

ANNOUNCING

## DR. GERALD GARY

2021 South Carolina Secondary  
Principal of the Year



Dr. Gerald Gary, principal of Dutch Fork High School, was named the 2021 South Carolina Secondary Level Principal of the Year, during a surprise announcement at his school on December 10. Gary has served as the principal of Dutch Fork High School since July 2017.

Gary began his career in education teaching eighth grade language arts at Blythewood Middle School in 1999. After three years there, Gary spent a year as lead teacher at Blythewood Academy and three years at Summit Parkway Middle School as an assistant principal. Before becoming principal at Dutch Fork Middle, Gary spent eight years as an elementary school principal in Kershaw County and at Leaphart Elementary in School District Five.

School District Five Superintendent, Dr. Christina Melton, said, "Educational researcher Dr. John Hattie challenges us to Know Thy Impact, and Dr. Gary is a proven leader who has made an impact on Dutch Fork High School and School District Five. Under his leadership,



Dutch Fork High School in Lexington-Richland School District Five was recognized by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) on May 26 as the 2020 Palmetto's Finest award winner in the high school division during an announcement on SCETV.

2020-2021

## Dutch Fork High School



Photo Credit: Blaisdell Aplin, DFHS Student

### Annual School Improvement Council "Report to the Parents"

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**Mission:** Dutch Fork High School ensures the academic, social, mental, physical, and personal growth of all students so that they will be college and career ready in a globally competitive world. We provide a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that utilizes effective teaching strategies and creates a stimulating environment that fosters self-respect and motivates the continual pursuit of life-long learning and service.

**School Improvement Council (SIC):** The Dutch Fork High School's School Improvement Council meets monthly to plan, monitor, and evaluate improvements at the school level. It's work includes school planning, as well as communication among students, teachers, parents, and the school administration.

This report is issued by the Dutch Fork High School's School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.

## SIC Members

Chair  
James Mensch, Parent  
[jmensch@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:jmensch@mailbox.sc.edu)

Ex-Officio Members  
Dr. Gerald Gary, Principal  
[ggary@lexrich5.org](mailto:ggary@lexrich5.org)

Joe Eberlin, Assistant Principal for Instruction  
[jeberlinjr@lexrich5.org](mailto:jeberlinjr@lexrich5.org)

### NEW MEMBERS FOR 2020—2021

Travis Braddy  
Telisia Davis  
Ashley Elsasser  
Todd Oswald  
Paul Shuler  
Mia Wilkins

### RETURNING MEMBERS

Gloria Bowman  
Julie Ann Dixon  
Susan French  
Ward Hacklen  
Rick Henry  
Larry Houk  
James Mensch  
Janine White

TEACHERS  
Susan Aplin  
Caitlin Attaway  
Molly Dawson  
Brittany Holden  
David Kennedy  
Kate Mewborne  
Jessica Thur

STUDENTS  
Ella MacLeod  
McKenzie Smith  
Kathryn Meade  
Tia Li

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It's heartwarming to see just how dedicated our students are to helping each other and our school! DFHS Beta Club delivered and prepared over 1000 bags of food for our students!



Women's shelters serve a vital role in helping women and their children escape domestic violence and homelessness. Often times residents arrive with few or no belongings. DFHS Beta Club Junior Representative organized a donation drive for the Hannah House here in Columbia.



## DFHS Arts



DFHS performed in Chicago



DFHS Drama presented Little Women



# Initiatives & Strategies for School Improvement

**Mobile Technology** Dutch Fork High School shares District Five's belief in providing students with the 21st century tools and skills they need to support their learning and to prepare them for postsecondary education and the real world. Currently, full-time teachers and students have Chromebooks. Students can use a district issued device or bring their own device. Additionally, a full-time Digital Integration Specialist (DIS) and five Technology Teacher Leaders (TTLs) work collaboratively with students and staff to offer education, training and support.

**Data Teams** Data teams are groups of teachers who meet regularly to use student assessment data to make instructional and curricular decisions. Data teams examine patterns and trends in student learning, establish specific learning goals and timelines for curriculum delivery and assessment, facilitate analysis that results in action and maintain continuous improvement cycles. The ultimate goal of data teams at DFHS is to create a self-sustaining, collaborative culture emphasizing continuous academic improvement for all students.

