



# Report to the Parents 2023-2024

Catawba Ridge High School SIC

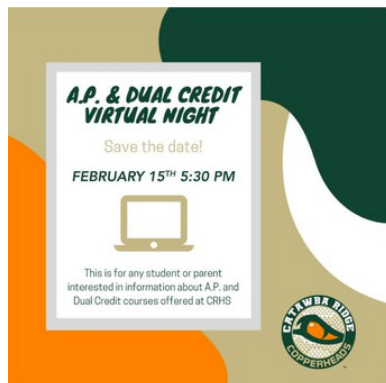
## Be The Why

The Catawba Ridge School faculty and staff set high expectations for all students in academics, the arts, athletics, character, extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. This school year the faculty and staff continued to grow the #BeTheWhy culture by creating opportunities for students to be selected as Students of the Month. These students are voted on by each department and embody the culture of #doright with positive attitudes, kindness and citizenship. The students receive a shirt that says, "I Am The Why," a certificate and free entry into athletic events for that month.



## Excellence in Academics

Whether preparing for college, service in the military or the workforce, Catawba Ridge provides students with the education they need to pursue their future goals. College readiness curriculum, vocational education opportunities, and military experience are all available for students to explore.



### AP/Dual Credit

<https://sites.google.com/fmsdmail.org/crhsapdvirtualevent2/home>



### Curriculum Night

[CRHS Curriculum Night](#)

## CRHS JROTC Pro smore



Catawba Ridge High School Corps of Cadets were named the #3 Best NJROTC unit in the Nation(over 600 schools nationwide) and for the 4th year in a row our NJROTC Navy Corps of Cadets were invited to the Navy Nationals Drill, Academic and Physical Fitness Championships in Pensacola Florida(Only 26 schools nationwide receive an invite). Huge achievement finishing 15th overall in the Nation. The Corps of Cadets also had 6 ROTC Scholarship winners...over a million dollars in scholarship money earned by this Senior class. Our focus on STEM resulted in a banner year for our Drone team as they were invited to and competed at the Area 6 Drone Championships. The Area 6 Manager conducted his first inspection of our Unit in April and left extremely impressed. The cadets also had a remarkable year contributing over 3500 hours of community service and over 1500 hours supporting their school. In addition, for the 3rd 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 in the Nation. Remarkable achievement considering how young we are AND compared to NJROTC schools that have been around for 30+ years.



### National Merit Scholar

Congratulations to Era Bhide, Grace Eisenrieth, Erika Giaconia, Justin Isch, Kayla Mancini, Josiah McHargue, Donovan Rhee, Rebekah Rich, and Haripranov Shanmugam Baraneedharan our finalist 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 begin notifying scholarship winners.

**Please join us in celebrating these students in this very prestigious competition!**





smore



## Excellence in CTE



### Catawba Ridge News

Our Media Technology (television) program, CopperHEADSUp!, through CRN-TV, received the Broadcast Excellence Award for Best Daily Show, the Gold Medal for Sports Coverage, and Maddie Crider and Eric Johnson were chosen as



### Digital Art and Design

DAAD students Liam Vigier and Katie Browning designed our district Program of Studies cover.

Closing Ceremony H  
Competition in Long

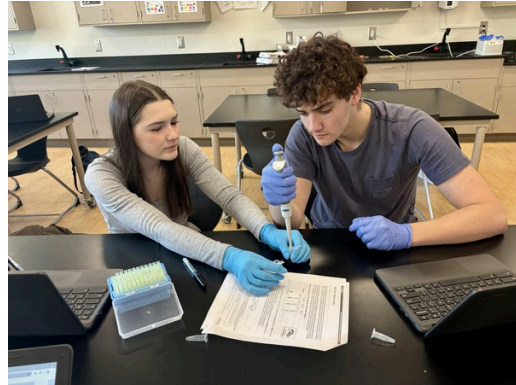


addition to the daily morning show,  
CopperHEADSUp!, CRN provides leading edge  
reporting on school and community events, as  
well as entertaining features throughout the  
school year. Example of such excellence in  
reporting may be viewed at the [Catawba Ridge  
News channel on YouTube](#).



### AgSci

Agricultural Sciences made good use of their greenhouse with the 4th Annual Spring Plant Sale. The sale was open to community members to purchase items for their gardens or planters.



### PLTW Human Body Systems

In this lab, Project Lead the Way Human Body Systems students, evaluated the effectiveness of antiviral medicines by completing a plaque assay.

### Excellence in our Staff

Our Faculty & Staff are the heart of our school. With over over 150 staff members in 2023-24, we served over 1,500 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**  
Major Shawn Studley



**the Year**

## Excellence in Athletics

CRHS had an excellent year on the field and on the court.

