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Lowcountry Preparatory School
Annual Report

Our Annual Report recognizes donors who generously supported Lowcountry Preparatory School during the past year, Academic Year 2017-2018. This year's report focuses upon our academic program, which is our chief strength. The most important component of our academic program is our teachers. They are a mix of experienced veterans and bright young teachers with but a few years of experience. They are a sharp group, determined to provide our students the best education possible. Their respective division directors push them to high performance yet take good care of them. Our commitment to continuous improvement yields upgrades each year, such as Operation Microsoft Office, Robotics, Coding, and the Kognity Books. The focus of our program is our students. They continue to rise to ever more challenging standards, and we are proud of them. Your support of our program and our students is greatly appreciated.



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International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme



IB Coordinator David Suber led the three-year process that culminated in our certification in March 2016. While the cost of the program is high—particularly the cost of training teachers and administrators—the benefits of status as an IB World School have been clear in both college placement and scholarship dollars. Hard fought placement of exceptional students in our pre-IB days have turned to early acceptances of similar students in our IB days.



IB status has also shifted our culture to one that is more focused academically and more aware of the benefits of high performance in the classroom.





SCISA STEM Certification



Our SCISA STEM Certification took place in May 2018 following two years of preparation during which teachers articulated the impressive work they were already doing in mathematics and science, expanded that work, and more formally undertook related professional development. Lowcountry Preparatory School is only the third school among SCISA's 130 schools to be certified. The SCISA Executive Director was so impressed with the methodology used by our school to achieve certification that he named Head of School Gibson as SCISA LEAD (Learn, Educate, Advance, Develop) of the SCISA STEM Certification Program for 2018.

Stanford Results

Academic performance is measured by both internal assessments and external assessments. Each serves as a check on the other. For example, high performance on internal assessments and low performance on external assessments would suggest weak academic rigor. We pay close attention to our external assessments. Key among them is the Stanford 10. We take pride in the fact that on average our students perform more than two grade equivalents above current grade level. Among sixth graders testing in language



mechanics, for example, 44 percent of last year's students earned the "post high school" grade equivalent—not bad for sixth graders. For this academic year, our goal is three grade equivalents above grade level in all core courses, grades first through ninth.



Coding

While just about everyone recognizes English, French, Spanish and Chinese, for example, as key international languages, many overlook coding as a key language on the international stage. Coding is the language of software, and software runs much in our daily lives. Eight of the top twenty-five jobs this year in the United States are in tech positions. Among those positions, coding features prominently. The demand for skilled coders continues to rise. We seek to introduce our students to coding early. Those truly interested in coding will subsequently be able to pursue it more seriously, possibly to include majoring in computer science as undergraduates.



Robotics

Students are building and programming robots in a new course that we have added this year as part of our STEM program. Students have grasped the basics, namely that through the language of coding, students dictate the characteristics of the robot's operation—for example, speed and direction of motion. The students vary both by modifying the code. Our robotics instructor, Mr. Tim Warner, has selected “ROBOTC” as the programming language for the robotics class. It is particularly well suited for use in educational robotics. The program has a reputation for ease of use and intense interest among students.



