



Wando High School

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

June 2021

Wando School Improvement Council Members

Parents

Kimberly Barber
Rasheida Brown
Marcy Thrash
Richard Hricik
Pam Murray
EC Setser

Students

Caroline Caron
Marah Hanson
Kylie Robertson
Charles Rohaley

Community

Darren Felty
Rebecca Imholz
Paul Kukes
Melanie Maxwell
Mike McEachen
EC Setser
Mathilde White

Faculty

Hannah Brandel
Misty LeClerc
Erin Lowry
Caroline Merritt

Ex-Officio Members

Troy Barron
Sherry Eppelsheimer
John Farese
Pamela Jubar
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 more than 3,200 students. More than 25% of our students excel in the visual and performing arts. Ninety percent of the Class of 2021 plan to enroll in either a two or four year college or university. Wando offers over 200 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 2021 completed 988 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.

STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART

OF OUR WORK!

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 High School earned a silver medal from U. S. News & World Report as a 2021 Best High School.

The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on nearly 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare

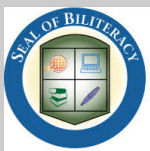


Four students were named S. C. Teaching Fellows earning scholarships valued



For the fourth 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.

The South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy was awarded to 87 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 six students received the Gold Seal of Biliteracy, an Advanced Low proficiency level, 40 students received the Silver Seal of Biliteracy, a proficiency level of Intermediate High, and 41 students received the Bronze Seal of Biliteracy, a proficiency level of Intermediate Mid.

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 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.
- Expand dual credit options.
- Implement a program to address the significant discrepancies in academic achievement due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

School Highlights: Academics

- Wando High School’s Class of 2021 earned more than \$27 million dollars in scholarships.
- We now have 509 members in grades 10-12 in the AP Academy. 127 seniors in the Class of 2021 received special Advanced Studies recognition at graduation due to earning at least six AP credits.
- Six seniors graduated with 15 or more AP courses completed.
- The average GPA of the Class of 2021 was 3.86.
- 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 95 Early Awards recipients for the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.
- Three hundred sixty-four senior students in the Class of 2021 were named Charleston County School District Board Scholars.
- Seniors took 1,293 dual credit courses with a passage rate of 93 percent.
- Wando seniors alone took 911 Advanced Placement courses with an average grade of 90.

- Two senior students received military academy appointments. One accepted an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and a second student accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.
- Five Wando seniors earned corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships.
- The Bosch FIRST Scholarship was received by one Wando senior. This scholarship is given nationally to two students and this is the second time a Wando student has received this prestigious award.

School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- Visual Arts students continue to excel with 18 awards in the National Scholastic Art and Writing Contest. A total of 4 Golden Keys, 5 Silver Keys and 9 Honorable Mentions were received by Wando students.
- The Wando High School Marching Band is still the reigning 5A State Champion for the twelfth time. There were 61 band students that earned All State Band awards and 105 earning All Region awards.
- Thirty-three orchestra students were named to the SCMEA Region Orchestra and five students were named to the SCMEA All-State Orchestra.
- *The Legend* received Best Yearbook in the South by the Southern Interscholastic Press Association, a first in Wando history. A Wando senior was named the 2021 Scholastic Journalist of the Year by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association.
- *Tribal Tribune* was awarded the Best in the State by the S. C. Scholastic Press Association. Additionally, it received a Silver Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
- Six Chorus students earned a three-time SCMEA All State Chorus Award.
- A Wando junior’s artwork was chosen to hang in Congresswoman Nancy Mace’s office.
- One Wando student received a Silver Key from the National Scholastic Art and Writing Contest for his writing.
- Two theatre students won a first and third place award at the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association Festival.

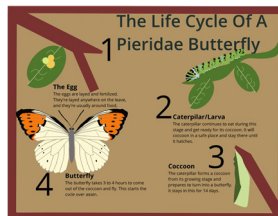
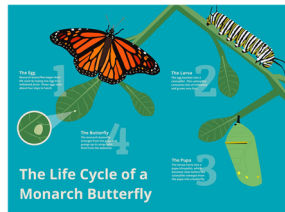
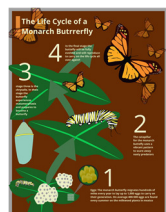
School Highlights: Athletics and Activities



The Wando High School Athletic Program had another outstanding year winning the S. C. Athletic Administrators Association Carlisle Cup for the best 5A athletic program.

- Three State Championships were won in:
 - Girls Soccer
 - Girls Swimming
 - Volleyball
- Seventeen Region Championships were won in:

Girls Basketball	Girls Soccer
Girls Competitive Cheer	Boys Swimming
Boys Cross Country	Girls Swimming
Girls Cross Country	Boys Tennis
Boys Golf	Girls Tennis
Girls Golf	Boys Track and Field
Boys Lacrosse	Girls Track and Field
Girls Lacrosse	Volleyball
Boys Soccer	Wrestling
- Sixty-two senior athletes were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.
- Forty-two Wando athletes were named to All Region Teams.
- Twenty-five student athletes committed to play at the college level.
- Eleven student athletes were named All State Players.
- Sixteen students were named All State players.
- Eleven student athletes were named Region Player of the Year in their sport.
- The Wando High School State Champion Volleyball team was invited to represent South Carolina in the 2021 Nike National Volleyball Tournament to be held in September in Orlando.
- One Wando student received a Best Attorney Award in the Empire International Mock Trial Competition.
- Wando won the Economics Challenge this year hosted by USC and the Council on Economic Education. Another Wando team placed second in the competition. This is the seventh consecutive year that Wando has placed first in the state competition.



Wando Art Works



School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

- Erin Lowry was named Wando's Teacher of the Year.
- Martina Abbriano was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.
- Lee Howes was named the Classified Professional of the Year.
- Molly Gordon and Elissa Manchester were presented the Guiding Light Award by the Charleston County School District Office of Teacher Effectiveness.
- Phillip Caston was named one of three Distinguished Yearbook Advisors in the nation by the Journalism Education Association.



- The following coaches were named Region Coach of the Year:
 - Christina Braun (Girls Cross Country)
 - Shannon Champ (Girls Soccer)
 - Bret Davis (Boys Cross Country)
 - Cheryl Durden (Girls Swimming)
 - Jeff Emory (Girls Golf/Girls Basketball)
 - Gerald Lloyd (Boys Golf)
 - McKenzie Nash (Boys Swimming)
 - Adam Schneider (Wrestling)
- Tamie Betsill was named a S. C. Financial Literacy Master Teacher.
- Julie Freeze was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, an international honorary society in education.

2021



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



The South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association (SCACA) announced that Bob Hayes, former athletic director and football coach at Wando High School, has been posthumously elected to the SCACA Hall of Fame. He will be inducted with the rest of the Class of 2021 on July 25, 2021, during the SCACA's Annual Awards Ceremony at the Greenville Convention Center.



We are Wando!