

Gilbert High School

An *EL Education* School

2020 Annual Report to Parents



At GHS, we will
EMPOWER and **INSPIRE**
each child to design their future.

School Improvement Council Members

Anita Ballington- Chair
Nancy Best
Angie Flitter
Tammy Harman
Mindy Keisler
Toyanna McElhenny
Shannon Perry
Allison Powell
Jessica Velders
Scott Vining
Candace Parsley- Faculty
Josie Price- Faculty
Jordan Keisler- Student
Jaylan Pittman- Student

The vision of Gilbert High School is to empower and inspire each child to design the future. We pursue this vision by focusing on building relationships that raise expectations, providing relevant and rigorous coursework, and striving to develop all students as effective learners, ethical people, and contributors to a better world. As a school partnered with EL Education, we believe in three dimensions of student achievement: mastery of knowledge and skills, character, and high-quality work. As a faculty and staff, we are committed to ensuring growth for all students in these equally important dimensions of student learning and outcomes.

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Undergirding all of this is a commitment to the philosophy that we are Crew, not passengers.

We focus on ensuring that each student is known well by an adult who advocates regularly for their success and well-being. Each student begins their school day in a small group setting known as Crew. This time is led by a faculty member who works to provide a space where students can be seen and heard by their peers and their Crew leader in an effort to build relationships that will encourage, empower, and sustain students through their high school experience. This structure and these relationships became more important than ever as we navigated the uncharted waters of the Covid-19 crisis which led to school closures throughout our state and country. Because of the commitment that our educators have shown to building these strong relationships with the students in their Crews, we knew that we would be able to provide for the academic, social, and emotional needs of each of our students and their families.

In my years of educational leadership at Gilbert High, I have never been more proud and considered myself more fortunate to live and work in the Gilbert community than I have this year. Our teachers, students, families, and community showed what it means to be Gilbert Strong when we were forced to close the doors of our school on March 13th and continue through virtual learning until the end of the school year. Though the doors of the school were not open to our students and families, there was never a doubt in anyone's mind that our dedicated educators, school leaders, and staff would not rise to the occasion and ensure that all students and their families had what they needed. When we began the journey of e-learning, I challenged our faculty that this was our time to be exactly who our students, families, and community needed us to be. I can say proudly that our faculty and staff exceeded this call to action and we are a stronger learning community because of it.

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As we move into the summer and prepare for next school year, there are still many uncertainties that exist about what school will look like in the fall. However, we are moving undaunted into the face of these uncertainties with a vision to empower and inspire each child to design the future as effective learners, ethical people, and contributors to a better world no matter the setting, format, or circumstances. I know this vision will be realized because of the partnership with our community, our local businesses, and faith-based organizations who regularly support our students, teachers, and families. We are together in our belief that each child can do more than they thought possible and we will do whatever it takes to remove any and all obstacles that prevent our students from achieving their goals and dreams.

Thanks you for the support and commitment to excellence for our students. I am truly fortunate to have the opportunity to serve alongside each of you.

Jacob Nelson
Principal



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2019-2020 Highlights

- 251 students received diplomas.
- 94 students graduated with honors.
- Class of 2020 graduates received about \$17.6 million in scholarships.
- 25 students received SAT/ACT honors.
- 13 students received the South Carolina Teaching Fellows scholarship.
- Marching Band received 2nd Place at the SCBDA 2A Lower State Marching Championships, Superior Rating
- 12 Students earned a chair in the All-Region Band
- 4 Students earned a chair in the All-State Band
- Chamber Choir and Sola Voce earned “Superior With Distinction” rating in both performance and sight-reading at the SCMEA Choral Performance Assessment
- The GHS Choral Program earned the state coveted Outstanding Performance Award. This is the highest award a chorus in the state of South Carolina can earn. It recognizes excellence and participation in all areas of the music curriculum.
- 5 students auditioned for and 2 students participated in the Region Orchestra ensemble.
- Theatre IV students attended South Carolina Theatre Association’s Secondary Festival & Convention at Francis Marion University and performed the one-act play *Dark Road*.
- 5 Team Region Champions
- 3 Region Players of the Year, 5 Coaches of the Year
- 9 Individual Region Champions
- 4 Individual AAA Lower State Champions
- 1 Individual AAA State Champion
- 6 Team AAA State Qualifiers
- 2 Team AAA State Runners-up
- 53 Senior SCHSL Scholar-Athletes
- 14 College Athletic Signees

