

North Augusta High School

Parent Report 2023-2024



Mission

Our mission is to provide students with high-quality instruction and extra-curricular opportunities to support their post-secondary goals.

Our vision is excellence in academics, arts, and athletics.

We believe that student growth and achievement depend on a culture of excellence.

We value instructional time, leadership and character, professionalism and accountability, family and tradition.

NAHS is a comprehensive four-year high school with a diverse population of over 1,600 students, accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Academics

The faculty at NAHS is committed to continuous improvement using data and research-based practices to guide instruction.

As an academic organization, we believe:

- Our teaching should evoke curiosity and global awareness from students
- Our speech and actions towards students and each other should come from a place of empathy
- Our philosophies should involve a dedication to increasing students' sense of social awareness and social responsibility
- Our practice should value both college and career paths and celebrate them equally

Although classroom learning is vital, experiential learning through internships, research and service learning enhances the academic setting and brings lasting knowledge.

NAHS strives to ensure that all graduating students are college and career ready by offering college and career assessments to all 3rd year students. The emphasis on college readiness assessments can be seen with expected student scholarship earnings in excess of \$12 million dollars for the class of 2024.

Academic Data

- 20% of student body enrolled in AP courses
- Over 100% increase in qualifying AP scores between 2016-2023
- Over 95% of graduates received post-secondary placements in college acceptance, military, or career placements
- Over 90% of 2023 graduates were accepted to a two- or four-year college

NAHS has maintained an excellent participation rate in AP programming over the last 8 years, with over 300 students participating in AP programming and taking over 600 exams during the 2023-2024 school year.

Dual-enrollment program participation grew, with students earning credit through Aiken Technical College and USC-Aiken.

NAHS Guidance

NAHS Guidance continued the "March Madness" program for seniors, with month-long thematic programming for college and career preparation.

Hosted a dual enrollment information night for parents and students. Over a dozen schools hosted instant decision opportunities for eligible applicants.

Students participated in the City of North Augusta Youth Day, USC Aiken career fair, Wellstar hiring day, HBCU introduction event, as well as numerous visits from potential employers and academic institutions.

Athletics

Wrestling:

Region champions for the first time in history
2nd round playoff participant, finishing with 17-7 dual match record
Highest individual State placement ever - Nick Moore taking 2nd, Kenneth Macafee, taking a 5th, Lady Sheridan Town in 3rd place.
Team results - finished 11th in the State standings

Boys Tennis

Thirteen students competed in AAAA playoffs at Greenville

Girls Tennis

Completed the season with a 10-5 mark while finishing 2nd in Region 4-AAAA, reaching the 2nd round of the playoffs

Sarah Henry and Brianna O'Shea were named to the all-region team

Football

All Region Team - Corey Tillman, Connor Brown, Rod Collins, Andy Cervantes, Mike Doe, Bryce Tillman, Beans Hunt

Region Defensive Player of the Year - Deondre' Baskett

College Scholarships - Jack Stevens- South Dakota State University, Rod Collins- Newberry College, Evan Waldhauer- Limestone University, Beans Hunt- Limestone University

Clay Target Team

Competed in the SC DNR Scholastic Clay Target League and had several squads and individuals qualify for the state championship events. 18 students represented the Yellow Jackets this season.

The JV Ladies' squad of Britton Breazeale, Emma Sherman, and Ellie Williams captured three trophies this season including the SC DNR Trap State Championship. The squad finished as state-runners up in Skeet and in third place in Sporting Clays. Eillie Williams was also the individual state champion in Trap.

The Varsity Ladies' squad of Katie Gillespie, Keely Herrington, and Sophie Rojas qualified for the Skeet championship as well as three individual Varsity Boy's qualified for the Skeet and Trap championship events. (Grayson Rabb, Evan Waldhauer, Wade Wimberly).

Volleyball

Finished with a 14-14-2 record, with a 4-4 Region record

Continued the "fight night" event tradition for Cancer Awareness

Baseball

Currently 6-9 on the season, 5-6 in Region play

Varsity and JV teams competed in the High School Showcase game at SRP Park against Harlem High School

Boys Soccer

Junior Varsity finished the season 9-1-1 and 8-0 in Region IV-4A

Varsity Soccer finished the season 12-1-1 with a 7-0-1 Region IV-4A record

Varsity Soccer won the Regional Title, earning a #1 seed in the SCHSL 4A playoffs and a first-round playoff bye

Girls Soccer

Varsity finished the season with a 10-3 overall record, with a 6-2 Region record

Junior Varsity finished the season 13-2 with an 8-0 Region record

Softball

Current record of 19-5 with an 11-1 Region record

Currently 1st place in Region AAAA

Swimming

Multiple students participated in the State Swim Meet in Columbia

Boys Golf

Successfully defended their title at the Swamp Fox Invitational in Summerville, SC. The Yellow Jackets shot a team score of 295 with senior Jack Beggs earning medalist honors with a -5 par 67. Baxley, Beggs and Johnson made the All-Tournament Team

