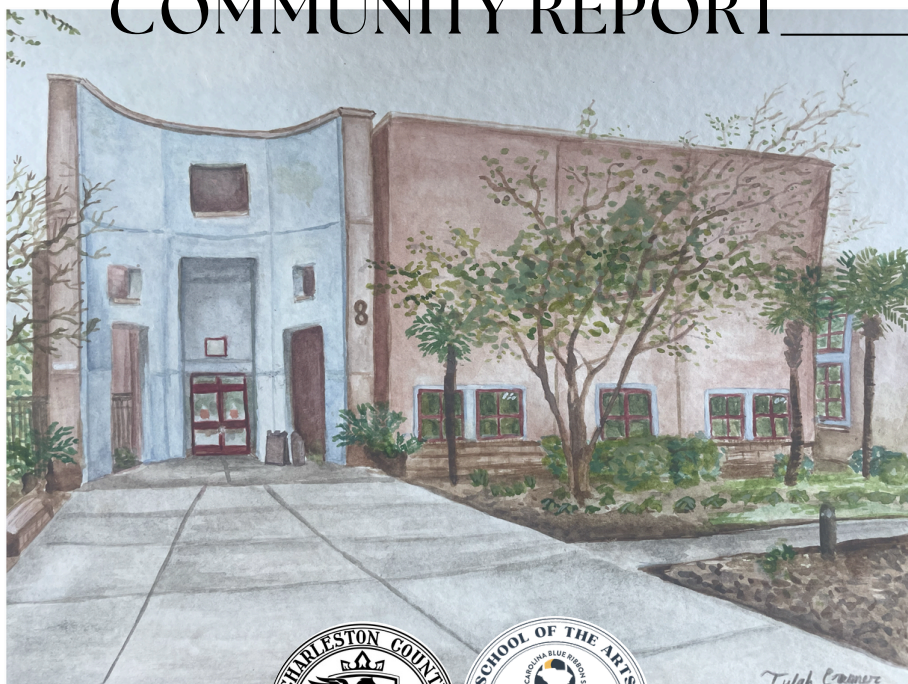
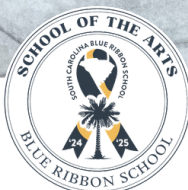
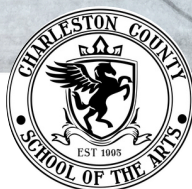


Charleston County School of the Arts COMMUNITY REPORT



5109 W. ENTERPRISE ST.
N. CHARLESTON, SC 29405



CCSDSCHOOLS.COM/SOA
843.529.4990

2026

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students are the heart of our work

Superintendent, Anita Huggins

Associate Superintendent of High School, Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer

Principal, Dr. Shannon Cook

Assistant Principal, Ms. Andrea Derrickson

Assistant Principal, Ms. Laura Smith

Assistant Principal, Mr. Robert Grant

Assistant Administrator, Mr. Billy Grauer



CULTURE

The Charleston School of the Arts is a uniquely diverse school with students enrolled from across Charleston County. The current enrollment sits at 1,054 artistically gifted students. We believe the culture and climate of our school and surrounding community provide an experience that promotes excellence in both academics and the arts from sixth through twelfth grade.



We are a school where all stakeholders believe dreams can become a reality with hard work and determination. Our students, staff, parents, and community members work as a collaborative team to ensure that the school reaches its goal.

Our students are recognized both regionally and nationally for their talents and efforts. The success and achievement in the arts is duplicated in non-arts classes, exposing and providing our students with the experience of a strong academic program that prepares them to become integral parts of the global world in their post-secondary endeavors. Our staff, students, and parents collaborate to create programs, shows, and performances that are of the highest quality.

As educational partners, the Charleston County School District and the faculty of the School of the Arts have the unique opportunity to continue providing a school that inspires and encourages students to excel in a non-traditional way. We encourage the support of anyone that values excellence in education, and are confident our artists will continue to grow and impact the lives of those in the SOA Community.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Laura Smith, MS Assistant Principal & Chair of SIC

Supporting students' academic growth, emotional well-being, and artistic development is central to our school's culture. Our educators work collaboratively to create an environment where students are challenged to excel while feeling supported as whole individuals. This year, the School Improvement Council has focused on strengthening both new and longstanding traditions while also prioritizing updates to our facilities. We added new lounge furniture for both middle and high school spaces and refreshed the area where students access college and career information, creating more welcoming and functional environments for our well-rounded students.

FINE ARTS

BAND

- 94 in Region 4 Bands, 23 students in the SC All-State MS & HS Band, and 5 MS students in the SC All State Orchestra. 1 student in All-State Jazz Band, SCBDA Honors Jazz Combo, and SCBDA Masters Recital Competition
- Superior with Distinction at the State Concert Band Performance Assessment
- Wind Ensemble featured performance at The Music For All National Festival in Indianapolis, IN, MS & HS Bands selected to perform at The Biltmore Estate

CREATIVE WRITING

- 13 national Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, including 7 gold medals, 2 American Voices Awards, and 1 National Scholastic Gold Portfolio & \$12,500 scholarship (one of 8 given nationwide)
- 158 Regional Scholastic Writing Awards, including 36 gold that moved onto the national competition
- A National YoungArtist winner and runner up from the The National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists (only 6 awards for fiction given nationwide)

