

# 2024-2025 REPORT TO PARENTS

## Fort Mill High School

Dear Fort Mill High School Families,

As we conclude another remarkable school year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements that defined 2024–2025. Fort Mill High School remains a vibrant community of learners, leaders, and innovators—and this year has been a testament to the passion, resilience, and excellence that shape our Yellow Jacket family.

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## SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Fort Mill High School continues to build upon its legacy of academic excellence and whole-child development. In the 2024–2025 school year, FMHS was ranked #7 in South Carolina and #1,041 nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. This recognition highlights our commitment to student achievement, high-quality instruction, and a nurturing academic environment. Our faculty implemented innovative teaching practices, integrated technology, and expanded support systems to meet the needs of all learners. Over 900 students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, with a strong pass rate that exceeded the state average. Our school also celebrated increases in SAT and ACT participation and performance. FMHS was also a host site for multiple regional academic events, further showcasing our leadership across the region.

**Crucial Catch Campaign:** Thanks to the outstanding support of our FMHS Crucial Catch community, we raised \$14,203 this past year—an incredible testament to the generosity, dedication, and teamwork behind every fundraiser, donation, and event. Because of these efforts, Fort Mill High School remains the #1 fundraising school in South Carolina and ranks #2 nationally among Youth Crucial Catch participants. Your contributions have expanded access to critical cancer screenings, follow-up care, and life-saving treatments. Since 2013, FMHS has partnered with the NFL, American Cancer Society, and the Carolina Panthers to promote early detection and education. Through Crucial Catch, our students, families, and staff have come together every October to advocate for life-saving prevention measures, build awareness, and deliver hope to countless families.





## PINK OUT GAME



## ATHLETICS EXCELLENCE

Athletics continue to be a pillar of excellence at FMHS, cultivating teamwork, perseverance, and pride:

- **Boys Swim Team:** Claimed the 5A State Runner-Up title, winning 7 out of 11 events. Multiple individual state titles were earned by standout swimmers Turner Wiand, Dominic Impens, and Adrian Paredes, including in the 100 yd. Freestyle, 200 yd. IM, and relay events.
- **Girls Swim Team:** Earned the SC 5A Division 2 State Championship. The team showed unity and speed, led by captains Josie Chandler, Ava Corbi, and Celina Vu.
- **Wrestling:** Fort Mill's wrestling program once again secured the 5A Division 2 State Championship, bringing home the title for a third consecutive year, showcasing our program's strength and consistency.
- **Cross Country:** Both the Boys and Girls teams won the 5A State Championship, demonstrating elite performance and depth across all grade levels.





Boys & Girls Cross  
Country



Wrestling



Girls Swim Team

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## EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS

FMHS Performing Arts thrived in 2024–2025, building a culture of creativity, expression, and technical precision:

### Theatre

This year marked a major milestone as we became an official charter of the International Thespian Society, inducting 11 students into this prestigious honor. The Drama Club held bi-monthly student-led workshops and revitalized student engagement through hands-on learning experiences. We staged four diverse productions—*The Addams Family: The Musical*, *10 in 30 Plays*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *The Frogs: A Modern Adaptation*—each highlighting a broad range of talents in performance, design, and technical theatre.

Students attended four field trips to see professional shows and participate in workshops, deepening their understanding of live performance. A special highlight was hosting Winthrop University intern Courtney Clark, whose creativity and professionalism added tremendous value to our program.

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### FMHS Band

The Fort Mill High School Marching Band had another remarkable season, continuing its tradition of excellence, discipline, and musical achievement. At the 2024 SC 5A Marching Band Championships held at Boiling Springs High School, the FMHS band delivered two stellar performances that earned them the **5A Upper State Championship** title and a **2nd Place finish at the State Finals**.

Their preliminary performance ranked highest among all upper state competitors, advancing them to the evening finals where the top 12 bands from across the state competed head-to-head. Despite a brief weather delay, our students performed with poise and power, securing Fort Mill's **10th State Runner-Up** finish to complement its **24 state championships** over the program's rich history.

The band's success reflects the countless hours of dedication from our student musicians, color guard, directors, and parent volunteers. We are proud of their resilience and artistry throughout a demanding and rewarding season.

