

2025-2026 REPORT TO PARENTS

Fort Mill High School

Dear Fort Mill High School Families,

The 2025–2026 school year at Fort Mill High School has been defined by **purpose, progress, and a shared commitment to student success**. Across every classroom, field, stage, and organization, our students have been challenged to grow and have risen to meet those expectations in meaningful and measurable ways.

One of the most significant indicators of this progress is the impact of our collective work on student outcomes. Through intentional systems of support, collaboration, and targeted instruction, we reduced our course failure rate from a three-year average of **2.4% to 0.98%**. This achievement reflects more than a number, it represents a schoolwide commitment to meeting students where they are, providing the support they need, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

At the same time, our students continued to excel beyond the classroom. From **state championships and national-level recognitions** to outstanding accomplishments in the arts, career-focused programs, and student organizations, Fort Mill High School students consistently demonstrated what it means to **lead, compete, and contribute**. Whether performing on the national stage, earning academic honors, or leading service initiatives that impact our community, our students embraced opportunities to grow and make a difference.

Equally important are the experiences that prepare students for life beyond high school. Events such as **Educator Signing Day, the Science Fair, college and career exploration opportunities, and community partnerships** provided students with meaningful pathways to explore their interests and take intentional steps toward their futures.

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The partnership between our students, staff, families, and community continues to create an environment where students feel supported, connected, and inspired to achieve at high levels. Together, we have built a culture that values both excellence and opportunity, where success is celebrated and growth is expected.

This report highlights the many ways our Fort Mill High School community has come together to support student learning, celebrate achievement, and create an experience that prepares every student for success in college, careers, and beyond.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & PERFORMANCE

Fort Mill High School continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence, with performance data reflecting both **high achievement and sustained growth across all areas**. These results, combined with national and state recognition, reinforce FMHS as one of the top-performing public high schools in South Carolina.

FMHS maintained an impressive **95.9% on-time graduation rate**, one of the highest among traditional high schools in the state, reflecting a continued focus on ensuring students successfully complete their high school experience prepared for what comes next. Student performance on End-of-Course (EOC) assessments remained equally strong, with **94.8% of students meeting expectations across all tested areas**, demonstrating consistent instructional effectiveness and student readiness.

In **English Language Arts**, Fort Mill High School led the state with **82.2% of students meeting or exceeding expectations**, while **Algebra performance showed notable growth**, increasing to **74.52% of students earning a C or higher**, up from 68.27% the previous year. These gains reflect a focused effort on targeted instruction, strategic support systems, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Fort Mill High School also continues to excel in preparing students for advanced coursework and postsecondary success. With **85.3% of students participating in Advanced Placement (AP) courses**, FMHS remains among the highest in the state for access to rigorous academic opportunities. This commitment is further reflected in the school's designation as **"Well Above Expectations" in college readiness**, ensuring students are prepared to succeed in college-level coursework.

Standardized assessment performance continues to exceed expectations, with an **average SAT score of 1230 (610 Math, 620 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing)** well above state and national

averages. Beyond academic success, earning high grades and strong preparation for future pathways.

Fort Mill High School's success is further supported by the strength of the **Fort Mill School District**, which continues to lead the state in key academic indicators, including EOC performance and college readiness metrics.

ATHLETICS EXCELLENCE

Athletics at Fort Mill High School continue to be a defining part of our school community, fostering **discipline, teamwork, resilience, and school pride**. Throughout the school year, our student-athletes demonstrated a commitment to excellence that resulted in success at the **state, regional, and program-wide levels**.

This year, Fort Mill High School athletics achieved success at the highest levels, highlighted by multiple state championships and sustained excellence across programs. Our **Wrestling program secured its fourth consecutive 5A Division II State Championship**, continuing a tradition of dominance and solidifying its place among the premier programs in the state. In cross country, both teams delivered exceptional performances, with the **boys team earning back-to-back 5A State Championships** and the **girls team capturing its third consecutive state title**, reflecting remarkable consistency and depth across the program.

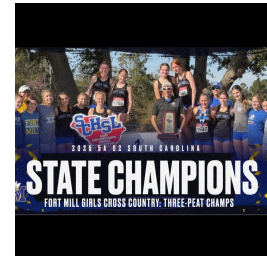
In addition to championship success, several programs demonstrated outstanding performance throughout their seasons. Our **swim program remained undefeated in multiple competitions**, consistently earning decisive victories across both boys and girls events. The **girls swim team finished as the 5A Division II State Runner-Up**, further highlighting the strength of the program.

