

Darlington High School

An Early College Magnet School



Mission Statement

The mission of Darlington High School is to engage all students in relevant learning experiences which will prepare them to be leaders.

Excellent Report Card Rating

\$5,242,350 Awarded in Scholarships

91.4% 2015 Graduation Rate

993 Hours of College Credit Earned



PALMETTO GOLD AWARDS

Awarded for over-all academic achievement & closing the achievement gap



HIGH SCHOOLS THAT WORK

A school improvement initiative for high school leaders and teachers



ADVANCED ED ACCREDITED

Conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of PreK-12 schools

TECHNOLOGY



Student-centered learning, facilitated by innovative teachers

ATHLETICS



Student athletes excelling in and out of the classroom



EXTRA CURRICULAR

Over 20 student led groups

A Note from the Principal

Darlington High School is helping all students develop the **21st Century world-class skills** and life and career characteristics by promoting a safe, caring, positive **learning** environment that supports the belief that teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn.

Darlington High School earned **two Palmetto Gold awards** by the South Carolina Department of Education for overall academic achievement and closing the achievement gap. The academic program of studies at Darlington High School is designed to meet the needs of each student who enters our doors. Our academic offerings include College Prep courses, Early College Dual-Credit, Honors courses and Credit Recovery. Darlington High School's "Early College Honors Magnet Program" allows a student to **earn transferable college credits while in high school**, and these students soared to great heights by earning **993 college semester** hours, taking advantage of 23 different college courses offered on the DHS campus. Darlington High School has provided students the opportunity to earn a two-year Associate of Arts degree while still in high school by strengthening its partnership with Florence-Darlington Technical College. The Early College will have awarded 7 students **their Associates Degree when they graduate** during the 2015-2016 school year. As if the opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts degree is not enough to make DHS soar above its peers, the **tuition assistance** we provide students definitely distinguishes our school from any other high school in the Pee Dee. DHS pays the cost of both the balance of the tuition not covered by lottery assistance funds and textbooks, thus saving students and their parents THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS in college tuition!

In light of all these opportunities for academic excellence, Darlington High School is the school for the 21st Century learner wanting to excel! Students are given numerous opportunities to pursue their interests and nurture special talents while completing their academic course of study. Our newly renovated science labs enable our students to receive state of the art instruction. **Darlington High School is on the cutting edge of outstanding educational practices.** Our newest program to prepare students to be world-class competitors is Robotics. As a Renaissance School, multiple school-wide incentives for students and faculty that are achieving and demonstrating Falcon PRIDE are provided. At Darlington High School, we also have various programs outside the academic curriculum to focus on the development of the whole child. Our athletic teams are among the best in the region and compete for state titles yearly. The **Falcon Band and fine arts programs** are growing and involving more students each year. Our **JROTC program** is expanding and growing future leaders of our Armed Services. With more than **twenty student-led clubs**, there are many extracurricular opportunities for all students to be involved. Darlington High School is breaking barriers to allow all students to excel.

Dr. Greg Harrison, Principal

Mrs. Lindsey Coté, SIC Secretary



EARLY COLLEGE MAGNET PROGRAM

- Took 23 different college courses
- Earned 993 semester hours in college courses
- Completed over 1,000 volunteer hours serving the DHS and the Darlington community
- Helped sponsor the Old People's Food Drive in which we collected over \$5,000 and served over 110 families



TECHNOLOGY AT DHS

Starting last year and throughout all of this year, technology across DHS has been a big focus! DHS has been the high school leader in the district for integrating **MacBooks** into the classroom. Students in grades 10-12 all have had MacBooks this year, and the district will finish out our school with Freshmen soon. As part of that effort, our teachers have been going through quite a bit of training: we now have one **Apple Foundations Trainer**, and several **Apple Vanguard certified teachers**. We also have multiple **Google Certified Educators**.

The district began a digital academy, and we have a number of teachers who are taking part in that. All of these teachers in the aforementioned groups are doing these trainings to become “experts” in the various technologies so that they can further support the students and other staff members in their efforts to integrate the technology into the classroom. Teachers are using the technology to do some really neat projects in which students create videos and ebooks! Teachers are also beginning to **flip the classroom** which will really enhance a parent’s ability to help their child at home. We even have a teacher doing a weekly podcast that’s **published in iTunes on tech tools in education for teachers**. It has been an exciting year of change so far, and we are proud to be the high school chosen by DCSD to pilot the 1:1 initiative! Next year, we will expand our 1:1 initiative to our Freshman Academy and will continue to encourage innovation through technology.



One Star Awarded for EACH Accomplishment:

- Earn a composite score of 17
- 17 or higher on English portion
- 17 or higher on the Math portion
- 17 or higher on the Reading portion
- 17 or higher on the Science portion

FOUR STAR FALCONS

With the addition of the administration of the ACT to our juniors as a measure of **academic success**, DHS developed the Four Stars Falcon Program. Based on the following criteria, the students were awarded STARS this year for their performance on the **2015 spring administration of the ACT**.

If a student earns a 17 or higher on all portions, they earned the highest rating of 5 Stars. However, they may earn 2, 3 or 4 Stars based on performance. It is important to understand that if the student does NOT earn at least a 17 on the composite score, they are not eligible for the 5 Star Program Recognition.

