



# SIC ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

**GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL  
APRIL 30, 2015**

## **Annual Message from Ann O’Cain, Principal**



School improvement requires more than a great idea. Transformation only occurs when the culture of the school permits it. In any organization, long-term, significant change can only occur by creating a culture that sustains that change. Significant change cannot occur overnight. Gilbert High School was named a Palmetto Gold School for Academic Excellence and Improvement again this year. We are a great school with great students, great teachers, great parents, and an exceptional community that supports our schools. It is our desire to meet the needs of all students’ academically and emotionally while making each students experience at Gilbert High School challenging and personal, but with effective support systems in place. Although we look great on the State School Report Card (Excellent) and the ESEA (A).....we are not always consistent with those results.....and our data does reflect some deficits with graduation rate, some EOCEP test scores, or even preparing students to move on to a two-year or four-year college, the military, or the workforce.

In March of this school year, after months of professional learning and school visits away from GHS, our teachers voted to embrace Expeditionary Learning (EL). EL is a comprehensive program that can support teaching and learning at Gilbert High School. EL has been described as the “thing” that gets you to the “thing”. That “thing” is excellence in all facets of learning. The Expeditionary Learning Core Practices which include curriculum, instruction, assessment, culture and character, and leadership are what shape student achievement. Student Achievement is the ultimate goal for every school and it is our hope that this overall school transformation will allow each and every Gilbert High School student to complete higher quality work, make good decisions, build a school wide culture of trust and collaboration, as well as celebrate the joy of learning.

It is my hope that you will support our endeavors in making this happen. We want our students to graduate with world class skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. As always, I am very thankful for the parents and Gilbert Community for their continued support of our endeavors as we strive to provide our students with a world class education.

## **2014-15 GHS School Improvement Council**

Chair: Tammy Harman

Parents: Melissa Alewine, Teresa Blankenship, Cindy Bostic, Barbara Harmon, Jayne Harris, Anne Henley, Kim Keisler, Angie Lewis, Susan Reeves, Annette Sease, Henry Wallace, Debra Whittle.

Community Members: Yudith Alvarez-Gonzalez, Carla Bullock, Nick Duvall, Donna Flanagan, Ron Hill, Lynn McGee, Tracy Pound, Lisa Sills, Shelly Thomas

Students: Santania Martin, Jacob Wilson

Faculty: Christy Bosserman, Colleen Hilton

Ex-Officio: Ann O’Cain, Casey Calhoun, Jacob Nelson, Elizabeth Abbott, Julie Rojek





## A Culture of Learning

At Gilbert High School, it is the expectation that teachers are lifelong learners. GHS has a fine faculty including 15 Nationally Board Certified teachers. The percentage of teachers who are on continuing contracts is up slightly at 80.6% even though our number of returning teachers went down from 87.9 to 85.7% due to a number of retirements and transfers. Our teachers are continually learning and improving their craft through weekly professional learning sessions that include training in technology, Expeditionary Learning, and literacy strategies. This year, they have had a number of learning opportunities led by special education teachers, guidance counselors and our ESOL teacher as well. Administrators have led professional learning sessions to prepare teachers for the new teacher evaluation system that will begin next year, as well as the **Read to Succeed** law that will require further coursework for all faculty members. GHS began the reporting of Habits of Scholarship progress for every student, so training was given to teachers to implement this. Becoming an Expeditionary Learning school, 55 of our teachers have had the opportunity to visit schools that are currently implementing the philosophy, practices, and structure of EL. Both teachers and administrators have participated in a number of offsite EL trainings, including two administrators joining a yearlong administrator's cohort, four teachers joining a yearlong coaching cohort, two administrators and two teacher leaders taking part in the EL National Conference, four teachers traveling to the EL Culture and Character Conference. Also to prepare for the changes associated with the EL philosophy, the faculty has participated in studying Ron Berger's book, *Leaders of their Own Learning*.

## Making Our Mark

Gilbert High School student leadership chose the theme "Making our Mark" for 2014-15. Student Council really focused on school spirit this year. Activities included Homecoming, Veterans Day Program in collaboration with Fine Arts, Coming Home, Awards nights for Seniors and Underclassmen, and a Senior Celebration Day to Carowinds on May 28. A pep club was established this year to promote school spirit at athletic events. Also known as the "TRIBE", the pep club was not only fun to watch, but also fun to be a participant as they had a different theme each game and fostered a great deal of collaboration and planning among students. The Pep Club was even featured on a newscast one Friday night. Great senior activities include the Senior Handprint Wall, Teacher who most inspired the Class of 2015, Senior Breakfast, Senior Slide Show, Celebration of Excellence Host School, and a fabulous school wide video. We also have a monthly broadcast program that highlights great things that are happening at GHS and participate in social media via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



## "TRIBE" Time

As an Expeditionary Learning School, Gilbert High School has scheduled a designated time for students to participate in a culture and character class each week. Students interact with a small group led by a teacher, who serves as their Tribe Leader. The teacher will take an active role in monitoring your students' academic, behavioral, and social progress while providing small group activities that challenge students to think critically and take active roles in their classrooms and communities. Focusing on culture, character, and leadership, Tribe Time encourages students to develop a cohesive clear vision for student learning. Tribe Time provides a place for GHS students to explore, share, create, make mistakes, reflect, learn, prepare, encourage, and celebrate. We are planning to change the name to CREW in 2015-16 and have the class everyday. Expeditionary Learning is a comprehensive, school wide partnership. To learn more about Expeditionary Learning, visit their website at [www.el.org](http://www.el.org).



