2020-2021

Principal's End of Year Report

Greenville Technical Charter High School



Mary Nell Anthony Principal



Principal's End of Year Report

Overall Achievements



2018-2019 Overall Rating

Excellent 83

School performance substantially exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate

*SC has not published a rating since this one.

Our graduation rate is 99% for this school year with an average of 99% over the last 5 years. Other successes include our Senior Highlights:

- 7 2,823 college credit hours earned
- 61% of seniors earned 24 or more credits
- 🕈 85% of seniors have taken at least 1 college class
- 7 students completed 9 Associate's Degrees
- 91% of students enrolled in a 2 year or 4 year college, with 2 students choosing a military career and 6 being undecided or taking a gap year
- Approximately \$5.6 million in scholarships offered to the class
- 👎 I National Merit Finalist, I National Merit Commended and 15 Palmetto Fellow Qualifiers

All end-of-course test performance exceed state and local performance levels with zero student failing the EOC in 2019-2020 (2020-2021 scores are still embargoed). Approximately 10% of students were unsuccessful at meeting mastery for at least one class this year.

Demographic Highlights

- ✤ 38% diversity
- 23% pupils in poverty
- ✤ 22% Special Education/504 Plan (11% Individual Education Plans / 11% 504 plans)

Instructional Leadership

Our outstanding faculty boasts the following statistics:

- 85% with Master's Degrees or higher
- Average of 14 years of experience

We will be welcoming four new faculty members next year:

- * Rhonda Gregory, Assistant Principal of Student Services
- Sarah Goodnough, Front Desk Clerk
- Amanda Soules, Spanish / Freshmen Success
- Kristen Jacobs, World Geography

Each teacher in the school completed Student Learning Objectives and met three times with administration to conference about their classroom goals and student success. In addition, 3 teachers renewed their professional certificates using the ADEPT 4.0 process. We had one induction teacher who completed her first year of instruction, and one counselor who finalized certification.

Due to COVID19, professional opportunities outside of our school were more limited. We still took every opportunity to maximize professional development opportunities:

- Three teachers attended college courses to earn their Gifted & Talented certification
- * Thirteen teachers obtained Level I and/or 2 Google Certification
- Jessica Sharp, a local Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion expert, led the staff in training on unconscious bias
- ThinkShop with Clemson University provided the faculty training on best practices with Zoom
- Two administrators attended National Institute of Excellence training virtually and had personalized coaching on Instructional Leadership Teams and Learning Walks
- 🕈 I teacher received a micro-credential in coaching from the State Department
- * I teacher took 3 courses (of the 5) needed to obtain certification in multi-lingual teaching
- * Two of our teachers virtually attended the local Education and Business summit
- * 17 faculty/staff members participated in a book study on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- 🕈 8 faculty/staff members participated in mindfulness training

Overall, an impressive 97% of faculty took part in professional development above and beyond the "in-school" required professional development.

Departments reported other key accomplishments for the year. The science department hosted a trip to Alaska to study marine biology; they also repaired the weather station and graduated their first completer in our Aviation program. English teachers incorporated the creation of TED talks into the curriculum. Freshmen Success finalized a written curriculum. Over 50% of our teachers applied for and utilized PIP mini-grants.

Principal's End of Year Report

Mission/Vision/Culture



Communicating the mission and vision both internally and externally for our school continues to be a priority.

Multiple opportunities for the staff to be equipped, feel supported, have input into decision making, and just enjoy coming to work are provided. **Our people are our best resource**. We want to ensure they feel valued and focus on building relationships.

- Providing team building opportunities in professional development and faculty meetings throughout the year
- Seeking input from the staff on key decisions such as the building program, developing professional development, and updating the strategic plan
- Incouraging an "open door policy" to administration
- Coordinating social events throughout the year such as after hour gatherings, a Christmas party, and end of year party

Opportunities for two-way communication continue to be promoted and encouraged. Teachers receive synopsis of major board decisions and regular communication via emails. The Remind system is utilized to make it easy to share reminders with the entire staff via text. Administration attempts to do "walk-abouts" as well throughout key times of day such as before school, after school, or during lunch. Externally, the *Weekly Warrior* is used on a regular basis; there is at least one Facebook post per week that also links to the GTCHS Twitter account. The Instagram account continued and currently has **535 followers**. Lastly, we utilized our broadcast class that featured key events on videos hosted on our YouTube channel.

