



Wando High School

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

June 2023

Wando School Improvement Council Members

Parents

Mike Mixon
Kristine Peterreit
Althea Setser

Students

Anna Claire Good
Noah Iverson
Maggie Potter

Community

Darren Felty
Rebecca Imholz
Amy Westmoreland

Faculty

Erin Lowry
Justine Russell
Ben Rzycki
Arriyanna Whitaker

Ex-Officio Members

Jacki Bennis
Pamela Jubar
Ariana Solinger
Kim Wilson

Annual Message from Charles Coker, Principal and Jacki Bennis, School Improvement Council Chair

As one of the highest performing high schools in South Carolina, Wando consistently proves that a large, public, non-magnet high school serving a diverse population can produce outstanding results. We are committed to continuous improvement and use research-based best practices as our guide.

Educators from across the United States and from foreign countries come to Wando to learn more about how a large school maintains a sense of community and helps students remain “connected” to school through the smaller learning communities concept.

Wando High School is a comprehensive school for grades nine through twelve with a diverse student body of approximately 2,500 students. More than 25% of our students excel in the visual and performing arts. Eighty-eight percent of the Class of 2023 plan to enroll in either a two or four year college or university. Wando offers over 200 course selections including Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, Honors, College Preparatory, Applied Technology, and Exceptional Education. The Wando High School Advanced Placement and Dual Credit passage rates continue to be among the highest in the state of South Carolina.



We consider high school graduation an important step for students but not the final goal. Each graduate is expected to leave Wando with a viable plan for his or her future education and career goals. Our students are strongly encouraged to continue their education at the next level.

Our career-related Schools of Study and Ninth Grade Academy provide opportunities for personal connections and help our students see the purpose and relevance of their work here. Through our Schools of Study, students are provided incredible opportunities to explore their skills and talents and refine their college and career goals. Members of the class of 2023 completed 678 majors, four or more elective courses in an area of concentration, and received special recognition at graduation.

Our Ninth Grade Academy provides students an effective transition to high school which begins with a first day experience prior to the start of school for the rest of the student body. Throughout the ninth grade year, our students are supported as they learn responsibility and make decisions about future plans.

We constantly seek ways to improve instruction and to increase learning opportunities for our students. Our focus areas have been active student engagement, differentiated instruction, personalized learning, technology imple-

mentation, and standards-based instruction and assessment. Raising the academic bar for all students and providing academic support for those who struggle are crucial to the success of our school.

Our dedicated faculty and staff have spent many hours participating in professional development. Teachers share instructional best practices and work in curriculum teams ensuring quality instruction and assessment in all courses. Faculty collaboration and teamwork are the norm.

We are blessed with a high level of parental and community involvement. Our School Improvement Council and our PTSO provide outstanding leadership and support as well as helping provide the future direction of our school. Improving communication with parents and the community is a common goal. Our various booster clubs and the School of Study Advisory Boards are also vital to our school’s success. We appreciate their support and continued involvement.

STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART

OF OUR WORK!

Wando High School Mission Statement

The mission of Wando High School, in partnership with parents and community, is to educate all students by providing a challenging program of study, to encourage lifelong academic and applied learning, and to graduate students prepared to meet the challenge of a rapidly changing and diverse global society.



Wando's Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Chapter participated in

the 2023 South Carolina Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America State Leadership Conference and came away with four gold (first) place finishes. Those students will be going to Nationals in Colorado this summer. Additionally, a Wando student was elected SCFCCLA Vice President of Membership for the Executive Council.



Two students were named S. C. Teaching Fellows earning scholarships valued at \$24,000.



Congratulations to the Wando High School Quiz Bowl team for defeating Wade Hampton High School in the finals to win the 2023 NAQT State Championship Tournament. Additionally, one Wando team member was selected as the best player of the tournament.

One Wando orchestra student was selected to perform in Carnegie Hall through the World Strides Honors Performance Series.



