

SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL



LEARNERS TODAY



LEADERS TOMORROW



GAMECOCKS FOREVER



2025-2026 SIC REPORT TO OUR PARENTS & COMMUNITY



International Baccalaureate
World School



AVID Scholar School



Advanced Placement
The College Board

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Sumter High School, the Hallmark in academics, arts, and athletics, is to provide exemplary learning experiences in order to ensure that each student has the skills to compete in our global society.

Dear Parents, Guardians, & Community

At Sumter High School, Gold is the Standard! We remain committed to high expectations, strong instruction, consistent attendance, and a positive environment where every student can thrive. Let's continue this strong momentum by coming prepared, staying engaged, supporting one another, and living out the values that define Sumter High School. Together, we will continue building the Gamecock Greatness that makes our school community so special.

Learners Today. Leaders Tomorrow. Gamecocks Forever.

Anamaria Sandor

Sumter High School, Principal

Kyle T. Austin

School Improvement Council, Chair



School Improvement Council

2025-2026 Members

- Kyle T. Austin - Chair
- Katherine Feagin - Vice-Chair
- Anamaria Sandor - Principal
- Keisha Scriven - Asst. Principal
- Kelsey Sweet- Teacher
- Natalia Penridge - Teacher
- Temisha Budden - PTO Representative
- Jennifer Hannibal-Felder - Parent
- Lynette Weeks - Parent
- Corie Vizcarra - Parent
- Lauren Gristwood - Secretary (Student)
- David Vizcarra - Student
- Victor Brown - Student
- Celena Dawson - Student
- Tammy Azhziger - Community
- Luther Barnet - Community
- Glenda Brunson - Community
- Amy Jamison - Community
- Cedric Kirkman - Community

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Sumter High School
Gamecocks

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Faculty & Staff Spotlight

Mr. Erik Hines— 2026-2027 Teacher of the Year
 Mr. Erik Hines— Sumter Chamber of Commerce, Educator of the Year
 Mrs. Anamaria Sandor—Game Changer Award by the Knowledge For College Organization
 Mrs. Anamaria Sandor—International Professional of the Year Award 2026 from the Columbia International Festival Committee
 Mr. Diego Teatin—Elected President of the State of South Carolina Language Group
 Mr. Ashley McDuffie—SCACA Boy's Tennis Coach of the Year

Mrs. Anamaria Sandor, Principal
 Mr. John Bradley, Assistant Principal
 Dr. Tiffany Lemon, Assistant Principal
 Mr. Will Howard, Assistant Principal
 Mr. Walter Lide, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Dana Mitchell, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Glenda Brunson, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Keisha Scriven, Assistant Principal
 Athletic Director

Sumter High School's yearbook, The Paragon, has been recognized for excellence and featured in the Jostens 'Look Book 2026', celebrating the best-of-the-best in yearbook design and inclusivity. The Paragon was created by the yearbook staff under the direction of Mr. Christopher Edge, the 2025 yearbook adviser. The chosen spread was created by Ms. Kelly Gristwood, a 2025 graduate.



College and Career Readiness

	2024	2025	April 2026
College Ready	22.6%	28.7%	28.6%
Career Ready	50.4%	61.1%	69.6%
College & Career Ready	19.4%	26.1%	28.4%



Class of 2026 WIN Career Readiness Results

5 — Level 5 Certificates
 109 — Level 4 Certificates
 167—Level 3 Certificates



120 Teachers / 2,000+ Students
 6 Guidance Counselors
 4 Career Specialists
 14 Doctorate Degrees
 78 Masters Degrees
 3 National Board Certificated
 15 IB Certificated
 12 AVID Certificated
 11 Advanced Placement Certificated

Academic Highlights

May 2025

A.P. Exams, Earned 3 or Higher
 4 English
 7 European History
 4 Music Theory
 13 U.S. History
 I.B. Exams, Earned 4 or Higher
 11 English
 2 French
 5 Spanish
 11 History
 9 Psychology
 8 Biology
 2 Chemistry
 8 Math

100% Score on the State EOC

Fall Semester 2025

13 students —Biology 1
 25 students —English 2
 5 students —US History

Ms. La'Tonya Blanding, Engineering Manager representing Eaton Corporation, in collaboration with AdoptAClassroom.org, presented a \$5,000 donation to support STEM education at Sumter High School.



Mayor Merchant and Sumter City Council proudly recognized Sumter High School's Ethan Budden, who was recently selected as a 2026 Youth Ambassador for Palmetto Pride!