French Exchange Partner

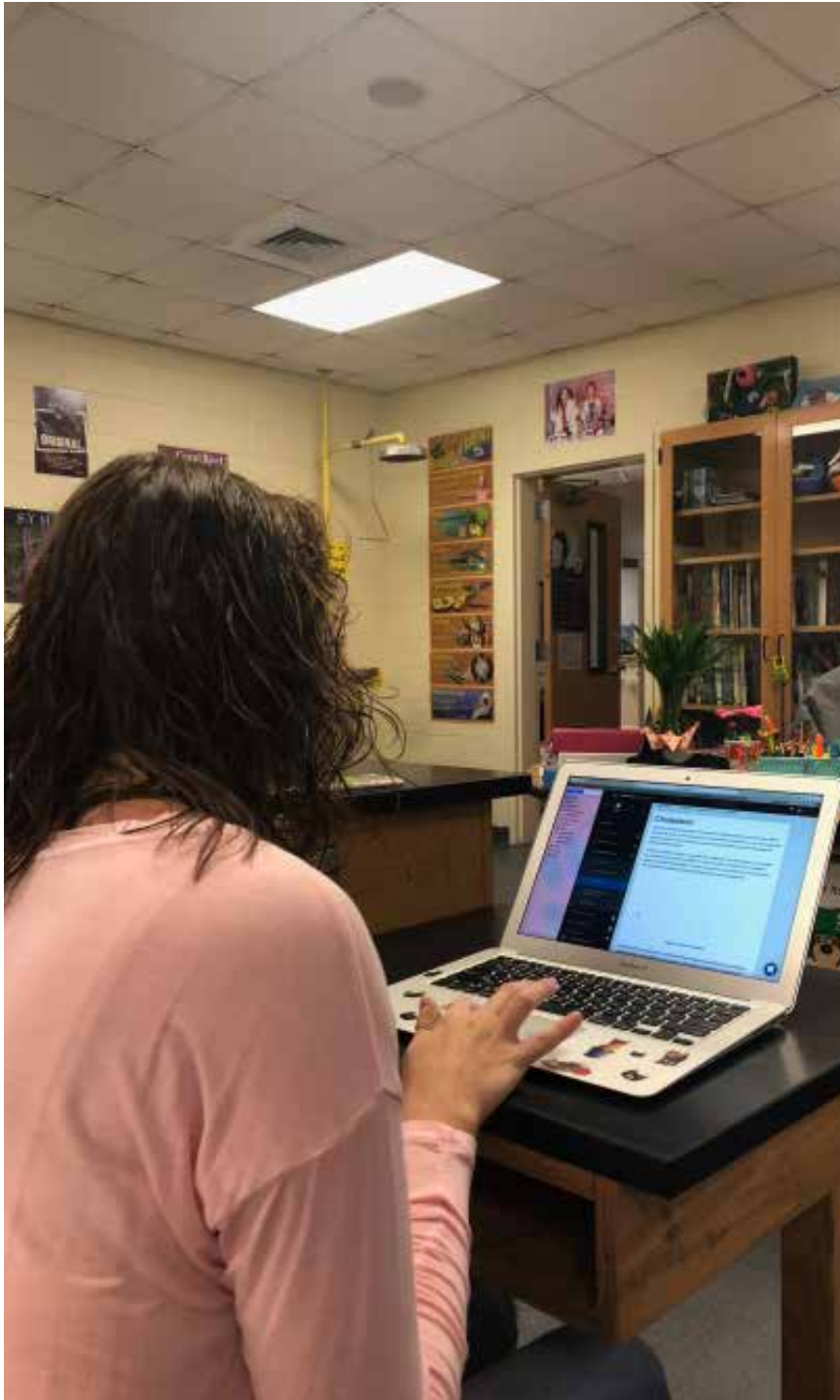
Our exchange partner in France is Saint Denis International School located in the town of Loches. The exchange provides an opportunity for true immersion training, which is critical in learning a language and a foreign culture.



Operation Microsoft Office

Operation Microsoft Office was conceived at the end of Academic Year 2017-18 with the objectives of 1) teaching students in grades four and five how to use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel within one academic year and 2) integrating more closely all members of the faculty and staff in the administration of our program across the Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School. Lower Schoolers proficient in Microsoft's three core components of Microsoft Office will be better prepared for success in the Middle School as they prepare for more rigorous academics in the Upper School, including the IB Diploma.





Kognity Books

What are Kognity Books? They are a good example of the continuous improvement of our science curriculum, STEM, and IB. They are also a good example of the initiative of our bright teachers. Mrs. Rebecca Green researched more effective means of teaching IB science this past summer and discovered this model. Kognity upgrades the teaching and learning experience through the provision of an interactive learning environment, feedback to students that is automated, and instant feedback to teachers in terms of the extent to which students are grasping material. IB schools around the world have adopted Kognity, with IB teachers describing it as, “an excellent way to learn better and to get better feedback automatically”.

Teachers of the Year

Studies consistently demonstrate that the most important independent variable in learning is the teacher. Here at Lowcountry Preparatory School we take great pride in our sharp teachers. We also take good care of them. The Workplace Satisfaction Survey is administered twice per year. We want to know what is satisfying our teachers and what is not. The last such survey yielded an A- in overall workplace satisfaction—not bad for an anonymous survey. In another anonymous survey, the most recent Parent Satisfaction Survey, parents rated the quality of education at our school as A. At the conclusion of each academic year, teachers in each division select the Teacher of the Year. The recognition carries much weight inasmuch as peers select the winner.



Wallace Taylor
Lower School
Teacher of the Year



Rebecca Schroeder
Middle School
Teacher of the Year



Abby Van Hoewyk
Upper School
Teacher of the Year



Good Eats 2017

Attendees at \$500 per couple

Adams, Keene & Betsy
 Brame, Renelle
 Chapman, Randy & Jennifer
 Dickerson, Julie & Jeff
 Errico, Keith & Stacy
 Gibson, Bruce & Diane
 Kostova, Nadia
 Lenhart, Ross
 Little, Roy & Andrea
 Lonon, Margaret
 McClary, Salters & Woofie
 Oxner, Harry & Stephanie
 Pate, Fen & Dawn
 Pate, LuLu
 Peace, Bony & Dianne

Peace, Hampton & Bo
 Peterson, Ted & Andrea
 Ray, Dan & Linda
 Single, Dan & Gwyn
 Smith, Greg & Stacey
 Solheim, Eric & Vesna
 Starnes, Dave and Anne
 Stedman, Warren & Beth
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 Suber, David
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Donors 2017-2018

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Oxner, Harry & Stephanie	Single, Dan & Gwyn	

Black Marlin: \$2,000 to \$4,999

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	R-CAT, LLC	



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