Wando High School

Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

Initiatives

- Our Ninth Grade Academy houses our freshmen in a "school within a school" where they take core courses. This smaller environment gives ninth graders the opportunity to build relationships and to increase their sense of community.
- Our Smaller Learning Communities Initiative provides a reorganization of the Upper School, grades 10-12, into four smaller career-related "Schools of Study." We believe using a career-related school approach to teaching and learning will help students see the relevance of their coursework and its connection to the future.
- Wando works within the *High Schools That Work* Alliance, a whole school research-based reform effort. The *HSTW* model focuses on continuous school improvement through key practices including high expectations, allow-

ing room in the curriculum for career and technical studies, increasing access to academic studies, offering students a challenging program of study, allowing opportunities for work-based learning, supporting collaboration between teachers, actively engaging students in their learning, providing a guidance and advisement system, utilizing a program for extra help, and using assessment and data to foster continuous improvement.

- We provide additional support for students with academic promise who will be first-generation college bound.

Strategies

- Raise the graduation rate by establishing an intervention team offering academic/transition support.
- Expand the Golden Warrior Student Recognition and Awards Program.

- Expand Advanced Placement participation and support.
- Expand the use of data to differentiate instruction.
- Expand Fine Arts courses to meet students' needs and interests.
- Expand on-line learning opportunities for credit recovery and initial credit.
- Provide professional development on building positive, productive relationships with students.
- Increase opportunities for entry level workforce credentials and certifications for our graduates.
- Expand transition and inclusion support for Exceptional Education students.
- Expand dual credit options.
- Implement a program to address the significant discrepancies in academic achievement due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

School Highlights: Academics

- Wando High School's Class of 2023 earned more than \$18.8 million in scholarships.
- We now have 440 members in grades 10 - 12 in the AP Academy. Thirty-nine seniors in the Class of 2023 received special Advanced Studies recognition at graduation due to earning at least six AP credits.
- The average GPA of the Class of 2023 was 3.819.
- The State of South Carolina requires students to earn 24 credits in order to graduate from high school. Wando seniors earned on average 29 credits.
- There were 56 Early Awards recipients for the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.
- Two hundred forty-nine senior students in the Class of 2023 were named Charleston County School District Board Scholars.
- Seniors took 663 dual credit courses with an average grade of 88.5.
- Two senior students received military academy appointments. One accepted an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, and a second one to

the United States Coast Guard Academy.

- Eight Wando students were named as 2022 Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation Competition.
- Twenty-one students earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program this past fall. Students received the National African American Recognition Award (NAARA), National Hispanic Recognition Award (NHRA), or the National Rural and Small Town Award (NRSTA).

School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- Visual Arts students received one Gold Key, 3 Silver Keys, and four Honorable Mentions through the Scholastic Regional Awards. One Wando student earned a perfect score on the Advanced Placement 2-D Art and Design Exam in Spring 2022. This student was one of only 197 students in the world to earn every point possible on this exam.
- For the first time in history, Wando's 2022 yearbook, *Legend*, was recognized as the top yearbook in the nation by Quill and Scroll. Additionally, the yearbook staff received the 2022 Staff Excellence Award from Quill and Scroll which is their highest honor. Forty-nine awards (21 at first place) were received at the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Conference, which is an all-time record. One Wando student journalist received the 2023 S. C. Scholastic Journalist of the Year award.
- Congratulations to 37 Wando Chorus students who were selected for All-State Chorus.
- One student received a Gold Key and another received a Silver Key in the Scholastic Writing Awards.
- Wando's Orchestra received Distinction and Excellence ratings at the SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment. Twenty-five students were selected to participate in Region or All-State Orchestra.
- One Wando student won the high school level of the 2023 TeenSpot Black History Essay Contest.
- Art Club and National Art Society created artworks that will be permanently displayed in the Roper Hospital Emergency Department. Students contributed a variety of paintings and photos to bring comfort to patients and families.

School Highlights: Athletics and Activities

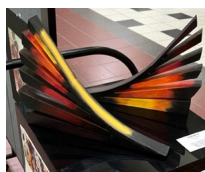


The Wando High School Athletic Program had another outstanding year winning the S. C. Athletic Administrators Association Carlisle Cup for the best 5A athletic program.

