

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024

High School Valedictorians

Academic Magnet High School



Andrew William Angermeier

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Duke University

MAJOR

Biomedical Engineering and Computer Science

CAREER PLANS

Undecided

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Ultimate frisbee, biking, and trivia

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Ultimate Frisbee Team, Science Olympiad, Academic Team, and Bio Olympiad

FAMILY MEMBERS

Eric Angermeier, father; Laura Angermeier, mother; Katie Angermeier, sister; Benjamin Angermeier, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Thank you for making these last four years great! Let's make the next ones even better.

Allegro Charter School of Music



Elijah Ryan Jones

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Trident Technical College

CAREER PLANS

Undecided, but interested in opportunities in engineering

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Automotive studies and music

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Attended and helped with set up for school performances

FAMILY MEMBERS

Ryan Jones, father (I couldn't have been where I am without him)

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Believe in yourself and try to make the best of whatever hand you're dealt.

Baptist Hill Middle High School



Aley Drayton Collins

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of South Carolina

MAJOR

Civil Engineering

CAREER PLANS

To become an engineer and work on sustainable building designs and materials

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society

FAMILY MEMBERS

Brian Collins, father; Nicole Collins, mother; Elijah Collins, brother; Ethan Collins, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Congratulations to all the graduates of 2024. I know each and every one of us will achieve great things in life.

Burke High School



Janiya Monquia Gowans

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Winthrop University

MAJOR

Psychology

CAREER PLANS

To become a psychiatrist focusing on developing teenagers

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Reading

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Student Government Association

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jarvis Washington, father; Marissa Gowans, mother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Keep going no matter how hard life gets. I love you all.

Charleston Charter School for Math and Science



Garrett Lee Spell

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Clemson University

CAREER PLANS

To become a structural engineer

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Video games

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society

FAMILY MEMBERS

Mary Spell, mother; Wyatt Spell, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Throughout these past four years, you have faced countless struggles. Through every problem, every bad grade, every referral, every deadline. Sometimes you were too tired to even get up in the morning. Tired not only because you stayed up too late playing video games -- but also because you were exhausted from the constant barrage of things you had to deal with every day.

And every time you faced one of those struggles ... you had your friends and family right there with you. Your teachers were there to give you guidance, your family was there to support you, and your classmates were there fighting right alongside you. Every battle won together strengthened your connections, making you more capable of facing whatever came next. We pushed to keep going. To get to the end of the day, to get to the end of the week, the end of the month, the semester, the year, and now here you are at the end of high school. Together we have persevered through it all.

Going forward, there will be more struggles. Hardships and problems that will be harder than what you have faced before. And for every single one of them, we will still be right there with you. Together, we will overcome those challenges with the elegance and grace that can only be done with the love and support of a slew of people who have your back. So know this. When there are dark tunnels, when there are deep waters, when there are bottomless cliffs in your path, we will make it together. We will reach the light at the end of that tunnel, we will swim across those waters to the other shore, and we will cross every chasm. And you will come out at the end a bigger and better person for it.

Charleston County School of the Arts



Jessica Hope Johnson

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Harvard University

MAJOR

Biomedical Engineering with a focus on Nonfiction Journalism

CAREER PLANS

To be a non-fiction science writer after completing graduate studies, creating pieces that speak to recent biomedical advancements and detail the stories behind them

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Creative writing, learning languages, running Trace Fossils Review as the co-founding editor, and conducting regenerative medicine research

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Finalist in Poetry Out Loud & 2024 Poetry Ourselves Champion; 2024 US Presidential Scholar in the Arts; YoungArts Award Winner with distinction; Gold Medalist of the Scholastic Writing Awards

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jeremy Johnson, father; Amy Johnson, mother; Jacob Johnson, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

It is an honor and a blessing to say I come from such a strong group of artists, one that I know was completely up to chance and that will not be taken lightly. To everyone at SOA: thank you for making me the person that I am.

Greg Mathis Charter High School



Tylayja Somone Smith

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Trident Technical College

MAJOR

Nursing

CAREER PLANS

To become a nurse

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Cooking, photography, and traveling to new places

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Art and Crafts Club, and Gardening Club

FAMILY MEMBERS

Tyrone Smith, father; Chantel Smith, mother; Sonya Singleton-Jenkins, grandmother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Never let your past determine your future.

James Island Charter High School



Parker Bowie Johnson

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Clemson University Honors College

MAJOR

Biology

CAREER PLANS

To become an environmental scientist

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Music, volunteering, and travel

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National French Honor Society President, National Honor Society Member

FAMILY MEMBERS

Beau Johnson, father; Kristen Johnson, mother; Samuel Johnson, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

I am extremely proud of all the hard work that the Class of 2024 has put in over the past four years of high school and I congratulate all my fellow classmates on this amazing achievement.

Lucy Garrett Beckham High School



Lilah Jessamine Smith

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Clemson University Honors College

MAJOR

Computer Science with a Cybersecurity minor

CAREER PLANS

To become a software engineer, programmer, or cybersecurity specialist

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Listening to music, reading, video games

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

President of Women in STEM, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Sustainability Club

FAMILY MEMBERS

David Smith, father; Stefanie Smith, mother; Thomas Smith, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Congratulations to us for being the first class to attend four years at Beckham! We made history.

UNIQUE STORY

My mother, Stefanie Mitchell [Smith], was also the valedictorian of Wando High School in the class of 1996.

