

2022-2023 Report to Parents

Fort Mill High School

School Achievements

Every year, Fort Mill High School earns local, state, and national recognition for the effort the students, faculty, and community members commit to the success of our school. The 2022-2023 was no different.

Cognia, a school accreditation organization comprised of passionate educators, recognized Fort Mill High School for its 75 years of excellence from 1947-2002.

Fort Mill High School students are focused on academics, but understand the importance of giving back to the community and helping others. The FMHS community raised over \$13,000 during the annual pink out benefitting the Crucial Catch Campaign supporting breast cancer. The FMHS faculty and students raised over \$15,000 to support our local students participating in Special Olympics. The fundraiser culminated in several staff members taking a dive into freezing waters during the Annual Polar Plunge and forced Mr. Beam to hold true to his word and shave his beard.



Excellence in Athletics

This year approximately 730 of our students participated in athletics at Fort Mill High School. The school claimed two team state championships in Girls Swimming including individual winners Olivia Corbi, Anna Kate Halligan, Ava Corbi, Josie Chandler, and Lila Hadley and in Wrestling including individual champion Noah Kitchton. Alivia Cleveland also won an individual state championship in Cross Country. FMHS Athletics also claimed three state runners up in Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, and Boys Swimming. We also claimed eight region championships in Girls Swimming, Boys Swimming, Girls Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Soccer, and Girls Track. Fort Mill High School also had 116 senior athletes recognized by the South Carolina High School League as scholar athletes (3.5 G.P.A. or higher and a varsity letter), and 23 have committed to play a sport in college. 40 Multi-Sport Athletes lettered in both sports.



Excellence in Performing Arts

The Fort Mill High School Performing Arts Department has represented our community, state, and country well this school year.

The Choral Department welcomed 48 new singers into the Freshman Choir program. These students performed in the annual Cabaret, Winter, and Spring concerts with the 85-member Concert Choir. Singers of our department were recognized on the state and national levels this year. Thirteen Concert Choir members were selected for the South Carolina Honor Choir and performed at Southern Wesleyan University in October. Two Concert Choir members were selected to represent FMHS nationally in Cincinnati, Ohio this past February as singers in the National Honor Choir. One of the highest accomplishments for the Concert Choir was performing at Carnegie Hall on March 6 in New York City. The Choir was selected via audition to perform with the internationally acclaimed conductor, Dr. Andre Thomas. As usual, the Choir was busy all year performing at various community events and look forward to those traditions next year. The Department also announced their singers will be traveling to Italy over Spring Break 2024 to perform in Florence and Venice.

The Fort Mill HS Band continued its post-pandemic growth in membership to over 170 students this year, including a performance partnership in the fall with the FMHS Dance Team. With a show entitled "Flow," the marching band won Grand Championship titles at Wando's Low Country Invitational and Mooresville's Blue Devil Classic. The band finished 4th out of 28 bands from 10 different states at the Bands of America Regional hosted by the University of Delaware. Fort Mill finished the marching season at Irmo HS, with a top-5 finish at the 5A state championship. The Wind Symphony and marching band performed at the dedication ceremony in October for the George Fish School historical marker. After sixteen months of planning and fundraising, the band traveled to Ireland in March for a week-long tour of the Emerald Isle and a performance in Dublin's 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Fort Mill Theatre had a successful and exciting year. This fall began with the fun classic comedy, *You Can't Take It With You*. Over 45 students were involved to make the show a rousing success. The spring saw Fort Mill become one of the first school's in the country to produce Tina Fey's musical, *Mean Girls*. This hilarious musical comedy saw 70 students involved in cast and crew and brought with it a Blumey nomination for Jackson Wright for Best Featured Performer as well as Blumey Finalist recognition for Lily Stiles, Sophia Tsouris, Tyler Brothers, and Liam Escalante. The Blumey award ceremony will take place May 21st!

Fort Mill Dance has had an incredibly busy and successful year! First semester the Fort Mill High School Dance Team joined forces with the Fort Mill High School Marching Band for the first time in program history. We competed in the show and won numerous visual excellence awards and finished out the season 5th in the state 5A competition. We also performed in "Cabaret" with the Concert Choir and multiple holiday themed shows around the community. The Fort Mill Colorguard joined the dance program this year and it has been a nice addition to all of our performances. The Fort Mill Chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts will be inducting 12 members that can be recognized at graduation for their artistic merits and achievements by their light blue & white graduation cord. The Dance 4 class will be performing with select members of the Concert Choir at the Fort Mill Rotary Literacy Picnic at the Greenway on May 3rd and hope to perform for some of the elementary schools as well. The Fort Mill High School Dance Team had a jam packed year full of performances and

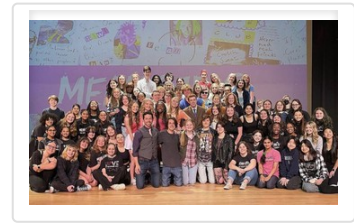
competitions. Our highlights include a 3rd place finish at the State Dance Team Competition in both Jazz & Game Day Divisions and an appearance at the UDA National Dance Team Championship. Auditions for the 23-24 dance team will be taking place on April 28th! Stay tuned...