Madelyn Endicott, SHS senior and latest West Point Academy acceptee. After graduation, she will begin six weeks of rigorous summer training.



School Report Card:
 Average Rating.
 7 point increase from previous year





FINE ARTS SPOTLIGHT

Band

The Wind Ensemble earned a rating of Superior with Distinction—in Grade V at the SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment. The 4th consecutive year of this ensemble obtaining this achievement. The Symphonic Band earned a rating of Excellent – in Grade III at the SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment. 6 Sumter High School Band students were selected to participate in the Region V Honor Band Clinic and two of our students, Monica Jackson and Abram McDuffie, had solos within their respective ensembles: Zora Bradley, Xander Brooks, Zion Hill-Weston, Monica Jackson, Abram McDuffie, Maxim Mosneaguta. Sumter High School Band student attended the SCBDA All State Band Clinic at Furman University: Maxim Mosneaguta. 21 Sumter High Band students attended the return of the Sumter School District Honor Band Clinic at Lakewood High School.

Choir & Chorus

Sumter High School Fine Arts Department's annual Madrigal Dinner Theater was a night filled with drama and harmony as students put on an applause-worthy performance, from flawless vocals and engaging acting to an intense fencing scene and to an ending that was humorous and happy. 25 students participated or performed in the Sumter School District Honors Chorus. Sumter High School Choral students were selected to participate in the SC Central Region Choir at Newberry College! Taryn Wiley, delivered a standout solo performance during the concert: Emily Levi, Taryn Wiley, Jade Edlow, Olivia Newman, Elijah Boler, Cole Tyner, Grecia Mitechell, Ariel Callejas, McKenzie Newman, and Larissa Kennedy. The following students were selected to participate in the 2026 South Carolina All-State Chorus in February at Winthrop University, earning over \$80,000 each in college scholarships: Jaylen Berry, Taryn Wiley, Cole Tyner, Zy'Rae Lowrey. Sumter High School Choral students were selected for the South Carolina Honors Choir, earning over \$80,000 each in college scholarships: Elijah Boler, Olivia Newman, Eliana White, Leia Zellers. The SHS Choir took top honors at the Carowinds Festival of Music, with not only a superior rating, but they also received the "Esprit de Corps" Hall of Fame Award, which goes to the Best Overall! The choirs also earned an excellent performance rating and a superior rating in sight-reading at the Palmetto State Choral Festival at Newberry College in April. Leia Zellers was awarded first place at the Women's Afternoon Music Club Vocal Arts competition.

Jazz Band

Sumter High School Swingin' Gamecocks attended the SCBDA Jazz Performance Assessment. The students earned a rating of Superior. Maxim Mosneaguta, Most Outstanding Soloist.



Orchestra & Strings

All 4 Sumter High School Orchestra ensembles earned the highest possible rating, Superior with Distinction, at the South Carolina Music Educators Association Concert Performance Assessment. Nelah McCray earned 1st Place in the Senior Division for Region 2, along with a Superior (1+) rating and scholarship money for her exceptional performance at the USC School of Music Piano Competition. Sumter High School Honors Orchestra, under the direction of Erik Hines, delivered an outstanding performance of “When the Lights Shine Through” at the South Carolina Music Educators Association Conference opening session at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Sumter High Honors Orchestra was invited to perform the National Anthem and other patriot favorites for Veterans Night at the Pee Dee Icecats vs. Athens Rock Lobsters hockey game at the Florence Center. 60 students auditioned and were selected for the 2025-2026 South Carolina Music Educators Association Region V Orchestra. 11 students auditioned and were selected for the 2025-2026 South Carolina Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra.

Theatre

Sumter High Theatre students represented us with excellence at the Palmetto Dramatic Association Festival, and the results were nothing short of extraordinary! For individual events, the highest rating possible is a Superior, and our students earned an impressive list of Superior “Thespy’s”: Contrasting Monologues: Bryson Aycock, Naomi Robinson. Monologues: Walker Craven, Qualynn Lindsey. Duet Scenes: Riley English & Keeley Byington. Harley Spann & Gabby McCall. Madelyn McGarity & Kadence Delperdang. Ensemble Acting: Qualynn Lindsey, Isaih Cousar, & Shae Davenport. Solo Musical: Emma Griffin, Riley English, Taryn Wiley. Duet Musical: Gabby Dukes & Cheriah Johnson. Costume Design: Olivia Crooks-Carlisle, Tniyah McClary. One-Act Play: Ernest and the Pale Moon. The highest rating a one-act play can receive is Superior with Distinction – and out of approximately 30 schools, only FIVE earned that honor. Special Acting Honors for Ernest and the Pale Moon: Walker Craven, Bryson Aycock, Emma Griffin. Live Accompaniment Award: Madelyn McGarity, Cheriah Johnson. Outstanding Contribution Award – Overall Production Design. Sumter High School Drama Department! Your performance of Matilda the Musical. Sumter High Theatre wins the Spirit Award where other schools from around the state vote on what school other than their own, would they want to be a part of.

