

Burke High School
Annual School Improvement Council
Report to the Parents
2018-19



Students in 9th grade geo-science classes received the **Champion of the Environment Award**, sponsored by Dominion Energy, International Paper, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), for their project on Oyster Reef Habitat Restoration.

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Our School: This is Burke

Executive Principal, Mrs. Cheryl Swinton

The 2018-2019 school year marks the second year of Project-Based Learning (PBL) integration at Burke High School through the New Tech Network. Students in all grade levels have opportunities to drive their own learning through collaboration and authentic learning. This year we offered three co-taught cross-disciplinary courses providing students opportunities to collaborate, increase the depth of knowledge, and create projects with community partners which positively impact the community. The upcoming year will see more community involvement as our staff and students reach out to those around us to join together in designing projects and activities that will improve the educational opportunities and quality of life for our Burke community and global partners.

Burke High School enrolled 360 students this year. Poverty Index is 92.5% and includes 96% African American, 2% Caucasian and 1.4% more than one race. Our graduation rate continues to rise to 80% last year.

Results from the SCDOE School Culture and Climate survey revealed that 82.8% of teachers and 77.3% of students mostly agree that they are satisfied with the learning environment. We honor diversity reflected by survey results indicating that 81.8% of students and 86.2% of teachers agree that students from different backgrounds get along well at school while 81.9% of our parents are satisfied with the social and physical environment of our school. Over 60% of our teachers have more than 11 years of teaching experience including 57.9% who hold advanced degrees. This year, 71.1% of our teachers returned to Burke adding to the stability and relationships with all stakeholders.

The mission of Burke High School is to foster independent and responsible lifelong learners so that upon graduation, students will enter college, the military, or the workforce with the necessary skills to compete with their peers and become positive members of society.

Making the Connection at Burke

Burke High School's programs model the village concept. At Burke, we believe strong partnerships with parents, community, and school pay great dividends. School highlights cited below are examples of how our students are benefitting from valuable collaborations with organizations and individuals in the Charleston region and beyond. Furthermore, our goal is to help our students understand the importance of being a global citizen starting with giving back to their community and ultimately, society.

School Improvement Strategies, Initiatives and Goals

Project-Based Learning through the California-based New Tech Network. The purpose of PBL is to have students direct their own learning through collaborative projects that ideally connect to local issues and involve local community partners. During the 2018-19 school year, PBL has been implemented in team-taught core classes for freshmen, sophomores and juniors, and the model is used by teachers at all grade levels in standalone core and elective courses.

Capturing Kids' Hearts program, which stresses the need to build positive relationships between staff and students as a prerequisite for both effective teaching and learning.

Strategies and Goals

- Encourage deeper learning and the development of critical thinking and soft skills through PBL
- Increase ACT scores by implementing ACT prep course and school-wide use of ACT/SAT vocabulary.
- Improve EOCEP passage rates through continued rigor and high expectations for all students.
- Continue use of the digital platform (Achieve 3000, Aleks, Algebra Nation) with fidelity to improve reading and math ability for all students.

- Reading progress measured through Achieve 3000:
 - 54.45% of grade 9 students have increased lexile (reading level) by more than 50 points and 34% have increased lexile by more than 100 points
 - 45.2% of grade 10 students have increased reading level by more than 50 points
 - All grades have read and answered comprehension questions in 9,643 articles.
- Grade 9 and 10 students take the Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) three times each year to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics. Comparison from Fall 2018 to Winter 2019 indicate that 35% of grade 9 students met projected growth in Reading and 40% met growth in mathematics. Grade 10 student data reveal that 27% met projected growth in reading and 57% met in math. Use of rigorous instruction across all disciplines and independent use of the digital platform will continue to support growth in reading and math.

