

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”

2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP

Elected Members

Mary Ruth Singer, Parent – Chair
Dr. Thomas Burns, Parent – Vice-Chair
Haley Evans, Student – Secretary
Karmen Bradley, Student
Lori James, Teacher
Jasmine Scott, Teacher

Appointed Members

Andrew Hendrix, Community Member – USC Aiken
Grace Preston, Community Member – Alison South Marketing Company
Julie Whitesell, Community Member – Meybohm

Ex-Officio Members

Martha Messick, Principal
Mallory Zinger, Student Body President

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2019



AIKEN SCHOLARS ACADEMY

471 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, BOX 12
AIKEN, SC 29801

PHONE: 803-306-1400 – FAX 803-641-3609



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MISSION



The Mission of Aiken County Public Schools, the emerging premier school district, is to cultivate future-ready students to serve our evolving community and world through an innovative, literacy-focused school system distinguished by

- * rigorous, personalized learning opportunities
- * highly effective, service-driven professionals; and
- * mutually beneficial partnerships.



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 inaugural year of Aiken Scholars Academy has been one of growth, development and success. Establishing the first SIC is a significant part of laying the foundation for the school. The ASA SIC has established three goals to support the school's continued growth and success. Our goals focus on Scholar Recruitment, Scholar Retention and Parent Involvement. These goals will be ongoing and evaluated at the end of the 2019-20 school year

SCHOLAR RECRUITMENT



Recruitment begins with community outreach designed to create an awareness and basic understanding of the tremendous opportunity awaiting our scholars. We have received very favorable coverage by local media outlets. One goal is to increase our social media presence. We have identified and begun proactively identifying advocates in the middle school system including guidance counselors and administrative staff. We recognize one of the most valuable

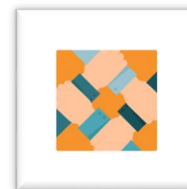
recruiting tools going forward will be current Scholars and their families.

SCHOLAR RETENTION



Retention begins with the recruitment of the right students. We must continue to demonstrate to both scholars and their parents/guardians the value in an Aiken Scholar Academy education. We must also strike a balance between academic excellence and other aspects of student life. As part of our goal, we will develop several programs to enhance retention: Scholar Ambassador Program, Summer Institute, Lunch and Learn Lectures, Social Events, and College Integration Program.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT



Aiken Scholars Academy recognizes the vital roles that parent involvement and organizations play in our school system. As another significant part of the ASA foundation, we are establishing the school's first Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO will encourage strong relationships and partnerships to help enhance the academic and extracurricular programs of our students.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Scholars are required to participate in a minimum of 20 hours of documented community service annually. As a school, we also value the experiences and expertise of the community and enjoy having them be a part of our Lunch and Learn Series, as well as the Black History Month Celebration and support field trips.

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

2018-2019 OUTREACH EXPERIENCES

- * ACPSD Annual Day of Caring – Scholars and their families planted new flower beds at the entrance, painted a science demonstration table, organized the technology closet and cleaned classrooms.
- * RPSEC Annual S.E.E.D. – Scholars sponsored the straw tower building competition and highlighted projects about the workings of cells.
- * Spooky To Be Hungry – Scholars collected canned goods for our local Harvest Hope Food Bank.
- * One Table – Scholars and their families joined USC Aiken in an event to raise food for Warrenville Elementary.
- * American Red Cross – Beta Club members prepared kits for local shelters to support incoming clients.
- * National Job Shadowing – 60% of Scholars participated visiting local businesses.
- * Blessing Box – Beta Club collaborated with the Aiken Junior Woman’s Club to support the box installed on the USCA campus.
- * Special Olympics – Scholars served as buddies to students at Aiken Elementary School.



ASA BELIEFS & VALUES

- * It is our obligation to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all scholars.
- * The success of our scholars is dependent on our ability to develop a thriving culture where we cultivate positive and long-lasting relationships, embrace diversity, communicate effectively, and provide support for the developmental and academic needs of our student body. We firmly believe in developing the whole child and preparing scholars for success in school, work, and life.
- * Student achievement is reliant on our providing access to meaningful and engaging learning experiences with a focus on academic excellence and preparation for future learning. School is not the sole, or perhaps even primary, place of learning, but rather it is a point of departure for learning in all areas of life. Our belief is that we facilitate the learning process and build within scholars the ability to make connections between their knowledge and its application to the world beyond the secondary classroom.
- * Effective and consistent communication is key to the success of our family. We value input from students, parents, and our community, and we encourage openness via appropriate channels of communication.
- * Celebrating the efforts and accomplishments of scholars, while continuing to promote both academic and personal growth, is vital in the development of each scholar.
- * We believe in working cohesively with our school family and local community. Scholars and faculty have a responsibility to sponsor and provide for our local community through service learning.



SCHOLAR ATTRIBUTES

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

SERVICE – We selflessly give of our time and resources by helping others. We strive to make a positive impact within our community and the world we live in with gratitude.

CURIOSITY – We nurture our curiosity through investigation and discovery. We develop our skills through exploration, inquisitiveness and research, which fosters our passion for learning.

HONOR – We act with integrity and dignity at all times. We show empathy, respect and compassion to all those around us, even if they are different. We acknowledge the achievements and accomplishments of all.

OWNERSHIP – We take responsibility for our actions and beliefs and willingly commit to complete our best work. We will accept the consequences of our commitments and show pride in our results. We evaluate our actions and grow from our experiences.

LIFE-LONG LEARNER – We seek to develop skills to support our learning and personal development through both classroom and personal experiences. We are self-driven and continue to explore knowledge that will support our growth and development throughout our lifetime.

ADVOCACY – We thoughtfully and respectfully speak up for our beliefs and ideas. We possess dignity in our actions while we prudently consider the beliefs and ideas of others. We will use our voices to speak for those who may not yet be able to advocate for themselves.

RESILIENCE – We are adaptable and resilient in the face of adversity. We persevere through obstacles resourcefully in a way that supports our learning and personal development.

DEMOGRAPHICS

ASA is made up of a diverse group of students who represent Aiken County. The first cohort of scholars come from 15 different middle school experiences ranging from homeschool, public, parochial and virtual educational programs. They each bring with them unique experiences and outlooks on their future.

- * 69% Female, 31% Male
- * Asian 4%, Black/AA 8%, Hispanic 2%, Two More 2%, White 84%
- * 24% Free/Reduced Lunch

ACHIEVEMENTS

- * Inaugural School Opening August 20th!
- * Inducted 37 Scholars into BETA Club
 - o 2019 National BETA Club School of Merit
- * 100% Pass Rate State Required Civics Exam
- * 100% Pass Rate Biology EOC (30 Perfect Scores)
- * CSRA Regional Science & Engineering Fair Awards
 - o Madison Ackroyd – Overall Winner, 1st Place Life Sciences
 - o America Fuentes, Makayla Pilot, Maria Valerio-Para – Honorable mention HS Physical Science
 - o Sammi Miller – Naval Research Award
- * Tyshawna James, Alyssa Perkins, Alex Wilson selected as Delegates for The Congress of Future Medical Leaders (Boston, MA)
- * MaKayla Walcott – 2019 Celebration of Character Recipient
- * Sharonda Jacobs – 2019 ASA Teacher of the Year
- * Frances Spradley – 2019 ASA GEM of the Year, ACPSD Honor Court

