

SIC REPORT PURPOSE

“This report is issued by the Aiken Scholars Academy School Improvement Council in accordance with the 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”



2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP

Elected Members

Dr. Thomas Burns, Parent – Chair
Meg Ivey, Parent – Vice-Chair
Brooklyn Turner, Student – Secretary
Mara Newman, Student
Viridiana Silva-Cabrera, Student
Sharonda Jacobs, Teacher
Amanda Waymer, Teacher

Appointed Members

Byron Bush – UDR Consulting
Tabatha Amodio – Aiken Association of Realtors
Dr. Tim Lintner – UofSC Aiken

Ex-Officio Members

Martha Messick, Principal
Kayla Goldschmidt, Student Body President



THANK YOU to our partner U of SC Aiken for their continued support!

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2022



AIKEN SCHOLARS ACADEMY

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MISSION



The Mission of Aiken County Public Schools, the unifying agent of new horizons and extraordinary possibilities, is to ensure all students thrive as future-ready, globally mindful, and productive citizens through a responsive and inclusive school system distinguished by

- * High quality and student-centered learning experiences
- * Transformative stakeholder partnerships
- * A culture of purpose, innovation, and excellence



AIKEN SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Our vision is to create an environment that focuses on the whole student where we facilitate the learning process in order to build the knowledge and skills geared towards preparing scholars for their future. We will accomplish this by providing scholars with a unique educational experience immersed in the college atmosphere. In collaboration with the University of South Carolina Aiken, ASA provides a high-quality education through rigorous high school and college coursework in a nurturing and supportive learning environment to prepare scholars for entrance into an ever-changing and advanced society.

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Aiken Scholars Academy



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SIC GOALS

The fourth year of Aiken Scholars Academy was filled with continued growth and development. We continue to strengthen the foundation of the school through refinement of the academic program and day-to-day school processes, while maintaining focus on the school's vision. The SIC plays a significant role in examining ways to promote school improvement. In 2021-2022 ASA's SIC discussed improvements aligned directly with the School Renewal Plan, focusing primarily on components of School Climate.

SCHOLAR RECRUITMENT & RETENTION



Goal: Establish a welcoming and supportive environment where we consistently question effectiveness, respond to need and promote improvement. Areas of Focus:

1. Improving the ASA experience for current students and emphasizing the value of that experience towards their future.
2. Showing potential students that while the process is difficult it is worth it in the end.

PROMOTING INTERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Goal: Develop a robust set of internship opportunities for Scholars across a broad spectrum of fields.

Areas of Focus:

1. Maintaining current opportunities for students at UofSC Aiken.
2. Building relationships with local organizations to increase opportunities for students in the CSRA.

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Goal: Expand community partnerships with external business and entities to increase the ASA support base.

Areas of Focus:

1. Initiating a Parent Volunteer Liaison to increase involvement in school activities.
2. Developing opportunities to increase the school's presence in the community and developing lasting relationships with community partners.

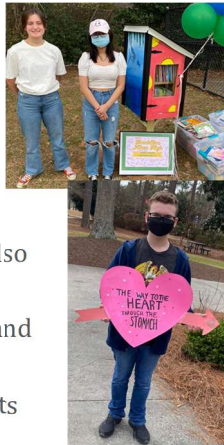
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As a school, we also value the experiences and expertise of the community and enjoy having them be a part of our events. Scholars are required to participate in a minimum of 20 hours of documented community service annually.

“Building relationships with and learning how to give back to the community is something that ASA values immensely.”

2021-2022 OUTREACH EXPERIENCES

- * Service Hours- At the end of the 20-21 school year, 340 hours of community service were documented by students.
- * Spooky To Be Hungry – The Beta Club joined community members in neighborhoods to support delivery of collection bags and advertising Harvest Hope’s annual campaign. Scholars also collected over 660 non-perishable food items for the campaign.
- * One Table – Scholars joined UofSC Aiken in an event to raise food and school supplies for North Aiken Elementary.
- * Most Wonderful Drive of the Year –Student Council sponsored a drive to support Kim’s Kids with school supplies, toiletries, and coats; They also held a Book Drive for North Aiken Elementary School’s Book Box (250 books) and for the Boys and Girls Club of Aiken (75 books).
- * Student Council collected items and made blankets as part of the SCASC drive in support of SC DSS to provide essential items for foster children.
- * Student Council sponsors an annual Bake Sale at UofSC Aiken
- * Beta Club helped support the United Way’s Be A Bunny program preparing baskets to support homebound seniors.