- Four State Championships were won in:
 - Girls Lacrosse
 - Boys Cross Country
 - Girls Soccer
 - Boys Swimming
- Sixteen Region Championships were won in:

Cheerleading	Girls Soccer
Boys Cross Country	Boys Swimming
Girls Cross Country	Girls Swimming
Boys Golf	Boys Tennis
Girls Golf	Girls Tennis
Boys Lacrosse	Boys Track and Field
Girls Lacrosse	Girls Track and Field
Boys Soccer	Volleyball
- Two student athletes were named Academic All Americans.
- Forty-one senior athletes were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.
- Ninety-nine Wando athletes were named to All Region Teams.
- Twenty-three student athletes committed to play at the college level.
- Twenty-seven students were named All State players.
- Ten student athletes were named Region Player of the Year in their sport.
- One Wando Senior Football Player was named to the 2022 Shrine Bowl and was later recognized as the 2022 Shrine Bowl Defensive Most Valuable Player.
- Wando had 123 South Carolina High School League Multi-Sport Athletes.
- The Wando High School Volleyball Team was named the recipient of the 2022 USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award.
- One Wando wrestler was State Champion in his weight class while another was State Runner-Up in hers.
- The Wando Culinary Arts Program received a gold program ribbon for achieving 100% passing rate for ServSafe Certifications in compliance with the ProStart Achievement Program.

- In the South Carolina Spring 2023 Stock Market Game, Wando's team finished second out of 809 teams in the state. The team earned a profit of \$25,733 in the ten week competition.
- Three Wando Air Force JROTC cadets received Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CAS) scholarships to attend a university this summer to complete training for their private pilot's license.
- Five Wando students were selected to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State Program this summer. They will be joining other girls from across South Carolina who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their schools and communities.
- Twenty-six Wando students received the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy was developed to honor students who have attained high level skills and proficiency in both English and another language. The Seal of Biliteracy is a credential awarded by CCSD in recognition of students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.



School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

- Erin McGee was named Wando High School's Teacher of the Year.
- Trey Nichols was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.
- Erin Gaita was named the Classified Employee of the Year.
- Chef Instructor Molly Gordon was selected to lead a roundtable discussion for chapter and state advisers at the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in Colorado this summer. Less than 20 people from around the country are asked to lead these discussions.
- Kailey Keels was named the South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers' Association Teacher of the Year.
- Abby Zwetzig was one of 90 teachers across the District to receive a Bosch Grant.



- Congratulations to the following coaches who were named Region Coach of the Year:
 - Bret Davis - Boys Cross Country
 - Nicolette Gibbons - Boys Swimming
 - Alexis Glover - Volleyball
 - Bob Lang - Boys Tennis
 - Elissa Manchester - Girls Swimming
 - Dirk Thomas - Baseball
- Bret Davis was named USTFCCCA South Carolina Coach of the Year.
- Congratulations to our Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, Shannon Champ, who was awarded State and Sectional Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Additionally, Champ was inducted into the S. C. High School Coaches Association Class of 2023 Hall of Fame.



The Wando High School Band Program received the following awards this year:

- Won the State Marching Band Championship for the 14th year.
- 57 Students were named to the All State Band.
- 109 students were named to the All Region Band.
- One student was named to the Honor Band of America.
- Straight Superior Ratings were awarded to all three concert bands.
- Straight Superior Ratings were awarded to two jazz bands.

Congratulations to our Entrepreneurship students who competed in YESCarolina Youth Entrepreneurship in the South Carolina Business Plan Competition. Three Wando students finished first, second, and third out of 23 students competing.

WandoTHON raised and donated over \$14,000 to MUSC's Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital! Way to go Warriors!



Eight Senior students have made the commitment to enlist and serve in one of the branches of the United States Armed Forces following graduation. For your dedication and willingness to serve, we salute and thank you!

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is an officer training program for college students who commit to serve in the U.S. military after college. Three senior Wando JROTC students received scholarships: one an Air Force ROTC Scholarship, another received an Army ROTC scholarship, and the third received a Navy ROTC scholarship.

2023



Wando High School

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The Wando School Improvement Council meets monthly to plan, monitor, and evaluate improvements at the school level. Their work includes school planning as well as communication between students, teachers, parents, and the school administration.

Our PTSO serves as our primary fundraising group for school-wide projects and is the group that organizes and assigns volunteers, works on beautification, supports school celebrations and recognitions, and provides activities for faculty and staff appreciation and support. Our PTSO is a 501.c(3) charitable organization.

The Wando Family would like to salute our SIC, PTSO, Booster Clubs, parent volunteers, community supporters, and the Town of Mount Pleasant for their continuing support. We would also like to thank the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees, the Charleston County School District staff, the St. James-Santee District 1 Constituent Board and the Moultrie District 2 Constituent Board for their assistance.



We are Wando!

