



# Dutch Fork High School Annual School Improvement Council "Report to the Parents" 2014-2015

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The Dutch Fork High School's School Improvement Council meets monthly to plan, monitor, and evaluate improvements at the school level. Its 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.

## 2014-2015 SIC Annual Goals

- ❖ Rigorous academic standards and high expectations for all students
- ❖ A culture of continuous improvement
- ❖ Communication with internal and external audiences as a priority
- ❖ A shared vision for success

## Dutch Fork High School's SIC

### New Members

Susan Aplin                      Cynthia Shepard  
Scott Crittenden              Tom Wise

### Returning Members

Veronica Boggs              Cindy Heim  
Whitt Cline                      Kim Hudson  
Patrick Cobb                      Vachel Jones  
Chantal Drezek                      Anne Turnage

### Faculty Members

Enevelyn Hyatt                      Kelly Payne  
David Kennedy                      Sondra Suarez  
Robin Lowman

### Students

Tina Deese                      Anna Maria Gardiner  
Blake Ellis                      Colin James  
Graham Ellis                      Danielle Steger

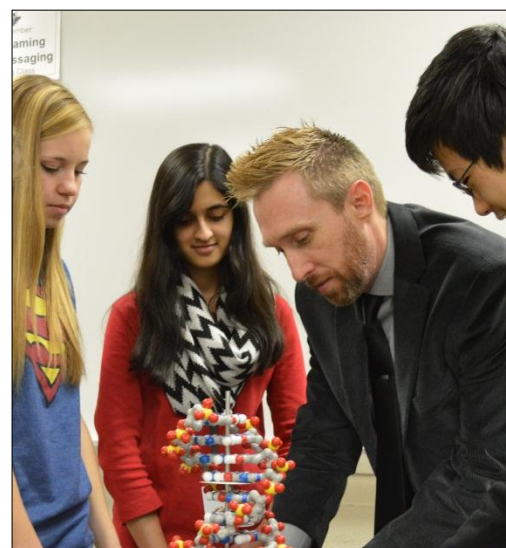
### Chair

Patrick Cobb, Parent  
[PCobb@aar.org](mailto:PCobb@aar.org)

### Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Gregory Owings, Principal  
[gowings@lexrich5.org](mailto:gowings@lexrich5.org)

Sarah C. Longshore, Assistant Principal for  
Instruction – [slongsho@lexrich5.org](mailto:slongsho@lexrich5.org)



## 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.

ATHLETICS



Photo by The State Newspaper

**2014 State Cheerleading Champs**

Dutch Fork High School won the Class AAAA Cheerleading Championship at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena in November 2014.



Photo by ColaDaily.com

**2014 State Girls Tennis Champs**

The Silver Foxes' 15-0 regular season record ended with the Class AAAA state championship. A sophomore was awarded the Class AAAA Player of the Year for the second straight year by the South Carolina Coaches Association for Women's Sports.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION



In the 2014 *US News and World Report* ranked Dutch Fork High School as the top traditional high school in the state of South Carolina and #696 nationally. Schools were analyzed by performance on state assessments and success in AP and IB programs.

The *Washington Post* ranked Dutch Fork High School as the third most challenging high school in SC and #367 nationally.

These are the two highest rankings in the school's history.



"2014 wasn't just good to Dutch Fork; it was great. With five state title appearances and three championships, 2014 was the Year of the Fox. No other Midlands school had the athletic success last year of Dutch Fork. The school won championships in girls tennis, girls basketball and cheer. It claimed runners-up in football and girls cross country and brought home the state's Mr. Football award... to cap off a stellar 2014."

Ron Aiken, WLTX

Student Achievement Data

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Rating

2014	B
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Scholarship Totals

Class	Scholarship Totals
2009-2010	\$29, 824, 374
2010-2011	\$26, 900, 000
2011-2012	\$49, 359, 482
2012-2013	\$51, 759, 147
2013-2014	\$49, 465, 894

State Scholarship Totals Class of 2014

Hope/Life	Palmetto Fellows	% Seniors
242	40	64%

ACT and SAT School Averages

	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
ACT	22.6	22.9	22.9	22.0	22.4
SAT	1567	1544	1554	1547	1550

School Enrollment

	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
DFHS	2046	2066	2121	1912	1814

Advanced Placement (AP)

	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
# of Exams	1088	1137	1495	1544	1460
# of Students	492	515	825	855	736
Pass Rate	68.7	68.5	61.9	64.6	64.6

Graduation Rate (in percent)

09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
87.5	87.7	87.4	89.1	89.5

National Merit Finalists

10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
2	7	6	7

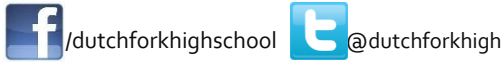
South Carolina Annual School Report Card 2014

Absolute Rating	Excellent
Growth Rating	Good

For more information, you may view Dutch Fork High School's SC School Report Card for 2013-2014 at [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov).

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# Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement



## Mobile Technology

Dutch Fork High School shares District Five's belief in providing students with the 21st century tools they need to support their learning and to prepare them for postsecondary education and the real world. Currently, all full-time teachers and approximately 1600 students have been issued an iPad.

Additionally, a full-time Technology Integration Specialist (TIS) and five Teacher Technology Leaders (TTLs) work collaboratively with students and staff to offer education, training, and support. They have provided countless professional development opportunities on varying topics such as calendars, Edmodo, iCloud, Explain Everything, Google Drive, Dropbox, iBooks, Socrative, Poll Everywhere, Evernote, Skitch, QR Codes, and more.

## Opportunities for Parents and Community Members to Get Involved:

- ❖ Volunteer to participate in school functions, organizations, and committees.
- ❖ Help with testing and classroom monitoring needs.
- ❖ Be guest speakers.
- ❖ Chaperone events and field trips.
- ❖ Work with students to help plan events for fundraisers, field days, and curriculum-related events.
- ❖ Support the teachers and the school in maintaining discipline and a safe and orderly learning environment.
- ❖ Require your student to observe all school rules and regulations. Support or enforce consequences for student's willful misbehavior in school.
- ❖ Maintain an active interest in your student's daily work by monitoring and making it possible for her/him to complete assigned homework by providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study.
- ❖ Read all communications from the school. Sign and return them promptly when required.
- ❖ Attend conferences set up for the exchange of information of your student's progress in school.

## 2013-2014 Ethnic Distribution (in percent)

African-American	35
White	57
Asian	3
Hispanic	2
Other	3

## 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.

Teachers take an active role in their teams as they go through a five step process. The ultimate goal of data teams at DFHS is to create a self-sustaining, collaborative culture among departments and colleagues which emphasizes continuous academic improvement for all students.

## PBIS

PBIS is a proactive school-wide approach to discipline. Supports include established behavioral expectations, explicit instruction on those expectations, positive reinforcement for desired behavior, and consistent consequences for behavioral infractions. Faculty and staff teach and acknowledge respectful, responsible, and reputable behavior.

In 2013-2014, DFHS saw a 56% decrease in the number of discipline referrals since implementation in 2010-2011. A decrease in discipline referrals indicates an improvement in the quality of student and teacher interactions, and fewer behavioral issues create a safer environment that is more conducive to learning.



## STEM Magnet Program

The STEM program at DFHS accelerates and enriches learning experiences for students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and have an interest in a STEM related major and career. Upon completion of the STEM program, students are highly qualified for admission in the most rigorous and competitive university programs. In April 2015 the DFHS STEM program earned the coveted AdvancED Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Certification, becoming one of less than five schools statewide to earn the distinction.

## DFHS PTSO

The Dutch Fork High School PTSO serves as our primary fundraising group for school-wide projects and is the group that organizes and assigns volunteers, works on beautification, supports school celebrations and recognitions, and provides activities for faculty and staff appreciation and support.

Our PTSO is a 501.c(3) charitable organization.

# School Achievements

## JOURNALISM

The DFHS literary magazine staff attended the SCSPA fall conference. *Revelations* earned a Superior Rating, 3rd Place for Magazine Spread, 1st Place for Magazine Art, and 2nd Place for Magazine Photograph.



The *Renaissance* newspaper staff placed in eight of eleven categories at the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association's Excellence in Scholastic Newspaper Awards competition.

A DFHS senior was named the South Carolina Journalist of the Year. SCSPA annually recognizes one graduating senior for his/her outstanding contributions to scholastic journalism.

*The Silver Sreen Report*, the school's weekly news broadcast, received a Superior rating, and several of our broadcast journalists received individual awards.

## ACADEMIC TEAMS

A senior placed 1st in the Extemporeaneous Debate. This was DFHS's first ever 1st place performance.

DFHS Mock Trial team won the Midlands SC Bar regional competition. We were one of 12 teams in the state to advance to the state finals.



The DFHS Ocean Science Team earned third place in the region at the Southern Stingray Bowl.

## THE ARTS

More than 600 DFHS students participated in the performing arts program this year and were highly successful in their competitions. Student performers and programs received many awards and honors during 2014-2015.

In particular, the choral students received an invitation to perform on WLTX's broadcast "Sounds of the Season." From that performance, the SC Philharmonic Orchestra invited the ensemble to perform. In March, the Honors Chamber Ensemble competed in the SC State Choral festival and received a Superior rating and placed 6th out of the 26 division 4A choirs. Finally, the ensemble traveled to the Music Celebrations Festival in Epcot and received the "Golden Mickey" award for Outstanding Performance.



The visual art students at DFHS have participated in several events and received awards. A senior earned a trip to Turkey and \$250 in the Atlantic Institutes Art and Essay Contest. Students were also featured in *The State* newspaper and had their work shown at the Link. This has been a brilliant year for our Visual Arts Department.

## COMMUNITY



A 5K race to support students with special needs in Lexington-Richland School District Five was held Jan 31 on the Dutch Fork Middle and Dutch Fork High School campuses.

Teacher Cadets adopted a large family this year through Families Helping Families. In addition to the gifts, the students donated money for a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card so that the family would have grocery money for a special holiday meal. This activity served to both help our community and teach the Cadets the joy of giving to others.



## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Health Science students enjoyed the unique opportunity to participate in field experiences at doctors' offices and in hospitals. These hands-on learning experiences enhance students' college and career readiness.



Several students were winners at the statewide Engineering Competition at USC. DFHS STEM students participated in the annual "Leap into Thinking Through Engineering" conference at Leapart Elementary School.