FMHS Band at Carnegie Hall



FMHS Band



FMHS Theatre

Excellence in Visual Arts

Our visual arts students have had a successful (and busy) year! In the fall, Portfolio Art Honors and Painting 1 students partnered with Pink Out to create logo designs for the annual Pink Out Event which promotes and raises funds for Breast Cancer Awareness. FMHS students and staff voted for the winning design that was used on t-shirts and sold to raise funds for the cause. Several art students were selected to exhibit works in the juried York County High School Art Show. Senior artist Haley Horner was selected as the high school ArtPop artist! Her artwork was displayed on a billboard in our area as well as in other venues including Times Square in NYC!

In October, Marjorie O'Shea (Ceramics teacher) was selected as a Distinguished Fellows recipient for her service and leadership in both state and national Art Education Associations. This is a very prestigious honor, and we could not be more proud of her accomplishments! We brought back our End of Semester Student Art Exhibit to showcase one artwork for each student currently in an art class. We had a great turnout in December and expect another great one on May 10th!

December was full of accomplishments. One hundred student artworks were submitted to the Mid-Carolina Scholastic Art Competition in which 42 artworks received awards in the categories of Ceramics, Drawing and Illustration, Painting, Portfolio, and Sculpture!! This is a prestigious honor for our visual art students. 14 Silver and 6 Gold Key winners had their works on display at the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, NC for a month, and our student winners took a field trip in April to see the artworks on display!

During the same month, Painting 1 and 2 students had works selected for display at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden's annual holiday lights display. They worked to create painted landscapes inspired by the masters, such as Van Gogh, Monet, and Cezanne. The artworks were on display for the public throughout the month of December. Last, Ceramics 1 students created ornaments using the sgraffito technique. Their ornaments were displayed in the front office throughout the holiday season - a tradition we hope to continue for many years.

In March, 32 FMHS student artworks were selected to show among the works of other FMSD middle and high schools in the FMSD Art Show. Several FMHS students were recognized. The entire show can be appreciated virtually at <https://sites.google.com/fmsdmail.org/fmsd-virtual-art-show-2023/home>.

A few FMHS students have also entered pieces into the Congressional Art Competition for SC District 5 which awards Best of Show which displays the winning artwork in the Cannon Tunnel to the U.S. Capitol! We will find out the selected winner in a few weeks. Currently, FMHS senior Haley Horner's work is on display in the Cannon Tunnel through May. Her work was selected last spring to represent SC District 5!

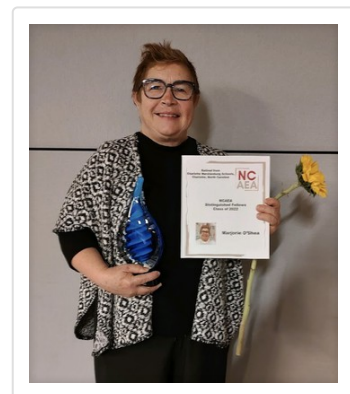
In addition to competitions and art shows, our visual arts students stay involved in school and community events. Our National Art Honor Society participated in the Town of Fort Mill's Annual Scarecrow Crawl, creating a "CrowNa Lisa" out of recycled materials and art supplies. NAHS participated in face painting at a variety of community events including: Oktoberfest in downtown Fort Mill, the Pink Out football game, FMHS Holiday Market, and the Rotary Club's 1st grade literacy picnic. They used their artistic talents to create handmade rings, artworks, greeting cards, and other crafts to sell at community and school events. The proceeds were used to fund student entries for Scholastic Art, supplies for community outreach projects, a field trip to the Mint Museum of Charlotte, and other fun, art-related activities. They made hand-made journals, greeting cards, and artworks for donation to Pathways Community Center in Rock Hill. Other artistic involvement included partnering with FMHS StuCo for school-wide events such as the winter dance, Valentine's Day hearts, and Senior Celebration. They will also be wrapping up two large instructional murals in the ROTC gym. At the April Induction Ceremony, 21 new members were inducted and 12 seniors were honored with their graduation cords. Also, the Yellow Jacket Art Club participated in various student-selected art projects. For example, they created ceramic bowls to sell at a local fall festival, and made holiday gnomes in December. Both clubs are looking forward to next year!



