

Gilbert High School

An *EL Education* School



Gilbert High School
2016-17

Gilbert School Improvement Council Members

Parents

Nancy Best
Teresa Blankenship
Cher Davis
Mindy Keisler
Donald Kirk
Stacie Randall
Karen Sooter
Scott Vining

Students

Meagan Bostic
Kelly Glover

Appointed Members

Tammy Harman, Chair
Ron Hill
Kim Keisler
Angie Lewis
Lynn McGee
Tracy Pound

Faculty

Erica Armstrong
Julie Rojek

Ex-Officio Members

Ann O'Cain
Casey Calhoun
Elizabeth Abbott
Jacob Nelson

2017 Annual Report to Parents

Annual Message from Ann O'Cain, Principal

Gilbert High School strives to empower students to develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by providing an academically rigorous curriculum focusing on three dimensions of student achievement including mastery of knowledge and skills, character, and high quality student work. Having completed our second implementation year in partnership with EL Education, Gilbert High School will continue to bring increased rigor and experiences marked by purposeful learning, challenge, collaboration, and perseverance. To ensure that we work towards the implementation of our mission, vision, and beliefs, we model our instructional practices after the EL Education model. Our instructional model challenges students to think critically and take active roles in their classrooms and communities through the use of Crew Service Projects. The Gilbert student is proud of his/her school and community and this pride is shown daily through a variety of academic and extracurricular activities that support our mission, vision, and beliefs. Gilbert High School develops students through the structures of Crew and by strategically teaching the Habits of Scholarship. Crew is a structure where every student at Gilbert High School is known well and supported by adults. The structure of Crew allows for relationship building, academic progress monitoring, and character development. Crew allows students to build positive connections with their peers and Crew leader. Our Habits of Scholarship are also a critical part of character development at Gilbert High School. Students receive instruction and are assessed on their proficiency in persistence, time-management, communication, and excellence. Every Monday, each student has a check-in with their Crew leader and reflects on both academics and Habits of Scholarship, which help to encourage growth in character and academic knowledge. At the end of each quarter, students get both academic and Habits of Scholarship report cards to communicate mastery of knowledge, skills and character.

In order to support mastery of knowledge and skills, Gilbert High School teachers and administrators participated in weekly professional learning to support best instructional practices so that students could apply their learning, think critically and communicate clearly. Teachers focused on designing projects and products that contained three attributes of high quality work: complexity, craftsmanship, and authenticity. Through focused and purposeful collaboration, teachers engaged in using student work to improve teaching and learning. In our learning, we found that when students engage in skills-rich projects modeled after real-world documents and artifacts, students care about the quality of their work. Opportunities such as Student-Led Conferences, Passage Presentations, Junior Crew Projects and Presentations, as well as Senior Experience Research Presentations through English IV are just a few examples where students in all grade levels could demonstrate proficiency and skills of content over time while communicating student achievement to parents and the community. This practice allows students to speak to their own strengths, struggles, goals, and processes of learning. It also prepares them for college success.

Through innovative and creative scheduling, students were also provided with support systems such as Independent Learning Time (ILT), Structured Learning Time (SLT) and Edgenuity. ILT is a time set aside in the school day for the purpose of high school students working independently and collaboratively with teachers and/or other students. ILT allows students to work on assignments outside of class, complete projects and research papers, make-up work due to absences, or to study independently or collaboratively with peers. Students can also arrange to meet with their teacher during ILT for a more structured learning time. Structured Learning Time (SLT) is for core areas such as English, Math, Social Studies and Science and are required for students who are failing a course and is hosted by teachers. Other opportunities and support systems in place for students include unit and course recovery through Edgenuity with our Graduation Coach. Students are expected to take ownership in their own learning, demonstrate proficiency and have a deeper understanding in each academic discipline.

Thank you so much for your support of Gilbert High School as we continue our quest to become an EL Education Credentialed School. It is a joy to know your children.

Ann O'Cain
Principal



Mission: Gilbert High School empowers tomorrow's leaders to discover, inquire, collaborate, and problem-solve while creating a culture of respect, responsibility, courage, and kindness.



Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

- Partnership with EL Education for second consecutive year. www.eleducation.org
- Continue our focus on raising the 4-year on-time graduation rate which was 88% in 2016
- Successfully completed AdvancED 5-year accreditation process
- Continue to develop and tweak daily Crew character curriculum
- Independent Learning Time (ILT) in every student’s schedule
- School-wide professional learning to provide support for teachers in creating high quality work through projects and products using EL Education Design Principles and Core Practices; Faculty Crew
- Students continue to take ownership of their learning with opportunities to present their progress to parents and community members through student-led conferences, passage presentations, and student portfolio work.
- Reviewed and revised Gilbert High School motto, mission, vision, and beliefs for 2016-17

School Highlights: Academics

- Gilbert HOSA earned 10 gold medals at HOSA State Leadership Competition
- Gilbert High School completes 2nd year of EL Education School Credentialing
- 2016 SC Scholastic Press Association Yearbook Awards for 2016 *Gilbertine*
- Sianna M. Smith took 1st place at the 2017 SC 4-H Hippology Contest
- FFA Forestry Team won 1st place in National FFA Forestry Career and Development Competition
- Austin Hicks won SC All-Star Automotive Technology Competition sponsored by National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation
- 1st place in Skills USA Team Works State Competition in Building and Construction
- Five GHS students recognized as Columbian Urban League Black History Month Young and Gifted Awardees
- Lindsey Scott attended 2017 Presidential Inauguration awarded through SC 4-H
- Gilbert High School ACT average of 18.8 higher than State Average of 18.5

School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- Marching Indians won Lower State Band Competition; placed 3rd in 2A State Marching Finals; 1st Place 2A in River Bluff Swamp Classic; Grand Champion 1A/2A and placed 1st in 2A in Blythewood Tournament of Bands
- 10 All-Region, 26 Solo/Ensemble, and 4 All-State band participants; 3 USC Band Clinic participants; 2 students participated in Winthrop Band Clinic; 2 students selected for SC Youth Wind Symphony
- Gilbert Bands earn Overall Performance Award (OPA) for the 9th consecutive year
- GHS Winter Guard are 2017 SCBDA Scholastic AAA State Champions; placed 1st in CWEA Championship;
- Chamber Choir earned Superior with Distinction at 2017 SCMEA State Choral Festival and Bel Canto 2nd in AAA SCMEA State Concert Festival
- Gilbert Chorus wins Best in Class, Bronze Medallion at Festival Disney in Walt Disney World
- 2 SCMEA All-State Chorus participants; 9 students selected for SC ACDA Honor Choir
- 2 students participated in 2017 Wingate University 9-10 All Carolina Select Choir
- 2 students in SCMEA All-Region; 2 students participated in SC Youth Philharmonic; 2 in Lex 1 HNS Orchestra
- Columbia Museum of Art and LMC Art of Healing Showcase 3rd place winner: Lindsey Hislop
- 100% passage rate in AP Studio Art

School Highlights: Athletics

- GHS earns 2016-17 SCHSL Award of Excellence for Exemplary Display of Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity
- GHS Baseball Player, Jacob Rye, named WLTX Player of the Week
- In Athletics, 14 out of 15 varsity athletic teams qualified for the playoffs
- Gilbert won 6 Region Championships including boys and girls golf, girls tennis, volleyball, softball and baseball.
- 12 senior student athletes in top 10% of Class of 2017; 33 student athletes were named *Scholar Athletes* by the South Carolina High School League
- 53 student athletes were named to All-Region Teams.
- 5 student athletes were named to All-State Teams
- 13 student athletes signed college athletic scholarships or are continuing their athletic career at the college level
- 4 student athletes named in North/South All-Stars
- Gilbert Sports Medicine named Safe Sport School 2017-2020
- 1st Place State Archery Winner, Gracie Howard



School Highlights: Community Service

- GHS hosted the *Annual Battle of the Badges* for the Lexington County Sheriff's Department
- GHS students work the Annual Lexington County Peach Festival every July 4th
- Lady Indian Soccer raised and donated \$1500 to SCOA Cares Research Foundation
- GHS FFA hosts the Annual Farm Day for Gilbert Primary School
- 11th Grade Crews participated in community service projects
- GHS is one of only 14 schools in South Carolina to host online mock election for student body which is sponsored by the Youth Leadership Initiative at The University of Virginia Center for Politics
- Main Street Players perform for GPS 2nd graders each spring
- GHS STEM students entertained GPS 2nd graders on STEM Day with miniature fair rides
- Health Science clinical students gave poinsettias to LMC Extended Care patients
- Class of 2020 donated care packages to active military in honor of Veteran's Day
- Miss GHS People's Choice Donations raised \$1928 for Hope for BraveHEARTS