XC- Boys and Girls Region Champions, Boys Upper State Champions, Boys State Champions

Girls Tennis- Region Runner up, SCHSL Playoffs

Swim- Boys and Girls- Region Champs, SCHSL Playoffs

Girls VB- Region Champs, SCHSL Playoffs- Upper State Championship Runner Up

Boys Volleyball- Upper State Champions, State Championship-Runner Up

Girls Golf- Region Champs- Finished 3rd in SCHSL State Finals

Competitive Cheer- Region Champs , SCHSL Playoffs

Boys Basketball- Region Champs, Quarterfinals of SCHSL Playoffs

Girls Basketball- Region Runner up, SCHSL Playoffs.

Wrestling- SCSHL Playoff Qualifier

Baseball- Region Champs, In Playoffs now

Softball- Region Champs, In Playoffs now

Boys Tennis- Region Runner up, State Playoff Qualifier

Boys Golf- Region Runner up, Upper State Qualifier

Boys Soccer- Region Champs, In Playoffs now

Girls Soccer- Region Champs, In Playoffs now

Track and Field- Region championship is Thursday (May 2)

Boys Lacrosse- State Playoff Qualifier

Girls Lacrosse- State Playoff Qualifier

21 Varsity Sports

20 Teams qualified for the SCHSL Playoffs

11 Region Championships

3 Upper State Championship Appearances (Girls VB, Boys VB, Boys XC)

1 Upper State Championships (Boys XC)

1 State Championships (Boys XC)



### Ladies Golf

Our Ladies Golf Team won region and finished 3rd in the



### Cheer

The 2024 CRHS Cheer team had an outstanding year



### Cross Country

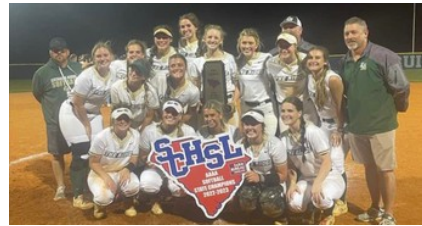
Our Boys Cross Country won the State Championship!



upper state finals.



## CRHS Baseball 4A 2023 State Champions



## CRHS Softball 4A 2023 State Champions



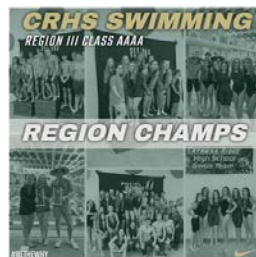
## Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team were region champs



## Wrestling

The wrestling team competed in the state championship and Jarrett Eubanks won a state title.



## CR SWIM

Both our boys and girls swim teams took home the region championship.



## CR Football

Our CRHS football team played hard each and every week. They have set themselves up for a great 24-25 campaign.

## Excellence in Performing Arts

### BAND:

The CR Band program had yet another outstanding year in 2023/24.

### Marching Band

- The marching band were a class champion at the Bands of America Carolina Regional in Conway, SC, and finished 2nd overall regardless of class in the finals competition. The marching band was also the SCBDA 4A Upper State Championships and the SCBDA 4A State runner-up. Finally, the marching band placed third at the Bands of America Southeastern Regional Championships in Troy, Alabama.
- The marching band was a featured performer in the 2024 London New Year's Day Parade.

### Concert Band/Wind Symphony:

- The CR concert band, comprised mostly of Freshman, received a superior rating with distinction at the South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCDBA) Concert Performance Assessment. The CR Wind Symphony, the top concert ensemble, also received a superior rating with distinction, the highest award given by the SCDBA, at their Concert Performance Assessment in mid-March.

The CR Band also ha

- The CR Indoor W



tion Winds

Scholastic Open class Gold medal in mid-April. The Indoor Winds program also won the gold medal in the Winds Scholastic Open class at the prestigious Winter Guard International World Championships in Dayton, Ohio in late-April, setting a program record high score at both events. This is the first winds groups from South Carolina to ever win a gold medal at Winter Guard International World Championships.

- The CR Indoor Percussion program won the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association Percussion Scholastic World class Gold medal in mid-April. The Indoor Percussion program also won the gold medal in the Percussion Scholastic World class at the prestigious Winter Guard International World Championships in Dayton, Ohio in late-April. This is the first Percussion Scholastic Concert Gold medal won by a South Carolina school since Fort Mill High School won in 2005.
- The CR Winter Guard participated at 2 Winter Guard International regional events, setting a record high score for any CR guard and making finals at both events.

Individually, the Catawba Ridge band had a record setting year with 47 students making All-Region Band, and 7 making All-State Band.

