



Gilbert High School SIC Report

**Gilbert High School
Empowering 21st Century Learners
E. Ann O’Cain, Principal**

Power Up! Students Embrace Laptops!

Gilbert High School embarked on an extraordinary initiative in January 2011 when we became the Mobile Computing Pilot High School for Lexington County School District One. As part of the pilot, we issued one mobile computing device to each student at GHS. That device was a Dell Latitude E4310 laptop with power cord and protective sleeve. Students were able to use these devices 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They utilized Internet Explorer and the district’s Learning Management System through LexConnect to complete assignments, homework, projects, and research. Students were provided the most current information available through the internet, and teachers were able to supplement material found in textbooks with information they create or information

already available using multimedia. The faculty at GHS used last summer to participate in a three-day-long training program. Since then, technology integration specialists, media center specialists, instructional directors/coordinators and a professional technology trainer have provided us with other professional development opportunities designed to prepare us for the full integration of technology in the classroom. Like you, we learned to use a new Learning Management System as well as the LexConnect portion of our web-based system. The outcome of the mobile computing initiative was positive. Having unlimited access to this 21st century learning tool allowed students to stay on top of their classwork, communicate more frequently with their teachers, have more



You could not contain the students excitement when GHS distributed laptops in January.

direct access to current information, and develop a greater sense of responsibility for their learning. GHS and Lexington One believe that technology is an essential tool for collaboration, instruction and learning. With that being said the Mobile Computing Initiative was and will continue to be a step towards developing global citizens who can compete in the 21st century.

Gilbert High’s SIC Hosted School Board Candidates in October 2010

Gilbert High School’s School Improvement Council hosted a Meet the Candidates Night, which was an opportunity for Gilbert community members to meet the individuals running for the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees. The event took place on Monday,

October 25 in the cafeteria/commons area. Refreshments were served and several candidates attended. The mission of the School Improvement Council “is to promote and support civic engagement for quality public education in South Carolina”.



Home of the Indians!

June 2011

What did students like about the laptops?

- Instant access to information.
- Better communication with teachers.
- Could complete class work at home.
- Stay caught up when out sick.
- Leveled the field for all students.

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Closing the Achievement Gap: GHS Receives Palmetto Silver for Improvement

The Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards program was established by the Education Accountability Act of 1998. As an important part of the education accountability system in South Carolina, the Awards program is designed to recognize and reward schools that attain high levels of absolute performance and schools that attain high rates of improvement. The criteria and procedures established for the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards program reflect a fundamental belief that all schools, regardless of their socioeconomic status and geographic location, can improve toward high academic standards and excellence so that all children can learn at high levels. Gilbert High School was recognized

as a Palmetto Silver Award Winner for Closing the Achievement Gap, which is outlined below:

School meets criteria for Silver award if end of year performance in English language arts (ELA) or mathematics or growth in achievement by at least one historically underachieving group meets or exceeds performance of historically high achieving students (elementary or middle schools), or, the growth in the graduation rate by at least one historically underachieving group meets or exceeds the annual growth rate needed to meet the state high school graduation rate goal of 88.3% by 2014 (high schools). This information was obtained from [www. Ed.sc.gov](http://www.Ed.sc.gov)



DATA Team Goals for 2010-11

Goal #1: Increase the passage rate on the EOCEP for the students enrolled in English 1 Part 2 from 30% to 50%.

Strategies include focusing on reading comprehension skills in the Part 1 course. The curriculum for this course was revised to focus more on reading and to infuse higher order thinking skills in the course. Another strategy is the focus on test taking skills in the Part 2 course and to continue to build reading comprehension skills in the Part 2 course.

Goal #2: Increase the passage rate on the EOCEP for the student enrolled in Algebra 1 Part 2 from 65.2% to 75%

Strategies include scheduling student so that they complete Algebra 1 Part 1 and Part 2 in one school year. We also added more multiple choice questions to tests throughout the part 2 course in preparation for the EOCEP. EOCEP questions were used as bell ringers or some other organized fashion through out the course.

