

School Achievements

HSMS band had an outstanding year with a lot of accomplishments. They received 11 Superior ratings from 3 judges during the Augusta University Performance Assessment. All students who attended solo and ensemble festival earned Superior ratings. We had our first student, Jacob Naranjo, in All-State band this year. We had 8 students in Region Band as well as 27 students participating in the Aiken County Honor Band.

HSMS earned recognition as the state middle school champion for the CyberPatriots 18 competition.

In athletics, HSMS volleyball made it to the district semi-finals, HSMS football were the city champs and made the district playoffs, and boys' basketball made the district playoffs.

HSMS BETA club students and Ambassadors participated in collection drives to benefit local food shelters, animal shelters, and veteran facilities.

SIC and PTO partnered with HSMS throughout the year to provide goodies, and staff events to show their appreciation for our teachers. It has been an absolute joy this year to see the efforts of our PTO directly blessing our students. We've seen the administration awarding good behavior, the librarian celebrating reading accomplishments, girls finding their voice through the Pageant, and we know that we made that possible through our work to coordinate parent support.

Highland Springs Middle School

25-26 SIC Members

Chair: Kristian Hermanson, Parent

Principal: Ms. Paige Day

Secretary: Ashley Sutherland

Steven Acevado, Parent

Gladys Snyder, Teacher

Melissa Cole, PTO Rep

Kevin Butler, Teacher

Ashley Sutherland, Community

Zach Philips, Community

Purpose of the Report

"This Report is issued by the Highland Springs Middle 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."

Highland Springs Middle School Annual School Improvement Council "Report to the Parents" 2025-2026



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North Augusta, SC 29841
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Vision:

We will offer a first-class educational experience in an "excellent" school because our students deserve nothing less.

Mission Statement:

The passionate and dedicated staff at Highland Springs Middle School strives every day to create a safe and secure environment that fosters personal growth, empowers students to embrace challenges, and promotes a culture of kindness and respect.

SIC Annual Goals

During the 25-26 school year, the HSMS SIC decided to focus on improving the rate of parent participation in surveys at the end of the school year by incentivizing parents to complete the survey, to positively impact student perceptions of bullying by providing terminology and guidance for students regarding negative peer interactions outside bullying, and to increase the rate of positive news being sent home to parents through incentivizing teachers to send home good news cards.

The team worked with building teachers to create parent information regarding filling out climate surveys, and the HSMS counseling department to implement a peer mediation program and public service videos regarding negative peer interaction. Additionally, the team worked in conjunction with PTO to incentivize teachers to write Good News Cards to students and reach a goal of 60 cards building wide to win a monthly reward – a goal which was met each month.

Student Achievement

Highland Springs Middle School achieved an overall score of “Good” in their second year as an established building. This is a leveled increase from an overall rating of “Average” the year before.

HSMS students scored above the district average and district average on ELA SC Ready testing in 24-25 with 63.9% at or above grade level.

HSMS students scored below the district and state average for the math portion of the SCReady state assessment with 29.6% at or above grade level.

HSMS students also had a “Good” student growth rating and “Excellent” climate rating. Data was reviewed at various meetings, teachers and students were also invited to the meetings to discuss the on-going professional development taking place to not only improve scores but prepare HSMS students for success at the high school level.

“For more information, you may view Myschool’s “S.C. School Report Card” for the previous school year online at www.ed.sc.gov.”

Additional Information

At Highland Springs Middle School, a main goal is to articulate and implement a culture of high expectations. This manifests in our approach to College and Career Readiness as well as our daily instructional practices. Additionally, we foster leadership and student accountability through various programs at HSMS.

During the 25-26 school year, Highland Springs focused on building student engagement through AVID programming and organizations such as Girls on Fire, Art club, Growing Young Men, BETA club, HSMS Ambassadors, and our Student Council.

We additionally incorporated field experiences for different grade levels and focused on a student attribute each month. These attributes were highlighted by recognizing the “Riverhawks of the Month” during townhall meetings each month held with each grade level. We also highlighted student groups and upcoming events in these meetings.

- Paige Day, Principal
- Kristian Hermanson, Chair of SIC

