



Wando High School

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

June 2020

Wando School Improvement Council Members

Parents

Kimberly Barber
Rasheida Brown
Joy Carey
Richard Hricik
Pam Murray
EC Setser

Students

Andrew Nguyen
Emma Scott
Emily Sierko
Lleyton Spivey

Community

John Brisini
Tavia Buck
Cynthia Hart
Rebecca Imholz
Paul Kukes
Melanie Maxwell
Mike McEachen
Mathilde White

Faculty

Jason Brisini
Beth Darby
Krystal Gamage
Elizabeth Johnson
Catherine Lawson
Caroline Taylor

Ex-Officio Members

Troy Barron
Sherry Eppelsheimer
John Farese
Pamela Jubar
Misty LeClerc
Mark Mitchell

Annual Message from Sherry Eppelsheimer, Principal and Rebecca Imholz, School Improvement Council Chair

As one of the highest performing high schools in South Carolina, Wando consistently proves that a large, public, non-magnet high school serving a diverse population can produce outstanding results. We are committed to continuous improvement and use research-based best practices as our guide.

Educators from across the United States and from foreign countries come to Wando to learn more about how a large school maintains a sense of community and helps students remain “connected” to school through the smaller learning communities concept.

Wando High School is a comprehensive school for grades nine through twelve with a diverse student body of approximately 4,000 students. More than 25% of our students excel in the visual and performing arts. Ninety percent of the Class of 2020 plan to enroll in either a two or four year college or university. Wando offers over 250 course selections including Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, Honors, College Preparatory, Applied Technology, and Exceptional Education. The Wando High School Advanced Placement and Dual Credit passage rates continue to be among the highest in the state of South Carolina.



We consider high school graduation an important step for students but not the final goal. Each graduate is expected to leave Wando with a viable plan for his or her future education and career goals. Our students are strongly encouraged to continue their education at the next level.

Our career-related Schools of Study and Ninth Grade Academy provide opportunities for personal connections and help our students see the purpose and relevance of their work here. Through our Schools of Study, students are provided incredible opportunities to explore their skills and talents and refine their college and career goals. Members of the class of 2020 completed 939 majors, four or more elective courses in an area of concentration, and received special recognition at graduation.

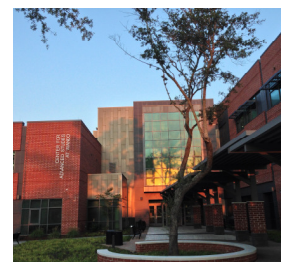
Our Ninth Grade Academy provides students an effective transition to high school which begins with a first day experience prior to the start of school for the rest of the student body. Throughout the ninth grade year, our students are supported as they learn responsibility and make decisions about future plans. Students at all grade levels are assigned faculty advisors who meet with them bi-weekly.

We constantly seek ways to improve instruction and to increase learning opportunities for our students. Our focus areas have been active student engagement,

differentiated instruction, personalized learning, technology implementation, and standards-based instruction and assessment. Raising the academic bar for all students and providing academic support for those who struggle are crucial to the success of our school.

Our dedicated faculty and staff have spent many hours participating in professional development. Teachers share instructional best practices and work in curriculum teams ensuring quality instruction and assessment in all courses. Faculty collaboration and teamwork are the norm.

We are blessed with a high level of parental and community involvement. Our School Improvement Council and our PTSO provide outstanding leadership and support as well as helping provide the future direction of our school. Improving communication with parents and the community is a common goal. Our various booster clubs and the School of Study Advisory Boards are also vital to our school's success. We appreciate their support and continued involvement.



Wando High School Mission Statement

The mission of Wando High School, in partnership with parents and community, is to educate all students by providing a challenging program of study, to encourage lifelong academic and applied learning, and to graduate students prepared to meet the challenge of a rapidly changing and diverse global society.



For the third year in a row, Wando High School was among a select group of high schools honored as a PLTW Distinguished High School. Schools and Districts around the nation were honored who have committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs.



