

NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT 2024-2025



Mission

Our mission is to engage ALL students in the world class knowledge and skills needed to successfully realize their post-secondary goals through the development and implementation of relevant college and career readiness pathways.

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, NAHS is a member of the High Schools That Work Alliance, a whole school research-based reform effort.



Academics

NAHS has maintained an excellent participation rate in AP programming over the last decade, with over 300 students participating in AP programming during the 2024-2025 school year

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

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 in student scholarship earnings in excess of \$15 million dollars for the class of 2024

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT 2024-2025

Academic Data

Over 22% of student body enrolled in AP courses

Over 100% increase in qualifying AP scores between 2016-2024

Over 98% of 2024 graduates had post-secondary placements in college acceptance, military, or career placements

Over 90% of 2024 graduates were accepted to a two- or four-year college

NAHS Counseling

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

Seniors were provided opportunities for over 250 scholarships, including local, national, and international programs

All students received individual graduation plan meetings with an opportunity to select relevant and rigorous coursework with a focus on goals after graduation earnings in excess of \$15 million dollars for the class of 2024

Senior Field Day was planned and will be held on May 2nd, 2025, celebrating Senior Students for their accomplishments in the classroom and within the community

Freshman expo was held on April 24th, with hundred of rising freshman and their parent attending. Students received special information, a welcome from our Principal, and were able to explore the campus and visit staff, learn about co-curricular opportunities, and network with peers from other middle schools

NAHS Juniors had the exciting opportunity to visit USC Aiken for Junior Preview Day! They explored the campus on a guided tour, attended an informative session, and engaged with College Deans and current Pacer students to learn more about academic programs and campus life

Grand Canyon University sponsored six students on a three day trip to Grand Canyon University to tour the campus and learn about their selected programs. They also enjoyed a GCU basketball game and baseball game

Eleven Senior Students were accepted into Presbyterian College on instant decision day

Students who passed the EOC or Win Testing were treated to a Papa John's lunch.

On Friday, February 28th, North Augusta High School celebrated Black History Month with its annual Black History program. It was held to celebrate the sacrifices and contributions of the many great men and women who have enriched our history. Our guest speaker was Brandon Jamison. Mr. Jamison, a graduate of Denmark-Olar High School and South Carolina State University, spoke to our students about the rich history of black Americans, and encouraged all students to recognize their worth

"Find a Job" Friday was held with Kimberly Clark and SC Works, offering jobs and trade scholarships to students

Three NAHS students were selected to Boys State, Eleven Students elected to Girls State

Staff Recognition

April Koonce, Teacher of the Year

Michelle Johnson, GEM (Giving Even More) recipient

Valencia Flowers, First Year Teacher of the Year

David Harris, Assistant Principal of the Year, Honor Court Recipient, and District Assistant Principal of the Year

Teachers of the Month

Meredith Noland, Tony Harrell, Connie Williams, Commander Beck and Master Gunnery Sergeant Thompson, Renee Merion

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT 2024-2025



ATHLETICS UPDATE 2024-2025

Boys Tennis

Reached AAAA Playoffs

Girls Tennis

Reached AAAA Playoffs

Football

12-2 Record, undefeated in Region Play

AAAA Region 4 Champions

Advanced to the 3rd round of Playoffs

Connor Brown was named WJBF Scholar Athlete of the Week, as well as a 2025 Bridge Builder Excellence Award Top 10 Semi-Finalist, and signed to play with Wofford College

Corey Tillman signed to play at The Citadel following a record season as a Quarterback, and was named a 2025 Bridge Builder Excellence Award Nominee

Coach Richard Bush named Region IV AAAA Coach of the Year and Border Bowl Coach for South Carolina

Clay Target Team

The NAHS JV Ladies' squad of EvieJo Rick, Emma Sherman, and Ellie Williams captured a SC DNR State championship in Sporting Clays by two broken targets over Thomas Sumter Academy 184 to 182.

Ellie Williams broke a team-high 73 out of 100 targets and placed second overall in the JV Ladies' School Division. Seniors Keely Herrington and Matthew Williams each earned \$1000 SC DNR Senior Scholarships during the event.

Varsity Boy's squad of Williams, Cullen Craig, and Luke Waldhauer finished in 14th place in the school division.

The JV Boy's squad of Wallace, Tate Johnson, and Colton Taylor finished in 7th place in the school division.

Volleyball

Finished the Season 13-15-1, with a 6-7-1 Region record

Jordan Hunt signed to play with Travecca Nazarene University

Competed in AAAA Playoffs

Baseball

Currently 10-13 on the season, with a 7-7 Region record

Construction is near completion on our new on-campus baseball field with stadium style seating

Wrestling

A huge shout out to our wrestling team for earning the title of Region Champs! Coach Matt Franklin and the entire team fought a long battle against undefeated Aiken High as well as Gilbert and South Aiken to bring home the trophy

Girls Soccer

Currently 7-9-1 for the Season and 7-7 in the Region, making a late-season push for playoff participation after major injuries slowed the start of the season

Boys Soccer

Boys soccer will finish their regular season Friday, May 2, at home, celebrating 10 graduating seniors.

First playoff game will be next Wednesday, May 7th at home. Opponent TBD. Jackets are 2nd in the region and currently 12-4-1 overall and 11-2 in the region.

Blake Fuss made the Augusta Chronicle All-CSRA team.