Visual Arts

Art students from Ms. Deana Rennick’s, Ms. Kristen Boegner’s and Dr. Montgomery’s classes at Sumter High School, created beautiful sculptural flowers as part of the “Flowers on Main” art installation. Mr. Eric Burrress’s classes created bugs to add to the flowers. These vibrant creations are part of “Springfest”, an annual fundraising event that raises \$100,000 each year to support people in our community directly. We are incredibly grateful to Quixote Hospitality for sponsoring and funding this fun and meaningful art event. Sumter Artists Guild Winners Exhibition - Pathfinders Art Show 2026. 2nd Place: Lucas Follin – Maneater. 3rd Place: Zoey Simon – Traditional Japanese Mini Room. Sumter Fair winners: drawing third place - Lilliana Lamb, Taryn Wiley 3rd place pottery, Lilliana Lamb - first place sculpture, Zoey Simon - first place open media, Melanie Call - first place open media Shelby Greco - third place open media, Selina Vargas - third place photography, Aiyanna Pugh - first place photography.



Sumter High School Library

The Sumter High Library has a collection of more than 24,000 books, including eBooks and audiobooks. Our two-story library features a computer lab upstairs with 50 computers, plus more than 15 additional computers on the main floor. We have recently renovated, and our updated space offers more comfortable seating and an inviting environment.

Throughout the year, we offer fun reading activities like Blind Date with a Book, Book Passes, and Book Tastings. We also host an after-school book club and support the SCASL Young Adult Book Award Nominees.

Helpful resources available to students include the Destiny Library Catalog, DISCUS (provided by the State Library), and The Item newspaper, just to name a few.

SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

AFJROTC

Sumter High School AFJROTC Robotics Team, whose very first official robotics competition marked a powerful milestone—not just for the program, but for Gamecock excellence in STEM. Competing at the University of South Carolina Engineering Building, our students placed an impressive 5th.

AVID

This year's 12th-grade AVID Scholars have earned \$2,455,265 in scholarship awards, with over 250 college acceptances as of April 2026.

Environmental Science and Conservation Club

Over 700lbs of trash collected from Sumter High Environmental Center and the community. Fundraiser with haunted trail that raised enough money to rebuild the bridge in the SHS environmental center. Maintenance of SHS Environmental center including hundreds of thousands of gallons of water drained and trail maintenance.

FBLA

At the FBLA State Conference, Blain Cox was selected as Secretary of the South Carolina FBLA State Chapter. 1st Place Winners: Nelah McCray & Tyler Metze – Public Service Announcement. Nelah McCray & Blain Cox – Local Annual Chapter Business Report. 2nd Place Winners: Josiah Green – Networking Infrastructures, A'tearra Pearson – Introduction to Business Concepts, Jarrett Logan – Business Communication, Amari Dupree – Retail Management, 3rd Place Winners: Blake & Blain Cox – Business Ethics, Jhaden Kingwood – Computer Game & Simulation Programming, Janell Rivers – Digital Animation. 4th Place Winners: Danielle Andrews & Jimenah Carrington – Financial Planning, Kyla Reed – Introduction to Business Procedures, Olivia Newman – Impromptu Speaking.

IB CAS

'Shower Shaw with Goodies and Cookies' is an opportunity we love to support each year. Students helped deliver cookies, popcorn, hot chocolate mix, cards, and more to go to Shaw AFB. CAS created handmade Valentine's Cards for each Resident of Sumter Gardens, the nearby retirement home. For Earth Day, the CAS students returned to Sumter Gardens to plant vegetables in the raised beds, for the residents to enjoy and harvest. IB CAS created candy cups and sold them as a fundraiser for our local SPCA. IB CAS collected 'Toys for Tots' in December and raised funds for supplies at the Sumter Women's Shelter.



Junior Civitan Members removed 400lbs of litter in August, and 300lbs of litter in March from Pack's Landing along Lake Marion.