Three students were named S. C. Teaching Fellows earning scholarships valued at \$24,000.

U. S. Presidential Scholars



Three seniors were among the more than 4,500 candidates named in the 2020 U. S. Presidential Scholars Program. These candidates were selected from nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from U. S. high school in the year 2020. This is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities. The application is by invitation only; students do not apply nor do their schools nominate them.

Initiatives and Strategies for School Improvement

Initiatives

- Our Ninth Grade Academy houses our freshmen in a "school within a school" where they take core courses. This smaller environment gives ninth graders the opportunity to build relationships and to increase their sense of community.
- Our Smaller Learning Communities Initiative provides a reorganization of the Upper School, grades 10-12, into four smaller career-related "Schools of Study." We believe using a career-related school approach to teaching and learning will help students see the relevance of their coursework and its connection to the future.
- Wando works within the *High Schools That Work* Alliance, a whole-school research-based reform effort. The *HSTW* model focuses on continuous school improvement through key practices including high expectations, allowing room in the curriculum for career and technical studies, increasing access to academic studies, offering students a challenging program of study, allowing opportunities for work-based learning, supporting collaboration between teachers, actively engaging students in their learning, providing a guidance and advisement system, utilizing a program for extra help and using assessment and data to foster continuous improvement.
- We provide additional support for students with academic promise who will be first-generation college bound.

Strategies

- Raise the graduation rate by establishing an intervention team offering academic/transition support.
- Expand the Golden Warrior Student Recognition and Awards Program.

- Expand Advanced Placement participation and support.
- Expand the use of data to differentiate instruction.
- Expand CTE and Fine Arts courses to meet students' needs and interests.
- Expand on-line learning opportunities for credit recovery and initial credit.
- Provide professional development on building positive, productive relationships with students.
- Increase opportunities for entry level workforce credentials and certifications for our graduates.
- Expand transition and inclusion support for Exceptional Education students.
- Offer expanded career counseling.
- Expand dual credit options.
- Expand the personalized learning program.

School Highlights: Academics

- Wando High School had nine semifinalists and eight finalists in the 2020 Competition for National Merit Scholarships.
- We now have more than 650 members in grades 10-12 in the AP Academy. 124 seniors in the Class of 2020 received special Advanced Studies recognition at graduation due to earning at least six AP credits.
- Five seniors graduated with 15 or more AP courses completed.
- The average GPA of the Class of 2020 was 3.79.
- The State of South Carolina requires students to earn 24 credits in order to graduate from high school. Wando seniors earned on average 30 credits.
- There were 92 Early Awards recipients for the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.
- Two hundred ninety-nine senior students in the Class of 2020 were named Charleston County School District Board Scholars.
- Seniors took 1,334 dual credit courses with a passage rate of 97 percent.
- At the Level IV Division of the Lowcountry Annual Quest Competition, Wando students won first place.
- Wando students took 2,591 Advanced Placement Exams with 82.2% of students scoring a 3 or above.
- Two senior students received appointments to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- The Wando High School Marching Band won the 5A State Championship for the twelfth time. They placed third overall in the Bands of America Regional in Orlando. Our Symphonic Band was chosen from over 70 bands from across the country to perform at the prestigious Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. Over 50 students were selected to All State Band, more than any other school in the State. Additionally, seven students were selected to All State Jazz Band, again, more than any other school in the State.
- Ten orchestra students were selected for the All State Orchestra, more than any other high school in South Carolina.
- *Tribal Tribune* was selected Best in the State from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association and won 59 individual awards. It also won the Scroggins Award from Southern Interscholastic Press Association, naming the paper the best in the Southeast. Additionally, it received an All American rating from the National Scholastic Press Association and a Silver Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
- The *Legend* received the Blue and Gold Award for comprehensive Writing from Quill and Scroll (only three yearbooks in the nation receive this). Additionally, the *Legend* received a Gold Medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
- *Tribe Talk* received an overall Honors rating from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association.
- 58 Wando students were selected for the All-State Choir which was the highest number selected from any high school in the state for the second year in a row.
- Visual Arts students continue to excel with 31 awards in the Scholastic Art and Writing Contest. A total of 4 Golden Keys, 11 Silver Keys and 16 Honorable Mentions were received by Wando students.

