

# Report to the Parents 2024-2025

Catawba Ridge High School SIC

## Be The Why

The Catawba Ridge School faculty and staff are committed to setting high expectations for all students across a wide array of areas, including academics, the arts, athletics, character development, extracurricular activities, and active community involvement. This year, the faculty and staff have continued to build upon the #BeTheWhy culture by establishing meaningful opportunities for students to be recognized as Students of the Month.

Each month, students are nominated and voted on by their respective departments, and those selected for this honor truly embody the #DoRight philosophy. These students are recognized for their positive attitudes, kindness, citizenship, and dedication to making a difference in their school and community. The selection of these students is not just about academic excellence but also about how they contribute to the overall spirit of the school through their character, actions, and willingness to support others.

To celebrate their achievement, the Students of the Month receive a special "I Am The Why" shirt that symbolizes their role in representing the values of the school. Additionally, they are presented with a certificate to honor their commitment to embodying the core principles of kindness, responsibility, and integrity. As a further token of appreciation, these students also receive free entry to athletic events for the month, allowing them to continue their involvement in the school's community. This program not only reinforces the importance of personal character but also fosters an environment where students are encouraged to strive for excellence in all aspects of their school life.



## College and Career Ready

At Catawba Ridge, we are dedicated to providing students with the education, resources, and support they need to successfully pursue their future goals, whether that involves further education, military service, or entering the workforce. We offer a comprehensive approach to college readiness, vocational education opportunities, and military experience, ensuring that students have the flexibility to explore various pathways and make informed decisions about their future careers.

A key addition this year at Catawba Ridge is the establishment of the College and Career Center, a dedicated space where students can engage with our Career Development Facilitator and access valuable resources. In this center, students receive guidance on a range of important topics, including resume building, college and career exploration, completing college applications, applying for scholarships, and other essential tasks that support their success after high school.

The College and Career Center also schedules visits from colleges, military recruiters, and local businesses, who students are able to speak with during lunch in the cafeteria. In addition, the center organizes events such as the Summer Job Fair, College Prep Camp, and other college and career fairs, further empowering students to connect with opportunities that will help shape their future.








A graphic for a lunch visit to Winthrop University. The top half has a dark red background with the text "WINTHROP UNIVERSITY" in large white letters, followed by "Lunch Visit:" and "Tuesday, April 29" in smaller white letters. Below the text is a large white arrow pointing right. The bottom half of the graphic is split: the left side shows an aerial view of the Winthrop University campus with orange-roofed buildings and green lawns, and the right side shows two male students walking on a paved path, one on a skateboard. A small white bird logo is in the bottom right corner.

# arclabs™

## WELDING SCHOOL

**Lunch Visit:**  
**Wednesday,**  
**April 9**

TUESDAY CAREER CHATS		College & Career Center (2208)	
	<b>Mar 18</b> <b>Hannah Harvey, RN Nurse</b> <b>Emily Salisbury, RN - Progressive Care Advocate</b> <i>Health/Arizium Health Pineville</i> <i>Career Areas: Nursing</i>		<b>Apr 29</b> <b>Elizabeth Garryie</b> <b>Former EAC, Engineer</b> <b>Stemco Helicopter</b> <i>Career Areas: Mechanical/Aviation Engineering</i> <i>Management, Executive Leadership, Technology</i>
	<b>Mar 25</b> <b>Brandy Estess</b> <b>Senior Key Account Manager - Wholesale Team</b> <b>CROCS America</b> <i>Career Areas: Wholesale, Business, Marketing</i>		<b>May 6</b> <b>Michael Bader</b> <b>Chef/Owner</b> <b>The Spiced Pear</b> <i>Career Areas: Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship</i>
	<b>Apr 8</b> <b>Alannah Visbeck</b> <b>Social Worker</b> <b>Fort Mill School District</b> <i>Career Areas: Social Work, Non-profit Agencies, Youth &amp; Family Services</i>	<p>Curious what different professions do all day?            What does a specific job actually involve?            Join us to meet a variety of professionals in different fields.            Come with questions and to build your professional network!</p>	

Catawba Ridge High School - College & Career Center



# Marine Corps Recruiter






**Lunch Visit:**  
**Thursday,**  
**April 3**

[sites.google.com](https://sites.google.com)[sites.google.com](https://sites.google.com)



# FMSD PRESENTS DUAL CREDIT PARENT NIGHT

Join us to learn more about the  
dual credit options for your student.