In addition to success on the state stage, the Fort Mill High School Marching Band achieved national and regional recognition this season. At the **Bands of America (BOA) Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship** held at the University of Delaware, FMHS competed in Class 3A and earned top honors, winning **Best Music Performance** and **Best General Effect**. The band secured **1st Place in Class 3A** and advanced to the evening finals, ultimately placing **3rd overall** among 26 elite bands from six different states.

Closer to home, the band earned the title of **Grand Champion** at the **River Bluff Swamp Classic** in Lexington, SC. Competing in Class 6A, Fort Mill took home top honors in every major category: **Best Music, Best Marching, Best Overall Effect, Best Percussion, and Best Color Guard**, finishing with the highest overall score of the event.

These achievements underscore the musical excellence and competitive spirit that define our band program. Congratulations to our dedicated student musicians, color guard, and the entire FMHS band staff for continuing to raise the standard year after year.



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## EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS

The FMHS visual arts department had an exceptional year filled with creativity, achievement, and community engagement. Several students exhibited work at the juried York County High School Art Show, where FMHS won 5 of 7 top awards, including 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, Honorable Mention, and the prestigious Herb Dumaresq Memorial Award.

Portfolio Honors students collaborated with a local 4-year-old Kindergarten class to celebrate Dot Day by painting glow-in-the-dark abstract circles inspired by Kandinsky. We also hosted semester art exhibits in December and May in the Learning Commons, providing all art students with an opportunity to showcase their work.

Approximately 45 student artworks were submitted to the Mid-Carolina Scholastic Art Competition, resulting in 3 Gold Keys, 4 Silver Keys, and 6 Honorable Mentions. Paige Rublee's



sculpture, "My Grandmother's Angel," was selected for display on a billboard in Pineville, NC. Ceramics students continued the tradition of creating holiday bells, which were displayed in the front office. AP Art and Design students held a well-attended Gala-style show in April, displaying their full portfolios to peers and the local community.

**Our National Art Honor Society (NAHS)** made a strong impact through:

- Participation in the Scarecrow Crawl with "FMHScream," inspired by Edvard Munch
- Submitting award-winning entries to the Fort Mill History Museum's art competition (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place)
- Funding 40 student submissions to the Scholastic competition through fundraising
- Contributing art to the Literary Magazine and *YeJacka*
- Volunteering at community events like the Miracle on Main Street and Riverview Elementary's Winter Festival
- Leading the first-ever "Mug Workshop" for staff and family
- Hosting tie-dye and ceramic candle workshops for members

Additionally, the revitalized Yellow Jacket Art Club welcomed 15 new members and provided a nurturing space for younger artists. Six students entered the statewide South Carolina Student Art Show, with three placing—one winning 1st place in Ceramics. Our Yellow Jacket artists truly exemplified creativity, service, and excellence throughout the year.

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## EXCELLENCE IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### Model UN

The Fort Mill High School Model United Nations team had a dynamic and enriching year, developing students' skills in diplomacy, research, public speaking, and international affairs. The group met weekly to prepare for conferences by studying global issues, refining debate strategies, and crafting position papers and resolutions.

In November 2024, FMHS delegates participated in the **3rd Annual Fort Mill Schools Model UN Conference** at Catawba Ridge High School—a valuable training ground ahead of larger competitions. The year culminated in the **49th Annual Winthrop University Model UN Conference** in March 2025, a three-day academic simulation involving schools from across the region. **Twenty FMHS students represented five countries**—Afghanistan, Belgium, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and Singapore—debating complex global challenges and presenting original resolutions. Our team's professionalism and preparation were recognized with a **Distinguished Delegate Award**, and several of our students had their **resolutions selected for formal debate**—a significant accomplishment at a competitive conference.

Model UN continues to grow as a platform for student leadership, critical thinking, and global citizenship at Fort Mill High School.

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## HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is an international, student-led organization committed to preparing students for careers in the global health community through hands-on experiences, leadership development, and career exploration. At Fort Mill High School, our HOSA chapter continues to grow and thrive, offering students meaningful opportunities to lead and excel in health science pathways.

