

WEST ASHLEY

HIGH SCHOOL

2024-2025

WE ARE WEST ASHLEY.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PARENTS

As the proud neighborhood high school for over 2,000 students in Grades 9-12, West Ashley High School embodies the diverse spirit of our West Ashley community. We stand on the rich traditions of Middleton and Saint Andrews High Schools, carrying forward a legacy of academic excellence and strong community ties.

Our mission is to equip every student with the world-class skills and career characteristics needed for success after graduation. We empower our students through diverse curricula and a wealth of extracurricular opportunities, providing pathways for growth. Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to maximizing student achievement, ensuring every child becomes an adaptable global learner, ready to thrive in a dynamically changing world.

We strive to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where our Wildcats find their place and a strong sense of belonging within our building. We believe diversity is one of our core strengths and our greatest asset, enriching our community daily. Our focus on fostering well-rounded individuals shines through a comprehensive educational experience that extends far beyond the classroom walls.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of West Ashley High School is to encourage, educate, and empower every student to become a confident, self-directed, lifelong learner who values diversity and possesses the tools for academic, social, and personal achievement.

WHAT WE OFFER

RIGOROUS ACADEMICS

We provide a robust and diverse academic experience, with rigorous programs preparing students for higher education and the professional world. Our dedicated faculty and staff, extensive course offerings, and collaboration with the West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) ensure every student is well-prepared for their chosen path upon graduation.

- **Extensive Course Catalog:** Over 200 course offerings to meet varied student interests and needs.
- **Advanced Academics:** 30+ AP and Dual-Enrollment courses, along with honors and college preparatory options.
- **Career & Technical Education (CTE):** 14+ CTE majors providing practical skills and pathways.
- **Vibrant Arts Programs:** 6 distinct Fine and Performing Arts program offerings.
- **Global Language Opportunities:** Numerous World Language program offerings.
- **Industry Certifications (in partnership with CAS):** Offerings ranging from Mechatronics and Auto Tech to Welding.



COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS

Our AAAAA athletic program is a source of pride, featuring competitive teams and dedicated student-athletes. Our program cultivates essential skills like collaboration, leadership, and time management, fostering self-esteem and discipline. With a history of multiple state and region championships, the Wildcats are committed to continuing their legacy of excellence.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITY GROUPS

Students have the opportunity to explore a wide array of clubs and activity groups. With over 25+ options available, ranging from Speech and Debate to Robotics, Art, Bass Fishing, DECA, FCCLA, French Club, Junior Civitans, National Honor Society, Pep Squad, Music, and beyond – there's something for everyone!

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

At West Ashley, our "Flex Mod" (flexible modular) schedule revolutionizes the learning experience. This innovative system allows for personalized learning paths, fosters collaborative projects, provides targeted teacher support, and offers greater daily flexibility. As we complete our second year of implementation at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, Flex Mod continues to empower students to develop essential skills for college and career success within a supportive and structured environment.



WHAT IS FLEX MOD?

SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL REPORT CARD RATING: GOOD
STUDENT ENROLLMENT: 2043
GRADUATION RATE: 89.5%
COLLEGE OR CAREER READY STUDENTS: 78.1%
COLLEGE AND CAREER READY STUDENTS: 40%
SCHOLARSHIP MONEY EARNED: \$4,772,940.00

STUDENT ENROLLMENT ETHNICITY
AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK: 35%
HISPANIC/LATINO: 9%
WHITE: 48%
OTHER: 8%

More than just a school. It's where students discover their potential, build lasting relationships, and prepare for a successful future.



ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPAL
Andy Brandt

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Joshua Sherman

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Monique Cunin
Danielle Dates
Tristan Robinson
Emily Sandifer
Shannon Turner