DANCE

- Two students per year are awarded the Slowinski Summer Study Scholarship for summer intensive participation around the nation. 90% of Students in the National Honor Society for Dance Arts Graduate with Honors.
- HS dancers earned Superior with Distinction at the State Dance Assessment. All HS dancers in attendance at the National HS Dance Festival earned over \$100,000 in summer & college scholarships
- Students had 7 week-long guest residencies from master dancers and choreographers, as well as a variety of master classes from regional dance professionals and alumni

PIANO

- Competed in 10 local and state competitions and won five 1st place (including 2 solo winners and 1 concerto winner at State level), 8 runners up, 8 honorable mentions. 24 honors recipients & 12 honors recitalists at the State level. State Winners in Composition & Songwriting: 2 first place, 4 runners up, 4 honorable mentions
- Masterclasses with professors from CofC, Winthrop, Furman, USC, Clemson, & La Sierra. Masterclasses & concert collaborations with Charleston Jazz. Accepted into summer camps at Furman University & Interlochen

VISUAL ARTS

- 98 Regional Awards, 1 Nat'l. Winner; Best in Show & over 60 ribbons in Coastal Carolina Fair. Best of Show & 32 winners of SEWE Federal Duck Stamp Competition, 2nd place Birdhouse & 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in Photography for SEWE Kids for Conservation Competition, 10 awards & \$8850 of Scholarships awarded for Charleston Artist Guild Senior Art Show. 41 accepted into Art Fields Jr. Competition - 1st, 3rd & Honorable men. for MS, 3rd place for HS, 1st place HS Chas. County Elections I Voted Sticker. 1st place in MS AND 1st place in HS for SCAEA's Youth Art Month. N. Chas. Arts Festival Youth Art & Sculpture Competition, Collaboration w/ NC Creative Arts Elementary, Created Art for Roper St. Frances, HS trip to NYC

ORCHESTRA

- SOA Sinfonietta earned 97/100 at the Nat'l. Orchestra Festival & SOA String Symphony presented a session with Dr. Selby to a backed ballroom at the National Conference in San Francisco, CA
- 24 High School students and 13 MS students made 2026 All-State Orchestra, including Concertmaster, all 8th grade students and 50 HS students selected for Region Orchestra
- Both MS & HS awarded Superior with Distinction at the 2026 SC Concert Performance Assessment

VOCAL MUSIC

- Both Middle and High choirs had the largest number of students from any school in the state selected for the ACDA and SCMEA All-State Choirs.
- Sold-out shows of Anastasia, Holiday Spectacular (Gaillard), & Music Down in My Soul dinner concerts
- Country Live! & Shake Rattle & Roll musical revues

THEATRE ARTS

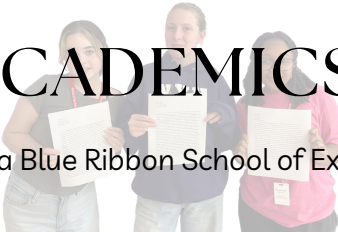
- State Thespian Festival: SOA Theatre's One Act Play - The Book of Everything received the highest rating and a perfect score from all three judges. Winner of state Thespian & Blair Beasley Scholarships, awarded 68 Superior Ratings and the troupe was awarded Gold Level Status
- 19 State-wide outreach performances at elementary and middle schools by the HS Improv Troupe
- 28 unique shows in the 24-25 School Year with over 100 performances.

FASHION AND DESIGN

- SOA fashion designers created over 180 original garments for the annual Fashion Show that incorporated all SOA majors as models. Fabulous Faculty Show featuring faculty as models wearing student designs
- College and Career field trip to USC Fashion & Design, SC State Museum, Mast General and House of Fabric. Outreach to Haut Gap Middle School.
- Hosted Say Yes to the Dress prom dress give-away in February. Fashion and Design summer sewing camp debuted in June 2025.



ACADEMICS



Recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 2025

SC READY ELA In 2025, almost 94% of our middle school students scored Meets or Exceeds on the ELA assessment.

SC READY Math In 2025, over 84% of our middle school students scored Meets or Exceeds on the math assessment.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS 2025: Over 70% of SOA's students scored a rating of 3 or higher on **all** AP exams administered (18 AP classes offered). Eng Lit. (93%), Calc (94%), Env Sci (97%), Bio (100%), Research & Seminar (100%)

END OF COURSE (EOC) EXAMS 2025: SOA's students had consistently high passage rates on EOC exams: Biology (90%), Algebra (98%), and English (99%)

2025 SENIOR CLASS ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 100% of Seniors were College and Career Ready
- Scholarships Offered - \$3.2 million
- Community Service Hours - 7,668 hours
- Graduation Rate - 99.3%

STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES

School of the Arts Specialized Credential
Fitness & Health Initiatives
Improv Theatre Workshop Outreach
Numerous Clubs
Community Service Opportunities
Master Classes in Arts Classes
Jefferson Service Club
Integrate Technology through Instruction

Senior Thesis
MAP Testing & Analysis
Environmental Initiatives
Scholastic Art & Essay Contest
NHS Free Student Tutoring
Promethean Boards in all Classrooms
College Essay Support
Interventionists for student support



SOA MISSION STATEMENT

At SOA our purpose is to provide a supportive educational environment where academic and artistic challenge engage students and lead them to develop and use their talents to pursue goals and contribute to society.