This fall, 20 student officers and committee chairs attended the **Fall Leadership Conference** at Newberry College, where they engaged in career development sessions and built leadership skills alongside peers from across the state. In March, **40 FMHS students competed in 14 events** at the South Carolina HOSA State Leadership Conference. Of those, **21 students placed in the top 5 statewide** in categories such as Public Health, Mental Health Promotion, Pharmacy Science, Physical Therapy, Nursing Assisting, and Community Emergency Response.

A special congratulations goes to four students who **placed 1st in South Carolina** in the following events: **Medical Assisting, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Respiratory Therapy**. These students, along with others who finished in the **top three**, will represent FMHS and South Carolina at the **International Leadership Conference** in Nashville, Tennessee this June.

Our HOSA students have demonstrated a deep commitment to their futures in healthcare and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments.

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## FFA (Future Farmers of America)

Our Fort Mill High School **FFA** program proudly represented our school at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, where students showcased their expertise, teamwork, and dedication to agricultural education. Competing against top FFA chapters from across the country, our students earned several team and individual honors across multiple categories.

**Veterinary Science Team:** Awarded Bronze Team honors. Individual recognitions included:

- Claire Hansen – Silver
- Ava Seay – Bronze
- Josie Sorrel – Bronze
- Jacqui Farrell – Bronze

**Floriculture Team:** Received the Silver Award. Individual awards went to:

- Tillman Shiplett – Gold
- Jasmine Intawiwat – Silver
- Madison Mager – Silver
- Victoria Day – Silver

**Environmental and Natural Resources Team:** Also earned Silver Team honors. Individual achievements included:

- Allegra DeMagno – Bronze
- Leo Nielsen – Silver

- Isabella Herrera – Silver
- Lucy Allen – Gold

Our FFA students continue to uphold the values of leadership, service, and excellence, and we are proud of their success on the national stage.

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## DECA

DECA (formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an international student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. At Fort Mill High School, DECA empowers students with real-world experience, career skills, and leadership opportunities.

Our **DECA** program experienced another outstanding year of achievement, growth, and leadership. At the Region 2 DECA Conference, FMHS students demonstrated professionalism, preparation, and poise. They earned top honors and qualified in large numbers to advance to the State Leadership Conference and Competition in Charleston.

### Regional Highlights:

- **1st Place:** Joshua King (Entrepreneurship), Kennedy Cullings (Restaurant and Food Service Marketing), Ishaan Chowdhury (Sports and Entertainment Marketing)
- **2nd Place:** Francesca Goggans (Apparel and Accessories Marketing), Arnav Meshram (Entrepreneurship), Campbell Ayers (Hotel and Lodging Management), Vyllette Ebrahimi (Quick Service Marketing Management), Joy Ni (Marketing Communications)
- **3rd Place:** Keegan Coston (Automotive Service Marketing)

**State Qualifiers:** Krystian Villatoro, Hayden Fay, Emma Funderburk, Baker Tolentino, Cam Kubitz, William Martin, Morrison Murphy, Brady Seeger, Ace Scardigno, Kurt McCarthy, and Haley Wallet—all of whom qualified in various business, marketing, and entrepreneurship categories.

These results reflect the depth of talent in our DECA program and the dedication of our students and advisors. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the way they represented FMHS at every level.







### Marine Corps JROTC

The Fort Mill High School Marine Corps JROTC program had an outstanding year focused on developing leadership, character, and responsible citizenship. Our summer began with a leadership camp at Camp McCready on the Fort Jackson Complex, where 14

cadets participated alongside students from four other schools. Several FMHS cadets earned top leadership roles at the camp.

Our Air Rifle Team excelled, winning multiple matches throughout the year and finishing 9th in the nation at the Marine Corps Nationals in Anniston, Alabama. One team member advanced to the All-JROTC Service Nationals at Camp Perry, Ohio. They also captured the South Carolina Junior Olympics State Championship in a multi-site competition.

Academically, our JROTC team reached the second round of the National Joint Leadership Academic Bowl (JLAB), placing them in the top 20 nationwide. They also dominated their regional match at Ardrey Kell, finishing in first place among 11 schools.

The Color Guard presented colors at over 30 events, supporting both school athletics and community activities. Our Raider and Field Meet teams competed in eight meets—winning three and finishing runner-up in four others.

In total, cadets contributed more than 1,100 hours of community service, supporting local organizations and veterans. The program's seven graduating seniors were awarded over \$225,000 in scholarship funds for their continued education.

