



2023-2024 SIC Report to Our Parents & Community



International Baccalaureate World School



AVID Scholar School



Project Lead the Way School



Advanced Placement - The College Board

The mission of Sumter High School, the hallmark in Academics, Arts, & Athletics, is to provide Exemplary Learning Experiences to ensure that each Student has the skills to compete in our Global Society.



*Learners Today,
Leaders Tomorrow,
Gamecocks Forever!*



School Improvement Council

2023-2024 Members:

- Kyle T. Austin (Chair; Teacher of the Year)
- Katherine Speed (Vice Chair)
- Anamaria Sandor (Principal)
- Keisha Scriven (Asst. Principal)
- John Bradley (Asst. Principal)
- Ruth Creech (Teacher)
- Natalia Penridge (Teacher)
- Tiffany Brunson (Teacher)
- Kelly Gristwood (Secretary; Student)
- Jeyada Atkins (Student)
- Nicholas Woods (Student)
- Anna Puzewski (Student)
- Laurie Merchant (Parent)

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Sumter High School, thank you for supporting our great school! Sumter High offers more than 100-course selections and numerous opportunities for extra-curricular, scholastic, fine arts and athletic involvement. We provide an atmosphere of high expectations and a safe environment along with opportunities for students to enjoy their high school years. We encourage families and community members to partner with us to guide our students into college and career readiness.

Anamaria Sandor

Sumter High School, Principal

Kyle T. Austin

School Improvement Council, Chair



Follow Us On Social Media

Facebook: Sumter High School Gamecocks
Instagram: Sumter_High_School_Gamecocks
Twitter: Sumter_high

Mrs. Anamaria Sandor, Principal

Mr. John Bradley, Assistant Principal
 Mr. Eric Hawkins, Assistant Principal
 Dr. Gregory Jones, Assistant Principal
 Mr. Walter Lide, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Dana Mitchell, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Glenda Brunson, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Keisha Scriven, Assistant Principal
 Mr. Crasten Davis, Athletic Director

Fall 2023 Work Keys Results

228 Students Tested
 19% Platinum Certificate
 34% Gold Certificate
 39% Silver Certificate
 8% Bronze Certificate

Fall/Winter 2023 EOC Results

	Passed with 'C' or Higher	2023 to 2027 Goal
Algebra 1	8.2%	+10%
Biology 1	29.5%	+10%
English 2	54.7%	+10%
U.S. History	16.7%	+10%

120 Teachers / 2,100+ Students

6 Guidance Counselors
 4 Career Specialists
 3 Gear Up Specialists
 7 Doctorate Degrees
 86 Masters Degrees
 7 National Board Certificated
 15 IB Certificated
 13 AVID Certificated
 11 Advanced Placement Certificated

**Faculty & Staff Spotlight**

Mrs. Terrie Wood-McCray—Sumter High Teacher of the Year, 2024-2025
 Mr. Torey Shannon — Sumter Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year 2023- 2024
 Mrs. Amanda Blankenship—PEBA Board Member, appointed to represent active teachers in SC
 Dr. Herbert Johnson was featured as a Soloist for concerts in London June of 2023 & Paris June of 2024
 Mr. Eric Hines—Guest Clinician for the Horry All- County Orchestra & the Florence All-City Orchestra
 Ms. Katherine Speed — Inductee into the Sumter Delta Kappa Gamma Society Chapter for Women Educators
 Mr. Kelly Melton —ranked 23rd in the world for the 2023 Disc Golf World Ranking Senior Series for amateur players in the 50-54 year-old category & teaches students how to play
 Mr. Kyle T. Austin—Educator of the Year 2023-2024, Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce; Club Advisor of the Year 2023-2024 & 2022-2023, Junior Civitan International

12 Students Qualified for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, as of early April 2024.

**Afterschool Tutoring**

Offered Monday - Thursday afternoons for subject areas in:
 English, Math, Sciences, Social Studies, Modern Languages, Fine Arts & CATE.
 GEAR UP Specialist are also available to assist all Seniors before, during and afterschool.