Military Magnet Academy



Danna Paolo Leon Reyes

MAJOR

Computer Technology/Cybersecurity
upon completion of basic training in the United States Marine Corps

CAREER PLANS

To pursue a career with the United States government in Cybersecurity

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Robotics, coding, soccer, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

MMA Eagle Battalion Commander, MMA Varsity Soccer team, MMA Cybersecurity and Robotics team, MMA Color Guard, Rotarian Interact Club, MMA Gardening Club, and National Honors Society

FAMILY MEMBERS

Gallardo Leon Reyes, father; Porfiria Reyes Perez, mother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

“People tell you the world looks a certain way. Parents tell you how to think. Schools tell you how to think. TV. Religion. And then at a certain point, if you’re lucky, you realize you can make up your own mind. Nobody sets the rules but you. You can design your own life.” – Carrie Ann Moss

North Charleston High School



Kiara Fyall

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Trident Technical College

MAJOR

An associate's degree in Culinary Arts
Business at a four-year university

CAREER PLANS

To become the owner and operator of a catering company that caters for parties, brunches, and other social gatherings

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Cooking, listening to music, sleeping, and spending time with friends and family

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honors Society, Music Club, Art Club, Anime Club

FAMILY MEMBERS

Deon Fyall, Sr., father; Tusami Fyall, mother; Deon Fyall, Jr., brother; Mason Fyall, brother; Jeremiah Fyall, brother;
Major Fyall, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Live life on the edge by traveling and doing whatever makes you happy.
We only live once, so why not make the best of our lives.

R.B. Stall High School



COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Charleston Southern University

MAJOR

Nursing

CAREER PLANS

To become a veterinarian

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Crocheting, knitting, baking, cooking, fashion, and watching TV shows

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honors Society and Beta Club

FAMILY MEMBERS

Danai Nyamutsaka, father; Stephanie Nyamutsaka, mother; Zuriel and Boaz Nyamutsaka, brothers; Shiphrah Nyamutsaka

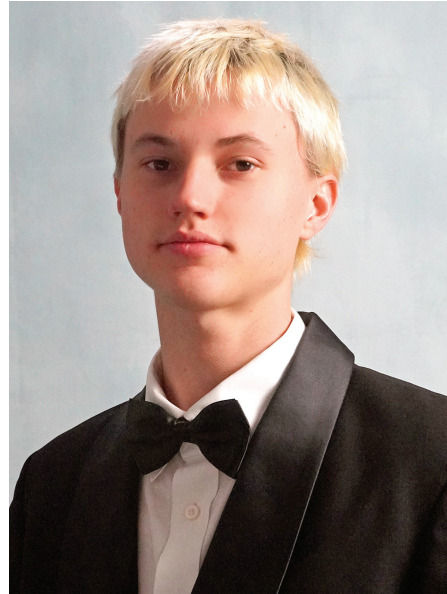
MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

To my friends Ariana, Paris, Heidi, and Nathalia, thank you for everything you have done for me. You all give me a reason to come to school; I'll never be able to adequately express the love and appreciation I have for you. To my peers and classmates, thank you for inspiring me and being a constant source of joy throughout these past four years.

UNIQUE STORY

My parents are both from Africa with my father being Zimbabwean and my mother being Congolese. I was home-schooled from kindergarten until fifth grade so having my mother as my teacher and my brother as my classmate fostered a love for learning at a young age. I was fortunate enough to be awarded a full-ride scholarship to Charleston Southern University and am excited about what the future has in store.

St. John's High School



River Leonardo Young

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Clemson University

MAJOR

Mechanical Engineering

CAREER PLANS

To become an engineer

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

To work on, modify, and drive cars; currently working on a ProCharged 1999 Corvette

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society, Army ROTC, Varsity Wrestling

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jennifer Young, mother; William Young, brother; Oliver Young, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Adversity builds character.

Wando High School



Viona Zihan Su

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of South Carolina Honors College

MAJOR

Biological Sciences

CAREER PLANS

To attend medical school and become a pediatrician or medical researcher

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Playing piano, singing, listening to music, painting landscapes, reading, traveling, experiencing new foods and drinks, and spending time outside and at the beach

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Wando Chorus, All-State Chorus, 2024 Quincy Jones Musicianship Award, National Honors Society, AP Academy, Outstanding Biomedical Science Senior Award, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Beta Club, Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Wando Theatre productions, Charleston County Board Scholar, Palmetto Fellows Award recipient, Carolina Scholar at University of South Carolina

FAMILY MEMBERS

Zemin Su, father; Jing Dong, mother; Melina Su, sister; Kayden Su, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Stop and take in these last few moments, before it becomes a memory. I am going to miss you all and wish you good luck!

West Ashley High School



Lacie Morgan Straley

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of South Carolina Honors College

MAJOR

Psychology or History

CAREER PLANS

To either become a psychiatrist or a history professor

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Playing the euphonium, listening to jazz and classical music, reading, drawing, playing video games, and watching reality TV shows

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

West Ashley High School Concert Band, Academic Bowl, National Honor Society Secretary, U.S History Peer Tutor

FAMILY MEMBERS

Vincent Straley, father; Cindy Straley, mother; Matti Straley, sister; Darrell Hixson, uncle; Cathy Hixson, aunt

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

“The rest is still unwritten,” – Natasha Bedingfield
Congratulations Class of 2024! It's been a joy to know you all, and I wish you all luck in your future endeavors.