



HCS Scholars Academy



Annual School Improvement Council "Report to the Parents" 2025-2026



HCS Scholars Academy High School

104 Chanticleer Drive
Conway, SC 29526
P: (843) 349-4117
F: (843) 347-2869

Norman McQueen, Principal
nmcqueen@horrycountyschools.net

Purpose of the Report

This report is issued by the HCS Scholars Academy High School School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress toward meeting goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and key accomplishments during the school year.

SIC Goal

Support recruitment and facilitate the admissions process of 50–60 freshmen for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Actions Taken

- Provided input on recruitment process and timeline
- Assisted in development of Recruitment Night materials
- Planned and hosted Freshman Information Night
- Supported families with registration, scheduling, and program questions
- Shared information about student expectations, clubs, and opportunities

Results

- Successfully supported the recruitment and onboarding process for the incoming freshman class
- Increased awareness of Scholars Academy programs, expectations, and opportunities among prospective families
- Strengthened communication and support for applicants throughout the admissions process

Scholars Academy Vision & Mission

Scholars Academy provides advanced learners with a rigorous and supportive academic environment. The school is committed to developing confident, responsible, lifelong learners prepared for success in higher education and beyond.

Academic Performance & Outcomes

HCS Scholars Academy continues to demonstrate exceptional academic achievement at the state and national levels.

- Ranked #1 High School in South Carolina for the second year in a row
- 2025 AP School Honor Roll – Platinum
- FAFSA Early Bird Completion Award – #1 in the State (Division 1A)
- 2025-26 Palmetto's Finest Award Winner
- Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence – Gold Level
- 17 National Merit Semifinalists
- 14 National Merit Finalists

Student Achievement Data

- Average PSAT: 1310 (National Avg: 920)
- Average SAT: 1398 (National Avg: 1029)
- Average ACT: 29 (National Avg: 19.3)
- Biology EOC: 100% pass rate (Fall Semester)

College & Career Readiness

- Dual Credit Hours Earned: 1,764
- Community Service Hours: 4,182
- Scholarships Offered (2025): \$12,546,029



HCS Scholars Academy



Annual School Improvement Council "Report to the Parents" 2025-2026

Student Achievements & Recognitions

Students earned recognition across academic, leadership, and extracurricular areas.

- HOBY: Zuri Hughes
- Girls State: Cecilia Bleyer
- U.S. Senate Page – Cecilia Bleyer
- NSDAR Good Citizen Award – Will Neff
- HTC Reel Kids – Emily Reynolds
- All-County Selections: Orchestra (6), Band (6), Choir (7)

Academic & Competitive Achievements

Technology Student Association (State Competition)

- 1st and 2nd Place – Architectural Design
- 1st and 3rd Place – Biotechnology Design
- 1st Place – Board Game Design
- 1st Place – Data Science & Analytics
- 2nd Place – Music Production
- 1st Place – On-Demand Video

State Leadership Positions (TSA)

- President – Chris Botse-Baidoo
- Vice President – Erion Tabaku
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Daniel Marcos

Mock Trial

Conway Regional Champions; competed at the South Carolina State Competition

- Most Effective Attorney – Jackson Uphold (Regional), Ella Yancey (2x Regional, State)
- Most Effective Witness – Emerson Aiesi and Lila Yancey (Regional), Sarah Huang (Regional and State)

Mathematics Competitions

- Scholars Academy Mathematics Championship: 1st – Christopher Botse-Baidoo, 2nd – Nicholas Seitz, 3rd – Gavin Liberatore
- George E. Schnibben, Jr. Mathematics Tournament: Overall and Division III Winner

Literacy, Research, & Academic Honors

- Jayden Ockert earned the following honors: NEHS Intellectual Freedom Challenge (Crafton Award) Winner; INBRE Science Symposium – 1st Place in Biochemistry; American Society for Microbiology Regional Conference– 1st Place in Undergraduate Research Poster; Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Winner (VFW)

SIC Member List

Ryan Carter, Sarah Bell, Jamie Carson, Nicole Uphold, Joe Oestreich, Paige Mayhew, Karleigh Watts, Thomas Kellogg, Kelli Smith, Presley Leopard, Nadine Duerr Trentini, Sara Hottinger, Louis Kinard, Norman McQueen

Academic Team Competitions

- Battle of the Books – 3rd Place (District)
- Model United Nations – Best Speaker – Leyla Unerli; Best Delegate – Marigny Whalen; Honorable Mention – Kylee Whittington

Student Experiences & School Events

- Freshman River Day – community building for incoming students
- Sophomore Charleston Trip – experiential learning and historical connections
- College Tours – University of South Carolina, Wofford College, Clemson University
- Senior Disney Trip – celebration for graduating seniors
- Alumni Luncheon – connecting students with program alumni
- National Honor Society Induction – recognition of academic achievement and leadership
- Freshman Information Night – support for prospective students and families

Student Leadership & School Culture - Scholars Squad

- Organized Minute-to-Win-Its, Spirit Days and Field Day
- Service Initiative “12 Days of Giving” raised \$1,578.89
- South Carolina Association of Student Councils Convention (SCASC)
 - Bronze Level Council
 - Terry McCoy Leadership Hall of Fame – Adeline Barton
 - 1st Place – Photography (Noah Edwards, 1A-5A Division)
 - 1st Place – Theme Poster (1A-3A Division)
 - 1st Place – Activities to Promote School Pride (Flag Painting, 1A-3A Division)
 - 1st Place – Recreational Activities (Field Day, 1A-3A Division)
 - 1st Place – Fundraising Event (12 Days of Giving, 1A-3A Division)
 - 3rd Place – Scholars Squad Scrapbook (1A-3A Division)

Clubs & Service

- National Honor Society – Trivia Night and Powderpuff Frisbee
- GSA – Cocoa & Create and wellness events
- FCA – Christmas Concert and Kevin Jenerette Food Drive for Shepherd’s Table
- Grand Strand Beach Sweep and other service initiatives

Looking Ahead

The SIC will continue to support student recruitment, strengthen communication with families, and enhance student experience and academic balance. HCS Scholars Academy remains committed to academic excellence and student growth, and we appreciate the continued support of our families and community.