Director of School Counseling
Kristan Willis

Athletic Director
Doug O'Donald

Campus Security Director
Clyde King



NOTABLE SCHOOL & STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- West Ashley High School proudly earned a "Good" rating on the SC School Report Card for the first time in years! This significant achievement reflects the dedication and hard work of our entire school community.
- National Honor Society graduating seniors collectively maintained a 4.35 GPA and accumulated over 3,000 community service hours in the past 2 years
- West Ashley Orchestra received a rating of "Excellent" for their 2025 SC Concert Performance Assessment
- One hundred forty-one graduating seniors earned CTE completer status
- Three thousand+ community members attended our annual "Wildcat Trunk-or-Treat" event
- One hundred twenty West Ashley students are enrolled in the College of Charleston Scholars Academy Program. This year's graduating cohort has completed 216 classes on the College of Charleston campus over the course of their senior year
- Dr. Brandt was named CCSD "Rookie Principal of the Year" for the 2024-2025 school year
- Ms. Megan Kee, our 2024-2025 West Ashley High School Teacher of the Year, was selected as a CCSD Teacher of the Year Top 5 Finalist
- Senior PACKs participated in "Passion Project" this year, one of the groups raising over \$1200 for the Lowcountry Orphan Relief Fund
- NJROTC program hosted Vice Admiral Karl Thomas of the United States Navy in November
- West Ashley hosted the CCSD Leadership Press Conference for district leadership in January
- Members from the West Ashley DECA and NJROTC volunteered and supported community members at the 48th annual Cooper River Bridge Run
- Multiple West Ashley athletic teams made regional playoff appearances
- One West Ashley student athlete won a State Championship in swimming
- Nine West Ashley student athletes won the Region Championships in swimming
- Forty-eight West Ashley student athletes were named All-Region Athletes
- Four West Ashley student athletes were named All-State Athletes
- Seventeen West Ashley student athletes committed to play at the collegiate level

KEY INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIC APPROACHES FOR IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- **Targeted Interventions:** Every 4.5 weeks, student progress is monitored to identify those in need of additional academic support and potential SLT enrollment, where students receive targeted assistance, in lieu of ILT, until they show adequate academic progress in the next monitoring check.
- **Academic Support:** Regularly offer academic interventions like content and credit recovery, and strategically use SLT for individualized support.
- **Staff Development:** Prioritized high expectations, relevant professional learning, and opportunities for staff to collaborate, analyze data, and refine instructional strategies.
- **Maximizing AP and Dual Enrollment Pathways:** Increased awareness and access to our strong selection of AP and Dual Enrollment opportunities. This includes hosting "AP and Dual Enrollment" information nights for students and parents.

INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- **Student Dialogue Circles:** Hosted numerous student dialogue circles throughout the year. These sessions brought together diverse student groups to discuss their thoughts and experiences, allowing us to gather valuable feedback
- **Involvement Opportunities:** Expanded our extracurricular offerings based on student interest. We also made a concerted effort to highlight and promote our existing clubs and extracurricular events during key events like "Freshmen Orientation," "Fall Open House," our "Fall Club Fair," and our "West Ashley Spotlight" event.
- **Cultivating Peer Mentorship:** Grade-level PACK (credit bearing course) groups participated in a peer mentorship program, collaborating with other PACKs. This fostered a supportive environment where students could advise and assist one another.
- **Broadening Student Recognition:** Recognized student achievements beyond just academics, highlighting and celebrating qualities such as preparedness, advocacy, collaboration, and kindness. This was done through school-wide recognition programs and social media spotlights.
- **Promoting a Positive Environment:** Utilizing our PBIS framework, student positive behavior and achievement was highlighted through shout-outs and the earning of "Cat Coins" for rewards and incentive purchases.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY & FAMILY RELATIONS

- **Enhanced Communication:** Streamlined our school-to-home communication to better engage families. This included regular newsletters, regular updates to our school website, and an active social media presence.
- **Community Partnership Development:** Built new partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and higher education institutions. These collaborations, including those through the district's LOCAL program and our PTSO, provided valuable resources and opportunities for our students, families, and faculty.
- **Family Engagement Events:** Hosted numerous school-wide and community events to bring families and community members to campus in engaging ways. Highlights included our Fact & Fee event, Fall Open House, Hispanic Heritage Night, "Trunk or Treat" event, numerous athletic community nights, and our "West Ashley Spotlight" night.
- **PTSO Growth:** Reinvigorated and grew our PTSO group, working closely with them to improve school involvement and connection. They actively supported teachers and students and were key participants and sponsors in all our community events.

SIC MEMBERSHIP

ELECTED MEMBERS

Jessica Burnside, Parent
Hannah Jackson, Student
Katie Miceli, Teacher
Natalie Quintin de Kercadio, Student
Isabel Raisbeck, Teacher
LaShawn Turner, Parent

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Tre McLean, Community Member
Darrell Singleton, Community Member
Kristan Willis, Community Member, Chair

EX-OFFICIO

Andy Brandt, Principal
Shannon Turner, Assistant Principal

CONNECT WITH THE WILDCATS



Here at West Ashley, we're more than just a school- we're a community. Whether you're a prospective student, a proud parent, an engaged alumni, a faculty member, or just a curious member of our community, there are plenty of ways to connect with the Wildcat family!



Phone: (843) 573-1201
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