

## Principal's School Improvement Council Report Card Letter 2016

Pelion High School continues building on a tradition of excellence by helping its students develop world-class skills and life and career characteristics to fit the Profile of the South Carolina graduate. Through academics, athletics, career and technology preparation, and the arts, our students cultivate the talents, the skills, and the work ethic to ensure their success in a wide variety of post-secondary educational and professional environments. We are determined to provide our students with the best possible preparation for success as productive citizens and lifelong learners in a hyper-competitive global economic community.

All four members of our administrative team returned from last year, providing continuity of leadership essential to the stability that creates an ideal environment for the risk-taking that is integral to academic, technological, and pedagogical innovation. Led by district Teacher of the Year finalist Traci Holcomb, competent and experienced department chairs, and an energetic and enthusiastic administrative staff, our faculty embraces social and institutional challenges to thrive on the bleeding edge of educational evolution. As one-to-one computing has become commonplace in the district, students are now familiar and comfortable with the available technology and are growing as self-directed learners, and as such are more adept self-advocates who now have real-time feedback on most formative and summative evaluations.

In the 2015-2016 school-year, our students improved their performance on several high stakes standardized tests. On the WorkKeys we increased the percentage of our students who scored at the silver level or higher. Our pass rate on the state EOC increased approximately five percentage points. Based on our preliminary data, our ACT mean composite scores also improved over the previous year's scores. We believe that these improvements are due in part to collaborative planning and enhanced common assessment instruments that our teachers have developed within their departments and subject teams and the common instructional units and lesson plans that they have designed to help prepare students for a variety of academic challenges, including their state EOC exams, WorkKeys and the ACT.

Our students engage in numerous extended performance tasks and community service projects through various classroom assignments across the curriculum and through their clubs, student government, and myriad extracurricular activities including the fine arts, performance arts, sports teams, JROTC, and other competitive opportunities. These project-based learning and extended performance tasks culminate in the senior experience (formerly referred to as the senior project) in which all students in English IV conduct research, make a multimedia presentation, and complete fifteen hours of community service related to their research topic.

In this year's senior class, there are five Palmetto Fellows and eighty-eight Life or Hope merit scholarship winners included among winners of a total of 3,207,150

dollars in college scholarships. Of our graduates, ninety-six percent have been accepted into a two-year or four-year college or have enlisted in the military.

In addition to their academic accomplishments, our students have excelled in athletics, career and technology preparation, and extracurricular activities designed to develop skills sets essential to success in post-secondary education, the military, and a wide variety of careers. Our athletic teams won six region championships. Three of our seniors signed athletic scholarship agreements to compete on the collegiate level. One of our seniors signed a college scholarship agreement for marching band. The Pelion High School Marching Pride won the 2015 AA State Championship and performed at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Celebration in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Amid this wealth of opportunity, accomplishment, and focused academic endeavor, the members of our learning community find abundant reasons for optimism. It is with this optimistic attitude and relentless determination that we continue enhancing our school climate, developing an ever-higher performance learning culture where students grow into multi-lingual, self-directed, lifelong learners prepared to thrive in a hyper-competitive global community.