Key marketing and development efforts included consistent updates to our website (Stephanie Beaver) and beginning "boosting" posts for marketing as well as using online magazines such as Upstate Parent and radio ads for recruitment (Stephanie Beaver and Cynthia Fryer). Mrs. Fryer has continued to be in the Rotary as a representative of GTCHS.

As we prepare for increased fundraising and to launch our building program, telling our story and having the community know GTCHS is vital. Having the community connect GTCHS with strong academics and service has been a primary goal. Our fourth annual Serve Day was held in conjunction with four local food banks. We were featured in media news multiple times, including a major piece on this Serve Day event with Fox 21 and WYFF coming to our campus for this event.

Marketing Goals for 2021-2022 include

- Increasing marketing/community visibility during our open enrollment season
- Creating a video about our school
- Initiating business "charter chats" where key business and political leaders will be invited in groups of 5 or 6 into our school for tours and conversation with students/administration
- ✤ Optimizing "boosted" posts on Instagram and Facebook

School Management

Development

Charter Commitment Campaign

140 donors out of 378 families

37% participation

\$105,010 in Campaign Donations*

\$750 average donation

*This is the first year we funneled all donations through the annual campaign, including matching donations for the weight room – matching community funds are approximately \$19,000 and the weight room total is approximately \$41,000 (with a little over \$11,000 being from matching community funds).

In addition, the following funds were received:

\$4,400 for the Fill the Box Campaign

\$2,150 profited from bricks and pavers

\$10,500 in sponsorships for the Benefit Raffle

We continued to apply for multiple grants this year, with three grants being funded: \$8,500 from Lockheed Martin; American Airlines and the ARC Grant. So far, we have received \$61,987.79 of the total amount of the ARC grant, which is over \$200,000. We also received donations from the Sargant Foundation, CAF, and the Suzanne and Vince Foody Foundation. All total with grants and foundation gifts, we have received **81,326.79** in 2021-2022.



In addition, our Community Development Coordinator solicited funds to support our Scott Hallman Textbook Scholarship, which received \$20,000 this year from the family.

All total, the development office raised a total of approximately \$223,386.79 to support our school (net).

Parents in Partnership

Despite the numerous challenges of a largely virtual school year, Parents in Partnership (PIP) had a very successful year. PIP's major fundraiser was the Charter Champion Benefit Raffle, which was a new format this year. PIP's most successful fundraiser in recent years, it netted \$26,817. Of that, \$2,000 goes to Athletics and \$15,000 goes to PIP. The remaining \$9,817 was donated to the building fund, launching the "Fill the Box" campaign for the arts.

Just as importantly, PIP involved many of our families this year; parents purchased 466 PIP memberships and over 200 of our students participated in the annual fundraiser. Parents in Partnership has become an intricate part of GTCHS; supplying volunteers, raising funds and purchasing needed items. A partial list of services provided by PIP includes the following:

- Served all lunches to GTCHS students.
- Provided apparel, which increased significantly this year. Sales of more than \$13,000 netted \$5,000 in income.
- \$5,805.04 towards Naviance Software for guidance.
- \$10,000 for textbook purchases for students.
- Over \$5,500 in teacher mini-grants were funded
- \$1,000 was available for scholarship money for students in need.
- Hospitality needs for the school, including supplies for the health room, teacher's workroom and administrative offices. The hospitality committee also put in tremendous effort to organize individualized food for all of the monthly teacher's meetings held on the first Friday.
- Members provided snacks and feedback to parents at orientation and four In-Take Meetings.

The Junior Luncheon was shifted to a breakfast and PIP provided volunteers to assist in set up and serving. The Senior Luncheon was held at the Poinsett Club, with Dr. Jacob Richey, GTCHS alumnus, as the keynote speaker.

Finance

Fiscal year 2020-2021 is closing out strong with GTCHS continuing to be fiscally responsible and spend less money than we receive. At the close of June, we are projected to have a minimum of \$650,000 in our operating account. Our endowment fund is approximately \$503,000, and our reserve account is currently \$1,003,600.35.