Goal #3: Increase the passage rate on the HSAP for students with disabilities from 43.2% to 50% in ELA and 40% to 50% in Math.

Strategies include providing instruction to the student using the HSAP coach workbooks for ELA and Math. The use of high performance writing curriculum to develop students' skills in fluency and expression and develop an incentive program that motivate students to do their very best on the exam.

End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) Passage Rates

	2010	2011
Algebra 1	79.1%	79.3%
English 1	68.2%	65.8%
Physical Science	71.8%	65.8%
US History	64.0%	61.4%
Biology		78.7%

As you can see, our EOCEP scores slipped slightly in 2011 from 2010 with the exception of Algebra 1. EOCEP testing is still a huge challenge for GHS. Not only is the EOCEP test the final exam for the course and counts 20% of the students final grade, it is a standards based test that reflects what students have learned. Our overall school average also slipped from 70.7% to 69.6%. In other words, only 69.6% of the students who took an EOCEP test this school year (1091 tests

given) passed the test with a 70 or above. We have a great deal of work to do!



EOCEP continues to be a challenge for students at GHS. A 70 is passing and we must increase our passage rate in all areas! 69.6% is unacceptable!





GHS and Advanced Placement: Rigor is King

Out of GHS 907 students, 58 stepped up to the challenge in participating in the Advance Placement offerings at Gilbert High School, taking 117 exams. This unique learning experience can only help students find success in college. Through AP's college-level courses and exams, students can earn college credit and advanced placement, stand out in the admission process, and learn from some of the most skilled, dedicated, and inspiring teachers in the world. From the moment of entering an AP classroom, students will notice the difference—in the teachers approach to the subject, in the attitude of other class-

mates, in the way students start to think. In AP classrooms, the focus is not on memorizing facts and figures. Instead students will engage in intense discussion, solve problems collaboratively, and learn to write clearly and persuasively. AP courses can help students acquire the skills and habits that will be needed to be successful in college. Students will improve their writing skills, sharpen problem-solving abilities, and develop time-management skills, discipline, and study habits. Another asset to participating in Advanced Placement is that more than 90 percent of four-year colleges in the United State

and colleges in more than 60 other countries give students credit based on AP scores. By entering college with AP credits, students find time to move into upper level course, pursue a double major, or study abroad. Please see your guidance counselor in regards to enrolling in AP.



Teachers Participate in Power Up! 21 Course

In collaboration with the district instructional staff, Gilbert High School teachers participated in staff development that immersed them in 21st century skills and best practices while piloting the mobile computing initiative for Lexington County School District One. It began with a summer institute on campus in June and July with Tom Welch. Teachers focused on how the availability of mobile computers might offer opportunities for new approaches to instruction. Teachers were also asked to complete computer-administered training on the district selected

learning management system, a product called Angel.

Organized by the district instructional staff, a training course for teachers were held monthly and presented during planning periods in the media center. Instructional Services also mentored small collaboration groups of teachers organized by subject area. Teachers were offered certificate renewal points upon completion of the planned activities and submission of required assignments. GHS adopted the following five meta-cognitive

“To cope with a changing world, an entity must develop the capacity of shifting and changing—of developing new skills and attitudes; in short, the capability of learning.”

A De Gues, The Living Company

learning strategies: reflection, reciprocal teaching, Venn Diagram, 2 column note taking and summarizing. GHS teachers had a busy and productive year!

GHS is a Green School!

This school year has seen our recycling program expand to include paper, aluminum, plastic, and metal. Teen LEAD spearheaded a campaign to recycle aluminum cans and can tabs. Our Occupational Credentials Program has also introduced us to “Up-Cycling.” Through “Up-Cycling” we recycled items including but not limited to drink pouches, candy wrappers, chip bags, storage bags, etc. Wikipedia defines Up-Cycling as “the process of converting waste materials or useless prod-

ucts into new materials or products of better quality or a higher environmental value.” We are “Going Green” at Gilbert High School. With the opening of our new Center for Sustainability in 2012, the GHS Student Council has chosen the theme for 2011-12 as “Growing a Green Future.”





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Gilbert High School
2010-11 Report to Parents



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