Bulldog Pride Highlights

New Tech Network and Project Based Learning

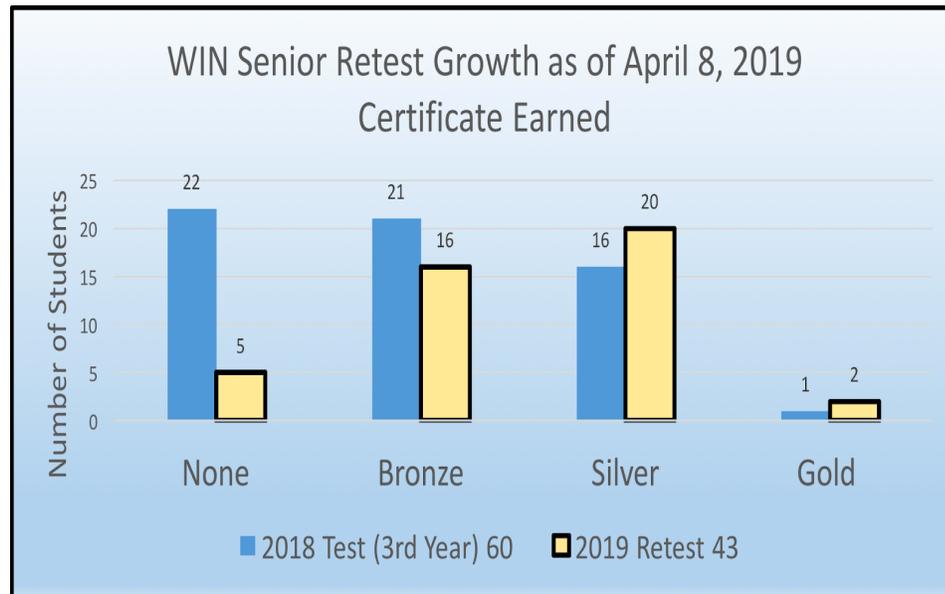
- English teacher Amelia Navarrete and Social Studies teacher Edgar Johnson and students James Snipe and Trinity Frost accepted the NTN **Best in Network** prize at NTN's 2018 annual conference hosted in St. Louis. The project, "Finding a Voice," allowed students to tell stories about marginalized peoples through student-created graphic novels. The project was chosen as an exemplary model of NTN-style PBL owing to its encouragement of active exploration, application, authenticity and academic rigor.
- Peter Locher and Benjamin Plants were named recipients of the NTN **Power of Us** award. The teachers partnered with Niles High School in Michigan to create a project proposal focusing on improving air quality in low income areas. A documentary about the project will be shown during the NTN annual conference this summer in Orlando.
- Locher and Plants' classes received the **Champion of the Environment Award**, sponsored by Dominion Energy, International Paper, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), for their project on Oyster Reef Habitat Restoration.
- Burke students participated in many project-based learning (PBL) experiences with local partners.
 - Peter Locher and Benjamin Plants' Earth Science and World Geography students partnered with the US Coast Guard, first responders, and the Charleston City Recreation Department for a project related to hurricanes and hurricane preparedness.
 - Amy Allen's Spanish-language students partnered with Midland Primary Park School to give Burke students exposure to native-Spanish speakers.
 - Amelia Little and Kelsey McGee's merged English Language Arts and World History class partnered with the ACLU to help students gain insights into issues related to civil and constitutional rights. They also partnered with Holy City Hospitality for a project where students made menus that shed light on the ways that exploration and trade have shaped culture, including the kinds of foods people eat. Students learned about the "Columbian Exchange," where plants, animals, humans, and diseases were transferred between Africa, Europe, Asia, and North and South America.

College and Career Ready Experiences

Burke juniors were given the option this year to take either the ACT or SAT college entrance exam in school. This spring, 28 juniors completed the ACT while 40 seniors completed the SAT. We continue to focus on increasing the rigor of our instruction to support the skills required to be college ready.

Career Readiness is measured in part by the WIN Assessment. This year, 60 juniors completed this assessment and 17 seniors retested to earn a higher credential. Earning a silver or higher credential on this assessment leads to career opportunities in businesses and industry. Further, Burke enrolled 277 students this year in one or more CATE courses with 15 students earning completer status. We continue to increase our Advanced Placement (AP)

offerings each year with 28 students enrolled in AP Biology, AP Language, AP US History and the Constitution. Dual Credit options continue with 5% of enrolled students earning a C or higher in the college course.



- School counselors and department heads arranged a **Curriculum Fair** in the fall to help students learn more about opportunities for study for required and elective courses offered at Burke. Counseling also organized a **FAFSA Blitz** to help families get a head start on the Federal Application for Student Financial Aid, in addition to organizing a **College Fair & Career Symposium**.
- Communities in Schools Continues to mentor upperclassmen to help them develop interview skills, successful college applications, and awareness about financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- Chef April Mazyck organized a Q & A forum on **Closing the Achievement Gap**
- Burke students toured college campuses such as Claflin University, Francis Marion University, and the College of Charleston.
- Blackbaud volunteers conducted mock interviews with CTE students as part of Trident United Way’s Day of Caring.

Community Connections

- Burke continues to build relationships with families through the Parenting Partnership Program—a series of workshops designed to help parents navigate a range of developmental issues.
- JROTC students participated in Veteran’s Day events, organized Blood Drives, and the color guard marched in the Martin Luther King Day parade.
- Ms. Joseph’s Teacher Cadets partnered with Mitchell Elementary for classroom observations and student-teaching experiences.
- Dr. Michael Goler’s students participated in the federally-sponsored **Stop the Bleed** program, to gain certification for demonstrating life-saving first-aid skills. Students also learned about causes of non-accidental trauma and how to save lives in the event of a school shooting.
- English teacher Michelique Oliver and school librarian David Mathews helped to organize the **Read Across America Day** at Burke. Mitchell Elementary and Simmons Pinckney Middle School Students attended the literacy-focused event.
- Ms. Joan Robinson-Berry, formerly of Boeing International, was the guest speaker for the National Society of Black Engineers and the Robotics Club at Burke.
- Band members performed the MUSC Hospital and Live 5 news annual **Toys for Christmas Parade**.

- Amelia Little and Kelsey McGee's students supported the **Doors to Dream** program with fundraising and toy drives to benefit pediatric cancer patients.