Junior golfer Andrew Baxley earned an invitation to play in the Congaree Junior Match Play Championships May 21-23 at the Congaree Golf club, a private course in that has hosted a PGA tour event. He earned an invitation after being named one of the top 36 golfers on the State

Boys Basketball

Finished the season with a 20-8 record, winning the Region Championship for the 3rd year in a row

Individual Awards:

Daron Dunbar - Region Player of the Year, 4A All-State

All Region - Damarion Saxon, Toian Nabriat, Jordan Rouse

Girls Basketball

23-6 season record, undefeated in Region Play

Region Champions

High School Heisman

Evan Waldhauer and Jordan Wiley were named Wendy's High School Heisman recipients

Fine Arts

SCBDA All-State Band - Andrew Altringer - 2nd chair tuba Senior, Ayrenne Turner - 2nd alternate clarinet (26th in the state), Will Seigler - 2nd chair Oboe Senior All - State Band and All-State Orchestra, Waylen Ellis - 8th chair tuba Clinic All-State Band. This is the largest group to be named to the SCBDA All-State Bands in over 25 years.

Over 25 band students participated in the ACPSD All-County Band Clinic.

Will Seigler attended the USC Double Reed Clinic. He received the highest score amongst the oboe players in his mock audition.

The NAHS Orchestra has experienced a fantastic year of growth and musical excellence. With the largest student enrollment in the

program's history, the NAHS Orchestra featured two ensembles in performances throughout the year - the Concert Orchestra and the Symphonic Orchestra. Both ensembles have performed musically engaging concerts in our community, including the Winter Concert and Spring Concert. In early March, both the Concert Orchestra and the Symphonic Orchestra performed at the Carowinds Festival of Music. This was the first time in program history that two ensembles performed in an adjudicated event. Both ensembles received a Superior rating for their performances!

In late March, both ensembles performed in the South Carolina Concert Performance Assessment. Both groups received an Excellent rating for their stage performance, a Superior rating in sight reading, and received record-high scores for their performance divisions of Grade 3 and Grade 4!

In April, the Orchestra participated in the Aiken County Garcia Orchestra Festival. The following students earned spots in the top chairs for the ensemble:

Maria Williams- 1st Chair Violin 2, Lena Metzler - 2nd Chair Violin 2, Katie Morin- 1st Chair Viola, Laney Wall- 2nd Chair Viola, Izabella Brower- 2nd Chair Cello, Mason Burke - 1st Chair Bass,

In the Fall and Spring semesters, the following students participated in the Youth Orchestra of Greater Augusta. Acceptance to the ensemble is based on completion of a successful audition:

Fall: Jenna Flores – Violin, Sophie Murray – Viola,

Spring: Megan Arnold – Violin, Izabella Brower – Cello, LeeAnn Hardin – Viola

In November, after a highly competitive audition process, the following students were selected to participate in the Midlands Region Orchestra. This is the largest number of students NAHS has had represented in the Midlands Region Orchestra, and the first time in program history that a student was selected for the 11/12 ensemble:

9/10 Ensemble: Jenna Flores - 13th Chair Violin 2, Sophie Murray - 12th Chair Viola 11/12 Ensemble: Megan Arnold - 17th Chair Violin 2

Community Service

Sandspurs students participated in the Aiken County Public Schools Spring Break Food Drive, Spooky to Be Hungry Food Drive, Meals on Wheels delivery, St. Jude Valentine cards, Christmas Cards for Charlie Norwood Veterans Hospital, NAHS Christmas Child, Special Olympics buddies and craft booth, and Children's Hospital of Georgia stuffed animal drive

Our Culinary clubs have provided luncheons for various community associations including the Aiken County School Board and serving faculty and staff at employee luncheons.

Teacher Cadet again organized donations from students, staff, community and alumni to enable over forty local children to enjoy a gift-filled Christmas

NAHS faculty and staff continued their long-standing tradition of contributions to the United Way, with a maintenance of total contributions from 2022-2023

NAHS FBLA organized blood drives in conjunction with Sheppard Blood Center and the American Red Cross

NAHS students donated Christmas gifts to over 30 local families through the Martha Butts Christmas Child program

NAVY JROTC

Earned Distinguished unit with academic honors for the 5th year in a row (only 8 of the Navy Area schools earned this year).

Earned 1st through 3rd place individual event trophies in the Greenbrier and Georgetown drill meets this season. Qualified and competed in the Regional Drill competition held in Myrtle Beach in February.

Placed 10th of 24 in the Regional academic brain brawl competition at NC State in January.

Conducted over 2000 community and school service hours this school year including parking support, numerous color guards, Veteran and Memorial Day community events, Food bank and Adopt-a-highway service events, among many other events.