**PBIS** is a proactive school-wide approach to discipline. Supports include established behavioral expectations, explicit instruction on those expectations, positive reinforcement for desired behaviors, and consistent consequences for behavioral infractions. Faculty and staff teach and acknowledge respectful, responsible, and reputable behavior. Since implementation in 2010-2011, DFHS has seen a significant decrease in the number of discipline referrals. A decrease in discipline referrals indicates an improvement in the quality of student and teacher interactions and fewer behavioral issues creates a safer environment that is more conducive to learning.

## Silver Foxes



Members of the class of 2020 were offered over \$71 million in scholarships and athletic awards!!!



For the fifth consecutive season, the Dutch Fork High football program reigns supreme in South Carolina. The Silver Foxes took down TL Hanna 28-6 to clinch the 5A state championship December 4th at Benedict College's Charlie W. Johnson Stadium. Dutch Fork has been dominant during their stretch. They own a 50 game unbeaten streak, a 49 game in state winning streak and a 24 game playoff winning streak. They are 64-1-1 since the





**DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL**  
**STEM**  
 science • technology • engineering • math



The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at DFHS is an honors magnet program that accelerates and enriches learning experiences for students who are academically gifted in and have an interest in a STEM related major and career. Students are accepted into the program based on their standardized test scores, middle school teachers' recommendations, and interest in STEM related fields. Since 2005, our program has been a local answer to the national STEM initiative. Presently there are over 280 students in the program from the ninth through the twelfth grades.

**THE PURPOSE OF STEM IS TO:**

- accelerate traditional curriculum to allow students to take more STEM related courses
- promote inquiry style learning across the curriculum
- provide unique opportunities in and out of the classroom
- develop literacy in STEM disciplines
- promote a learning community which extends beyond the school

STEM accelerates learning experiences enabling them to pursue AP and Honors courses, research, and/or internships in their field(s) of interest. The curriculum for STEM students is designed to accommodate the interests and abilities of the individual while integrating the STEM principles.

Upon completion of the STEM program, students are highly qualified for admission in the most rigorous and competitive university programs. Those students meeting the requirements will be recognized at graduation and receive the STEM program designation for recommendations and applications for colleges and scholarships.

**DFHS STEM Honors Academic Magnet program. Currently ranked 25th best in the nation by Newsweek, our STEM program is open to qualifying rising 9th graders from any school.**

**State Scholarship Totals, Class of 2020**

Hope/Life	Palmetto Fellows	% of Seniors
255	43	77

**National Merit Finalists**

16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
6	10	5	9	4

DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL

**LAUREN  
CHEN**

**U.S. Presidential Scholar**



Dutch Fork High School senior Lauren Chen has been named a U.S. Presidential Scholar for 2020. She is one of 161 high school seniors recognized across the country for their accomplishments in academics, the arts and career and technical education fields.



**Lexington-Richland School District Five  
U.S. Presidential Scholars Candidates**



**Eight School District Five students are candidates for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**

**IRMO**—Eight Lexington-Richland School District Five seniors have been nominated for one of the highest honors for the graduating class of 2021.

Sasha Bacot (Spring Hill High), **Claudia Byun (Dutch Fork High)**, **Natalie Crawford (Dutch Fork High)**, Paige Maylath (Chapin High), **Tyler Overbay (Dutch Fork High)**, Peter Von Ahn (Spring Hill High), **Seungwook Won (Dutch Fork High)**, and **Jessie Zhao (Dutch Fork High)** have been named candidates in the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

More than 4,500 candidates were selected from nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2021. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities



- Great Academics
- Award Winning Fine Arts
- Championship Athletics
- Culture
- Supportive Community
- Leadership

# Student Achievement Data

## Advanced Placement (AP)

	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
# of exams	1303	1276	1411	1380	1261
# of	668	667	659	618	594
Pass Rate	70.3	71.5	78	79	74.7

## ACT & SAT School Averages

	16	17	18	19	20
ACT	20.8	20.7	20.9	20.8	21.4
SAT	1069	1126	1162	1107	1089

## End of Course Test Pass Rate (in percent)

	18-19	DFHS	District	State
Algebra	64.3	72.6	72.6	68.3
English	73.1	78.5	78.5	73.5
US History	75.1	73.1	73.1	69.0
Biology	74.7	75.9	75.9	68.8

## Graduation Rate (in percent)

	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
	88.8	87.6	89.2	85.6	89.1

## Dutch Fork H.S. Graduating Class of 2019

Total # of Seniors	% attending 4 year college	% attending 2 year college	% enlisted in the Military	% Work/ Other
390	62	29	5	4