



# Wando High School

## Wando School Improvement Council Members

### Parents

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

### Students

Harper Catalano  
Andrew Nguyen  
Emma Scott  
Emily Sierko  
Lleyton Spivey  
Avery Steeland

### Community

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

### Faculty

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

### Ex-Officio Members

Kirk Beilke  
Jeff Blankenship  
Charles Coker  
Sherry Eppelsheimer  
John Farese  
Misty LeClerc  
Mark Mitchell

## ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

June 2018

### 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 2018 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 2018 completed 1,033 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 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 teacher cadets won the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship.



Two Wando Economics teams, consisting of four students each, the *Economic Warriors* and the *Big Macks*, competed in the statewide economics competition hosted by the University of South Carolina. The teams placed first and second in the state. This is the fourth year in a row that the *Economic Warriors* have won the state title. The *Big Macks* advanced South Carolina's National Economics Challenge ranking to 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation!

## 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

- The Class of 2018 earned over \$26.7 million in scholarships.
- Wando High School had seven National Merit Finalists. In addition, two students received National Merit Corporate-Sponsored Scholarships.
- The 2017 AP School Scholars from Wando were announced by the College Board. There were 463 AP Scholars. 183 students were named AP Scholars with an average score of 3.17. 101 students were named AP Scholars with Honors with the average score being 3.64. There were 179 AP Scholars with Distinction with an average score of 4.13.
- Wando had 30 National AP Scholars with an average score of 4.42, one State AP Scholar and one AP International Diploma.
- We now have more than 520 members in grades 10-12 in the AP Academy. 104 seniors in the Class of 2018 received special Advanced Studies recognition due to earning at least six AP credits.
- The average GPA of the Class of 2018 was 3.63.
- 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 97 Early Awards recipients for the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.
- Two hundred sixty-one senior students in the Class of 2018 were named Charleston County School District Board Scholars.
- 389 seniors took 1,006 dual credit courses earning college credit.
- Of the 2,873 courses taken by seniors, 1,138 of them were Advanced Placement courses.

## School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- At the Southeastern Scholastic Art Competition, Wando has three gold key winners and eight silver key winners.
- The Wando Honors Orchestra was selected to compete in the American String Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival. Concert and Chamber Orchestra earned straight superior ratings at the SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment.
- The Wando Marching Band won their 11th State Marching Band Competition and placed second at the Bands of America Super Regionals in Atlanta.
- Six Wando students were selected for the National Honor Band and Honor Orchestra of America. Nine students were named to the All State Jazz Band and 54 were named to the All State Band.
- The Southern Interscholastic Press Association named the 2017 *Legend* the Best Yearbook in South Carolina. The 2017 *Legend* also received All-State (S. C. Scholastic Press Association), All-Southern (SIPA), and Gold Medal (Columbia Scholastic Press Association) awards.
- One Wando student earned a national silver medal in the poetry category of the 2018 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. This year nearly 350,000 works of art and writing were submitted with less than one percent recognized at the national level.
- *Tribal Tribune*, the school newspaper, received an All-Southern rating and the Scroggins Mark of Distinction in South Carolina for the top newspaper from the Southern Interscholastic Press Association. Additionally, *Tribal Tribune* received a Gold Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
- *Tribe Talk* received an overall superior rating from the Southern Interscholastic Press Association.
- *The Outlet*, Wando's literary magazine, received an All-State award from the S. C. Scholastic Press Association as well as an All-Southern Award from the Southern Interscholastic Press Association.

