

Report to the Parents 2020-2021

Catawba Ridge High School SIC, August 2021

Be The Why & #Rise Above

The Catawba Ridge School faculty and staff set high expectations for all students this year in academics, the arts, athletics, character, extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. Stakeholders worked together to **grow our culture** and to encourage students to “Do Right” in spite of the challenges presented by the pandemic. Our staff embraced the mantra “Be The Why”: Be WILLING to do it with all your HEART year after YEAR. This message resonates now, more than ever, in a time when many grow weary of the obstacles we face in education. Catawba Ridge News partnered with our Special Services Group to create an awareness campaign, [#RiseAbove](#), to inspire students and staff to see one another as an individual, not a preconceived label. Our dedicated staff continues to work to ensure our students have the tools they need to succeed in their post-secondary education endeavors.

#BeTheWHY

W = Be WILLING

H = Do it with all of your HEART

Y = Do it YEAR after year

rise above



1st Ever Senior Class!

Parking Spot Painting, Senior Pictures, Senior Breakfast, Homecoming, Senior Banners & Yard Signs, Senior Nights for Athletics Teams and Band, Senior Showcase, Senior Celebration, Prom -these are just some of the special events that were held this year to recognize our 1st Ever Graduating Class. The Class of 2021 was offered over \$5.2M in scholarship money and 21 students qualified for Palmetto Fellows, the highest scholarship level offered through the SC State Lottery to attend SC State Schools. These students persevered through an emotionally and academically challenging Junior year to emerge as strong, unified leaders for their senior year. We are so proud of all they have accomplished and what they will achieve as they pursue their next steps.





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



Beta Club



Curriculum Night

The Ridgies Academic Awards Program

Based upon positive feedback from our school community, we kept our end of year Awards and Recognition Program, "The Ridgies", in a video presentation format. Families were able to tune in remotely as celebrated our deserving students with awards for academics, character, and leadership.

2021 Ridgie Awards



National Merit Scholars

Catawba Ridge had 3 students qualify as National Merit Scholarship Finalists:

- Lauren Finch
- Caroline Heins
- Nathan Rubin

Two students were recognized as Commended Students: Gerardo Berlanga Molina and Charles Kowalski.

A banner celebrating National Merit Scholarship Finalists. It features three individual portraits of students: Lauren Finch, Caroline Heins, and Nathan Rubin. Below the portraits are their names in green capital letters. At the bottom of the banner, there is a green bar with the text "Congratulations to our National Merit Scholarship Finalists" in white. On the left is the Catawba Ridge High School logo, and on the right is a circular logo for "DESIGNED BY DAAD MYRA NGUYEN".

LAUREN FINCH CAROLINE HEINS NATHAN RUBIN

Congratulations to our
National Merit Scholarship Finalists

CR
EST. 1908
CATAWBA RIDGE
DAAD
DESIGNED BY
MYRA NGUYEN



Catawba Ridge News

Our Media Technology (television) program, CopperHEADSUp!, through CRN-TV, won 1st place in Social Media & 2nd place in Broadcast Package at the SCSPA USC Fall competition and the Broadcast Excellence Award as the best daily High School broadcast show in the country. In addition to the daily morning show, CopperHEADSUp!, CRN provided 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](#).



DAAD & Engineering

Through a grant from The Foundation for Fort Mill Schools, Ms. Pierce and the Digital Art & Design (DAAD) Team collaborate with Engineering students to create a retail and online merchandise store for CRHS Gear. DAAD produces a variety of digital and printed materials for clients throughout our school community.



CR Navy JROTC

The CR Navy JROTC was recognized as the 3rd best Navy JROTC unit in South Carolina, significant since the Navy does not yet recognize us as a NJROTC unit but as a NNDC unit. Our cadets placed 1st place overall at 6 of the 10 competitions in which The Corps participated, with top 3 finishes for the others. The Unit was awarded the Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors streamer, the highest honor an individual unit can receive for their performance throughout the school year and Cadets performed 2230 hours of community service.



Health Science

Health Science 4 Honors Pharmacy Tech students peer-taught their HS3 classmates an Introductory “My Smarties” Compounding Techniques Skills Lab this week.



AgSci

Agricultural Sciences made good use of their new greenhouse with the 1st Annual Spring Plant Sale. The sale was open to community members to purchase items for their gardens or planters.



FACS

Family and Consumer Science Classes supported our community 1st responders with treat baskets, and worked with Student Council and Beta Club to collect almost 3200 canned goods for the Fort Mill Care Center.

Excellence in our Staff

Our Faculty & Staff are the heart of our school. With over over 130 staff members in 2020-21, we served over 1,200 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. This past year, Ms. Marion Bates advanced to Honor Roll Teacher.



**Marion Bates –
CRHS Teacher of
the Year**



**Marion Bates–
FMSD Honor Roll
Teacher**



**Donna Jackley –
CRHS Support
Staff of the Year**

Excellence in Athletics

Our athletics program continued to grow and excel this year with 18 of our 20 varsity sports teams qualifying for 4A playoffs, ranking either #1 or #2 in our region. We had 3 individual state championships with Sam Rich winning for cross country, and the 320 and 1600 races. Our Ladies Soccer Team was runner-up at State. Several of our coaches received Region Coach of the Year honors.