## York Tech Campus

- Auto Collision
- Building Construction
- Cybersecurity
- Emergency Services (EMT)
- Math (Algebra & Statistics)
- Mechatronics
- Welding

## CRHS Campus

- Criminal Justice & Sociology
- Digital Art & Design
- English
- Government & Economics
- Health Science (CNA)
- Language (French & Spanish)
- Media Technology
- Teacher Cadet

## Winthrop

- Accounting

When: February 5

What Time: 6:00 pm

Where: CRHS Auditorium

## CRHS JROTC Program

Catawba Ridge High School Corps of Cadets had their most successful year to date as they qualified for and competed in both Navy Nationals in both Marksmanship and Orienteering. For the 4th year in a row our NJROTC Navy Corps of Cadets were recognized as a Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors placing Catawba Ridge NJROTC in a very small group of superior NJROTC Units. The Corps of Cadets also had 4 ROTC Scholarship winners and had a cadet receive an appointment to the Naval Academy. The entire Senior class were awarded over a 1 million and a half dollars in scholarship money. Our Drill team competed at the highest level of competition winning over 80 trophies! The Area 6 Manager conducted his inspection of our Unit in April and left extremely impressed as the Cadets received OUTSTANDING in all inspection areas. The cadets also had a remarkable year contributing over 4700 hours of community service and over 1500 hours supporting their school. In addition, for the 4th year in a row Catawba Ridge was named the #1 Top NJROTC Unit in the Carolinas placing our Corps of Cadets in the **TOP 24** Units out of over 600 in the Nation.





## National Merit Scholars

Congratulations to Justin Isch, Donavan Rhee, Rebekah Rich, and Haripranav Shanmugam Baraneedharan, who were named National Merit Finalists. Also, congratulations goes out to Era Bhide, Grace Eisenrieth, Erika Giaconia, Kayla Mancini, and Joseph McHargue who were named National Merit Commended in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

High School students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT as a Junior. The selection of some 7,500 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 Finalists is now in progress. In March, NMSC will began notifying scholarship winners. **Please join us in celebrating these students in this very prestigious competition!**

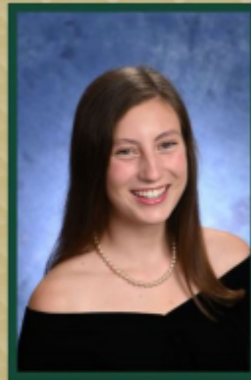




Justin  
Isch



Donavan  
Rhee



Rebekah  
Rich



Haripranav  
Shanmugam  
Baraneedharan



Congratulations to our College Board  
**National Merit Finalists**

## Excellence in CTE



### Catawba Ridge News

Huge congratulations to CRN TV and Mrs. McKemey for their incredible achievements! Recently, they cleaned up at the Southern Interscholastic Press Association (SIPA) competition, winning *Best of the South* for the first time in program history, along with 17 other individual awards. They also had an outstanding performance at Nationals in Tampa, bringing home 2 Firsts, 2 Thirds, an Honorable Mention, and a 2nd place in the highly competitive Crazy 8's Morning Show! To top it off, they're nominated for 6 Emmy Awards—stay tuned for the results!



### Future Farmers of America

FFA's first year at The Ridge has started off with incredible momentum! A huge thank you to Madison Huddy and our FFA students at Catawba Ridge for all the activities and awareness they brought to The Ridge this week. Our students participated in National FFA Week at the South Carolina State House, looking fantastic in their corduroy jackets on the steps of the State House! From hidden mini animals for pizzas to doughnuts and breakfast treats, this chapter ensures the entire Ridge family is included in their celebrations. We are incredibly proud of these students under Huddy's leadership. Whether they pursue careers as agriculturalists, chemists, veterinarians,



government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers, or in any other field, one thing is certain—they are all true LEADERS!

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## Excellence in our Staff

Our Faculty & Staff are the heart of our school. With over over 155 staff members in 2024-25, we served over 1,600 students by year's end. Each year in February, we vote on and honor a Teacher of the Year and Support Staff person on the Year.