Academic Highlights

A.P. Exams, Earned 3 or Higher

12 English
 3 European History
 3 Music Theory
 15 U.S. History

I.B. Exams, Earned 4 or Higher

11 English
 3 French
 2 Spanish
 10 History
 5 Psychology
 3 Biology
 1 Chemistry
 4 Math
 1 Visual Arts

Perfect Score on the State EOC

Fall Semester 2023

8 students —**Biology 1**
 9 students —**English 2**
 4 students —**US History**

Student Spotlight

Ms. Gabrielle Miller—SHS Student Body President
 Mr. Jeshua Espiritu— 51st President of Junior Civitan International & Semifinalist in the 69th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program
 Mr. Tae Aiden Kim—Finalist in the 69th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program
 Ms. Eriyonna Walcott—accepted into the Coast Guard Academy Scholar Program
 Ms. Sophia Boone—accepted into the U.S. Military Academy, West Point
 Ms. Jeyada Atkins—Bonner Scholar recipient for Wofford College



SHS Choral students earned \$80,000 each in college scholarships & performed in the 2024 SC All-State Chorus: Destini Blanding, Brandon Colclough, Giianni Faught, and Ja'Miah Wilson

12 students selected to represent SHS at the 2024 SCMEA All-State Orchestra Clinic

Sumter High Drama Department performed the 26th annual 'Improv Olympics' showcasing the students skills in fast-paced creativity and the dramatic arts to the enjoyment of the audience which helped judge a winning team

11 Sumter High Students preformed in the SCMEA All-State Orchestra Event

Sumter High Drama competed in the Palmetto Dramatics Association One-Act Play Festival for the 24th year. The club also competed in the South Carolina Thespian acting competition for the 25th year. Each year the SHS students have earned the score of 'Superior'. SHS won in acting and technical categories for their sci-fi comedy "Abrasion". Won Best lights & sound, and best costume/props.

Bryson Acycock won the 'Superior' acting award and Ali Thomas-Leftridge won the 'Excellent' actor award. The production garnered a 'Superior' rating

Sumter's Walk of Art showcased student work along Main Street. Five different windows were created by 365 SHS Students. Each window contained an art display or an Art Installations and was on display for the public for two months

40 students accepted into the SCMEA Region V Orchestra, 12 students accepted into the SCMEA All-State Orchestra

SHS Drama competed in the S.C. Speech & Theatre Association Competition. The following students achieved superior and advanced to the finals: Maryah McIntosh for Solo Comedic Musical Theatre, Dayshaun Powe for Audition Monologues, Maryah McIntosh and Maya Robinson for Duet Acting

16 SHS Band members were selected for the Region 5 Honor Band Clinic, 10 members were selected for the 2024 USC Band Clinic

150 pieces of Art were entered into the Sumter County Fair, 10 of the entries won ribbons in their categories

For the 18th year, the SHS Drama produced the original play concept, "30 under 90" which the cast creates and devises 30 plays that are performed in a random order chosen by the audience, with the time limit of 90 minutes to perform all 30 pieces. SHS Drama proudly composes of members of the International Honor Thespian Society Troupe 5054; a Worldwide Educational Theatre Association for grades 6-12 for students who excel in the theatre and film arts. For Halloween by the SHS Drama Department performed "7 Wives For Dracula" a hilarious comedy spoof was performed, then in the Spring Semester the Department put on the play "Little Women 2: Wrath of the Undead"

Pathfinders, an Art Exhibit at the Sumter County Gallery of Art featured Sumter High School seniors. Eighteen students from the graduating class of 2024 participated. Seniors Parker Nelson was awarded third place in the competition & Kiana McRae honorable mention

The City of Sumter's Community Clean-Up Poster contest, high school category was won by Benjamin Morrow

All 3 High School Orchestra Ensembles earned "Superior with Distinction" Ratings at the SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment Evaluation, 16 students earned Superior Ratings at the SCMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival Event and Honors Orchestra earned 1st place Overall at the World Strides Williamsburg Music Festival



Sumter High School Library

Our collection houses over 24,000 copies, including eBooks & audiobooks.

The two-level library has its own computer lab (upstairs) with 50 computers, and over 25 computers in the main library. The library offers many reading incentives throughout the year such as: Book in a Jar, Blind Date with a Book, & Book Tasting.

We host a book club twice a month after school and also support & promote the SCASL YA Book Award Nominees.

Resources include: Destiny Library Catalog, DISCUS (provided by the State Library), & *The Item* newspaper.



