

Dear Parent/Guardians:

First and foremost, I am very proud of our community of students, parents, teachers, staff and our stakeholders. Our school is a diverse learning community committed to excellence in academics, ingenuity, and personal character. In my annual parent letter, I am honored to share with you some of the outstanding attributes that make Lakewood High School a special place to attend. We stand by Lakewood High School's Mission: *"All students will graduate College and Career Ready"* in preparing and making our students productive citizens for the 21st Century in this global and technological world.

In spite of the economic challenges of the last few years, the first and foremost priority of Lakewood High School is and has always been to meet the needs of **ALL** of our students. The School Improvement Council is instrumental in identifying those needs by analyzing available data such as the EOC test scores, teacher/parent surveys, the school report card, the strategic plan and observations on an ongoing basis. Through ENRICH, all teachers have access to their students' standardized test scores from elementary school through high school. Based on this information they reinforce specific skills in the classroom by incorporating activities like Academic Enrichment, Word of the Day, daily math problems and writing in all of their classes. Even though these activities are designed to address identified weaknesses in certain students, all students can benefit from them. To achieve better scores, we have set up programs to help our at-risk students and we have implemented a literacy program in all classes.

At this time, we have approximately 76 juniors and seniors enrolled in Dual Enrollment at Central Carolina Technical College as well as 6 juniors enrolled in the Early College programs at USC Sumter. Our senior students were awarded \$6.1 million in scholarships for 2015-2016 school year. From the senior class, 49 students entered a 2-year college, 173 students entered a 4-year college, 9 students entered the military with a large portion of our students entering directly into the workforce.

Students who excel academically are invited to join the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society or specialized honor societies such as Mu Alpha Theta National Honor Society.

At Lakewood High School, we provide certified teachers and a safe school environment; high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective manner to help our students achieve their academic goals; parent-teacher conferences as needed during the school year; hold quarterly Open Houses; give parents the opportunity to volunteer and observe classroom activities; provide an open line of communication between the home and school to include phone calls, emails, Parent Connector, newsletters, Gator Cards, website, etc.; ensure that Parent Portal is up-to-date for parent viewing; provide a variety of clubs and activities for student involvement; and provide reasonable access to staff.

The teacher provides academic reports to parents every three weeks, conduct parent-teacher conferences, provide instruction with interesting and challenging curriculum that promotes student achievement and motivates students to learn, set high expectations for learning and academic achievement in an effort to promote a Culture of Caring, recognize students with pins who go above and beyond expectations and recognize students weekly for exemplary behavior and academic excellence.

Attendance is very important to the success of students. I encourage all of our students to keep their attendance at school a priority and to work with their teachers to make up any work they missed. As a reminder, students are only allowed 7 unexcused absences per semester because they may be denied credit for a course if they go beyond seven. In that case, an FA will be issued if the student exceeds seven and will need to do additional work the second semester for that class in order to receive credit. Letters have been sent out to the churches in the community to assist and help our students understand the value of attendance in getting a good education.

On behalf of the Lakewood Team, we would like to thank you for your continued support in making our students successful and productive citizens in preparing them for the 21st Century in a technological and global society.

Sincerely,

John Michalik
Principal