## 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.
- Six State Championships were won in:
  - Boys Lacrosse
  - Boys Soccer
  - Girls Track and Field
  - Boys Track and Field
  - Girls Swimming
  - Boys Swimming
- Three Lower State Championships were won in:
  - Boys Golf
  - Boys Tennis
  - Volleyball
- Twelve Region Championships were won in:
  - Cheerleading
  - 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
- One hundred twelve senior athletes were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.
- Forty-nine Wando athletes were named to All Region Teams.
- Thirty-two student athletes signed or were given the opportunity to compete in college.
- Fourteen student athletes were selected for State All Star Games.
- Forty-one students were named All State players.
- Seven student athletes were named Region Player of the Year in their sport.
- The Wando High School Junior Classical League won the South Carolina Junior Classical League State Forum.
- The University of South Carolina held their annual Project Lead the Way statewide engineering competition where Wando students competed in both competitions, Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering. Two Wando teams tied for first place in the Introduction to Engineering Design Competition. A Wando STEM team competed in the annual national Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision competition and received honorable mention which places their project in the top 10% of all projects submitted throughout the country.
- The Marine Science Club competed against teams from South Carolina and Georgia at The Southern Stingray Bowl (the regional competition for the National Ocean Science Bowl) and won first place.
- The Wando Wind Turbine Team participated in the first Kid Wind Tournament hosted by The Citadel winning the Judge's Award for the most knowledge about wind power.
- Wando students placed first, second, and third place as well as five of the top six finalist spots at YES Carolina's State Business Plan Competition.
- Wando Advanced Robotics won the Motorola Quality Award at the Rocket City FRC Regional held by NASA.
- One DECA team placed first in the state for Hospitality and Tourism Team Decision Making.
- Nine Wando students participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Apprenticeship Signing Day that was held at Trident Technical College.




## School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors


- Andy Streets was named Wando's Teacher of the Year.
- Carly McRae was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.
- Rasheida Brown was named the Classified Professional of the Year.
- Alexis Glover was named the 2017 United States Marine Corps/American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) National Head Coach of the Year. Glover served as head coach in the Under Armour All-American Volleyball Match for Team East. This is her second national coach of the year honor in three years.
- Mary Catherine Peebles was named the 2017-2018 Secondary Art Educator of the Year by the South Carolina Art Education Association (SCAEA). She also received the 2017-2018 Mary Whyte Art Educator Award.
- Christopher Sjolander was the runner-up for the national PLTW Teacher of the Year.
- Jessica Herbert received the Outstanding Teacher Leadership Award from the Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Tamie Betsill was presented the S. C. Economics 2018 Outstanding Teacher Service Award.
- Lori Carroll received the 2018 Communication Arts Award from the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association.
- Mark Buchman, Lauren LeGrand, and Alan Ridenoure, Wando Athletic Trainers, received the Safe Sport Schools, 1<sup>st</sup> Team recognition from the National Athletic Trainers Association.
- The following coaches were named Region Coach of the Year:
  - Tyler Ann Smith - Cheerleading
  - Jennifer Emerson - Girls Cross Country
  - Jerry Lloyd - Boys Golf
  - Allyson Brown - Boys Swimming
  - Cheryl Durden - Girls Swimming
  - Winde Ellenberg - Boys Tennis
  - Kevin Shiver - Girls Track
  - Alexis Glover - Volleyball
- Kevin Shiver was named Boys and Girls AAAAA Track Coach of the Year.
- Cheryl Durden was named SCADA Coach of the Year.
- Brooke Black was named Lower State Coach of the Year for Girls Lacrosse.



Five senior students received appointments to three of our U. S. Military Academies:

 Three to the U. S. Air Force Academy

 One to the U. S. Coast Guard Academy

 One to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point

Additionally, two senior students received appointments to the Air Force Academy Preparatory School and the West Point Preparatory School.

## U. S. News & World Report

Wando High School earned a silver medal from U. S. News & World Report as a 2018 Best High School.

The rankings evaluate more than 20,500 public high schools nationwide to identify schools that best serve all of their students – including historically underserved populations – and assess the degree to which students are prepared for college-level coursework.

"Top-ranked schools succeed in three main areas: exceeding expectations on state proficiency tests, offering challenging coursework and graduating their students," said Anita Narayan, managing editor of Education at U.S. News.

2018



## Wando High School

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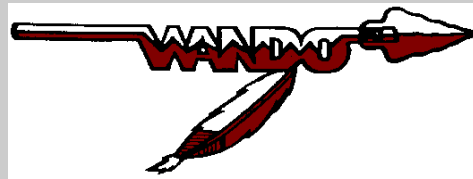
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[www.wandohigh.com](http://www.wandohigh.com)

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.



*We are Wando!*