Beyond team accomplishments, Fort Mill High School student-athletes earned **notable individual recognition** throughout the year. Swimmer **Dominic Impens** delivered a standout performance by winning four events in a single meet and earning 84 total points, while remaining undefeated across competitions. Cross country runner **Kaylee Rovenstine** captured the Warrior Invitational title and was ranked among the **top runners in the state**. In football, **Noah Hardy** set a new school record with a **54-yard field goal**, demonstrating exceptional individual achievement within the program.

Across all athletic programs, Fort Mill High School consistently demonstrated **program-wide success on a weekly basis**, with multiple teams earning first-place finishes and key victories throughout the fall season. From cross country and swimming to tennis, volleyball, cheer, and

This collective success was further recognized at the community level, as Fort Mill High School received the **York County Sports Hall of Fame Excellence in Sports Award**, honoring the overall strength and achievement of our athletic program.

Beyond wins and championships, athletics at Fort Mill High School play a critical role in developing well-rounded students. Through competition, our student-athletes build leadership, accountability, and perseverance while forming meaningful connections with teammates and coaches.



EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS



Theatre

The Fort Mill High School Theatre program continued to provide students with meaningful opportunities to develop their **creativity, collaboration, and performance skills** throughout the school year.

The theatre program showcased student talent through multiple full-scale productions, including *Big Fish* and *Charlotte's Web*. These performances provided students with authentic opportunities to engage audiences while demonstrating the dedication, preparation, and teamwork required to bring each production to life.

Each production highlighted the depth of the program, with students actively involved in all aspects of theatre, including **acting, stage design, lighting, sound, and technical production**. This comprehensive approach allowed students to develop a wide range of skills while taking ownership of both on-stage and behind-the-scenes roles.

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and grow. From rehearsals through live performances, students developed not only their artistic abilities, but also essential skills such as **communication, problem-solving, and collaboration**. In addition to performances, the theatre program contributed to the overall culture of Fort Mill High School by providing opportunities for students to connect, lead, and express themselves creatively. The program continues to serve as a space where students can build confidence and explore their interests in a supportive and engaging environment.

The continued success of the theatre program reflects the commitment of our students, directors, and support staff, who work together to create an environment where creativity is encouraged and student voice is valued.

FMHS Band

The Fort Mill High School Marching Band delivered an exceptional season, continuing its long-standing tradition of excellence through **elite performance, competitive success, and a deeply rooted culture of discipline and pride**.

At the state level, the band once again performed among South Carolina's best at the **5A Marching Band Championships**, earning the **Upper State Championship** and finishing **State Runner-Up**. Their preliminary performance ranked among the top in the state, advancing them to finals where they performed with composure and precision. This accomplishment marks Fort Mill's **10th State Runner-Up finish**, adding to a distinguished legacy that includes **24 state championships**.



Beyond the state stage, the band demonstrated **regional dominance throughout the season**. Fort Mill earned **multiple Grand Champion titles**, including standout performances at the **Hickory Ridge Festival of Bands** and the **Charger Cup at Cox Mill High School**, where the band not only placed first in class, but consistently **swept all major caption awards**, including Best Music, Best Visual, Best Overall Effect, Best Percussion, and Best Color Guard. These performances reflect a program competing, and winning, at the highest level across the region.

On the national stage, the band continued to elevate its performance, earning top honors at the **Bands of America Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship**. Competing against 26 elite bands from six states, Fort Mill earned **1st Place in Class 3A**, along with **Best Music Performance** and **Best General Effect**, and advanced to the finals where they placed **3rd overall**. This achievement highlights the program's ability to consistently compete among the nation's top marching bands.

In addition to its role in Fort Mill High School's competitive success,

the Fort Mill High School band program has been a key component of the school's spirit initiatives,

the band played a central role in shaping school culture and bringing energy to the Yellow Jacket experience. The program's impact extends beyond competition, contributing to a strong sense of unity and pride across the school.

The success of the Fort Mill High School band program reflects the **countless hours of dedication and preparation** from student musicians, color guard, directors, and parent volunteers. Through their commitment and teamwork, students not only achieve at the highest levels, but also develop as **leaders, collaborators, and performers**.



EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS

The Fort Mill High School Visual Arts program continued to provide students with meaningful opportunities to develop their **creativity, technical skill, and artistic voice** throughout the school year. Through coursework, competitions, and public recognition, our students demonstrated the ability to create work that resonates beyond the classroom and represents Fort Mill High School with distinction.

A major highlight of the year was the recognition earned by FMHS students in the **Mid-Carolina Region of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**, a highly competitive program that includes high schools across **27 counties in the Charlotte area**. FMHS students earned multiple honors, including **Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention** recognition. Gold Key winners **Abigail Shelton** and **Tanner Helms** advanced to compete at the national level, with Tanner earning **two Gold Keys**. Silver Key recognition was awarded to **Emerson Moore** and **Abigail Shelton**, while **Jazmyn Grant, Ava Rotella, Abigail Shelton, Bryn Stickley, and Kylie Johnson** received Honorable Mention recognition.