School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

- Erica Armstrong named Most Influential Teacher of the Class of 2017
- Mark Cagle named Art Baker FCA Coach of the Year by FCA Regional Chapter
- Teresa Johnson named GHS Teacher of the Year
- GHS golf coach, Dru Nix, inducted into 2017 SC Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame
- Chad Leaphart, named SC Football Coaches Association's Palmetto Champions 3A Lower State Coach of the Year
- Deana Keisler, Athletic Secretary, named GHS Support Staff of the Year
- Principal Ann O'Cain recognized by SCNSPRA at 2017 Rewards for Excellence for her *2016 SIC Report to Parents* publication
- GHS recognized as *Trailblazer 2016 Live United Award* for top high school fundraiser for 2016 United Way



Motto: Scholarship, Community, Character



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Find us on
Instagram



EL Education: Dimensions of Student Achievement

EL Education believes that to prepare for success in college, career, citizenship, and life we must embrace a broader and deeper vision of what high achievement means. Good test scores are just a starting place. Mastery of knowledge and skills, character, and high quality work are all critical for success.

MASTERY OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Students

- Demonstrate proficiency and deeper understanding: show mastery in a body of knowledge and skills within each discipline
- Apply their learning: transfer knowledge and skills to novel, meaningful tasks
- Think critically: analyze, evaluate, and synthesize complex ideas and consider multiple perspectives
- Communicate clearly: write, speak, and present ideas effectively in a variety of media within and across disciplines

Teachers and Leaders

- Ensure that curriculum, instruction, and assessments are rigorous, meaningful, and aligned with standards
- Use assessment practices that position students as leaders of their own learning
- Use meaningful data for both teachers and students to track progress toward learning goals
- Engage all students in daily lessons that require critical thinking about complex, worthy ideas, texts, and problems

CHARACTER

Students

- Work to become effective learners: develop the mindsets and skills for success in college, career, and life (e.g., initiative, responsibility, perseverance, collaboration)
- Work to become ethical people: treat others well and stand up for what is right (e.g., empathy, integrity, respect, compassion)
- Contribute to a better world: put their learning to use to improve communities (e.g., citizenship, service)

Teachers and Leaders

- Elevate student voice and leadership in classrooms and across the school
- Make habits of scholarship visible across the school and in daily instruction
- Model a school-wide culture of respect and compassion
- Prioritize social and emotional learning, along with academic learning, across the school

HIGH-QUALITY WORK

Students

- Create complex work: demonstrate higher-order thinking, multiple perspectives and transfer of understanding
- Demonstrate craftsmanship: create work that is accurate and beautiful in conception and execution
- Create authentic work: demonstrate original thinking and voice, connect to real-world issues and formats, and when possible, create work that is meaningful to the community beyond the school

Teachers and Leaders

- Design tasks that ask students to apply, analyze, evaluate and create as part of their work
- Use models of excellence, critique, and multiple drafts to support all students to produce work of exceptional quality
- Connect students to the world beyond school through meaningful fieldwork, expert collaborators, research, and service learning

Source: *EL Education Core Practices: A Vision for Improving Schools*

Education

EL Education partners with school districts and charter boards to open new schools and transform existing schools at all levels, pre-K–12, and in all settings—urban, rural, and suburban. The EL model challenges students to think critically and take active roles in their classrooms and communities, resulting in higher achievement and greater engagement in school. EL provides schools with professional development, coaching, and online tools to improve curriculum design, instruction, school culture, leadership, and assessment practices. The national network of EL schools and professional colleagues includes more than 150 schools, 4,000 teachers, and 45,000 students. Gilbert High School initiated the EL Education Partnership in 2014 and in 2017-18, is entering phase 3 of schoolwide implementation. It is our plan to become an EL Education Credentialed School.

We are crew, not passengers!

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.