3 cadets earned the Navy ROTC scholarship starting this fall - covers 5-year tuition, room and board (1 at Jacksonville University, 2 at Benedict)

BETA Club

Beta Club and the Sandspurs joined together to help feed people in the North Augusta area, participating in the Meals on Wheels program, feeding approximately 30 people per week

Won the annual Spooky to Be Hungry food drive in October for collecting the most canned food of any high school in Aiken County. Mrs. Koonce, the group's sponsor, was awarded a trophy at Harvest Food Bank's recognition meeting.

Completed service projects with Mossy Creek Elementary, Hammond Hill Elementary, Hopeland Gardens, The Optimist Club, Grace United Methodist, The Salvation Army, Harvest Hope, Kroc Center, North Augusta High, and Belvedere Elementary. NAHS Beta aims to serve our community and help others.

Student Highlights

Boys State - Bryson Coleman, Sean Seawright, Colin Day, Lyles Cannon, Evan Hargrove, Douglas Hibbard, Cason Seymour, Justin Sturgis, Tavien Smith, Brigs Watkins, Alternate - Connor Spivey
Girls State - Madison Cabral, Katie Ellis, Makayla Murray, Sophia Massucco, Alternates: Sydney Enevoldsen, Lydia Stewart, Gaby Cordes, Logan Fullington

Eagle Scout Recipient – CJ Chavous

Optimist Club Essay Contest: First Place - Megan Arnold, Second Place - Glenn Miles, Third Place - Lilly Roessier

Students participated in the Battle of the Books program, placing 2nd place overall

Hiking and pickleball clubs were chartered and held their first meetings and events

Academic Team

They finished 1st in the Aiken Triple Crown Challenge, 3rd in the South Carolina Alpha Lambda Delta Challenge, and they finished 1st in the Aiken County regular season and tournament.

They have qualified for and will compete in the 2024 High School National Championship Tournament on May 24th through 26th in Atlanta.

Cyber Patriot

4 teams competed, finishing 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the State and being invited to participate in the Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition in Charleston

Team Jackets- Matthew Lyon, Adyn Norris, Alexavier Moore, Elijah Risner - 1st Place- NJROTC Teams in State (over all levels), 5th Place- Platinum-Level Teams in State, 8th Place- Overall (SC)

Team Gold- Jackson Syring, Clark Long, Bryson Coleman, Andrew Peacock - 2nd Place- NJROTC Teams in State (over all levels), 9th Place- Platinum-Level Teams in State, 13th Place- Overall (SC)

Team Black- Will O'Rourke, Brandon Stratton, Evan Lester, Christian Norville - 3rd Place- NJROTC Teams in State (over all levels), 14th Place- Platinum-Level Teams in State, 47th Place- Overall (SC)

Team Binary: Colton Jarrett, James Boynton, Daniel Keyes, Quintin Armstrong - 4th Place- NJROTC Teams (Gold Level), 18th Place- Gold Level Teams in State, 47th Place- Overall (SC)

Aviation Program

Flight Simulator equipment upgraded

First Student Solo Flight

Student 2 Student

With the assistance of The Period Project, Student 2 Student provided sanitary products in the ladies' restrooms. This decreases the loss of class time in visiting the nurse by the main office for products, providing to family members in need while also following the SC guidelines/laws for our school's age group concerning product disbursement

NAHS FBLA

Nine students qualified for National Competition in Orlando this Summer

Coordinated multiple drives with Sheppard Blood Center and the American Red Cross

Leadership team coordinated the School News Broadcast program

School Goals

As part of the school's continuous improvement plan, NAHS continued the following goals for 2023-2024:

- Increase student opportunities through academic, athletic, and co-curricular activities
- Improve overall college and career readiness through career readiness assessments, work-based learning opportunities, and vocational opportunities
- Improve school climate through recognition opportunities and enrichment activities for students of various interests
- Recognize and celebrate students, staff, and community members for their contributions to NAHS and beyond

School Facilities

Groundbreaking commenced on a brand-new on-campus Baseball and Softball facility

School Food Service

A record number of students enjoyed our school provided breakfast and lunch options, and students voted for their favorite offerings throughout the year to determine daily offerings

SIC Membership

Parents:

Joy Armstrong, Kathi Herrick, Melissa Knudson, Bobby Massucco, Nakita Woodson, Melissa Knudson

Community Members:

Bryan Altringer, Michelle Stevens, Laurie Morrison

Faculty:

April Koonce, Michelle O'Rourke, Jennifer Steinman, Bill Tankersley

Students:

Lauren Bell, Garrett Pond

The SIC holds monthly meetings which are open to the public. Parties interested in participation are welcome to contact school principal John Murphy.

NAHS greatly appreciates the support of our community in creating an educational experience of excellence for our students. Suggestions for improvement of our school program are welcome.