Club & Organization Highlights

SGA Student Body President, Gabrielle Miller received a resolution from the SC Senate for her achievements with SGA. Senators Vernon Stephens, Kevin Johnson, & Thomas McElveen introduced the resolution

SHS Junior Civitan picked up 530lbs and then 1,000lbs along McCray's Mill Rd during 2 litter clean ups, fed the Homeless shelter in December, picked up 145lbs of Litter from Dillon Park in October, collected over 100 items for the Sumter SPCA in August 2023, picked up 474lbs of Litter from Live Oak Park in August 2023, and in March removed 80lbs of litter along a 5 mile section of the Palmetto Trail

International Baccalaureate program hosted the 15th annual 'Walk Against Domestic Violence' and raised \$800 for the YWCA with 80 participants; in December collected for the Toys for Tots drive

SHS student clubs participated in the Alumni Parade, September 2023 in downtown Sumter

Sumter High students ran a booth for Sumter's ESTEAM Festival with supplies from Sumter Clemson Extension to education children on protecting our waterways

SHS Key Club partnered with the Sumter Kiwanis club for the 61st Annual Pancake Breakfast, funds raised assist with children's car seat safety and recognizing talented elementary students

SGA received the Gold Honor Council award at the SCASC State convention

SHS Junior Civitan Club—Awarded '2023 International Club of the Year'; Mr. Jeshua Espiritu—Awarded Distinguished District Director of Excellence 2023, Junior Civitan International; Ms. Cloey Miller—Awarded 'International Junior Civitan of the Year 2023'

SHS FBLA collected over 200 pairs of socks and other hygiene products for the homeless community

SHS Book Club read and discussed together several novels this year; including 'Project Hail Mary' by Andy Weir & 'The Cost of Knowing' by Brittney Morris

IB CAS & SHS Junior Civitan students led a Clean Up of Packs Landing with 65 volunteers, removing 533lbs of litter in September

SGA hosted the annual Angel Tree campaign and program, which collected over a hundred toys to donate to the Salvation Army

SHS Clubs hosted the 'Fall Into a Winter Extravaganza', open-community centered event

SHS FBLA Celebrated FBLA Week with a 'Dress for Success' Career Dress Up Day

C.H.E.F.S. Initiative Celebrated National Principals Day with a Gourmet meal presented to Principal Mrs. Sandor

SHS Black Heritage Club hosted 'The Gong Show' to highlight the amazing talents of students as a fun game show.

Starfish Club spread within the school 'random acts of kindness' by doing candy bags, notes and other projects to spread positivity & encouragement

SHS Junior Civitan raised over \$6,000 for the Civitan International Research Center, which works to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities

SHS Clubs hosted the 'Be My Valentine', an event with games and crafts for the SHS faculty & staff

SHS NHS helped with 'Read Across America' at Lemira Elementary School to help students with reading

Yearbook received the All-State rating at the SCSPA Conference

SHS FBLA collected over 1,000 cans and non perishable items for the homeless, donated to Harvest Hope

SHS AFJROTC Drill Team won 1st Place in the Unarmed Element Exhibition at the Top Gun Drill Meet

ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 5-A Girls Basketball State Champions! An Undefeated Season!
- ◆ Coach Jeffrey Schaffer—awarded SCACA Girls Basketball Coach of the Year
- ◆ Coach Ashley McDuffie—awarded SC Region 5 5A Varsity Girls Coach of the Year
- ◆ 2024 SHS Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees: Gary Nelson, Carl Baker, Coley White, Jordan Montgomery, Rederick McDowell, Pressley Harvin III, Shawna Waters, & Gregory Blanding
- ◆ 40 South Carolina High School League Senior Scholar Athletes
- ◆ James Breland — 2023 -2024 North South Shrine Bowl Coach
- ◆ Kelly Gristwood—President of the SC High School League Student-Athlete Advisory Council
- ◆ The Sumter Bobbys High School Award Nominees- 7 athletes, 1 coach, and 1 team

Wrestling

- ◆ 10 SHS Wrestling Team members competed in the JV State, this season Brian Wilson won more than 18 matches, Christian Ingram won 16 matches and both made the All-Region Team

Swim

- ◆ Anthony Benenhaley—selected for 2023 AAAAA Swim State Championship

Cheer

- ◆ SHS Cheerleaders —selected to cheer for the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas

Men's Basketball

- ◆ SHS Basketball team kicked off 'Dr. Suess Week' at Millwood Elementary reading to their students
- ◆ Caleb Jenkins—Region 'Player of the Year' Men's basketball, All-State Selection, & North-South All Star
- ◆ Jordon Bradley & BJ Brown—All Region Selection, Basketball