We secured a loan of \$7,000,000 with Southern First for our building project and this will be an interest-only loan for the initial years.

Facilities

The building project has continued to progress and is slated to be finalized to open in 2021-2022! We will have

- Athletics: gym, locker rooms, a weight room, and two offices (AD and PE teacher)
- f Arts: Black box theater, 3 classrooms, and a space for a Kiln
- 🕈 Science Lab

We are planning to replace the air handler and upgrade the ventilation system in Building 119 in 2021-2022. This summer we are repainting multiple rooms and "upgrading" our front office space, transforming the "floating" teacher room into a mini-media center, and shifting the Director of IT to an office space as well.

Technology

We have made great progress with our technology plans:

- Updated our plans to refresh teacher laptops to a schedule where every faculty/staff laptop will be no more than 4 years old (previously, it was 5; prior to Mrs. Anthony's tenure, it was anywhere between 7 and 10).
- Installed 37 security cameras in Building 119 and 120 and recabled Building 119
- * Replaced all SmartBoards with ClearTouch panels in every classroom
- Maintained our Chromebook carts and added 125 end user devices that require GTCHS IT Management (25 VR headsets, 25 Aviation computers, 60 student laptops, 15 Microsoft Surface Pros)
- Serviced all help desk tickets (which were up by 10% from last year despite many periods of being out of school due to COVID19 and not all users utilizing the help desk ticket system consistently)
- Renegotiated Printing contract to add all printers in the Student Learning Center at no additional cost and to only pay for copies that are used which is a potential 25% savings to the school; renegotiated Microsoft Licensing Contract to bring the school into compliance
- Implemented automated computer back-ups for all staff
- Begin moving GTCHS to a fully "in house" cloud managed solution to eliminate all on premise servers by 2024-2025 and installed a new firewall
- Provided training opportunities for faculty/staff: Google classroom training (led by Charlotte Ihme); Zoom training (led by ThinkShop); Nearpod and Edpuzzle training (led by Val Dix); Powerschool training for key staff such as registrar, counselor, and Asst. Principal (led by Cantey Technology)

Safety and Security Highlights

Safety and security continue to be a primary concern for administration. Drills were shifted to scenario-based rather than active drills. We added additional radios to ensure communication if there is an emergency. We continued the "See it/Say it" form to make reporting anonymous and easy for students to complete if they see a concern regarding bullying, school safety, drugs, or anything else.

There were **39 discipline entries** this year outside of tardies and truancy (12 students were truant) It is important to note that this is primarily due to the number of weeks we were in school; typically, we have approximately 4x this amount. Because there were so few, there were not significant patterns to discern. It is important to note that except for one incidence of drug possession/use/distribution, all violations were Level 1.

College and Career Readiness Highlights

To ensure all GTCHS graduates are college and career ready, there were multiple enrichment opportunities for our students. School Counselors hosted multiple events virtually, including College Application Day, College Fair, and a Financial Aid Workshop. Freshmen students were provided career field trips in the Freshmen Success class, virtual job shadowing, completed the SCOIS career assessment, a career and college research project, and took Accuplacer testing. Each class period had career field trips with a career focus: Lockheed Martin, CMI, GTC Aviation Center, Hubbell Lighting, GTC Respiratory Care, GTC Radiology/EMS, and GTC Dental. **Approximately 1,077 college courses were taken with 65% of our students taking at least one college class in grades 10-12.** Thirty-seven seniors completed career-related internships. Our school counseling department continues to be structured to ensure that students have the same guidance courselor for all four years. Individual Graduation Plan conferences were held with every student with parents being invited to join.

We continued to provide our Advisory program, coordinated by Jean Shew and Karen Rogers. Advisories met less when GTCHS was virtual, but continued to meet four times a week when students were fully in person, thus providing a closer relationship between students and their advisor. The advisor is assigned to follow the group through their four years at GTCHS.

All weeks start with a required Monday Academic Report emailed to parents and copied to advisor. Talk it Out Tuesdays are an opportunity for students to decompress and share. Wellness Wednesdays provide a time for physical activity and mental wellness with digital citizenship activities, character education, mindfulness, etc. Thursdays were reserved for town hall presentations.