### CRHS Teacher of the Year

Jessie Marie Haynes



### CRHS Support Staff of the Year

Jamale Foster

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## Excellence in Athletics

Once again, CRHS had an excellent year on the field and on the court.

XC- Boys and Girls SCHSL Playoffs  
Girls Tennis- SCHSL Playoffs  
Swim- SCHSL Playoffs  
Girls VB- SCHSL Playoffs  
Boys VB- SCHSL Playoffs  
Girls Golf- Region Champs, SCHSL Playoffs  
Competitive Cheer- 3rd in State  
Boys Basketball- SCHSL Playoffs  
Girls Basketball- SCHSL Playoffs  
Wrestling- SCHSL Playoff Qualifier  
Baseball- In Playoffs Currently  
Softball- Region Champs, In Playoffs Currently  
Boys Tennis- SCHSL Playoffs  
Boys Golf- SCHSL Playoffs  
Boys Soccer- Region Champs, In Playoffs Currently

Girls Soccer- In Playoffs Currently

Track and Field- Qualified

Boys Lacrosse- SCHSL Playoffs

Girls Lacrosse- SCHSL Playoffs

21 Varsity Sports

21 Teams qualified for the SCHSL Playoffs

3 Region Championships



### Girls Lacrosse

8 Girls Lacrosse Land on the All-Region Team



### Varsity Tennis

The Varsity Tennis Team made it to the SCHSL playoffs!



### Varsity Football

Eleven Varsity Football players were named to the All-Region Team!



### CRHS Cross Country

Varsity Cross Country Boys 4th place and Girls 8th place at 5A Division 2 State Championships



### CRHS Softball 4A 2023 and 2024 Back to Back State Champions

Congrats to our 2 time, back to back Girls Varsity Softball Team!



### Girls Varsity Volleyball

The Girls Varsity Volleyball team made it to the SCHSL playoffs!

*Boys Soccer Alumni Match Hosted Each Summer  
(23 alums returned)*





## Excellence in Performing Arts

### **BAND:**

The CR Band program had yet another outstanding year in 2024/25. Some of their accolades are listed below. There are many more they have achieved this year as well that are not listed. Visit their Instagram Page [@carmarchingband](#) for more results!

#### Marching Band

- With their show Perfect People, the Catawba Ridge band won yet another State Championship, placing 1st in 4A state show.
- They also placed 2nd in the Nation in Class 2A at the Grand National Championships in Indianapolis.
- The band also plans to travel to New York to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade this November.

#### Concert Band/Wind Symphony

- Earned superior ratings with Distinction at the Concert band Performance Assessment (CPA)
- Many students earned All-State & Region 2 Honor Band appointments

The CR Band also had record setting indoor seasons:

- Catawba Ridge Percussion scored 2nd place at the CWEA Premiere.
- In class Scholastic A, the JV guard placed 5th and in class National A, the Varsity guard placed 3rd.

- Winter Guard Varsity placed 2nd in their round at the WGI Sport of the Arts Clayton Regionals and made it to finals!
- Catawba Ridge Percussion placed 1st with a season high score of 86.45 at CWEA Riverbluff.
- Varsity Guard earned 8th place at the Southeastern Power Regional.
- Percussion Ensemble secured 1st in Scholastic A with a season high score of 87.3 at CWEA Rock Hill.
- To wrap up the CWEA season, Varsity guard placed 5th in National A and JV Guard placed 6th in Scholastic A.
- 2025 CWEA Percussion Scholastic A Champions, Gold Medalists.
- Catawba Ridge Percussion Ensemble placed 10th in the WGI World Championships!

### **THEATER and CHORUS:**

Our Chorus Department had an incredible year under the direction of leader, Ms. Jessie Haynes. They sang the National Anthem and Alma Mater at many events this year both as a group or as a soloist. Aside from successful Fall and Spring Concerts, the chorus department hosted at Catawba Ridge two more FIRSTS—a community show that brought together elementary and high school singers as well as a Haunted Harmonies talent show! Teachers, administrations, and other faculty also joined the chorus in their Winter concert as they collaboratively sang three songs. Many singers were involved in the successful show, *Little Shop of Horrors*, our school musical. 20 singers qualified for SCMEA Region, 8 qualified for SC ACDA, and Katherine 'Eryn' Stout qualified for All-State! The choral department continues to thrive and grow at The Ridge!