Softball

Currently 12 and 9 for the season, with a 9-5 region record

Placed 2nd in the Gold Bracket during the Varsity Blues Tournament in Lexington, SC

Senior night was held on April 17th, honoring all Senior softball players

Held a "black and gold" game between JV and Varsity to kick off the season

Construction is nearly complete on our new, on-campus softball field and complex with stadium-style seating
Celeste Truesdale signed with Florence Darlington college

Boys Golf

Began the season with a win over Richmond Academy at Forest Hills

Second place finish at the Swamp Fox Invitational with Sophomore Tate Huckaby finishing 2nd as an individual shooting an even par 72

Senior golfer, Andrew Baxley, signed with Southern Wesleyan University as 2021 Individual Region Champion, 2022 Team State Runner-Up, 2022/2023/2024 All Region, 2023 & 2024 All State, 2023 Team State Champion & 2024 Team State Runner-Up

Girls Basketball

30-1 season record, undefeated in Region Play
AAAA

Region Champions

AAAA Lower State Champions

AAAA State Champions

Received a proclamation from the City honoring their achievements

Recognized at halftime of the Charlotte Hornets basketball game on April 6th, 2025 along with other State Champion teams from across the two-state area

Boys Basketball

26-2 Overall Record, 13-1 Region Record

Lower State Champions, defeating Wilson 55-44

AAAA Region Champions

Received a proclamation from the City honoring their achievements

Daron Dunbar signed with Augusta University

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT 2024-2025



Student and Co-Curricular Highlights

Ayla Holmes was recognized as the FLAIR Student of the Year. FLAIR, or Foreign Language Alliance for International Rapport, is an organization that recognizes outstanding students taking foreign language classes. Students who are nominated for this award must be members of FLAIR Honor Society, and have taken at least 3 years of a foreign language

Concert and Symphonic Orchestra earned *Superior with Distinction* Awards, the highest rating available for a performing ensemble, for the first time in program history

NAHS Orchestra held its Community Night at YourPie of North Augusta, raising money for the Orchestra program

63 NAHS Orchestra and Band students participated in this year's Garcia Orchestra Festival, representing our school with professionalism and musicianship, and performed a concert

New clubs were sponsored including the American Sign Language, Pickleball and Cornhole club, and the Jacket Elite Dance Team

S2S (Student 2 Student) held their first legacy of Love Drive to collect donations for local healthcare organizations, donating warm clothing and hygiene products

NAHS hosted the High School Battle of The Books competition, competing against five other teams from local schools, and were treated to a delicious lunch after competing

The Beta Club, sponsored by Mrs. Koonce, participated in ACPD's Spring Into Action food collection. According to the USDA, one in every five children are unsure where they will get their next meal. The donations assisted around 20 families within the 6 schools in North Augusta

North Augusta High School seniors had the incredible opportunity to take part in Youth Appreciation Day 2025! Students stepped into leadership roles, experiencing firsthand how local government operates. They toured key city facilities, including the Water Treatment Plant, Public Safety Fire Station, and SRP Park, gaining insight into essential city services. Later in the evening, they attended the City Council meeting, where Mayor Briton Williams and the Council recognized their participation. A special presentation was made in partnership with the Optimist Club and City of North Augusta

Area 2 Multi-Language Learner Registration Night was held on April 15th at NAHS. Translators were on hand and available to help parents and guardians register students and answer questions regarding enrollment, coursework, and counseling

Culinary classes created customized celebration cakes for our Girl's Basketball State Champions

Mr. Maurer's Military History class participated in a Napoleonic Era battle simulation which allowed students an opportunity to lead dozens of units into the field. Commanders had think tactically to capture and hold strategic locations while also exposing their enemies weaknesses

The North Augusta High School Chess Club made history by hosting its first-ever chess match against Augusta Prep! Six dedicated players represented NAHS in this exciting competition

The Miss North Augusta High School program was held at Maxwell Theatre on the campus of Augusta University. Addison Jewell was named Mrs. North Augusta High School

On Thursday, February 13th, North Augusta High School students took center stage at the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce "Good Morning, North Augusta" breakfast event. The event highlighted the successful partnership between the Savannah River Site (SRS) and Aiken County Public Schools, showcasing the incredible opportunities available to our students

Athletic teams, our performing arts ensembles, and numerous clubs and organizations marched in the North Augusta Christmas Parade

NA Band Boosters provided hot meals to the community during Hurricane Helene, feeding hundreds of community members during this difficult time

Jacket regiment held a fundraiser on October 16th at Freddy's, with proceeds going towards program costs. Nineteen students made All County Band

Dell Tech Crew recently celebrated 100% of this semester's first course students earning their Dell Certification. Collectively, repair classes for this school year have completed almost 1000 laptop repairs for the school system. We have 3 students completing apprenticeships at SRNS, and current juniors are preparing to interview to fill those youth apprentice positions for next year. We have 47 new pathway completers this year. On May 28th, we will celebrate 33 seniors as CTE Pathway completers for Information Support & Services at the district CTE completer ceremony

NAHS FBLA competed at the SC FBLA State competition, with many students qualifying for Nationals. FBLA also sponsored and staffed two blood drives, with dozens of pints of blood donated to our local community.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT 2024-2025





School Goals and SIC Membership

School Goals

As part of the school's continuous improvement plan, NAHS continued the following goals for 2024-2025:

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

Completion of a brand-new on-campus Baseball and Softball facility

School Food Service

Planning has begun on auditorium renovation, including a state of the art sound and light system, updated seating, and exterior renovations

Football visitors enjoyed our new concession pavilion, including brand new restroom and hydration areas

SIC Membership

Parents

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

Community Members:

Michelle Stevens, Laurie Morrison, David Buck

Faculty

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

Students

Jacquelyn Chavez, GiGi McNitt

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

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.