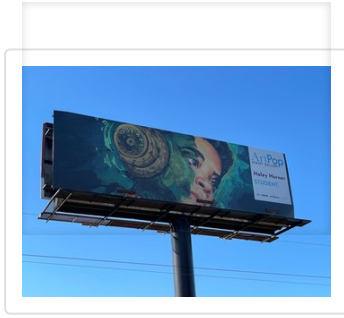
Pink Out Shirt
Design



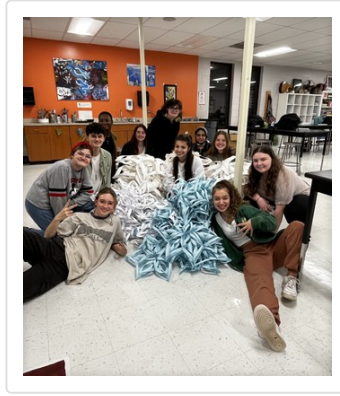
"CrowNa Lisa"



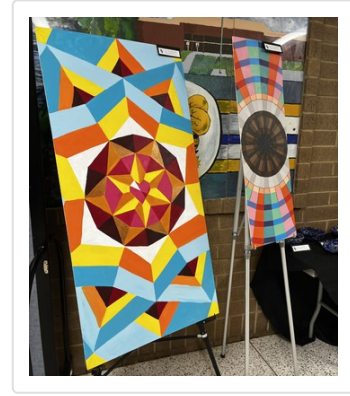
Ms. O'Shea -
Distinguished
Fellows



Billboard Art



Winter Dance
Decor



Art Show

Excellence in Extra Curricular Activities

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The FM DECA team had an incredible year! Students competed at the regional and state level to advance to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) which was held in Orlando. Six sensational students from Fort Mill advanced to the ICDC and represented our school with professionalism and excellence. The 2023 ICDC was the largest conference to date with 22,000 members in attendance from all over the world. Hannah Keller placed in the top 10 in Sports and Entertainment Marketing. Hannah is the first student from FM to achieve this extraordinary achievement. The business department is beyond proud of the entire DECA team!

For the second year in a row, the Fort Mill FFA Chapter was honored to be recognized at the National Convention as a National Gold Star Chapter, among the top 10% in the nation. 10 delegates represented our chapter at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. At the state competition, our veterinary science team placed 4th, our floriculture team placed 5th, and our agronomy team placed 5th.

The Fort Mill High School Marine Corps JROTC had another fantastic year. We started the summer at our leadership camp at Camp McCready. 17 of our cadets attended this rigorous camp along with four other schools. One of our cadets was named the cadet commander and several others held high leadership positions. Our cadets were active and excelled in other areas throughout the year. Our air rifle team won numerous matches this year. These matches culminated in the air rifle team qualifying for Army and Marine Corps Nationals and ended up ranked seventh in the nation. The academic team won both of our regional matches and was also able to move onto the second round of the National Joint Leadership Academic Bowl which put them in the top 20 in the nation. The Drill Team was highly competitive, and they placed in several of their meets. The Color Guard was busy this year as they presented colors for most of the varsity sports teams and many community events. In addition to this, the

the Field Meet team attended three meets this year and finished 2nd in two and 4th in one. The cadets gave over 1400 hours of community service time to the local community and veteran's organizations. The programs four seniors will have amassed over \$235,000 of scholarship money. Our program conducted two successful and enjoyable field trips. Our first was to Patriot's Point where the cadets were able to spend a night on a real Navy ship while they also conducted tours and received simulator time to understand shipboard life and flight operations about air capable navy ships. Our second was our annual ski trip to Winter Park in West Virginia.

HOSA had 28 students compete in 14 events at SC HOSA conference in Charleston this March. We had two 1st place finishes in the state in Forensic Science and Medical Law and Ethics, 2nd places for Behavioral Health, Physical Therapy, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), and 5th place in Pharmacology. We are invited to the HOSA International Leadership Conference and will be taking 7 students to Dallas, TX this June.

The forensic science club hosted a guest speaker from the Charlotte PD Forensic Lab on Controlled Substances and Toxicology first semester. Two teams won first place in the forensic competitions at HOSA and TSA. The TSA team is planning to compete at Nationals at the end of June.

