

In our relentless drive to prepare students to succeed in a competitive global economy, Pelion High School focuses on developing in our students the skills, habits and ethics to fit the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. In academics, athletics, career and technology preparation and the arts, our students hone the talents, skills and work ethic to optimize their chances of success academically, professionally, and socially. We work to instill in them the drive and mindset of productive lifelong learners.

Our administrative staff remained intact from last year. This continuity of leadership helped create an environment conducive to academic, technological, and pedagogical innovation. Our Teacher of the Year, Will Washburn, led the staff with enthusiasm and optimism as we embraced new challenges and celebrated new successes, among which was our AdvancED accreditation report, in which we were cited for commendation in a number of performance areas including our collaborative learning environment and our district and school's overall organizational structure that supports improved learning.

Our students continued to improve their performance on several standardized tests including WorkKeys, ACT, and the EOC exams. Our math department focused on designing and implementing project-based learning units. In the science department students and teachers focused on learning through the development and use of inquiry skills. We continued offering dual credit courses in the health sciences, agriculture, and the fine arts. We have put in place dual credit courses due to begin in the 2017-2018 school year in the social studies and English departments. Along with these opportunities to receive college credit, our students benefit from Advanced Placement classes in biology, U.S. history, English, and calculus.

Our students learn from extended performance tasks and community service projects through various assignments across the curriculum in addition to their participation in clubs, student government, and extracurricular activities in fine arts, sports teams, JROTC, and other opportunities. Many of these project-based learning and extended performance-learning opportunities culminate in the Senior Experience in which English IV students conduct research, make a multi-media presentation, and complete ten hours or more of community service.

Our fine arts and athletic programs continue to thrive. Our students and instructors in fine arts were pleased to receive again this year the Outstanding Performance Award, the highest honor given to a high school music program in South Carolina. Our athletics program is competitive in the 3A division of the South Carolina High School League, our track and cross-country athletes leading the way with region championships. The 2016-2017 PHS varsity boys' basketball team had their best record in fifteen years, and two members of our wrestling team qualified for the state championship tournament. We also had our first state weightlifting champion.

Our counseling department continues to focus on our goal of having one hundred percent of our senior class members accepted into college or enlisted into the

military. As of this writing, the final numbers are not in, but there are indications that we will be very close to our goal again this year as in the last two years when we had more than ninety-five percent of our graduating seniors accepted to a two-year or four-year college or enlisted into one of the branches of military service.

With our solid base of a strong academic core enhanced by exciting career and technology course offerings and an award-winning fine arts program, the stakeholders of our learning community have reason to be optimistic as we work to build on our tradition of success and strive to maintain and enhance our high performance learning culture. The growing opportunities of dual credit courses provide further excitement and optimism. It is with these and myriad other advantages that Pelion High School students learn to thrive as global citizens and lifelong learners amid the challenges of the twenty-first century.