Ladies Soccer 2nd in State

Our Ladies Soccer Team battle their way to a state qualifier and ultimately took 2nd at State.



Friday Night Lights

We were able to resume FNL in The Pit this Fall. Though it was a shortened season and seating was limited, our fans were enthusiastic and cheered our growing program on to become Upper State Finalists.



XC State Qualifiers & Champ

Our cross country team won state through Sam Rich's outstanding efforts. Sam also won for individual events. Photo credit: Rob Upton.



4th in the Nation

Our Mens Soccer Team ranked 4th in the nation.



State Finalists

The Ladies Golf Team advanced in play to become State Finalists.



Upper State Finalist

Our Varsity Football Team completed their season as Upper State Finalists.

Excellence in Performing Arts

BAND

Though the CR Band did not have a traditional marching season, Percussion and Winter Guard were both finalists at the WGI Competition. The Percussion group was the CWEA Concert

Open Champions, and they won two CWEA Virtual Events. Winter Guard placed 1st at the CWEA competition. Fifteen students make Concert Region Band and Jazz Band launched their inaugural year. Band also held four community Blood Drives and a 1st Annual Golf Tournament.

THEATER and CHORALE

Our Theater and Chorale groups produced two performances: Asleep in the Wind, which was recorded for viewing at a later time; and Brightstar, a live event that showcased the talents of both theater and chorale students. The show was designed to accommodate mask and social distancing requirements in place at the time of the performances.



Jazz Band



Bright Star



Asleep in the Wind

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 produced several gallery shows including Freedom Quilts, Design Principles, and an AP Art Showcase.



Principles of Design

posters that represent the Principles of Design from Mr. Schauer's Ceramics Classes. Each student had to define the principle and apply it on a drawn ceramic object.



Freedom Quilts

Students researched the history and origins of Freedom Quilts to create these works of art with historic relevance.



Hex Signs

Painting 1 & 2 created these colorful Pennsylvania Dutch "Hex" Signs. Artists were inspired by 17th & 18th century farmers who put these signs on their barns to ward off evil spirits as well as the work of neo-folk artist Kristin Farr.

Excellence in Organizations, Activities & Community

Clubs:

Clubs as diverse as our population. CRHS offers over 30 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: Spirit Week & Traditions Tuesdays
- Ridge Fridays
- #RiseAbove
- The Ridgies Academic Awards Show
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Black History Month: [The Friendship Nine](#) was produced by Catawba Ridge News
- Disability Awareness Month
- Polar Plunge for Special Olympics
- Miss CR Pageant
- Community Blood Drives
- Coat Drive and Community Volunteers sponsored by Athletics Teams



Club Rush

Students were able to find out more about clubs that fit their interests during a Virtual Club Rush.



Ssstuco

Student Council sponsored many culture-building activities including Traditions Tuesdays, Miss CR Pageant, Senior Celebration, and...



Generations Club

The Generations Club collected more than 500 books that will help the Historic Paradise Community Center build their on-site library.



Miss CR



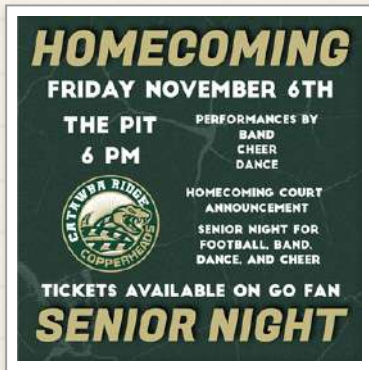
Yearbook

Our 2020 Yearbook – the 1st ever CRHS publication! – was featured in the Jostens *Look Book* which highlights the “best of the best” yearbooks across the nation.



Warm Gear Drive

Excellence in Building Our Culture



Homecoming Events



Ice Bucket Challenge



Student Council Traditions



Elf Selfies

As we headed into winter break, Buddy the Elf made guest appearances throughout the building.



Tropical Escape

Our Parent Ambassadors treated staff to a Tropical Escape to help us cruise into Spring Break.



Coffee is Love

Our administration team served up the caffeine to staff to help kick-start 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: Continuing to build a student driven culture #doright #bethewhy, safety protocols and overall building security, and recognizing diversity in our school and community.

SIC MEMBERS 2020-21

Elected Members

	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	Bell	Gina	Parent
2.	Belton	Montrie	Parent (Chair)
3.	Bray	Grayson	Student
4.	Gaskins	Nicole	Parent
5.	House	Brantley	Student
6.	Kowalski	Charles	Student
7.	McCart	Sara	Parent
8.	Mercer	Brad	Teacher
9.	Reid	Zachary	Student
10.	Shrader	Alice	Teacher
11.	Uter	Aiyana	Student

Appointed Members

	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	Guthe	Andy	Community Member
2.	Hill	Kristie	Community Member
3.	Robbins	Kim	Community Member
4.	Stover	Hannah	Community Member
5.	Weslock	Rick	Community Member

Ex-officio Members

	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	Logan	Holly	Assistant Principal
2.	Wilson	Darren	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 18,000 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, three assistant principals, four 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.



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 Holly Logan at loganh@fortmillschools.org.



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