Advisories were also responsible for student led conferences in the fall, with all advisors required to meet with all advisees and parents at the end of first quarter on the designated day. Students worked on their portfolios and their presentations. Role playing was encouraged to better enable students to

tell their story to their parents/guardians/advisor. All advisors are required to meet with all advisees and their parents on the designated October day; this was done virtually this year due to COVID19.

Town halls are an invaluable opportunity for student enrichment. It's an opportunity to entertain, inform, and educate students. Highlights this year included special speakers including visits from GE, Civil Air Patrol, the Perry Virtual Experience (careers on orthopedic surgery and engineering), Alexium (chemist) and SWITCH. We took the opportunity to provide information specific to GTCHS, such as Naviance and TALLO, training how to order rings and graduation supplies, student government election speeches, and our Black History month panel presentation. Lastly, the principal also used town halls twice this year to update students on the building process and elicit feedback and input on a variety of topics.

GTCHS students also had guest speakers in a variety of classes: Lift Academy (Aviation class); Brandi Grier (chemist and fashion designer - Chemistry); Paul Ihme (Cybersecurity); Zackery Johnson (IT), Tone Hollywood (Radio personality for Social Media classes); Brandi Long (creator – Entrepreneurship); Al Gray (CEO – Entrepreneurship); Tyrus Clark (with Oracle – Entrepreneurship).

Arts

The Fine Arts Department found new and exciting ways to challenge our students this year. Working on digital literacy combined with artistic expression helped prepare our students to be artists in **the 21**st **century**. Approximately 40% of our students take at least one fine arts class.

- Art I and 2 created an incredible digital end-of-year portfolio exhibition online and Portfolio students built personal art portfolios to showcase their work.
- Band students showcased their skills in an outdoor concert of chamber music in small groups with a gallery walk available to the school during all three lunches. They had used the year to work on their own playing ability since playing in a group was impossible. They checked off scales, composed music, and performed solo pieces.
- The Orchestra students performed a lovely outdoor concert in May; they also had worked on fundamentals, sight reading, and individual musical growth.
- The chorus students also worked on singing fundamentals and individual musical growth. Select seniors in chorus class performed the National Anthem at our Graduation.
- Drama 2 students performed Antigone by Sophocles in the newly renovated TRC; Bad Auditions by Bad Actors by Ian McWethy was the spring theater performance this year. set design students created the backdrops and a new student tech team ran production.
- PIP grants were awarded to the Fine Arts teachers this year for additional lighting in the new Black Box Theater, as well as purchasing a new synthesizer to be used in the Music Technology and Band classes.
- GTCHS had 12 participants in the All-Region band competition, and four students were accepted to the All-Region Honor Band.



This is the second year of the International Thespian Society; to enter the society students must complete over 150 hours of theater and a minimum of 2 performances.

The arts department will now be housed in the new Student Learning Center. They spent this spring

- * Creating their new Fine Arts Logo for branding and marketing
- Working to create and implement the Fill the Box Campaign, including hosting a benefit concert in conjunction with Mrs. Haskell's band, Tuatha Dae.
- Planning 2021-2022 the theme for the Fine Arts Department will be "Perseverance"; improv nights will be held each semester, and traditional events such as the Murder Mystery Dinner will return

Athletics

The GTCHS Athletics Department sponsored 14 varsity sports teams and 1 junior varsity team for the 2020-2021 school year. 14 GTCHS had 14 athletes named All-Region, and 1 All-Region Player of the Year, Dubem Dike (soccer). We also had 1 All-State athlete for swimming. JT Broome finished 1st in 200 IM and 100 Breast at the SC State Championships. This year's Ultimate Warriors were Savannah Cannon (basketball and softball) and JT Broome (Swimming).