ASA BELIEFS & VALUES

- * Provide a safe and secure learning environment for all Scholars.
- * Develop a thriving culture by cultivating positive and long-lasting relationships, embracing diversity, communicating effectively, and providing support for the developmental and academic needs of Scholars.
- * Provide access to meaningful and engaging learning experiences.
- * Promote effective and consistent communication with all Stakeholders.
- * Celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of Scholars, while promoting and facilitating individual student growth.
- * Work cohesively with our school family and local community through meaningful relationships.

SCHOLAR ATTRIBUTES

The **SCHOLAR** profile represents attributes valued by the Aiken Scholars Academy Family. We believe these attributes foster positive character development and support skills for life-long success.

**SERVICE – CURIOSITY & LIFE-LONG LEARNING – HONOR
OWNERSHIP –LEADERSHIP –ADVOCACY – RESILIENCE**

DEMOGRAPHICS

ASA is made up of a diverse group of students who represent all attendance areas in Aiken County.

- * 60% Female, 40% Male
- * Asian 5%, Black/African American 12%, Hispanic 5%, Two or More 5%, White 73%
- * 27% Pupils in Poverty

SCHOLAR LIFE

Scholars engaged in many fun activities outside the classroom!

- * Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month with fun activities, programs, and food!
- * Year-long school wide spirit competition
- * Senior Sunrise & Sunset
- * Spirit Weeks
- * Game Nights
- * Movie Nights
- * Fury Friends Friday with the FOTUS monthly
- * Winter Semi-Formal Dance
- * Homecoming
- * Pi Day
- * Talent Show
- * 1st Annual Powderpuff Football Game



ACHIEVEMENTS

- * 2021 End of Year Academic Data:
 - 95.8% of total students earned a Qualifying score on AP exams
 - Overall the school had 84% Qualifying scores on ALL AP exams
 - 2021 ACT School day- Mean 28, Range 20-34
 - 2021 SAT School day- Mean 1274, Range 1160-1460
- * EOC Data January 2022- 100% Pass Rate Biology & English 2 EOC's
- * Eight ASA students participated in Summer Scholars Institute at UofSC Aiken, a paid internship where they supported and presented faculty research
- * Kaili Renken received a grant for undergraduate research and presented at The American Society of Plant Biologists Southern Section conference in Alabama earning 3rd place in Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation

- * Nine ASA students presented current research at the UofSC Aiken Scholars Showcase in April 2022. 10th grade- Kailyn Coffey, Sophie Ready, Wyatt Spann, Lukas Willard, Maggie Zheng; 11th grade- Kaeleigh Seigler; 12th grade- Madison Ackroyd, Jumanah Al-Soudi, Kaili Renken
- * Madison Ackroyd named as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist
- * Three students received Commendations from the National Merit Scholarship Program for outstanding performance on the PSAT: Benjamin Blackburn, Ian Hurley, and Alexandria Wilson
- * Academic Team
 - Competed in the 3-2-1 Questions Unlimited Competition placing 1st in Aiken County, 3rd in South Carolina, and 48th Nationally
 - Ranked 2nd out of all high schools in Aiken County's regular season
 - Placed 2nd in the ACPSD Team Tournament
 - Kayla Goldschmidt named MVP
- * BETA Club inducted 25 new members
- * Science Team competed in the Science Olympiad, placing 4th in Bridge Making
- * Student Council
 - Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration recognized with a Proclamation from Aiken City Council for the celebrations
 - Kayla Goldschmidt SCASC Terry McCoy Hall of Fame Recipient
 - Isabella Peralta – Named SCASC District 3 Chair
 - SCASC Silver Council of Honor
- * Andrew Singer and Grace Burns named ASA's FIRST Homecoming Prince and Princess
- * Austin Castor – 2022 Celebration of Character Recipient
- * Michelle Hughes – 2022 ASA Teacher of the Year

