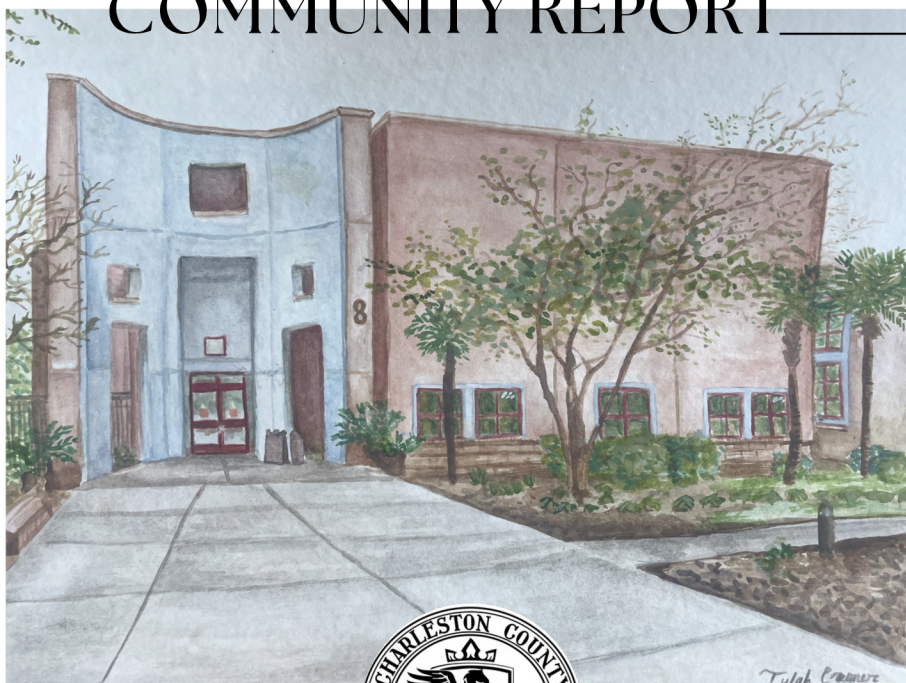


Charleston County School of the Arts COMMUNITY REPORT



5109 W. ENTERPRISE ST.
N. CHARLESTON, SC 29405



CCSDSCHOOLS.COM/SOA
843.529.4990

2025

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students are the heart of our work

Superintendent, Anita Huggins

Associate Superintendent of High School, Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer

Principal, Dr. Shannon Cook

Assistant Principal, Ms. Andrea Derrickson

Assistant Principal, Ms. Laura Smith

Assistant Principal, Robert Grant

Assistant Administrator, Billy Grauer



CULTURE

The Charleston School of the Arts is a uniquely diverse school with students enrolled from across Charleston County. The current enrollment sits at 1,054 artistically gifted students. We believe the culture and climate of our school and surrounding community provide an experience that promotes excellence in both academics and the arts from sixth through twelfth grade.

We are a school where all stakeholders believe dreams can become a reality with hard work and determination. Our students, staff, parents, and community members work as a collaborative team to ensure that the school reaches its goal.

Our students are recognized both regionally and nationally for their talents and efforts. The success and achievement in the arts is duplicated in non-arts classes, exposing and providing our students with the experience of a strong academic program that prepares them to become integral parts of the global world in their post-secondary endeavors. Our staff, students, and parents collaborate to create programs, shows, and performances that are of the highest quality.

As educational partners, the Charleston County School District and the faculty of the School of the Arts have the unique opportunity to continue providing a school that inspires and encourages students to excel in a non-traditional way. We encourage the support of anyone that values excellence in education, and are confident our artists will continue to grow and impact the lives of those in the SOA Community.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Tristan Hill, Instructional Coach/Testing Coordinator & Co-Chair of SIC

"Supporting and encouraging students in academics, mental health, and artistic improvement are the pillars of our school's culture. We have talented counselors, interventionists, coaches, and academic/arts teachers who create an atmosphere for our scholars to strive both artistically and academically while concurrently concentrating on the well-being of the whole child/young adult. The goals set forth this year by SIC have focused on improving and sustaining new and old traditions that will leave thumb prints in our students' lives and will encourage them to continue supporting the arts for years to come."

FINE ARTS

BAND

- 5 students in All-State HS Jazz Band, 77 in Region 4 Bands, 20 students in the SC All-State MS & HS Band, and 5 MS students in the SC All State Orchestra
- Wind Ensemble featured performance at USC Band Clinic & Music For All Southeastern Regional Concert Festival. Jazz Band featured performance at the SCMEA Conference
- Superior with Distinction, at the State Concert Performance Assessment.

CREATIVE WRITING

- 10 national Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, including National Scholastic Gold Portfolio & \$12,500 scholarship (one of 16 given nationwide), a Best in Grade, and an American Voices Medal.
- 229 Regional Scholastic Writing Awards, including a senior portfolio award for every member of the creative writing class.
- A National YoungArtist Award from the The National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists.
- Finalist, National Student Poets Program

DANCE

- Two students per year are awarded the Slowinski Summer Study Scholarship for summer intensive participation around the nation. 90% of Students in the National Honor Society for Dance Arts Graduate with Honors.
- High school dancers were selected to perform at the Piccolo Spoleto festival.
- Students have had 7 week-long guest residencies from master dancers and choreographers, as well as former SOA alumni speaking about their college and professional achievements.

