

The 2020-2021 school-year continued to present many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers worked diligently to offer instruction through our hybrid model, which allowed us to begin our year with students receiving face-to-face instruction in our building. Other students chose to receive instruction through our virtual model. These models were made possible due to all Latta High School students being issued Chromebooks to support a one to one initiative in the district.

Teachers received training to develop technology skills in Google Classroom, Flipgrid, and other technology methods. This prepared the teachers to utilize technology to support instruction both virtually and in the classroom. Throughout the year, we have continued to offer additional technology training. Several teachers served as Teacher Leaders and organized and conducted these sessions for our faculty so that all staff were better prepared to serve our students.

During the 2020-2021 school-year, Latta High School promoted World Class Knowledge by offering rigorous courses in the International Baccalaureate Programme. Forty-five juniors and seniors are taking courses in this program, and three are working for the IB Diploma. We added the final course in the Project Lead the Way Engineering complete program during the 2019-2020 school-year, and we have maintained strong numbers in the program. We have five students enrolled in the fourth class of this program, and we are excited to see the program continue to grow.

Although we modified participation in extracurricular activities, we were able to continue to have students participate in all areas of athletics during the 2020-2021 year. Our Academic Challenge Team participated in matches virtually and finished strong this season. Our Robotics Team continued to meet and improve their skills in order to be prepared for future competitions.

Our continued implementation of Inquiry-Based instruction also led to the development of World Class Skills, to include critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation. We found new ways to allow students to work together and collaborate on activities and projects in order to maintain our established safety protocols. Teachers and students did an excellent job utilizing Google Classroom and Flipgrid to make this happen.

We continued to stress the development of Life and Career Characteristics through students participating in Individual Graduation Plans in order to plan for their chosen careers. All seniors were able to participate in our College Application Day, which provided assistance with the college application process. All participating seniors completed at least one college application, and many completed several applications during this event. We anticipate a large percentage of the senior class will enroll in postsecondary education in order to achieve their goals.

We are continuing to focus on our arts programs and will be adding IB Music to our International Baccalaureate Programme next year. While we had to modify our programs for the 2020-2021 school-year, we continued to find ways to perform. Our choral program used “Boom Whackers” to make music to ensure safety protocols were being followed. Although the band was not able to participate in marching competitions, they still performed at a few events.

Drama and dance continue to plan for spring performances including displays of art work created by our students.

We are proud of our students' achievements and the effort of our staff to exceed the challenges of a rigorous and relevant education to meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Despite the challenges we have faced this year related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this has had on instruction, we believe with students, teachers, staff, School Improvement Council members, community members, and parents working collaboratively, we will continue to strive for excellence.

Nanette W. Carmichael, Principal

Aaron Miles, School Improvement Council Chairperson