

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”



2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP

Elected Members

Tom Colleran, Parent
Csaba Suri, Parent – Vice-Chair
Ruby Childers, Student
Axel Hornung, Student
Rena Humes, Student
Michelle Hughes, Teacher
Ron Johnson, Teacher

Appointed Members

Meg Ivey, Augusta & McDuffie Hospital - Chair
Hetal Acharekar, Performance Above
Mary Ruth Singer, Novartis Executive Sales Associate
Dr. Tim Lintner – UofSC Aiken

Ex-Officio Members

Martha Messick, Principal
Haruka Suri, Student Body President - Secretary

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



ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2024



AIKEN SCHOLARS ACADEMY

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VISION

Our vision is to create a nurturing, supportive, and collaborative learning environment that focuses on growing each student as an individual through a unique, high-quality, and rigorous educational experience immersed in the college atmosphere, preparing Scholars for entrance into an ever-changing and advanced society.

ASA BELIEFS & VALUES

- * Provide a safe, secure, and student-centered learning environment.
- * Build and lift students through the development of a growth mindset, valuing struggle as a natural part of the learning process and essential to their individual growth.
- * 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.
- * Core dispositions necessary for success in college and beyond need to be developed through instruction and reflection throughout the Scholar experience. These core dispositions include beliefs about ability, work habits, motivation, and a "future self."
- * Provide access to meaningful and engaging learning experiences.
- * Promote effective and consistent communication with all Stakeholders.
- * Work cohesively with our school family and local community through meaningful relationships.

SCHOLAR ATTRIBUTES

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

SIC GOALS

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 2022-2023 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

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



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

Areas of Focus:

1. Providing opportunities for parents to be more involved in the school, along with the school improvement process.
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.”

APRIL 2023-2024 OUTREACH EXPERIENCES

- * Service Hours- At the end of the 22-23 school year, **1958** hours of community service were documented by students.
- * Spooky To Be Hungry – The Beta Club joined delivered collection bags and advertising Harvest Hope’s annual campaign. Scholars also collected nearly **900** non-perishable food items for the campaign.
- * One Table – Scholars joined UofSC Aiken in an event to collect items for the Aiken Homeless Coalition.
- * Most Wonderful Drive of the Year –Student Council sponsored a drive to support Salvation Army with clothing, socks, new undergarments, and nonperishable food items, raising over **1500** items!
- * Beta Club volunteered at the Annual Christmas at Hopelands and packed gifts for Toys for Tots and United Way’s Run United
- * Student Council sponsors an annual Bake Sale at UofSC Aiken.
- * Walk for ACTS in collaboration with UofSC Aiken’s SGA
- * Fine Arts Club sponsored Face Painting at Hopelands Gardens
- * Earth Month conducted a clothing swap and highway cleanup.
- * Book Drive Service Project in partnership with the Lions Club for Oakwood Windsor Elementary- Brandon Avery & Bailey Savage
- * Supporting ACPSD Events+ MORE!



SCHOLAR LIFE

Scholars engaged in many fun activities outside the classroom!

- * Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month with fun activities, programs, and food!
- * Earth Month
- * International Week
- * Mental Health Awareness Month
- * Veterans Day Program
- * Year-long school wide spirit competition, with a school-wide kick-off event
- * Senior Sunrise & Sunset
- * Spirit Weeks, Game Nights, Movie Nights
- * Fury Friends Friday with FOTUS monthly
- * Winter Semi-Formal Dance, Homecoming, Prom
- * Pi Day
- * De-Stress Events before AP testing
- * School-wide Volleyball, Powderpuff Football, and Kick Ball Games
- * Clubs & Other Organizations include:
 - Academic Team
 - Beta Club
 - Book Club
 - Cyber Patriots
 - Fashion Committee
 - Fine Arts Club
 - Gaming Club
 - Gardening Club
 - OSINT Club
 - National Honor Society
 - Science Team
 - Student Council



SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENTS

Class of 2023 Data:

- * Graduation Rate- 100%
- * College & Career Readiness- 100%
- * Scholarship Total- \$3,902,472
- * Highest GPA- 5.525; Average GPA- 4.7.2
- * Valedictorian- Luka Djolic, Salutatorian- Isabella Peralta, Sr. Class Speaker- Zephanae Liis
- * SC Honors Diplomas- 16
- * AP Capstone Diplomas- 25
- * AP Seminar & Research Certificates- 10
- * AP Scholars- 17, AP Scholars with Distinction- 20
- * National Merit Scholarship Recipient- 2
- * Dual Enrollment- 658 courses successfully completed
- * Service Hours reported- 1103
- * ACPD Senior Scholars- Luka Djolic, Emily Heath, Isabella Peralta, Jace Wrightson

2023 End of Year Academic Data:

- * 98% of total students earned a Qualifying score on AP exams
- * Overall the school had 90% Qualifying scores on ALL AP exams
- * 2023 ACT School day- Mean 26
- * 2023 SAT School day- Mean 1239
- * EOC Data 2023- 100% Pass Rate Biology, English 2, US History
- * Eight ASA students participated in Summer Scholars Institute at UofSC Aiken, a paid internship where they supported and presented faculty research
- * Luka Djolic and Jace Wrightson National Merit Scholarship Winners
- * Emily Heath named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist
- * National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students- Amanda Glenn, Lainy Maciejewski, and Emmanuel Nwachukwu

2023-2024 School Year Accomplishments:

- * ASA students presented current research at the UofSC Aiken Scholars Showcase in April 2024- Genesis Allen, Madison Coffman, Shawn Forth, Jessica Ramirez-Granados, Sophia Ready, Jay Saxon, Sakura Suri
- * Academic Team- Ranked 4th in Aiken County
- * BETA Club inducted 33 new members
- * Cyber Patriots- Top Gold Tier Team for our Division in SC
- * NHS inducted 31 new members
- * Junior P2P Course implemented
- * Fashion Club implemented Dress for Success Workshop
- * Student Council
 - Haruka Suri SCASC Terry McCoy Hall of Fame Recipient
 - SCASC Gold Council of Honor
 - SCASC Fundraising 2nd Place for Bake Sale
 - SCASC School Service 2nd Place for Earth Month
 - SCASC Recognition 3rd Place for AAPI Month
 - SCASC Scrapbook 3rd Place
 - Madison Coffman elected District 3 Chair
- * First Place Winner MLK, Jr. Essay Contest- Tavion Woodley
- * Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Black History Bowl- 2nd Place
- * Success Team selected students- Semaya Bush and Austin Neptune
- * Junior Leadership Aiken County Participants- Gabrielle Anderson, Semaya Bush, Axel Hornung, Jessica Ramirez-Granados, Elianna Smith, Tavion Woodley
- * Kiyu Hughes – 2024 Celebration of Character
- * Amanda Waymer – 2024 ASA Teacher of the Year