Fall Sports

- Cross Country- Varsity Boys and Girls: The cross-country teams practiced in Cleveland Park. We had 20 (14 boys/6 girls) student athletes on the cross-country team. The team participated in invitational meets and their entry fees totaled \$450. Johnathan Keller and Annie Rodenfels were first year coaches and plan to return for the 2021 season.
- Swim- Varsity Boys and Girls: The swim team practiced at the Kroc Center. The team took 14 swimmers to the state meet. Two GTCHS swimmers were named All-Region. The swim team's expenditures were \$380 for meet entry fees and \$1,240 for lane rental at the Roper Mountain Pool. Cara Mathis coached both teams and will not return for the 2021 season.
- Volleyball- JV and Varsity: The volleyball teams practiced at First Baptist Greenville and held home games at the Phillis Wheatley Center. JV volleyball had 12 players and the varsity team carried 9 players. The team finished with 5 wins and 11 losses for the season. PWC Gym Rental \$630. Eudes Rodriguez coached the JV team and Ben Shiley coached the Varsity team. Both plan to return for the 2021 season.

Winter Sports

Basketball- Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls: The basketball teams practiced at First Baptist Church and held home games at Phillis Wheatley Center. The Varsity Girls team had 12 girls and Ken Littlejohn took over as head coach. The Varsity Boys team had 11 very young players. Both

teams competed in a region schedule. Neither made it into the post season playoffs. RJ Beach will start the 2020 season as head basketball coach for the Warriors.

Cheer- Varsity: This is a support cheerleading squad. The cheerleaders practiced on campus and led cheers at the home basketball games. Valerie Dix coached and plans to return next year.

Spring Sports

- Baseball- The baseball team had 13 players on the team. They played at Shoeless Joe Field. Rental for field and lights was \$495. Tony Campbell was our head baseball coach in 2021.
- Soccer Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls: The girls placed 2nd in the region and won the first round of playoffs. All Region boys who were selected are Sam Perez, Caleb Whitacre, Jameo'n Williams. All Region girls were Dubem Dike, Diara Lucas, Bella Meisten, Caitlin Molloy, and Abigail Orozco. Dubem Dike was voted Player of the Year for our region. This is the second student-athlete at GTCHS to be selected for this honor. Don Noll coached the boys; Ben Shiley and Gwynne Armstrong coached girls' soccer teams this season.
- Softball The softball team played a modified schedule due to the low number of players (12). Christina Linville coached the team and will not be returning in 2021. Kristen Jacobs will be the new coach.
- Track There were 10 boys and 9 girls on the team. The boys 4X800 and girls 4X800 and 2-mile qualified for Upper State. The boys and girls' teams were coached by Johnathan Keller and Annie Rodenfels again in 2021; both plan to return for 2022.

Athletic Personnel and Facilities

Ben Shiley was the Athletic Director; he also teaches PE. Cara Mathis was the Assistant Athletic Director; she also taught senior project and English. She will not be returning in 2021-2022 for this role, but will continue teaching.

First Baptist gym- \$800 per month starting August I, 2020. JV and Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Basketball teams used this facility for all after school practices.

This year, we had an athletic trainer who was sponsored by Greenville Hospital. Kurt Wagner split his time between Brashier and GTCHS. This was a great asset to our athletic program and one that will continue next season. The athletic department was responsible for supplies only.

Referee/Umpire Fees

\$489.00 for volleyball referees
\$1363.50 for basketball referees
\$2946.90 for baseball umpires, soccer referees, and softball umpires
\$400 for the assignor fees for 8 sports teams- volleyball, basketball, baseball, soccer, and softball.



TOTALS: 4800.00 (Officials fees) -<u>3010.00</u> (Game Gates from Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Soccer) 1790.00 (Reduced attendance due to COVID-19 protocols)

Dues and Expenses

\$ 2360.00 for SCHSL dues\$ 50.00 for Conference dues\$ 696.00 Athletic Awards

Planning Ahead

Boys Basketball H/A uniforms - \$1500-\$2500

Club Achievements

GTCHS is proud of our clubs and organizations who exhibit commitment to service, devotion to ensuring tolerance and inclusivity, and excellence in performance. Many of our clubs and organizations had their traditional activities curtailed due to COVID19 this year.

Student Government assisted administration with organizing and hosting multiple events including Pick Up Schedule Day and Veteran's Day. They also hosted Pink Week, raising money for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Greenville, and Spirit Week, **raising over \$2,500** for new benches for our Student Learning Center. They built spirit within our school by "decorating" our school, creating themed dress out days throughout the year, and hosting innovative COVID19 safe events for the student body.

Academic team continued to compete and participated in tournaments virtually.