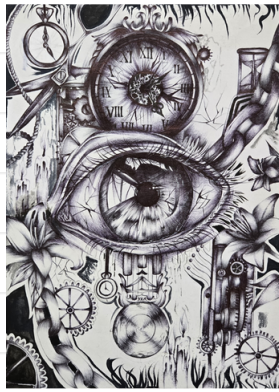
Our Theater department just hosted the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* here at The Ridge. They also had a fantastic run of *Alice and Wonderland* this fall. During these performances they hosted many schools from throughout the district. Kings Town, Gold Hill, and Fort Mill Elementary, as well as Gold Hill Middle, Nation Ford High, and Fort Mill High all attended *Alice* and Nation Ford, Fort Mill, and Fairfield Central High Schools all attended *Little Shop*.



### **Excellence in Visual Arts**

The Catawba Ridge Visual Arts Program was actively involved in collaboration, community service, and cultivating a vibrant school culture. Visual Arts is always creating and placing new art in our school's art gallery and hosts art shows to include the AP Art Show!





## 2025 Congressional Art Competition Winner

The 2025 Congressional Art Competition winner is Catawba Ridge's very own 10th grader, Jemma "Vee" Adams! Vee's piece, named *"Passing of Time"* will represent Catawba Ridge in Washington, DC as the Ralph Norman District #5 Artwork beginning on May 6th.

## Culture Totems

Beginning Ceramics created Culture Totems. Each section is a representation of the students' heritage.



## Excellence in Organizations, Activities & Community

### Clubs:

Clubs as diverse as our population. CRHS offers over 40 Clubs for every interest and passion. A complete list of clubs is listed on our webpage, including Diversity Club, Walk for Water, FCCLA, Sewing Club, Yearbook, Writer's Club, and Copperhead Cookie Club through Special Services. Club info was posted in the Art Gallery with remind or QR codes for more information.

### Social Responsibility:

Our student organizations contributed to their community through Food and Cold Weather Gear Drives for the Fort Mill Care Center, the Copperheads Care initiative (Angel Tree), Care Packages for local First Responders, a Book Drive for the Historic Paradise Foundation, and monetary donations for Special Olympics through our Polar Plunge Challenge.

### Building Community:

- Senior Special Events
- Student Council: Spirit Week & Traditions Tuesdays
- Ridge Fridays
- Fun Food Fridays
- #BeTheWhy
- The Ridgies Academic Awards Show
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Black History Month
- Disability Awareness Month
- Polar Plunge for Special Olympics
- Miss CR Pageant
- Community Blood Drives
- Coat Drive and Community Volunteers sponsored by Athletics Teams
- HBCU Fall Fair

- Soccer Cleats Drive



## Club Rush

Students were able to find out more about clubs that fit their area of interest during our 24-25 Club Rush.



## Model UN

Please join me in congratulating the following students that were awarded recognition as Distinguished Delegates (a top three delegate in their respective committee) Laura Honeycutt – She received a Distinguished Delegate Award for her role representing St. Kitts and Nevis in the Small Islands and Developing States Committee Logan McMillan - She received a Distinguished Delegate Award for her role representing St. Kitts and Nevis in the Legal Committee Angel Weaver - He received a Distinguished Delegate Award for her role representing Brazil in the G25 Committee Oviya Chandramohan, Aidan Rohlf, Annalise Demelash, Garrett Tanksley, Rex Jennings, & Yaraslava Butsko - received a Distinguished Delegation Award (as a team) for their role in representing Saudi Arabia in the General Assembly They all worked incredibly hard and are very deserving of these awards!



## Black History Month Activities Sponsored by Shades of Unity Club

Student Sophie Kissell designed the t-shirts for Black History Month



## Miss CRHS Pageant

Miss CR Sweetheart - Mia Kovacs  
Miss Congeniality - Talia Postel  
Miss Freshman Runner Up - Kendall Howe  
Miss Freshman - Jiada Nguyen



## CRHS Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Shout out to Ms. Struve, Ms. Miner, and Ms. Staples who made pages to raise funds. Ms. Staples raised the most on her own with over \$500. Major Studley and his crew brought in



Miss Sophomore Runner Up - Meredith Reynolds  
 Miss Sophomore - Lily Romero  
 Miss Junior Runner Up - Brianna Peterson  
 Miss Junior - Ryleigh Rhodes  
 Miss Senior Runner Up - Silmar Botello  
 Miss Senior - Olivia Carrouth  
 Miss Catawba Ridge - Layla Gaskins

money and raised \$750 with all of his classes. We brought home the Coolest Costume award for the 4th year in a row, as the Catawba Ridge Cowboys! We had three students take the plunge with us! Our Copperhead students stepped us raising \$545 in cookie and hot chocolate sales, supporting our Special Olympics Athletes.