PIANO

- Competed in 8 local and state competitions and won five first place (including 1st in state & division), six 2nd place, 2 runner up, 7 honorable mentions, 4 alternate, 12 honors recitalists, and 9 honors recipients (most in SC) and 3 student advanced to the National Competition.
- 15 students selected to work with professors from CofC, USC, Clemson, & Ohio State. Masterclasses & concert collaborations with Charleston Jazz. Accepted into summer camps at Furman University & Brevard Music Center. Awarded 5 CSOL Scholarships.

VISUAL ARTS

- 97 Regional Awards, 3 National Winners; Best of Show & 38 winners of SEWE Federal Duck Stamp Competition, 1st place Birdhouse & Honorable Mention Photography for Kids for Conservation, & Birdhouse Sculpture Competitions, 10 awards & \$8850 of Scholarships awarded for Charleston Artist Guild Senior Art Show. 41 accepted into Art Fields Jr. N. Charleston Arts Festival Youth Art & Sculpture competition
- 1st place in middle AND 1st place in high school for SCAEA's Youth Art Month

ORCHESTRA

- Performed at the Midwest Intn'l. Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. SOA is the first South Carolina High School since the 1980's to have their orchestra invited to perform at this event.
- 25 High School students and 15 MS students made 2025 All-State Orchestra
- Both MS & HS awarded Superior with Distinction at the 2025 SC Concert Performance Assessment

VOCAL MUSIC

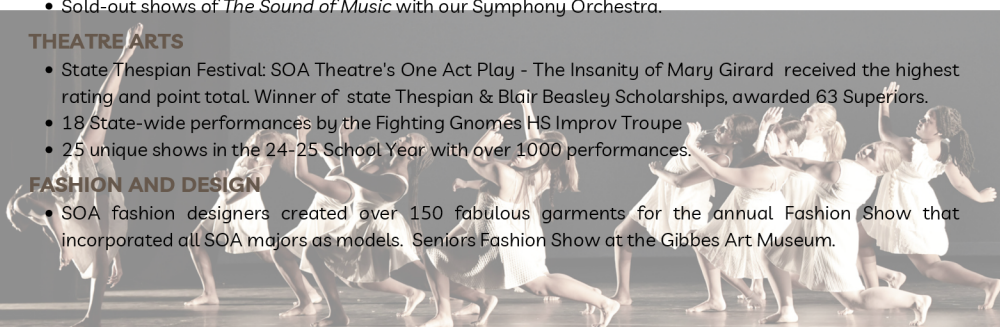
- Both Middle and High choirs had the largest number of students from any school in the state selected for the ACDA and SCMEA All-State Choirs.
- Sold-out shows of *The Sound of Music* with our Symphony Orchestra.

THEATRE ARTS

- State Thespian Festival: SOA Theatre's One Act Play - *The Insanity of Mary Girard* received the highest rating and point total. Winner of state Thespian & Blair Beasley Scholarships, awarded 63 Superiors.
- 18 State-wide performances by the Fighting Gnomes HS Improv Troupe
- 25 unique shows in the 24-25 School Year with over 1000 performances.

FASHION AND DESIGN

- SOA fashion designers created over 150 fabulous garments for the annual Fashion Show that incorporated all SOA majors as models. Seniors Fashion Show at the Gibbes Art Museum.



ACADEMICS

Recognized in South Carolina as one of the top 2 High Schools.
- *U.S. News & World Report* -

SC READY ELA In 2024, over 85% of our middle school students scored Meets or Exceeds on the ELA assessment.

SC READY Math In 2024, over 80% of our middle school students scored Meets or Exceeds on the math assessment.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS 2024: Over 70% of SOA's students scored a rating of 3 or higher on **all** AP exams administered (18 AP classes offered). English Lit. (95%), Biology (100%), Stats (92%), Seminar (100%) Calc. AB (100%)

END OF COURSE (EOC) EXAMS 2023: SOA's students met or exceeded the performance expectations on the EOC exams administered in: Algebra 1 (97%), English 1 (99%), and US History (97%), Biology (94%).

2024 SENIOR CLASS ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 100% of Seniors were College and Career Ready
- Scholarships Offered - \$4.5 million
- Community Service Hours - 10,0498
- Graduation Rate - 99.2%



STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES

School of the Arts Specialized Credential
Fitness & Health Initiatives
Improv Theatre Workshop Outreach
Numerous Clubs
Community Service Opportunities
Master Classes in Arts Classes
Jefferson Service Club
Integrate Technology through Instruction

Senior Thesis
MAP Testing & Analysis
Environmental Initiatives
Scholastic Art & Essay Contest
NHS Free Student Tutoring
Promethean Boards in all Classrooms
College Essay Support
Interventionists for student support

SOA MISSION STATEMENT

At SOA our purpose is to provide a supportive educational environment where academic and artistic challenge engage students and lead them to develop and use their talents to pursue goals and contribute to society.