One of the most notable individual accomplishments came from **Abigail Shelton**, whose artwork was selected for display through the **Adams Outdoor Billboard program**. Abigail was one of only **13**

These accomplishments reflect the strength of our Visual Arts program and the dedication of students who continue to pursue excellence through creative expression. Whether through regional competition, national advancement, or public display, our artists demonstrated originality, discipline, and a willingness to share their voice with a broader audience.

EXCELLENCE IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Fort Mill High School provides a wide range of extracurricular opportunities that allow students to **explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and apply their learning in meaningful, real-world contexts**. During the 2025–2026 school year, our students demonstrated exceptional achievement across competitive organizations, leadership initiatives, and service-based programs, reflecting a school culture that prioritizes **engagement, excellence, and student growth beyond the classroom**.

DECA - Business & Marketing

The Fort Mill High School DECA program continued to distinguish itself as one of the school's premier competitive organizations. At the **South Carolina DECA State Leadership Conference**, **15 students placed in the Top 3 and qualified for international competition**, demonstrating a high level of preparation, professionalism, and applied business knowledge.

Through DECA, students engage in **real-world business scenarios**, where they analyze case studies, develop strategic solutions, and present their ideas to industry professionals. These experiences build critical skills in **public speaking, financial literacy, marketing strategy, and entrepreneurship**.

While individual competitors represent Fort Mill High School across a wide range of events, the collective success of this group reflects a program that consistently prepares students to perform at a high level and compete against the best in the state and beyond.





The Fort Mill High School FFA program achieved a major milestone this year, as the **Veterinary Science Team** earned the **South Carolina State Championship** and advanced to represent the state at the **National FFA Convention in Indianapolis**.

The championship team included **Samantha Collett, Blake Evans, Amelia Geary, and Palyn Rivers**, with **Palyn Rivers** earning the **second-highest individual score in the entire competition**.

This accomplishment highlights both the strength of the team and the depth of individual expertise within the program. Students demonstrated proficiency in **animal science, diagnostics, and problem-solving**, while working collaboratively in a competitive setting.

FFA continues to provide students with opportunities to develop **leadership, responsibility, and technical skill**, while exploring careers in agriculture, veterinary science, and related industries.

Student Media - The Buzz TV

The Buzz TV program continued to perform at an elite level, representing Fort Mill High School on the national stage at the **Student Television Network Convention**. Competing against more than **3,600 students from across the country**, FMHS students earned multiple awards, including **two 1st-place finishes**.

Students in The Buzz TV program take on authentic roles in **news production, video editing, reporting, and storytelling**, producing content that highlights school events, student achievements, and community stories. Their work extends beyond competition, playing a vital role in shaping school culture and keeping the FMHS community informed.

In addition, the program continues to produce meaningful content such as **Veterans Day recognition features**, honoring members of the community and reinforcing the importance of storytelling with purpose.



Marine Corps Junior ROTC

A major highlight of the year was the national championship performance by **Joshua Prince**, who earned the **Marine Corps JROTC National Air Rifle Championship** and qualified for **All-Service Nationals**. This accomplishment reflects an extraordinary level of precision, focus, and dedication.

Through JROTC, students develop **leadership, accountability, and a strong sense of service**, while participating in structured training that prepares them for success both in and beyond high school.

Model United Nations & Student Leadership

Fort Mill High School students continued to demonstrate leadership and global awareness through participation in **Model United Nations and other student-led organizations**. These programs provide opportunities for students to engage in **research, debate, and collaborative problem-solving**, while addressing real-world global issues.

Additionally, selected students served on the **Superintendent's Student Advisory Council**, representing Fort Mill High School at the district level. Through this role, students contributed to discussions on **school climate, academics, and student experience**, while developing leadership and communication skills that extend beyond the classroom.

HOSA - Future Health Professionals

Students involved in HOSA continued to engage in experiences that promote **career exploration and readiness in the healthcare field**. Through competitions, program activities, and collaborative learning experiences, students gained exposure to real-world applications of medical knowledge.

HOSA provides students with opportunities to develop **critical thinking, communication, and professionalism**, while exploring pathways in medicine, nursing, and allied health professions. The program serves as an important extension of classroom learning, helping students make informed decisions about their future careers.

EXCELL STUDENT LIFE

Service and community engagement remained central to the Fort Mill High School experience throughout the year. Our students, staff, families, and community partners consistently came together to support causes that extend beyond the classroom and reflect the values of **empathy, leadership, and collective responsibility**.

