andy Harmon
Libby Newman
Lynn McGee
Deborah Cobb

Faculty

Jennifer Gibbons
Chris Klaes
Bree Williams
Lisa Myrick

Ex-Officio Members

Ann O'Cain
Laura Covington
Casey Calhoun
Matthew Warren
Barry Harley
Shea McCormack

Annual Message from Ann O'Cain, Principal

Gilbert High School has always been a high performing school, not only in academics, but also in athletics and fine arts. School improvement is vital in providing not only high expectations, but the most innovative, rigorous, and engaging instruction possible for our students to prepare them for life beyond high school. This year, our focus has been Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation, focusing on student subgroups to meet graduation requirements, piloting the Grading For Learning initiative, and participating in school wide instructional training to support student achievement.

Gilbert High School takes very seriously the responsibility of preparing students for the 21st century. South Carolina will soon be joining forty-five states and Puerto Rico in implementing the new Common Core State Standards. The new standards will increase rigor in all courses. Specifically, students will be expected to master content and skills at a more challenging level. Shifts in the curriculum will be centered on confidently using academic vocabulary, writing from sources, balancing informational and literary text, as well as achieving

focus and depth in understanding.

Our data reflects that we are not meeting the graduation criteria for several subgroups such as African Americans, Hispanics, students with disabilities and students on free/reduced lunch. This year, we focused on these subgroups to remediate for on-time graduation and catch them early to prevent dropping out. Our dedicated teachers continue to analyze their students individual data, sharing best instructional practices, while ensuring quality instruction and assessments in all courses. Faculty collaboration and teamwork are a normal part of the culture at Gilbert High School.

To help students reach these higher expectations, GHS teachers have worked together in rewriting assessments, redesigning curriculum, and organizing instructional practices. GHS

teachers will also be involved in the work this summer as teachers take curriculum design courses and write unit plans for all core subjects in grades six through twelve. For the past several years, teachers have based their teaching and assessing on state standards; in the future, teachers will communicate even more specifically about students' mastery of individual standards in each course. Next year, all teachers will use the Grading for Learning method to assess and communicate student achievement.

Throughout the 12-13 school year, school-wide in-service training has included key information. Teachers have participated in a book study of *Teaching Argument Writing* by George Hillocks, Jr., and are currently reading *A Repair Kit for Grading: 15 Fixes for Broken Grades* by Ken O'Connor. Teachers have been trained in the six shifts in instruction, implementing the flipped classroom to meet student needs, understanding the language and intent of standards, Grading for Learning, teaching argument writing more effectively, incorporating literacy strategies in every classroom, and conducting higher quality discussions in the classroom.



The mission of Gilbert High School, in collaboration with the Gilbert Community, is to develop self-directed, innovative, healthy citizens by providing a safe, nurturing, learning environment, in preparation to meet the challenges of a globally competitive society.

Gilbert Life



Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) training bi-weekly with all certified staff in preparation for redesigning curriculum, rewriting assessments, and organizing instructional practices.
- Faculty Book Study on *Teaching Argument Writing*, by George Hillocks, Jr., to teach argument writing more effectively.
- Teacher training on the six shifts in instruction.
- Literacy Focus Team accepted to HSTW and SREB "South Carolina High Schools of Innovation Literacy Series" training for improving methods to incorporate reading of complex texts, in-depth writing, and oral communication.
- Next Steps Grading Initiative pilot based on Ken O'Connor's *Grading for Learning*. Next year, all teachers will use the Grading for Learning model to assess and communicate student achievement.
- Focus on rigor and engagement in our instruction with peer observations and instructional blitzes. Based on feedback from Instructional Coach and *Inspire and Engage* Consultants, teachers set individual goals for improving instructional rigor and engagement.
- Cambridge SAT/ACT Workshops for students.
- Raising the Graduation rate by establishing intervention teams offering academic/transition support.
- Providing on-line learning opportunities for unit recovery, course recovery and initial course credit.

School Highlights: Academics

- Gilbert FFA Forestry Team placed 1st in the SCFFA Forestry Career Development Event
- Gilbert FFA won Top Chapter Award at the SCFFA Leadership Camp
- Gilbert FBLA boasts two 1st place winners at the FBLA District Leadership Conference
- Gilbert Health Science had 100% passage rate in the Certified Nursing Program (CNA)
- Gilbert HOSA Chapter received National HOSA Recognition Award for being named Outstanding HOSA Chapter.
- Gilbert Building Construction Team Works placed 1st in Skills USA.
- Gilbert received an award for excellent performance and rapid improvement on the ACT by the S.C. State Department of Education.
- Gilbert HOSA earned 10 Gold Medals at State Competition.