## 2015 Chamber Choir State Champions

Gilbert High School had a superior showing this year at the South Carolina Music Educators Association (SCMEA) State Choral Festival sweeping the 3A Division. Dr. Janna Brendell, Choral Director for GHS led the choral department in taking the top three spots in the division. The GHS Chamber Choir won first place, the GHS Chorale placed second, and the GHS Bel Canto choir finished third. In addition, Chamber Choir earned the highest score in all high school divisions. Congratulations to Dr. Brendell and the Gilbert High Choral Department. Members of the 3A State Champion Gilbert Chamber Choir are Jessica Amick, Adam Caratenuto, Cody Duncan, Shaylor Duncan, Kelly Glover, Kelsey Graham, Allison Harman, Breanna Harmon, Clay Holman, Jeremiah Kubilus, Emily Medlock, Mary Beth O'Cain, Victoria Perez, Hannah Perry, Chandler Renaud, Matthew Sanders, Olivia Schumpert, Dallas Spires, Meredith Stegall, and Morgan Taylor.



## Track Superstar and Golf Extraordinaire

What a year of champions! Senior Demetre Irving finished his season as the 3A State Boys High Jump Champion in Track and Field. Demetre achieved a personal best and broke a school record during the state event held at Spring Valley High School with a 6'6" clearance. In addition, Demetre was recognized at the Greater Lexington Chamber & Visitor Center earlier that week as a Doris Burkett Scholarship award winner. Congratulations to Demetre and his coaches, Danny Tribble, Deana Keisler, Melanie Phillips, and Zach Greenwood.

In Myrtle Beach, Caleb Proveaux, GHS Junior, finished the 3A State Golf Championship as the Individual State Champion. Caleb won the individual title with a birdie on the first playoff over an Emerald golfer after both players shot a 4-under 140. He began the round three strokes behind the Emerald golfer, birdied five holes in a bogey-free 67, including the 18th with a 20 foot put to force the playoff. Caleb has committed to The University of South Carolina. Congratulations to Caleb and his coach, Dawn Fairey.



## ACT....SAT....COMPASS....ASVAB....ACT WorkKeys

A school improvement focus at Gilbert High School is to raise student SAT and ACT scores. I am pleased to report that we did raise our SAT composite score, which is reading and math, from 989 in 2013 to 1004 in 2014. Our ACT scores also increased from 20.8 in 2013 to 21.2 in 2014. Both are above the state and national averages. Gilbert High School contracted with *Attest* to have SAT/ACT workshops for our students. We continue to use Cambridge materials in our SAT/ACT prep class as well as test taking strategies integrated into teacher's instruction. We hosted one workshop this year in early spring. We also provided an ACT Boot Camp for all third year students in the spring to prepare for the April 28th administration of the ACT. Another focus is to educate our parents and students in which test is most appropriate to take in regards to what their plans are after graduation. (See right for test information). This information should be discussed in your child's Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meeting scheduled annually through your guidance counselor. It may also be reviewed in the Lexington One Course Catalog on page 6.

- Two-year college  
ACT-COMPASS  
ACT-ASSET
- Four-year college  
SAT/ACT
- Military  
ASVAB
- CATE  
ACT-WorkKeys
- Workforce  
ACT-WorkKeys



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EXPEDITIONARY  
LEARNING

## Career and Technology Education (CATE) State Champions



Nineteen of Gilbert High School's South Carolina HOSA gold medalists will be traveling to Anaheim, California to participate in general sessions, symposiums, and compete for national titles. Events in which HOSA students medaled include HOSA Bowl, Health Education, Biomedical Debate, Parliamentary Procedures, Life Support Skills, and Emergency Medical Technicians. HOSA advisors are Mrs. Shari Cato, Mrs. Sue Ellen Shealy, Mrs. Valerie Waites, and Miss Emily Whittington.



Gilbert High School FFA Forestry Team placed first in the South Carolina FFA Forestry Career Development Event, held at Manchester State Forest in Wedgefield. The students completed a general knowledge exam, tree identification, tree measurement and two practicums on forestry related projects. Team members include Walker Blount, Forrest Burkett, Nathan Hilley, Joey King, and Jordan Lindler. Team member Walker Blount took first place overall and Jordan Lindler took third place overall. Gilbert High School's FFA advisor is Mr. Derrick



GHS building and construction students "skillfully" succeed at state competition. Nathan Craps and Jordan Lindler combined with two LTC students to win first place in the Team Works competition at the 2015 SkillsUSA South Carolina Leadership and Skills Conference in Greenville. Gilbert High School's SkillsUSA advisor is Mr. Bryan Waters.



GHS Junior, Miss Allison Harman, placed first in the individual dairy judging category at the FFA Dairy Judging Career Development Event at Clemson University's T. Ed Garrison Arena. The dairy judging contest tests students knowledge of the dairy industry, includes a written exam and team activity. Each team member must also assess the characteristics of four classes of cattle and place or rank the animals based on the traits that are most desirable for dairy cattle. Gilbert High School's FFA advisor is Mr. Derrick Cooper.

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. Inquiries/complaints regarding Section 504 for elementary students go to the Coordinator of ESOL/RTI and for secondary students to the Director of Counseling and Advisement. 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.