The Speech and Debate Team rose to the challenge, learning to collaborate in breakout rooms and through Google applications in order to conduct research, construct, speeches and arguments, and learn to present in a setting that requires audio/visual knowledge. All these skills transferred to the virtual competitive environment where team members contended with other schools across the state, country, and world in events such as Informative Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Expository Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation (POI), and Congressional Debate. Our school coach, Ms. Young, received the NSDA District New Coach of the Year Award; our two community coaches, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins, were both recognized at the national level with letters of commendation from the National Speech and Debate Director and were selected to judge the final rounds of competition, which is considered a key distinction. Junior Autumn Channer, who won best Novice POI at the State Tournament last year, managed to place 6th overall in the District for POI this year in the Varsity setting. Senior and Team Captain, Anusha Ghosh, placed in the top 6 in Extemporaneous Speaking several times throughout the year and managed to place third in the US category at the District Qualifying tournament. This achievement granted her the ability to compete, for the second year in a row, on the South Carolina World Schools Debate Team at the National Tournament in June of 2021.

Our two academic honor societies have a focus on service. **NHS** held its annual toy drive at Christmas and a spring book drive for the Greenville Literacy Society. Monthly meetings were held virtually via Google Meet, and the induction society was held virtually. Next year's plans include raising the GPA to 4.5 and requiring all members to be current with service hours in order to be inducted into the society; the senior members will also review requirements to earn the NHS cord and remain in good standing as a member. The GTCHS Beta Club service projects included sending holiday cards to The Waterstone retirement community multiple times throughout the year, raising money to buy headphones for homeless teens at the Salvation Army, packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, and donating food and supplies to Greenville County Animal Care multiple times throughout the year. Our fundraisers included selling Honey Baked Ham gift cards, sponsoring the school's Spooky Spirit Day dress out (delayed to March as "Crazy Costume Day"), A Cute Baby Picture contest, and selling ducks for the Greenville Rotary Club's annual Duck Derby. The annual state Beta Club convention was held virtually this year, so rather than participate in the official convention, they ran their own event on campus. Some of the contests included finger painting, balloon toss, flag football, and a spelling bee. An awards ceremony was held on the final day with paper plate awards created by the officers. At graduation all NHS and Beta Club seniors in good standing were recognized.

The Red Cross Club, has just finished its sixth year since being founded by graduating seniors Roann Abdeladl and Thatiana Esquivel. The team held three blood drives over the year even in the midst of the pandemic. The Red Cross Club continued to collaborate with Students in Action and adopted the Caring Corner of Greenville Technical College as a year-long project.

Future Physicians Club, in its seventh year since its founding by Allyson Dixon in 2015. They continued to meet virtually, inviting doctors and other medical professionals to Charter so that students could learn about a variety of medical career options. MedEx rep Sarah Knowles provided interview practice for the 13 juniors considering applying to the MedEx Program. Only 6 of our students finalized an application, but we had 4 who were accepted: Yasmeen Rasasi, Aiya Shiblaq, Mariam Abdeladl, and Kiara Moreno. MedEx only takes 50 rising seniors each year from over 300 applicants.

The **Gardening Club** beautified our grounds during every season, and maintained the new memorial garden created in honor and memory of the principal's mother by PIP and GTC.

The **Tree Huggers Recycling Team**, founded by senior Camila Rueda Torres in spring of her junior year, completed its third full year with students recycling every Thursday when in person.

Students in Action is chartered under the Jefferson Award Foundation, a foundation established by Jacqueline Kennedy to recognize ordinary people who do extraordinary things; they work to empower students to think big, choose their own public service passion, and engage their entire school and broader communities to create maximum impact. In its seventh year in existence, this team was again designated as a **2020 Gold Leadership School** in our state. They continued to



meet, find ways to coordinate and assist people virtually or remotely, trained all first time freshmen and transfer students in hands-only CPR, and made a huge difference in their community.

Youth in Government held all events virtually this year. Stephen Sartor, Daniel Giraldo, and Noelle Maddock had their bill on "requiring neurodivergent training for teachers" signed by the Youth in Government Governor; Gabe Turner was awarded "Outstanding Statesman."

We selected GTCHS representatives for **Palmetto Boys' and Girls' State** as well.