School Highlights: Athletics and Activities



The Wando High School Athletic Program had another outstanding year with student athletes shining on and off the playing field even without the Spring Season being completed.

- One State Championships was won in: Girls Swimming



- Four Region Championships were won in: Boys Basketball, Cheerleading, Boys Cross Country, Volleyball
- Ninety-two senior athletes were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.
- Forty-seven Wando athletes were named to All Region Teams.

- Thirty-five student athletes committed to play at the college level.
- Five student athletes were selected for State All Star Games.
- Ten students were named All State players.
- Five student athletes were named Region Player of the Year in their sport.
- The Wando High School 2018-2019 Volleyball team was named the recipient of the AVCA Team Academic Award. This award honors teams who have matched their dedication to the sport of volleyball with excellence in the classroom.
- The Wando Dance Team placed fourth in the nation at the National Dance Alliance Nationals in Orlando, Florida.
- The Wando High School Model UN Team was selected to compete in the prestigious Model United Nations Competition held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- One Wando student was chosen as the Regional Winner for the 2020 Poetry Out Loud Competition and is one of eight finalists competing for the State Championship.
- The Wando High School AFJROTC Unit received the Distinguished
- AFJROTC Unit Award for the 2019-2020 school year.
- The Mock Trial Team was named Regional Champion earning three Most Effective Attorney Awards and three Most Effective Witness Awards. This is the second time in three years that Wando has had a top ten attorney in international competition. Additionally, one freshman student was recognized as one of the Top Ten Witnesses in International Competition.
- The South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy was awarded to 41 Wando seniors. Biliteracy is the ability to function at a minimum of an Intermediate mid-level of language proficiency in two different languages. This year five students received the Gold Seal of Biliteracy, an Advanced Low proficiency level, 15 students received the Silver Seal of Biliteracy, a proficiency level of Intermediate High, and 21 students received the Bronze Seal of Biliteracy, a proficiency level of Intermediate Mid.
- Wando won the Economics Challenge this year hosted by USC and the Council on Economic Education. Another Wando team placed second in the competition.



School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

- Margo Quigley was named Wando's Teacher of the Year and was one of five finalists for the Charleston County School District Teacher of the Year.
- Sarah Herring was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.

The field at the District 2 Stadium located on our campus was named for long-time Athletic Director and former head football coach Bob Hayes. Coach Hayes was instrumental in the design and completion of the stadium and his passion and commitment to Wando High School and its athletic program is the definition of excellence.



- The following coaches were named Region Coach of the Year:
Bret Davis - Boys Cross Country
Jeff Emory - Girls Golf
Chris Warzynski - Boys Basketball

Once a Warrior

Always a Warrior



The warrior is tough in loyalty, intensity, determination, bearing, initiative, endurance, courage and strength of will.

The warrior is soft in calmness, self-confidence and compassion.

The warrior is frequently called upon to step forward when most gladly step back.

Warriors exist on the battlefield and in daily life.

People may react to you rudely, selfishly and with malice. Be courteous anyway.

Those you help may whine and offer no thanks. Help them anyway.

Your honest words may be challenged and ridiculed. Speak anyway.

Success may involve many mistakes and disappointments. Succeed anyway.

Your donations may seem too small to matter. Give anyway.

A warrior is a master, ever prepared to improve and to be of service to others.

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I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all.

**1000 Warrior Way
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29466**

STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART
OF OUR WORK!

The Wando Family would like to salute our SIC, PTSO, Booster Clubs, parent volunteers, community supporters, and the Town of Mount Pleasant for their continuing support. We would also like to thank the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees, the Charleston County School District staff, the St. James-Santee District 1 Constituent Board and the Moultrie District 2 Constituent Board for their assistance.

