

Annual School Report Wando High School

June 2026



Chas Coker
Principal



From the Principal



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.

Wando High School is a comprehensive school for grades nine through twelve with a diverse student body of approximately 2,600 students. More than 25% of our students excel in the visual and performing arts. Eighty-seven percent of the Class of 2026 plans 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, 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 as 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 education and career goals. Our students are strongly encouraged to continue their education at the next level.

We are constantly seeking ways to improve instruction and to increase learning opportunities for our students. Our focus areas have been active student engagement, differentiated and data-driven instruction, technology implementation, and standards-based instruction and assessment. Raising the academic bar for all students and providing academic support for those who struggle are crucial to our school's success.

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.



School Highlights: Academics



- Wando High School's Class of 2026 earned more than \$22 million in scholarships.
- We now have 500 members in grades 10 - 12 in the AP Academy. Fifty-four seniors in the Class of 2026 received special Advanced Studies recognition at graduation due to earning at least six AP credits.
- The average GPA of the Class of 2026 was 3.9.
- The State of South Carolina requires students to earn 24 credits to graduate from high school. Wando seniors earned an average of 28.5 credits.
- There were 68 Early Awards recipients for the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.
- Two hundred forty-seven seniors in the Class of 2026 were named Charleston County School District Board Scholars having earned a GPA of 4.25 or higher as calculated at the end of the third nine weeks.
- Students took 590 dual credit courses with an 97% passage rate.
- 609 Advanced Placement courses were taken.
- 83 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.
- Members of the Class of 2026 completed 744 majors, four or more elective courses in an area of concentration and received special recognition at graduation.
- Six students were named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Three seniors received South Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarships.

School Highlights: Communications

Legend

- Received the Scroggins Award for Best Yearbook in the South from the Southern Interscholastic Press Association.
- Was named the Best Yearbook in South Carolina for the fifth year in a row by the S. C. Scholastic Press Association
- Was awarded the Quill & Scroll Staff Excellence Award (Quill and Scroll's highest honor) for the fourth year in a row, with the best single individual awards showing in international contest in the school's history
- Top 10 Best in Show at Fall National Scholastic Press Association Nashville Conference
- Received thirty-seven individual awards at the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Annual Conference - more than all other competing yearbooks combined

School Highlights: Communications



Tribal Tribune

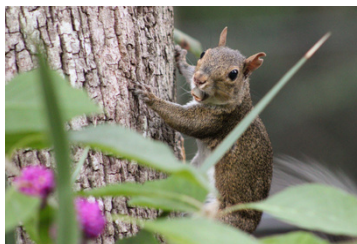
- Received the Scroggins Award for Best Newsprint in the South from the Southern Interscholastic Press Association
- Was a 2025 National Pacemaker Finalist, National Scholastic Press Association
- Top 10 Best in Show at Fall National Scholastic Press Association Nashville Conference and Spring National Scholastic Press Association Minneapolis Conference
- One co-editor-in-chief was named the 2026 South Carolina Scholastic Journalist of the Year by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association and the Journalism Education Association.

Photography

- More photography awards were received than all other competing schools at the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Annual Conference.

School Highlights: Fine Arts

- Wando's Art Department had seven ribbon winners in the Youth Art Show at the Coastal Carolina Fair: two top awards, three first-place ribbons, and two third-place ribbons.
- Regional recognition was received from The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards through the College Board: one student received a Silver Key Portfolio designation for her portfolio, three students received Silver Key Awards for individual works, and four students received Honorable Mention for individual works.



School Highlights: Fine Arts



- The Wando Theatre Department's production, "Day Six," was awarded a Superior Rating by the Palmetto Dramatics Association and was selected for Chapter Select at the 2026 International Thespian Society. Wando's show was the only one of the thirteen productions presented at the State Festival to advance.
- Thirty-eight theatre students earned Superior Ratings at the State Festival, while four students were selected for the prestigious All-State Musical Performance.
- Wando Theatre also presented "Chicago" in March.