### **THEATER and CHORALE:**

Our Chorus Department had an incredible year under the direction of our new leader, Ms. Jessie Haynes. We kicked off the year in the Snake Pit by singing the National Anthem at our home game against South Pointe and singing at our Fall Pep Rally. Aside from our successful Fall and Spring Concerts, the chorus department hosted a Catawba Ridge First - a holiday themed talent show! Many singers were involved in the wildly successful, magical 5-show run of Roger & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, our school musical. 8 singers participated in SCACDA, 2 singers were sent to All-State, and 3 singers made it to Southern Region - comprised of the best singers in 11 south eastern states. What a year! We are looking forward to growing as a choral family here at the Ridge!

Our Theater department just hosted a musical rendition of Cinderella here at the Ridge. One showing was done during the day and we hosted students from Fort Mill High School, Nation Ford High School, Forest Creek Middle School, and Banks Trail Middle School.



### **Excellence in Visual Arts**



The Catawba Ridge V and cultivating a vibrant Freedom Quilts, Design Principles, and an AP Art Showcase.



community service, owns including



## Art

We will have the AP Art & Design Showcase on May 14th in the CR Gallery.

Marlee Metz received the Silver Key Award for her ceramic piece in the Mid-Carolina Art Region from the Scholastic Art Competition.

Seven students had artwork chosen to compete in the SC Congressional Art Competition. (final awards will be announced any day now)

Marlee Metz won second place with a drawing in the Memory Mill Art Competition.



## Culture Totems

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



## Drawing 1 Student Colored Pencil Art

## 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 Ice Bucket Challenge.

### Building Community:

- Senior Special Events

- Student Council:



- 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
- Golden Gala



### Club Rush

Students were able to find out more about clubs that fit their area of interest during our 23-24 Club Rush.



### Model UN

The Model United Nations (UN) team placed first overall at Winthrop University for the annual Model United Nations Conference. This is the first time that CRHS has won the Winthrop Cup.



### Miss CRHS Pageant

Miss CR Sweetheart - Mia Kovacs  
Miss Congeniality - Talia Postel



### The Venom Yearbook

The Venom Yearbook Team produced another great yearbook for us this year.



### Mock Trial

Mock Trial took 6th place in the State in our first year of competition.

Miss Freshman Runner Up

Kendall Howe



Miss Freshman - Jiada Nguyen

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



### National FFA Week



### Newspaper

The newspaper staff produced and distributed our school's first ever newspaper! It can be picked up from the multiple newsstands around the school.



### Club Unified

Club unified participated in a track meet at Nation Ford High School.

## Excellence in Building Our Culture



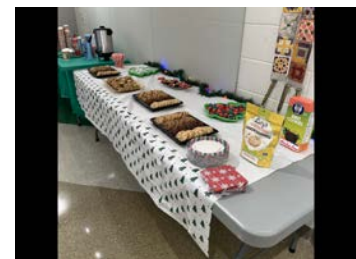
### Prom King and Queen

Homecoming Queen, Nala Uter and King, James Manning!



### Polar Plunge

**Our grand total: \$9,385**, this was more than collected last year. And since we hit our goal



### Staff Holiday Cookie Bar

CRHS Faculty & Staff celebrating the holidays in style.





funds raised go directly back to  
CRHS Special Olympics.  
OUTSTANDING!



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 the following areas: communication, parent involvement, student safety, and creating a positive culture.

## *SIC Members 2023-2024*

### **CRHS School Improvement Council**

#### **Elected:**

Jeff Davenport, Parent  
Carrie Seekings, Parent  
Jen Weiser, Student  
Alexandra Cardozo, Student  
Isabella Garcia, Student  
Hannah Smith, Student  
Tiffany Davis, Teacher

Drew Dittmer, Teacher

**Appointed:**

Kristie Hill, Community Member

Katie Marciniak, Community Member

Karena McCoy, Community Member

**Ex-Officio:**

Brad Mercer, Assistant Principal

Barry Ledford, Principal

**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 Brad Mercer at [mercerb@fortmillschools.org](mailto:mercerb@fortmillschools.org)



## Contact Us

Instagram: @CatawbaRidge  
Catawba Ridge News (CRN) @CatawbaRidgeNews and on YouTube

Email: [mercerb@fortmillschools.org](mailto:mercerb@fortmillschools.org)

Website: <http://crhs.fortmillschools.org/>

Location: [1180 Fort Mill Pkwy, Fort Mill, SC 29715, USA](#)

Phone: [803-835-5200](tel:803-835-5200)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catawbaridge>

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



Holly Logan  smore

 2

Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Created with  smore

Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

Smore empowers educators to connect with their community, streamline school communications, and increase engagement.

[Create a newsletter](#)