Our Students Excel

- Seventeen Burke students will become the first graduating class to take part in an exclusive collaboration between Burke and MUSC's Hollings Cancer Center, the **MUSC CURES Program**. The program is designed to support interest in biomedical cancer research. Successful participants will receive fifteen graduate credits!
- Burke students once again took top honors in the **Charleston Youth Marathon T-shirt Design Contest**. Alisha Gregg took first place; Malaysia Gallashaw took second place; and J'Niyah Long took third place. Alisha Gregg's design was featured on the 2019 Youth Marathon T-shirt! Students received cash prizes of 300, 200 and 100 dollars.
- Amanda Dukes Entrepreneurship students Tayler McCray, Diavion Corbett, and Benia Cherry placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively, in the local **YESCarolina Business Plan Competition**. They are invited to compete in the State competition this spring!
- Senior Dakota Middleton was been selected as one of the ten finalists for the distinguished Reverend Pinckney Scholars Program. He will interview with the committee in May. Dakota also participated in the **STEM Signing Day** at the SC State House and was one of only two CCSD seniors chosen.
- Junior Keysean Brown was selected to participate in the **Project Search Internship** at Embassy Suites.
- Burke's band students continue to excel in performance and in regional competitions. Students traveled to New York City during Spring Break and performed at Dr. Susan McKinney School of the Arts. Principal Swinton surprised students by attending the concert! Mr. McCloud and the band also hosted the **Hampton University Choir**.
- Sophomore Byron Murphy received the **World Affairs Council of Charleston John M. Settle Award** for global engagement through the Citadel for outstanding achievement in global issues.
- Burke juniors are MUSC Scholars through participation in SC CURE (Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience) program. The program has brought MUSC specialists to Burke to teach courses on cancer biology and cancer epidemiology and on cancer health disparities.
- Roy Kemp's Engineering students took top honors for the second year in a row in the **Charleston County Bridge Building Competition**. Burke engineering students will once again participate in the **Build A Shed** competition sponsored by the Metro Chamber of Commerce and ABC Carolinas.
- The Architects, Contractors, Engineers (ACE) Mentoring Program is in its 6th successful year at Burke.
- The Burke Robotics Team had another successful season at the Palmetto Regional Competition, where the Burke Bulldog Autobots ended achieved a ranking of 25th and served as a sixth seed alternate. The team's record was 6-3-0 overall making this year one of the best showing ever.
- Senior Shade'a Kelly was nominated for the **All-State Basketball Team** for the third consecutive year. She was also named the Region 6-AA **Player of the Year**.
- Senior Steven White was selected for the 2018 **Touchstone Energy Cooperative Bowl** in Myrtle Beach.
- Several of Micah Brown's CTE students received professional credentials upon passing the **Adobe Certified Associate** certification test for Photoshop.
- Amanda Duke's students in her Social Media in Business class worked with Full Sail to create a sports marketing app.
- Senior Esperanza Rosendo placed second at the **Coastal Carolina Fair** competition.

Burke High School Improvement Council Report to the Parents

Purpose of the Report

"This report is issued by the Burke High School Improvement Council (BHSIC) in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the school administration, faculty, students and the BHSIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."

Role of a School Improvement Council

School Improvement Councils are broad-based bodies that advise the principal and help establish and monitor school improvement goals and assist the principal. According to South Carolina law, all K-12 public schools must have and SIC. The body consists of parents, students, teachers, and community members who meet regularly to assist and advise the principal.

SIC Activities

The SIC set two main goals for its activities during the 2017-2018 academic year: 1) Improving parent engagement; and 2) School Advocacy.

- ❖ Parent Engagement: It is well known that parent involvement is essential for school success. Therefore, the SIC has set the goal of improving parent participation and ensuring that the school climate is inviting for parents and families.
- ❖ School Advocacy: The SIC set the aim of advocacy to find ways to engage the larger Charleston-area community and to find ways to tell our story instead of letting outsiders tell it for us.

Looking ahead

SIC elections must be held by October 15 of each year and the SIC sets goals each year. ***Individuals interested in serving on the SIC should contact Principal Swinton or SIC Chair Eric Jackson for information.*** Elections must be held by October 15th of each year.

2018-2019 SIC Members

SIC Members

Principal: Cheryl Swinton

SIC Chair: Eric Jackson

SIC Vice-Chair: Dan Ryan

SIC Co-Secretary: Aysha Bowens

SIC Co-Secretary: Zaire Brooks

Students

Ms. Zaire Brooks: 10th

Ms. Aysha Bowens: 11th

Ms. Shakira Patterson: 11th

Parents

Ms. Darcell White

Ms. Tyesha Drayton

Ms. Racine Clark

Ms. Gale Singletary

Teachers/Staff

Dr. Dan Ryan

Dr. Karen Reed-Perrineau

Shernette Tolly

Community Members

Mr. Michael Maher

Mr. Eric Jackson

Dr. Barbara Dilligard

Dr. Melanie Blanton

Dr. Barbara Holmes



JROTC students participate in Ravenel Bridge Run



BHS Band in NYC



College & Career Fair Symposium



Burke Hosts the Read Across America Event for Elementary Students



Winter Awards Ceremony, Featuring Charleston Youth Marathon Design Winners