



Wando High School

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

June 2022

Wando School Improvement Council Members

Parents

Kimberly Barber
Rasheida Brown
Joy Carey
Pam Murray
Althea Setser

Students

Emmy Thayer
Isabelle Turner

Community

Tavia Buck
Darren Felty
Rebecca Imholz
Mathilde White

Faculty

Erin Lowry
Caroline Merritt

Ex-Officio Members

Sherry Eppelsheimer
John Farese
Pamela Jubar
Jen Mallin
Kristy Williams

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 3,000 students. More than 25% of our students excel in the visual and performing arts. Ninety-one percent of the Class of 2022 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 2022 completed 940 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.

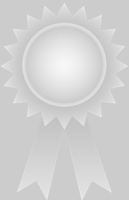
We are blessed with a high level of parental and community involvement. Our School Improvement Council and our PTSO provide outstanding leadership and support as well as helping provide the future direction of our school. Improving communication with parents and the community is a common goal. Our various 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 2022 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 at \$24,000.

The South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy was awarded to 50 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 two students received the Gold Seal of Biliteracy, an Advanced Low proficiency level, 19 students received the Silver Seal of Biliteracy, a proficiency level of Intermediate High, and 29 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, 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 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 2022 earned more than \$28.9 million in scholarships.
- We now have 456 members in grades 10 - 12 in the AP Academy. Eighty-seven seniors in the Class of 2022 received special Advanced Studies recognition at graduation due to earning at least six AP credits.
- The average GPA of the Class of 2022 was 3.80.
- The State of South Carolina requires students to earn 24 credits in order to graduate from high school. Wando seniors earned on average

29 credits.

- There were 87 Early Awards recipients for the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.
- Three thirty-seven senior students in the Class of 2022 were named Charleston County School District Board Scholars.
- Seniors took 931 dual credit courses with a passage rate of 88.2 percent.
- Three senior students received military academy appointments. One accepted an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, a second to the United States

Military Academy at West Point, and the third to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

- Eight Wando students were named as 2022 Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation Competition.
- One Wando Advanced Placement Capstone student received not only the top score of a 5 on the AP Research exam but was also one of only 375 students in the world to earn every point possible, receiving the maximum score on each portion of the exam.

School Highlights: Communications and Fine Arts

- Visual Arts students continue to excel with 45 awards in the National Scholastic Art and Writing Regional Contest. A total of 10 Gold Keys, 14 Silver Keys and 21 Honorable Mentions were received by Wando students. Additionally, one student was nominated for the American Visions Award and another student received a National Gold Medal for Scholastic Arts in Media Arts.
- The Wando High School Marching Band is still the reigning 5A State Champion for the thirteenth time. There were 50 band students that earned All State Band awards and

101 students earning All Region awards. Six Jazz Band students were named to All State. Additionally, the Marching Band was the Bands of America AL Regional Champion.

- 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 Scholastic Journalist of the Year by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association. Wando also received the Blue and Gold Award for Photography Excellence.

- The Wando Chorus won Gold at the Festival Disney AAAA National Choral Competition. The Choir earned a Superior Rating for their performance and also won the Best in Class Award for SATB Choir.
- One Wando student received a Gold Key while another Wando student received a Silver Key from the National Scholastic Art and Writing Contest for his/her writing.



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.

- Four State Championships were won in:

Boys Lacrosse
Girls Lacrosse
Girls Soccer
Girls Swimming

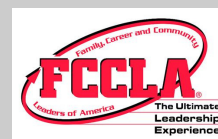
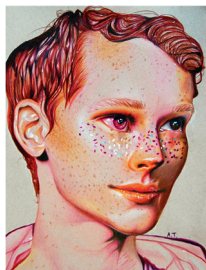
Fifth Straight State Championship for Girls Swimming.

- Twelve Region Championships were won in:

Cheerleading	Girls Soccer
Boys Cross Country	Boys Swimming
Boys Cross Country	Girls Swimming
Boys Golf	Boys Tennis
Girls Golf	Girls Tennis
Boys Lacrosse	Boys Track and Field
Girls Lacrosse	Girls Track and Field
Boys Soccer	Volleyball

- One student athlete was named an Academic All American.
- Seventy-five senior athletes were recognized as Scholar Athletes by the South Carolina High School League.

- 110 Wando athletes were named to All Region Teams.
- Thirty-three student athletes committed to play at the college level.
- Twenty-three students were named All State players.
- Nine student athletes were named Region Player of the Year in their sport.
- One sophomore student athlete won the South Carolina High School League AAAAA boys cross country title and became the first student athlete in school history to win the individual state championship in this sport.
- One student athlete was selected as the Class AAAAA Lacrosse Player of the Year by the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports.
- Wando had 57 South Carolina High School League Multi-Sport Athletes.
- The Wando High School Volleyball Team was named the recipient of the 2021 USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award.
- The Stock Market Game ran from mid-September through mid-November and included 1,121 high school teams across the State of South Carolina. Wando High School Stock Market team finished with the top two teams in the entire competition.
- Wando High School received a Recycling Education Award for TerraCycleZero Waste Boxes and a field trip to the Bees Ferry Recycling Center.
- The Wando Quiz Bowl Team won the Porter Gaud Tournament, placed second in the Charleston County School District Academic Bowl, and qualified for the National Tournament.



Wando's Culinary Team competed at the FCCLA State Culinary Competition and came away with students winning Gold and Silver Awards. Five students are heading to Nationals in California over the summer.



One senior AFJROTC cadet was selected as one of the 2021-2022 J-100 Character in Leadership Scholarship recipients. Only 100 of these scholarships were given this year in the nation.

A second senior AFJROTC cadet was selected as the recipient of the U. S. Navy ROTC Prep Scholarship to the University of San Diego. This scholarship is comparable to the J-100 Scholarship and is a leadership and academic-based scholarship.

Another two AFJROTC cadets received Chief of Staff Private Pilot Scholarships.

School Highlights: Faculty and Staff Honors

- Jason Sox was named Wando High School's Teacher of the Year.
- Danielle Powers was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.
- Brenda Tolomea was named the Classified Employee of the Year.
- Erin Lowry was selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars. Ms. Lowry was nominated by a student for her outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the teaching profession.
- Wando's new multi-purpose court in the main gymnasium was dedicated to Coach Alexis Glover for her dedication to Wando and to the sport of volleyball.



- Congratulations to the following coaches who were named Region Coach of the Year:
 - Jessie Bunting - Girls Tennis
 - Cheryl Durden - Boys and Girls Swimming
 - Alexis Glover - Volleyball
 - Jerry Lloyd - Boys Golf
 - Brittany McPherson - Softball
 - Charlie Painter - Boys Tennis
 - Ed Reckdenwald - Girls Lacrosse
 - Kenneth Ross - Girls Cross Country
- Coach Ed Reckdenwald was named the SCACA Girls Lacrosse Coach of the Year.

2022



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.

We are Wando!