JROTC field trips this year included outings to the U.S. National Whitewater Center, Winterplace Ski Resort, and Norfolk Naval Base. At Norfolk, cadets spent two days learning from Navy personnel and exploring aviation squadrons, ships, and amphibious units—an unforgettable learning experience.

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## EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE & STUDENT LIFE

At Fort Mill High School, we believe in shaping well-rounded students through service, leadership, and celebration of school spirit. This year, our students demonstrated a strong commitment to giving back and making a difference both within and beyond the walls of FMHS. These events reflect the spirit of Fort Mill High School—where students lead with heart, serve with purpose, and celebrate with pride.



## Baseball Gives Back

The FMHS Baseball team exemplified service by participating in **Operation Christmas Child**, packing shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in need around the world. This effort, led by our athletes, coaches, and families, showcased the importance of compassion and giving during the holiday season.



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## Campus Cleanup Initiative

Students from **Key Club**, **Interact Club**, and the **Environmental Club** teamed up to beautify our school grounds. During FLEX and after school, they cleaned up outdoor spaces across campus, reinforcing their dedication to stewardship and pride in our learning environment.





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### FMHS Cares – Supporting Special Olympics

January marked our **7th annual FMHS Cares Fundraising Blitz**, a one-day, one-block school-wide competition to raise funds for the **Polar Plunge**, benefiting **Special Olympics South Carolina**. Students rallied in their 2nd block classes to support an inclusive cause, competing for bragging rights and breakfast rewards. The fundraiser highlights our school's values of empathy, inclusion, and service, and supports a meaningful cause that brings communities together.

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### Miss Fort Mill High School Pageant

One of the most memorable celebrations of the year was the **2025 Miss Fort Mill High School Scholarship Pageant**. This event honored student talent, poise, and leadership across all grade levels.

Congratulations to all our participants:

- **Miss Fort Mill High School:** Campbell Tompkins
- **Miss Senior:** Justine Das | **Runner-Up:** Diamond Rhodes



- **Miss Junior:** Antonia Pop | **Runner-Up:** Sriya Jallepalli
- **Miss Sophomore:** Kennedy Cilley | **Runner-Up:** Reagan King
- **Miss Freshman:** Aubrey Rouse | **Runner-Up:** Lola Wilkinson
- **Miss Entertainment:** Caroline Jones
- **Miss Photogenic:** Campbell Tompkins
- **Miss Congeniality:** Campbell Tompkins
- **Miss Sweetheart:** Bayla Hoover



## ABOUT THE FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL (SIC)

The **Fort Mill High School School Improvement Council (SIC)** is a collaborative group of parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community stakeholders who work together to support and enhance the educational experience at FMHS. The SIC provides valuable feedback, advocates for school initiatives, and helps align school goals with community values and student needs.

In 2024–2025, the FMHS SIC led several impactful efforts, including:

- Hosting the **2nd Annual "Next Steps" Night**, an event focused on college preparation, standardized testing, and career exploration. The event featured local resource providers and guidance from FMHS counselors.

- Organizing **teacher appreciation drives** during the winter holidays and **Teacher Appreciation Week** to support and celebrate our educators.
- Partnering with local **prom closet charities** to increase formalwear access for students across the district, helping remove barriers for students attending school dances and formal events.

The SIC meets monthly and serves a vital role in bridging the voices of students, families, and the community with school leadership.

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## OUR MISSION AT 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.

### The Beliefs of Fort Mill High School

- We believe each student possesses the ability to learn.
- We believe each student deserves a safe and supportive learning environment.
- We believe each student can maximize learning through career-based educational opportunities integrated with business, government, and the community at large.
- We believe in providing students with a relevant, challenging program of study.
- We believe it is essential to use student achievement data and program evaluations to ensure continuous improvement.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fort Mill High School proudly recognizes Mr. Stewart Ruddy as the Fort Mill High School Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Sandra Stankovits as the Fort Mill High School Support Staff of the Year.



# Teacher of the Year



**Stewart Ruddy**

# Support Staff of the Year



**Sandy Stankovits**

## 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 Jason Crepeau at [crepeauj@fortmillschools.org](mailto:crepeauj@fortmillschools.org)



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