School Improvement Committee Report to the Community 2016-17

Hillcrest is proud of its students and faculty and their accomplishments. Hillcrest High teachers are highly qualified in their subject areas, and many of our teachers hold masters degrees, masters plus thirty, as well as additional degree certifications such as National Board, Advanced Placement, and Gifted and Talented. Over the last several years, the quality of teachers at Hillcrest has shown in the increase of EOC test scores. Hillcrest High School received an Excellent Rating on the 2015 School Report Card.

Hillcrest offers a variety of opportunities for its students beginning with the Freshman Academy for first-year ninth grade students. The Academy offers a separate location for all freshmen core classes. The Freshman Academy held a Freshman Orientation prior to the start of school. More than 400 of our new ninth grade students and their parents attended this event making it a great success. They toured the building, met their teachers, heard about clubs and athletic opportunities and even learned cheers. The teachers in the Academy meet regularly to plan activities and monitor the progress of our freshmen.

Hillcrest offers a variety of opportunities for student involvement. This year we began a Robotics team and they were named Rookie Team of the Year and the state competition. Hillcrest has a Speech and Debate program that continuously has district, state and national winners. Hillcrest's Fine Arts Department is also a leader in our school district. Hillcrest students were selected for All State Chorus, All State Band, and All State Strings. Hillcrest also has one of the top athletic programs in the state with 22 varsity and 24 sub varsity teams that are consistently some of the top athletic teams in our state. HHS had 15 students sign National Letters of Intent to play at sports at the college level during the 2016-17 school year.

In addition, Hillcrest offers a variety of extracurricular and academic clubs to students. Once again, our student body in partnership with the community raised over $105,000 in one week in support of PAALS, a charitable organization that trains animals to assist in educational and recreational activities for people with special needs. The local community strongly supports Hillcrest High School in these endeavors. The Greenhouse Industries program at Hillcrest sponsors plant sales throughout the year, offering student-grown plants and flowers to the public. The program has earned almost $30,000 since its inception and is recognized by the state as an exemplary program.

Our Guidance Department works with students and parents to ensure students' needs are met and that students are on track for graduation. Counselors meet annually with students to develop and review each student's Individual Graduation Plan. Through interest assessments, job shadowing, work-site visits, and career speakers, students evaluate their career interests. Each student meets with their guidance counselor to determine which classes best suit the student's needs and goals. Students have ample opportunity to investigate their interests through many outstanding classes at Hillcrest High.

Both academic and athletic booster clubs are strong and actively involved in providing support in the form of time and money for our students. Our PTSA offers grant opportunities to our teachers.

Hillcrest is dedicated to providing a safe, positive learning environment which brings together the resources of staff, family, and our community to create the best future possible for our students.

Bryan Skipper, Principal

Mandy Watts, SIC Chairperson