## Excellence in Building Our Culture



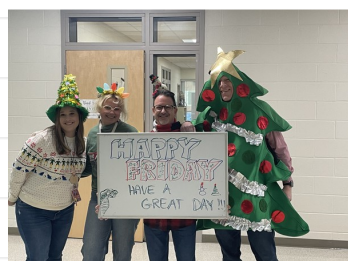
### Canned Food Drive

Here our students are unloading cans to be dropped off at the Fort Mill Care Center as part of our canned food drive we participate in each year with the community.



### Faculty Staff and Parent Ambassadors

Each year our parent ambassadors provide lunches, treats, raffles, and other small gifts to our teachers with the help from the community. We are thankful for this partnership.



### Holiday Dress Up Week

Staff & students celebrated the last couple of weeks before break with holiday dress up days.



### Spirit Week

Students and adults always enjoy the Spirit Week with the dress up days and events!



### Teacher Appreciation

CRHS teachers enjoyed breakfast during teacher appreciation week.

## About the CRHS School Improvement Council (SIC)

The School Improvement Council of Catawba Ridge High School is a group of educational stakeholders that promote and support academic achievement and civic engagement at Catawba Ridge High School. This group of students, parents, teachers, and community members facilitates meaningful parent and community involvement at Catawba Ridge High School. The SIC meets monthly to discuss ways to support academic, athletic, fine art, and student body events. Also, they review policies and set annual goals aimed at targeting areas of need specific to the students of Catawba Ridge High School.

This year, the SIC focused on goals in the areas of communication and inclusivity.

## *SIC Members 2024-2025*

### **CRHS School Improvement Council**

#### **Elected:**

Hiran Rokadia, Parent

Jennifer Weiser, Parent

Carrie Seekings, Parent

Koen Tesimale, Student

Brianna Peterson, Student

Isabella Cardozo, Student

Jessie Marie Haynes, Teacher and Chair

James Sweet, Teacher

#### **Appointed:**

Jeff Davenport, Community Member

Katie Marciniak, Community Member

Karena McCoy, Community Member

#### **Ex-Officio:**

Staci Dreher, Assistant Principal

Barry Ledford, Principal

Kristie Hill, School Counselor

### **The Mission & Beliefs of Catawba Ridge High School**

Catawba Ridge High School's mission is to unleash the talent of each student to become college and career ready and reach the heights of their potential.

#### **Beliefs**

We believe each student possesses the ability to learn.

We believe each student deserves a safe and supportive learning environment.

We believe communication among parents, faculty, staff, students and members of the community is essential and all are responsible for student success.

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.

## **About Fort Mill and Catawba Ridge High School**

### **Fort Mill**

The town of Fort Mill, South Carolina is located just south of the North Carolina state line. Nearly 20,000 people live inside the Fort Mill corporate limits with a total of nearly 50,000 people residing within the entire township. The Township of Fort Mill currently supports three high schools with a Catawba Ridge High School opening in the fall of 2019.

### **Catawba Ridge High School**

The faculty of Catawba Ridge High School consists of teachers, one principal, five assistant principals, five school counselors, a media specialist, and numerous facilities and faculty support staff.

More than 200 course selections are offered, including Advanced Placement, Honors, and College Preparatory courses.

Catawba Ridge High School has more than 40 co-curricular activities and 22 athletic teams.



# FORT MILL

## **Purpose of the Report**

This report is issued by the Catawba Ridge 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 Catawba Ridge High School SIC please contact Staci Dreher at [drehers@fortmillschools.org](mailto:drehers@fortmillschools.org)



## Contact Us

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Twitter: [@CatawbaRidge](https://twitter.com/CatawbaRidge)



**Holly Logan**

Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters