



Wando High School

Wando School Improvement Council Members

Parents

Kimberly Barber
Mary Cameron
Joy Carey
Debbie Compton
Richard Hricik
Rebecca Imholz
Melanie Maxwell
Pam Murray

Students

Stanford Connors
Amelia Dresher
Bethany Holden
Jared Imholz
Emma Lang
Naomi Sembiring
Allison Senf
Amanda Whalen

Community

John Brisini
Tavia Buck
Cynthia Hart
Beth Kerrigan
Paul Kukes
Allison Leggett
Craig Maxey
Mathilde White

Faculty

Caroline Albrecht
Jason Brisini
Beth Darby
Nancy Ferrell
Elizabeth Johnson
Catherine Lawson
Misty LeClerc
Caroline Taylor

Ex-Officio Members

Charles Coker
Sherry Eppelsheimer
John Farese
Lisa Mitchell
Mark Mitchell
Pegi Roberts
Christy Spach
Emilie Woody

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

May 2017

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.

In recent years, educators from across the United States and from foreign countries have 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 more than 4,000 students. More than 25% of our students excel in the visual and performing arts. Ninety-five percent of the Class of 2017 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 2017 completed 1,085 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.



Wando AFJROTC participated in the JROTC Multi-Service Drill National Championships and the JROTC Multi-Service Fitness National Championships. The Fitness Team, composed of ten male and two female cadets dominated in the All Male Category and came



away as the National Champions. Wando cadets placed first in the 3K Run, Broad Jump, Army Power Throw, and Pull-ups while placed second in the Physical Team Test (obstacle course). Three cadets won individual awards.

The U. S. Presidential Scholars Program was established to recognize the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Up to 161 students are selected annually as U. S. Presidential Scholars based on academic achievement and exceptional performance on the SAT or ACT. Of the nine Charleston County School District Students who were named Presidential Scholars, five were from Wando High School.

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, allow-

ing 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

- The Class of 2017 earned over \$29.6 million in scholarships.
- The 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program named ten senior students as National Merit Semifinalists; nine moved on to be named finalists and one senior received a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship. Additionally, seven seniors were named commended students.
- The 2016 AP School Scholars from Wando were announced by the College Board. There were 400 AP Scholars. 148 students were named AP Scholars with an average score of 3.21. Ninety-four students were named AP Scholars with Honors

with the average score being 3.70. There were 158 AP Scholars with Distinction with an average score of 4.09. Wando had 34 National AP Scholars with an average score of 4.43.

- We now have more than 501 members in grades 10-12 in the AP Academy. 105 seniors in the Class of 2017 received special Advanced Studies recognition due to earning at least six AP credits.
- Two senior students received appointments to the U. S. Military Academies. One student was accepted to the Air Force Academy and one to The U. S. Military Acade-

my at West Point.

- The average GPA of the Class of 2017 was 3.57.
- The State of South Carolina requires students to earn 24 credits in order to graduate from high school. Wando seniors earned on average 31 credits.
- There were 75 Early Awards recipients for the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- One senior student was named a Coke Scholar semi-finalist out of 86,000 applicants.
- Two senior students were named as semi-finalists for the National Beta Scholarship. Scholarship.

School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- The Art Department had two students receive a National Medal in the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
- The Wando Honors Orchestra was selected to perform at the SCMEA Professional Development Conference in Columbia in February.
- At the Southeastern Scholastic Art Competition, Wando had four Gold Key Winners and 21 Silver Key Winners. One Wando student won a Gold Key at the Scholastic National Art Competition.
- The *Tribal Tribune* won Best in State from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association and the Southern Interscholastic Press Association. *Tribal Tribune* also

won a Silver Crown from the Columbia Press Association.

- The Wando Dance Program participated in the Contest of Champions - The Premier Dance Nationals Competition and received an overall Excellent Rating.
- One Wando dance student performed a solo at the Kids Artistic Revue National Dance Competition and received the top first award.
- The *Legend* was named Best Yearbook in South Carolina.
- The Theatre Department participated at the State Competition, earning the most awards of any competing school. One Wando junior received the prestigious

Triple Threat Award for earning the most overall points of all of the participating students.

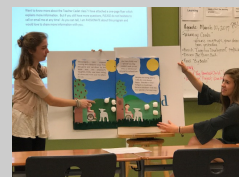
- Forty-six chorus students were selected for the 2017 All-State Choir.
- The Wando Marching Band placed second at the Bands of America Super Regionals in Atlanta. They went on to compete at Grand Nationals earning an eighth place finish among bands from across the nation.
- One Wando student was selected to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Marching Band Color Guard.

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.

- Twenty-two varsity teams qualified for the playoffs.
- Three State Championships were won in:
 - Boys Lacrosse
 - Boys Soccer
 - Girls Track and Field
- Seven Lower State Championships were won in:
 - Boys Cross Country
 - Boys Golf
 - Girls Lacrosse
 - Girls Soccer
 - Boys Swimming
 - Boys Track and Field
 - Volleyball
- Thirteen Region Championships were won in:
 - Baseball
 - Cheerleading
 - Boys Cross Country
 - Girls Cross Country
 - Boys Golf
 - Boys Soccer
 - Girls Soccer
 - Boys Swimming
 - Girls Swimming
 - Boys Tennis
 - Girls Tennis
 - Boys Track and Field
 - Girls Track and Field
 - Volleyball
- Eighty-one senior athletes were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.
- Seventy-nine Wando athletes were named to All Region Teams.
- Thirty student athletes signed or were given the opportunity to compete in college.
- Fifteen student athletes were selected for State All Star Games.
- Nine student athletes were named Region Player of the Year in their sport.
- The Wando Rugby Club Teams, A and B, took first place in the State.
- One student athlete was named U. S. Lacrosse Academic All American.
- Three student athletes were named U. S. Lacrosse All Americans.
- Wando AP Economics students competed in the National Economics Challenge and won the state competition and finished 25th in the nation.
- Twenty-nine Latin students competed in the South Carolina State Latin Competition and placed first in the state.
- Student Council was named a 2017 National Gold Council of Excellence.
- One Wando student was selected as the S. C. Economics' Young Entrepreneur of the Year, the premier award for youth entrepreneurship.
- At the statewide Engineering Competition at the University of South Carolina, Wando's Digital Electronics team placed first overall. The Introduction to Engineering Design team won second place and Best Presentation was won by the Principles of Engineering team.
- Nine teams from Wando competed in the U. S. Cyber Patriot IX Competition with five teams qualifying for the State Round.
- Five Wando DECA students competed at the International Competition in Anaheim, California.
- The Wando High School Marine Science Club took the title at the 19th annual Southern Stingray Bowl and went on to compete at the National Ocean Sciences Bowl.
- Wando Advanced Robotics, a team of young men and women interested in STEAM curricula, competed against a field of 62 teams from all over the United States and won the coveted Imagery Award at the First Palmetto Regional.



Seven teacher cadets received the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship valued at \$24,000.

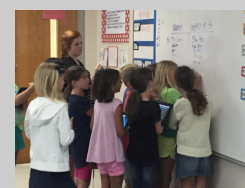


The competition group started with over 700 participants and concluded with 200 students who received this award.



School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

- Kevin Sneed was named Wando's Teacher of the Year.
- Paula Carr was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.
- The Roper Mount Science Center selected four Wando High School teachers, Russell Ball, Beth Green, Carla Kramer, and Tracey Mahon, to attend its 2017 Science P.L.U.S. Institute hosted at Roper Mountain and Clemson University this summer.
- At the fall S. C. Press Association Conference, Tribe Talk advisor Shawntell Pace received the Bruce E. Konkle Rising Star Award.
- Valerie Maslyn received a *Rock of Recognition* from the Charleston County School District for being a star first year teacher.
- The faculty and staff raised \$647.00 to send to Pepperhill Elementary to help purchase bicycles, helmets, and locks for their students.
- Volleyball coach Alexis Glover picked up her 900th win this year. She is the all-time winningest volleyball coach in South Carolina history.
- The following coaches were named Region Coach of the Year:
 - Bret Davis
 - Cheryl Durden
 - Winde Ellenberg
 - Alexis Glover
 - Jennifer Johnson
 - Jimmy Noonan
 - Dirk Thomas
 - Shiloh Tisdale
- Kevin Shiver was selected by the U. S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association as the Girls' Coach of the Year for the State of South Carolina for the 2016 Track and Field season.



2017



Wando High School

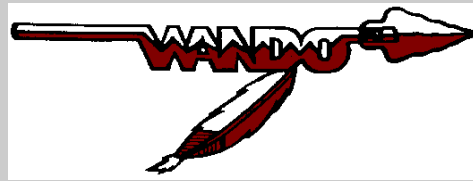
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The Wando School Improvement Council meets monthly to plan, monitor, and evaluate improvements at the school level. Their work includes school planning as well as communication between students, teachers, parents, and the school administration.

Our PTSO serves as our primary fundraising group for school-wide projects and is the group that organizes and assigns volunteers, works on beautification, supports school celebrations and recognitions, and provides activities for faculty and staff appreciation and support. Our PTSO is a 501.c(3) charitable organization.

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 2 Constituent Board and the Moultrie District 2 Constituent Board for their assistance.



We are Wando!