One of the most visible examples of this work was the continued success of the **FMHS Crucial Catch Campaign**. Throughout October, students, teams, clubs, band members, faculty, staff, families, and community partners joined together under the theme **"We Are the Swarm"** to support cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection. The campaign included restaurant giveback nights, merchandise sales, a community 5K, Powder Puff game, Pink Out football game, halftime recognition, and opportunities to honor individuals and families impacted by cancer. Through this ongoing effort, Fort Mill High School has raised **\$143,203 to date**, ranking **#1 in South Carolina** and **#2 nationally** among Youth Crucial Catch participants.

FMHS also continued its support of **Special Olympics South Carolina** through the **Polar Plunge**, with students and staff participating as the **Ice-Stinging Jackets**. This initiative encouraged schoolwide involvement through a 2nd block fundraising competition while reinforcing our commitment as a **Unified Champion School**. Because 50% of the funds raised stay at FMHS, the effort directly supports local programs and students, making the impact both meaningful and immediate.

Student organizations also connected leadership with service. Through DECA, students used project-based competition to address real community needs, including **Sweets for Survivors** and the **FMHS/DECA Annual Powder Puff Fundraiser**. These projects allowed students to apply business, marketing, and leadership skills while supporting causes connected to the broader school community.

Community engagement was also reflected in the work of the **School Improvement Council**, which sponsored teacher appreciation efforts through gift card donations. This initiative provided families and community members with a direct way to recognize and support FMHS staff, reinforcing the partnership between school and home.

In addition, FMHS celebrated students who are preparing to serve future generations through **Educator Signing Day**, recognizing **21 students** who committed to pursuing careers in education. Their decision to enter the teaching profession reflects a powerful form of service and speaks to the long-term impact our students will have in classrooms and communities beyond Fort Mill High School.

Together, these

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fundraising, awareness, and community partnership, Fort Mill High School students continue to demonstrate what it means to lead with purpose and serve with pride.



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through service,



Polar Plunge / Special Olympics

- FMHS participated as the **Ice-Stinging Jackets** in support of Special Olympics.
- Donations were tied to a schoolwide 2nd block competition.
- The newsletter notes that **50% of funds raised stay at FMHS**, directly supporting local programs and students as part of the school's Unified Champion School work.

DECA Service Projects

- DECA students connected competition with service through **Sweets for Survivors** and the **FMHS/DECA Annual Powder Puff Fundraiser**.



Educator Signing Day

- FMHS recognized **21 students** committing to careers in education, highlighting service through future impact on students and communities

Miss Fort Mill High School Pageant

Fort Mill High School proudly hosted the annual **Miss Fort Mill High School Pageant**, a student-led event that celebrates **confidence, leadership, and school pride**. The event brought together

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the talent,

Organized by the **FMHS Student Council and their teacher leaders**, the pageant reflects the strength of student leadership and the ability of our students to create meaningful, engaging experiences for the school community.

The evening recognized outstanding participants across grade levels, including the crowning of **Miss Fort Mill High School, Antonia Pop**, and **Miss Senior, Hannah Serena**. Additional students were honored as top representatives within each class, along with special recognitions such as **Miss Congeniality, Miss Photogenic, and Miss Entertainment**, celebrating qualities such as character, presence, and performance.

Beyond the competition, the Miss FMHS Pageant provides students with opportunities to develop **confidence, communication skills, and leadership presence**. The event continues to be a valued tradition that strengthens school culture and showcases the diverse talents within the Fort Mill High School community.



IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL (SIC)

The Fort Mill High School **School Improvement Council (SIC)** continues to play an important role in strengthening the partnership between the school, families, and the broader community.

Comprised of parents, staff members, and community representatives, the SIC provides valuable input and support as the school works to enhance the overall student experience and maintain a focus on continuous improvement.

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, the SIC remained engaged in efforts to support school initiatives, gather feedback, and promote open communication between stakeholders. By encouraging participation in opportunities such as the **South Carolina Parent School Climate Survey**, the council helped ensure that parent and community voices were included in shaping decisions related to school culture, academics, and student support systems.

In addition to its advisory role, the SIC actively contributed to the school community through initiatives such as **teacher appreciation efforts**, providing opportunities for families and community members to recognize and support the work of Fort Mill High School staff. These efforts reflect the council's commitment to fostering a positive and supportive environment for both students and educators.

The work of the School Improvement Council reflects a shared commitment to collaboration, transparency, and continuous growth. By bringing together diverse perspectives and maintaining a focus on student success, the SIC continues to serve as an important bridge between Fort Mill High School and the community it serves.

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
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FMHS TEACHER & SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Fort Mill High School proudly recognizes Mrs. Audrey Lewis as the Fort Mill High School Teacher of the Year and Mr. Adante Hamilton as the Fort Mill High School Support Staff of the Year.

*Teacher
of the Year*



Audrey Lewis



Adante Hamilton

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



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