Cross Country

- ◆ Molly Smith—2023 AAAAA Region 5 Ladies Champion
- ◆ AAAAA Region 5 All-Region: Molly Smith & Emily Vipperman

Golf

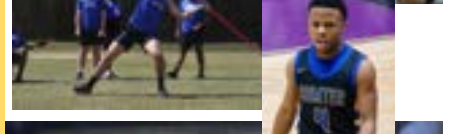
- ◆ Girls Golf Team qualified for the Lower-State tournament as a team with a team score of 419. Jaylen Berry shot 88 and was on the AAAAA Region 5, All-Region team.

Football

- ◆ 2023 AAAAA Lower State Championship Runner-up
- ◆ 2023 AAAAA Region 5 All-Region Players: Anthony Addison, John Peeples, Jauron Bennett, Jordan Lowery, Jaheim Rose, Jerius Williams, Pate Merchant, Tymaries Thompson-Durant, and Bryson Allen
- ◆ Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team: John Peeples, Jamireh Bey, Jerius Williams, Ashton Barr, Jauron Bennett, Jaheim Rose, Anthony Addison, Jordan Lowery,
- ◆ Anthony Addison: AAAAA Region 5 Player of the Year, Junior Showcase Bowl MVP
- ◆ Jauron Bennett: Shrine Bowl Attendee & Member 2023 AAAAA All-State Team
- ◆ Jerius Williams: PeeDee Sports Offensive Lineman of the Year
- ◆ Bryson Cuffie: Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion
- ◆ Pate Merchant: Sonic Player of the Week
- ◆ Coach James Breland: Head Coach for South Carolina in Shrine Bowl
- ◆ Gamecock Football Camp: free camp for Sumter youth offered by SHS athletes & alumni players for over 100 community youth, Flag Football Camp conducted for students of Liberty STEAM by JV athletes, SHS Football Day at The Gardens Assisted Living Home

Ladies Basketball

- ◆ Dalashia Brunson—Member of the Pee Dee All Star Game
- ◆ Rickell Brown—All State 2024, All Region 2024, Member of the N/S All Star Game and the Pee Dee All Star Game
- ◆ Keziyah Sanders—All Region 2024, Member of the Pee Dee All Star Game
- ◆ Kiara Croskey—All State 2023-24, State 5A Player of the Year 2024, Region Player of the year 2023-24, All Region 2024, Member of the North Carolina South Carolina All Star Game, and the Pee Dee All Star game



**Sumter High School Improvement Council
2023-2024 Goals**

- **Goal #1** —Recognize & Encourage SHS Seniors for the accomplishment of obtaining College & Career Readiness set by the South Carolina Department of Education
- **Rationale** — The council agreed that students needed additional encouragement to reach these standards, awareness of standards, and praise once they reached the standard.
- **Action Taken** —The SHS SIC created evolving posters displayed around the school listing the Readiness Standards, and the list of Seniors who reached the goal of 'College Ready', 'Career Ready', or 'College & Career Ready'.



College Ready

- ACT Composite Score of 20 or higher
- SAT Total Score of 1020 or higher
- AP final assessment score of 3 or higher
- IB HL final assessment score of 4 or higher
- Dual Enrollment in 6 credit hours with a grade of C or higher

Career Ready

- Career & Technology Completer with an Industry Certificate exam
- WIN® score of Silver or higher
- ASVAB score of 31 or higher
- Complete Internship or Apprenticeship

- **Goal #2** —Improvement of the School Social Environment, first focusing on Faculty & Staff
- **Rationale** — Based on surveys, the council agreed to focus on the School's Social Environment to help retain talented faculty & staff.
- **Action Taken** —As possible, events we added to the calendar to allow faculty and staff to grow as a team and enjoy time together to build a stronger Gamecock community.



Events for building our School Social Environment:

- Bowling with the Principal at Sumter's Gamecock Lanes
- SIC Vice Chair, Katherine Speed led an Underground Spirit Week for only Faculty & Staff
- The SHS Media Center hosted the Friendsgiving Social, with support from the SHS FBLA organization
- 'Falling into Winter Extravaganza' was hosted by SGA, open to Faculty, Staff, and the Community with games & activities
- Student Clubs & Organizations hosted a Valentine's Day themed Professional Development for the Faculty & Staff with team building games and several creative activities.