School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- GHS student art displayed at the Columbia Museum of Art during the Monet to Matisse Exhibit.
- 17 All-Region, 29 Solo/Ensemble, and 2 All-State band participants.
- Overall Performance Award (OPA) for band.
- The GHS yearbook, *Gilbertine*, GHS yearbook, received the Palmetto Award from the S.C. Scholastic Press Association.
- Bel Canto: State Excellent Sight Singing and Performance; National: 1st Place AAA Women's Choir and Superior Performance.
- Chorale: State Superior in Sight-Singing and Performance, 5th Top Score in AAA; National Superior in Performance 1st Place AAA Mixed Choir, 1st Place Overall Choirs— Perfect Scores.
- 5 All-State Chorus participants.
- 13 South Carolina Theater Association (SCTA) participants; one theater student named to All-Star Cast.
- 14 South Carolina Speech & Theater Association (SCSTA) participants with two 3rd place winners in Duet Acting and three 2nd place in Group Acting.

School Highlights: Athletics and Academics

- GHS entered into Class AAA competition for the first time in school history.
- WLTX Player of the Week in football.
- In Athletics, 13 out of 18 varsity athletic teams qualified for the playoffs.
- Gilbert won 4 Region Championships including girls cross country, boys cross country, softball, and girls track.
- 25 student athletes were name Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.
- 47 student athletes were named to All-Region Teams.
- 5 student athletes were named to All-State Teams
- 4 student athletes signed college scholarships
- 4 student athletes were selected for State All-Star Games.



School Highlights: Community Service

- GHS hosts the *Annual Battle of the Badges* for the Lexington County Sheriffs Department
- GHS students work the Annual Lexington County Peach Festival every July 4th
- HOSA Clinical students deliver “chemo packs” to SCOA and poinsettias to LMC Extended Care
- BETA Club raises over \$1600 for cancer research and sponsors Relay for Life
- GHS FFA hosts the Annual Farm Day for Gilbert Primary School
- Mr. Kelly and Mr. Derrick compete in *Battle of the Beards* for the GHS Backpack Program
- HOSA sell bagels and raises funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- The Main Street Players sponsors a Dollar Day to raise money for Red Cross Hurricane Sandy Relief
- Gilbert SIC hosts a *Meet the Candidates Night* for school board candidates.
- The sale of valentines flowers by Youth Corps for National Buddy Walk: Children with Downs Syndrome.
- Service Learning a part of Leadership 21 curriculum, iCivics curriculum and Senior Project.
- Annual Food Drive at Thanksgiving



School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Way Outstanding High School Campaign Award 2012-13. • Chris Klaes is our first LEED Certified Teacher in Lexington School District One. • Ashley Burnett was name 2012 S.C. Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High School Coaches (NFHSC). • Bree Williams was name GHS Teacher of the Year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Ramirez was named 2013 S.C. Business Education Association (SCBEA) New Teacher of the Year. • Wal-Mart Grant awarded to Laura Covington, Cathy Shealy, and Josie Price • Hank Clamp was named Support Staff Member of the Year. • AD, Barry Harley named 2013 S.C. North-South Head FB Coach for 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrick Cooper was named Lexington County Water and Sewer District Conservation Teacher of the Year. • Miki Keisler, 2013 SCMEA State Choral Festival Chairman. • Educational Foundation Grant awarded to Janet Boltjes. • Subway W82TXT Grant awarded to Matt Warren. |
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<http://ghs.lexington1.net:8013/>



Gilbert High School Teachers Empower 21st Century Learners



Gilbert High School Advanced Center for Sustainable Solutions Opening Fall of 2013



1 FRONT EXTERIOR ELEVATION
 A2.1 SCALE: 1/8" = 1' - 0"

The goal of the Center for Sustainable Solutions at Gilbert High School is to create forward-thinking, innovative problem-solvers interested in maintaining the world's limited resources. The program is open to all juniors and seniors in Lexington School District One. Students spend a total of two 90 minute blocks within the Center (half day) each semester. Students study how humans are managing our natural resources and how human activity impacts local and global environments. Students research case studies addressing major societal concerns such as the destruction of ecosystems, the reduction in biodiversity, global warming and the efficient use of clean energy and water. Solutions that address current issues are explored using creativity, critical thinking and problem solving strategies. Students who complete this program have the opportunity to receive credit for college courses and accreditation in green building practices. Externships/Internships are included in the curriculum offerings which prepare students to continue their

Lexington County School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints. The Chief Human Resources Officer handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title IX. The Director of Middle Schools handles inquiries/complaints regarding Section 504. The Mathematics Coordinator handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title II. Contact these people if you have questions regarding these issues at 100 Tarrar Springs Road, Lexington, SC 29072 and telephone number (803) 821-1000.