- The Wando Orchestra had 28 students named to the Region Orchestra, more than any other non-magnet school in our region.
- All three orchestras earned Superior with Distinction designation at Concert Performance Assessment.
- Two of four Wando Orchestra students who are in the Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra Program earned the opportunity to perform at Boston's Symphony Hall.



- The Wando High School Marching Band competed in the 50th Anniversary Year of the Bands of America Grand National Championship in Indianapolis, Indiana. Close to 110 bands and over 20,000 students competed, and the Wando High School Marching Band finished in 11th place.
- The Wando High School Marching Band won the South Carolina Band Directors Association Class 6A Marching Band Championship.

- The Wando Chorus had forty-one students named to the All-State Chorus.
- The Choir gave a "Remember the Heroes" performance at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, honoring the men and women who have served in the U. S. Military.
- Bella Voce choir performed with the North Charleston Pops for a concert featuring the songs of Elton John.



Wando Chorus

School Highlights: Athletics

The Wando High School Athletic Program had another outstanding year! Wando High School is the 2025-2026 recipient of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association Carlisle Cup for Class AAAAA. This first place award is based on the ranking of the overall athletic program of the Class AAAAA schools.



- Three State Championships were won in:

Girls Soccer

Girls Tennis

Boys Track

- Twelve Region Championships were won in:

Boys Cross Country

Girls Cross Country

Girls Golf

Boys Soccer

Girls Soccer

Boys Swimming

Boys Tennis

Girls Tennis

Boys Track

Girls Track

Boys Volleyball

Girls Volleyball

- Seventy-six senior athletes were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.
- Eighty athletes were named to All-Region teams.
- Eight students were recognized as Region Players of the Year in their sport.
- Thirty-two student-athletes committed to play at the college level.
- Forty-four athletes were South Carolina High School League Multi-Sports Athletes.



School Highlights: Clubs and Activities



- Wandothon raised over \$16,000 for the Children's Miracle Network to benefit the Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital at MUSC.
 - One Wando Personal Finance Challenge team placed second in the South Carolina Finance Challenge.
 - At the Model UN Conference at Winthrop University, two Wando students were named Outstanding Delegates; one for the Security Council and one for the Human Rights Council.
 - Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students at Wando had four first-place winners, two second-place winners, and one third-place winner at the State Competition. FCCLA students also participated in the State Community Service Project, where they packed 42 bags of food for the United Way Backpack Buddies Program for families in need.
 - In the Fall 2025 Stock Market Challenge, Wando placed second out of over 880 teams, and in the Spring 2026 Stock Market Challenge, Wando had a first-place and a third-place finish out of over 1100 teams.
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Three seniors received appointments to U. S. Military Academies: two to the Air Force Academy and one to West Point.

Five seniors made the commitment to enlist and serve in one of the branches of the United States Armed Forces following graduation.



School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

- Diane Krishon was named Wando High School's Teacher of the Year.
- Gabriel Espinoza was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.
- Marie Bosch was named Classified Professional of the Year.
- Principal Chas Coker was named the 2026 Dr. Kay Phillips Administrator of the Year by the Southern Interscholastic Press Association.
- Molly Gordon was named one of five finalists in the nation for the FCCLA X US Army Adviser of the Year Award.
- Stephen Setzer was one of 28 recipients of the CCSD Education Foundation Bright Ideas Microgrants for his project: "LitterBotV1 and V2 - Because Litter Trashes Everyone."

Thank You

The Wando High 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 schoolwide projects and 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 and the Charleston County School District Staff for their assistance.

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**Assistant Principals
Hannah Brisini
Micah Brown
Charles Finch
Audrey Gilden
Erin Lowry
Kenya Mabry
William Outlaw
Kristy Williams**

**Athletic Director
Mark Buchman**

**Guidance Director
Laura Carroll**

**Instructional Coach
Emilie Woody**

**Parent Advocate
Susan Antonelli**

**Campus Security
Manager
Kirill Misychenko**