Junior Civitan

Junior Civitans showed what community pride looks like during the Packs Landing Clean Up! In just 2 hours, 32 incredible volunteers worked together to remove over 300 pounds of trash. They provided food and cleaning supplies for the Sumter United Ministries Shelter. Junior Civitans planted 10 more Live Oak trees on campus. McCray's Mill Road Litter Clean Up: 523.89 lbs of trash (62 bags and items) 237.81 lbs of trash (34 bags) removed from Dillon Park. Members dedicated one afternoon afterschool for wiping down the school hallways to clean up minor spots on the walls and remove dust.

Key Club

The Sumter High Key Club International participated in the Sumter Kiwanis Club annual pancake Day.

SGA

Sumter High School proudly represented at the Sumter Optimist Club Christmas Parade! Our AFJROTC, marching band, cheerleaders, choir, clubs, and organizations—along with our Queen Serenity Woods and King Tymaries Thompson-Durant—brought joy, pride, and holiday cheer to the entire community. Oktoberfest and Haunted Trail events at Sumter High were a huge success! Our amazing clubs, programs, and organizations came together to host an unforgettable evening for our school community.

David Nehemiah Vizcarra is the SCASC State Vice President for the 2026-2027 school year. Sumter High Received the Gold Honor Council achievement at the SCASC State Conference. Blessings Coly was awarded the Terry McCoy Hall of Fame "The Real McCoy" at the SCASC State Conference. Miss Sumter High for this school year is Kaylee Witherspoon. SGA has raised \$3,802.00 for Relay For Life.

Speech and Debate

Sumter Elks Lodge presented a check for \$1,200 to the Sumter High School Speech and Debate Team to fully cover the travel expenses to their tournament at Eastside High School on Feb. 7, 2026, where the team competed in the district qualifier for nationals for congressional debate. Sumter High School proudly represented at the 2025 Warrior Invitational Debate and Speech Tournament, hosted by Riverside High School on November 8th! This year's competition brought together 19 schools, 276 entries, and 229 competitors from two states — and our Gamecocks rose to the challenge! Congratulations to our winners: Zillyon Glover – 6th Place, Declamation. Johonna Patterson & Corbin Weatherwax – 4th Place, Public Forum Debate. Brandon Reyes – 2nd Place, Congressional Debate. Debate and Speech Gamecocks! We're proud to celebrate Brandon Reyes, who won 1st Place in Novice House Congressional Debate at the 39th Annual Bob Jones Academy Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament. This incredible event brought together 21 schools across three states, with 359 entries and 298 individual competitors—making Brandon's victory even more impressive! We also want to recognize all of our talented Debate and Speech Club competitors for representing Sumter High School with pride, passion, and perseverance: Novice Public Forum Debate: Johonna Patterson, Corbin Weatherwax Novice House Congressional Debate: Brandon Reyes, Lauren Gristwood, Celena Dawson Novice Senate Congressional Debate: Jeremy Monubi, Dyquan Wilson Expository: Khloe Benson, Erial Bradley Poetry Interpretation: Trillyon Glover Declamation: Zillyon Glover



Junior Civitan members stand behind one of ten new live oak trees they planted on campus.



Members of the Environmental Science and Conservation Club work together replacing boards on one of the bridges in the school's Environmental Center.



SGA raised funds to buy dozens of children's toys for Salvation Army.



Gamecock Grafx

Print Industry of the Carolinas (PICA) Awards 2026:

Carmine Bookhart - Best Ink Jet Flexible Digital Printing
Monica Moore - Best Themoflex Heat Transfer Flexible Printing
Regan Nathaniel - Award of Excellence for Screen Printing in Two or More Colors, Textile
Sumter High School Gamecock Grafx - 3rd Place Best Printing High School Division



SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL



ATHLETICS

- Sumter High welcomed five new inductees into their athletic hall of fame. Congrats to Stephon Blanding, Byron Kinney, Timmy Jones, -Danielle McFadden and Derrick Witherspoon for joining a spectacular group in the Sumter High Athletic Hall of Fame!
- Mr. Ashley McDuffie selected as the SCACA Boy's Tennis Coach of the Year.
- David Rogers earned 5A Lower State Heavyweight Champion in Westling.
- Former Sumter High football coach and athletic director Tom Lewis was inducted into the South Carolina Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
- Head basketball coach Bryan Brown was named as an assistant for the North-South All-Star Game.
- Jordan Hewett (12) won the Boys 500-Yard Freestyle at the SCHSL 5A DI state championships at the Carolina Natatorium. His finishing time for the event was 4:46.62.
- Sumter Athletics celebrates Living Clean Week by bringing attention to Mental Health for athletes.
- The Sumter High boys volleyball team took massive strides in Year 2, claiming eight victories this fall!
- Danabella Jackson in track earned Top 10 in the NATION in High Jump, a SHS record 5'10 and 2025 Adidas National Elite Outdoor Champion in High Jump
- Girls' Soccer achieved 1st Place Team in Gator Classic tournament.
- Golden Arm Award: Marion Davis, Baseball
- Coach for Southeast Team: Coach William McMillan.
- Mia Amore and Laila Stanton were selected for All-Region in Girls Volleyball.
- Gabriel Kirkhart was selected for All-Region in Boys Swimming.
- Mia Turner and Selah Berry both earned a spot as State Qualifiers in Girls Golf.
- Kennedy Dantzler and Jayla Thomas were both invited to join the Pee Dee Classic for Basketball
- Amaria Anderson earned All Region in Basketball.
- Eli Benevente, Andrew Miller, Joshua Miller, Nahaze Wells, David Rogers and Joseph Thomas earned All Region in Wrestling.
- BJ Brown--Carolinas Classic All-Star Invitee and SCBCA State Top 5, and AAAAA Region 5 Player of the Year.
- Nicholas White, Eli Britt and BJ Brown AAAAA Region 5 All-Region players
- Sumter High School was the only high school that earned the SCHSL Sportsmanship banner for the 2024-2025 school year. In order to be awarded this banner, a school has to have zero athlete or coach ejections, participate in all 3 Living Clean Weeks, attend all SCHSL Captains Courses, Leadership Summits, and the Health Summit, as well as participate in community service projects and submit a school wide sportsmanship program.
- Sumter High School has 2 student athletes who serve on the 15-member SCHSL State Student Athlete Advisory Council: Lillie Ivey and Frank Richardson.
- Sumter High has 56 SCHSL Senior Scholar Athletes for 2025-2026. These athletes must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA through 7 semesters of high school and earn Varsity letters in at least 2 sports or 2 seasons of the same sport.
- Junior quarterback Franklin Richardson is a 2025-2026 nominee for the SC Football Hall of Fame Bridge Builder Excellence Award.
- The SHS Student Athlete Advisory Council hosted a middle school athletic leadership summit at Sumter High. The middle schools of Sumter were invited to select 2 student athletes who demonstrate emerging leadership qualities to attend the half day summit led by the SHS student athletes who demonstrate leadership.



SCHOOL AND SIC IMPROVEMENT GOALS AND PROGRESS

Sumter High SIC – Finalist for the State Riley SIC 2025 & 2026

Sumter High School Improvement Council 2025-2026 Goals

- **Goal #1** —We continue the effort from the 2023-2024 school year to recognize & encourage SHS Seniors for the accomplishment of obtaining College & Career Readiness set by the S.C. 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** —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'.

Class of 2025

Academic Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Geddy Ridgeway
- Riley Burton
- Caleb Adams
- Kameron Blanding
- Haile Brewer
- Samantha Merrell
- Annabelle Williamson



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** —Additional focus on Student Academic Achievements
- **Rationale** — The council agreed the school needed to take additional steps in encouraging students academically.
- **Action Taken** —Reinstatement of the Academic Hall of Fame, a school tradition that had been discontinued for a decade. The Academic Hall of Fame honors graduates for being the highest achievers. They are formally recognized in the awards ceremony and their names added to plaques on the wall outside the school's front office.

Standards for Graduates to be added to the Sumter High Academic Hall of Fame:

- Valedictorian
- Salutatorian
- Highest ACT Math score
- Highest ACT English score
- Highest ACT Science score
- Highest ACT Composite score
- Highest SAT Reading score
- Highest SAT Writing & Language score
- Highest SAT Math score
- Highest SAT Composite score



Ongoing Goal —Design and installment of student art and trophy cases in place of locker bays.

Currently the school lacks enough space to display all of its trophies and awards from sports, clubs and organizations. Artworks created by students also have limited spaces for display. Creating new display cases would:

- Improve the appearance of the main hallways of the school.
- Allow for more display of students achievements through art, sports, clubs and organizations.
- Allow for new space for storage or office space behind the cases.

Left Picture: One of the current locker bays

Right: A current display case, modeling as a goal for the locker bay spaces.



Interested in joining the 2026-2027 SIC as a parent or community member?

Please email:
kyle.austin@sumter
schools.net