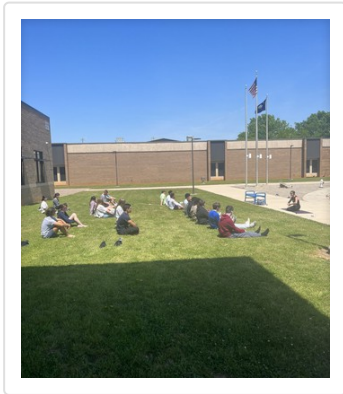
Model UN met weekly to work on public speaking skills, research, and practice debates. Model UN participated in their first Fort Mill Schools Model UN Competition held at Catawba Ridge in December 2022. This was excellent practice for our students participating in Winthrop University's 47th Annual Model UN Competition held over a period of three days in March 2023. Fort Mill High School had 28 students that represented five countries: Kazakhstan, Liberia, Saudia Arabia, Spain, and Turkey. Delegates wrote their own resolutions, many of which were selected to be debated by students from schools all over South Carolina.

About the Fort Mill High School School Improvement Council

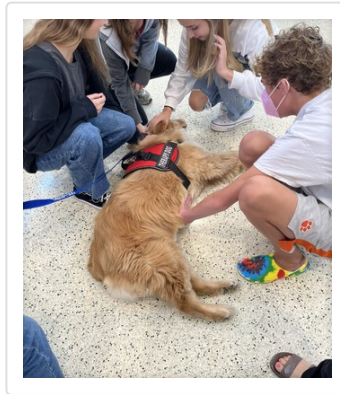
The School Improvement Council of Fort Mill High School is a group of educational stakeholders that attempt to promote and support academic achievement and civic engagement at Fort Mill High School. This group of students, parents, teachers, and community members facilitate meaningful parent and community involvement at Fort Mill High School. The SIC meets monthly to discuss ways to support academic, athletics, visual and performing arts, and student body events. Also, they review policies and set annual goals aimed at targeting areas of need specific to the students of Fort Mill High School.

The FMHS SIC goal for the 2022-2023 school year was crafted to focus on community within the school and to encourage students to find their place by high-lighting extra-curricular activities. Fort Mill High SIC established a plan to create a caring closet within the school to provide students and families in need with school supplies and hygiene products. Later in the year, we organized a prom attire drive to add to the caring closet which provided prom dresses and tuxedos to students at FMHS, within the district, and in surrounding communities with an outfit for prom if they could not afford their own.

Additionally, we hosted another Mindfulness week, started in coordination with last year's SIC which focused on mental health. This week included a visit from therapy dogs, yoga on the lawn at FLEX, and a mindfulness pledge. The parents serving on the SIC also helped organize a coffee truck and gift cards for all teachers during teacher appreciation week.



Yoga on the
Lawn



Therapy Dogs



Cares Closet

The Mission of Fort Mill High School

Fort Mill High School's mission is to provide each student with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to become a lifelong learner and a responsible, productive citizen in a democratic society.

Additional Information

Fort Mill High School proudly recognizes Mrs. Cynthia Knox as the Fort Mill High School Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Lynn Reyes as the Fort Mill High School Support Staff of the Year.

The graduating class of 2022 contained 476 students with 64% attending four year colleges and 24% attending two year colleges. The average SAT score was 1118 (reading and math). The average ACT composite score was 23.9. The class of 2022 collectively earned more than 13 million dollars in scholarships.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Fort Mill High School coordinated 689 Advanced Placement exams to our students with 91.2% scoring a 3 or better on at least one AP test. Fort Mill High School also boasts an on-time graduation rate of 96.2%.

This spring, our Teacher Cadet program had 17 students sign letters of intent to pursue careers in education in college.

In the fall, we welcomed the Be Pro Be Proud truck back to our campus. This is an initiative led by the Associated Industries of South Carolina Foundation leading the way to bring a new generation of pride, progress, and professionals to South Carolina's skilled workforce.



About Fort Mill High School

The town of Fort Mill, South Carolina is located just south of the North Carolina state line. Nearly 18,000 people live inside the Fort Mill corporate limits with a total of nearly 50,000 people residing within the entire township. The Township of Fort Mill currently supports three high schools.

The faculty of Fort Mill High School consists of over 130 teachers, one principal, five assistant principals, six school counselors, and one media specialist.

More than 200 course selections are offered, including Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, Honors, and College Preparatory courses.

Fort Mill High School has over 38 co-curricular activities and 24 athletic teams. We will welcome boys volleyball next school year as a new high school league athletic team.

Purpose of the Report

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

For more information regarding the Fort Mill High School SIC please contact Ellen Borland at borlande@fortmillschools.org



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