Recognition:

- o A school program occurred to **recognize and award** each student with a certificate acknowledging the level of performance
- o Pizza and soft drinks were given as an **incentive**
- o **A Graduation Cord** will be given, representing 5 Star Recipients
- o Student’s names were placed on a **display** board in the lobby if they earned 3 stars or higher

EXTRA CURRICULAR AND GROUPS

- Anchor Club
- Falcon Cadre
- Key Club
- Band
- Yearbook
- Drama Club
- Science Club
- Sports Medicine Club
- Student Council
- National Honor Society
- National Art Honor Society
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Chorus/Gospel Choir
- JROTC and Drill/Rifle Team
- Robotics
- Tech Club
- French Club
- Purple Essence Dance Team
- Flags and Flawless Jewels Dance Team
- Early Honors College

HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT GROUPS

National Honor Society: The National Honor Society inducted **27 new members** in the fall, bringing our membership total to 58. We began our year selling breast cancer awareness bracelets and collected \$110 to donate to McLeod Health for **mammogram scholarships**. We sponsored a **soldier supplies drive** to collect items to send to our soldiers serving overseas. We collected 977 items which filled 14 boxes. We awarded the top two classes with Pizza and Wings! Volunteers also worked in the **Toys for Tots** warehouse sorting toys for Christmas. In January, we sold hot chocolate and raised over \$400 for **McLeod Children's Hospital**. NHS members visited McLeod Children's Hospital and presented a check and as well 100 teddy bears to give to children. Members sold candy grams to raise money to buy bingo prizes for residents at **Medford Nursing Home**. A group of members visited Medford and played bingo. Students sold Krispy Kreme donuts to raise money for our annual **NHS scholarship** which will be presented in May. Last year we gave out 2-\$500 scholarships to deserving NHS members. We hope to raise even more in coming years!



National Art Honor Society: The Darlington High School National Art Honor Society of the 2015-16 school year has **a record number of 63 new members**. These members have demonstrated the highest qualities in art scholarship, character, and service. NAHS created the **Haunted Classroom**. Proceeds helped fund their art supplies for the year. NAHS students traveled to Columbia SC to visit The **Columbia Museum of Art**, where they were able to experience the artworks of Georgia O'Keeffe and artwork of other South Carolina female artists. NAHS member **Christina Ramirez** won **first place for the Darlington High School Arts In Business contest**. Student artwork was showcased at the Arts in Business district art show in March. Eight NAHS students painted **2 DHS logo murals on the back of both dugouts at the baseball stadium** in March. The NAHS students painted famous artworks tables for the library commons.

Key Club

Accomplishments:

- Darlington clean up days
- Donated supplies for flood relief
- Helped at Old People's Christmas
- Read-a-thon at the local library
- Visited the nursing home
- Terrific Kids programs
- Eliminate Project
- The Boys and Girls Club (part of the whole Carolinas district that raised \$107mill and \$17k respectively)
- Members attended the Carolinas District Convention where they gained skills
- Kiwanis One Day Clean Up



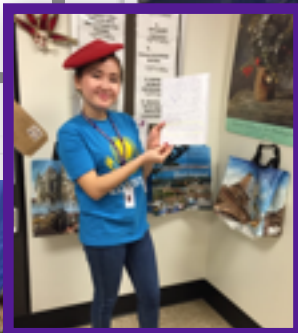
JAG:

- Donated items to McLeod Hospice House Food Pantry -Domestic Violence
- Awareness Walk -Old Peoples' Christmas -Adopt-A-Student -Blood Drive
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Activities -Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (Donated \$400.00)
- Voter Registration Drive -Recycling Project -DHS Beautification Project
- Donated items to The Lord Cares Ministry

French Club: French club students went to the **Biltmore House** and **Charleston** with Bonbon money and bought a \$1025.00 **authentic French computer program** to use with their new computers.



Tech Club: This is a group of students who has a passion for computers, video games, and learning about technology in general with 12 regular members. This year, **we purchased a 3D printer** and we have spent most of the year exploring the features of this new technology. We sponsor a **game night** once per semester, where we host game tournaments for students. The tournament winners receive a \$50 gift card from Game Stop. Anyone is allowed to join!



Robotics: Darlington High started a robotics competition team through the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization. In their first competition, the "RoboFalcons" won the **award for highest ranked rookie team**. The FIRST program is designed to help students develop an interest in engineering and robotics while **promoting teamwork and collaboration** with team members, as well as teams from different schools. Students were given 6 weeks to design, build and test a working robot that is able to play a specific game. Each year the game changes, so each year there are new challenges. Darlington High is looking forward to these new challenges and plans on **expanding its team in the coming years**.

GEAR UP

DHS GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) has been very busy this year preparing the Class of 2017 for their final year of high school. Activities sponsored by GEAR UP this school term include:

- Four ACT/SAT workshops at Florence-Darlington Technical College during which students received professional preparation, tips, and shortcuts for these exams.



- College visits to the College of Charleston, Benedict College, Furman University, and the SC Upstate National College Fair in Greenville, SC which allowed students to meet with college admissions and financial aid representatives. These visits also gave students a glimpse of college life through touring the campuses, dining on campus, and interacting with student ambassadors.

- College Commitment Day, during which students were given the opportunity to choose the top three colleges that they commit to apply to next year. While students committed to these colleges, GEAR UP has also made the commitment to assist them in the process.



- College Goal 2016 FAFSA event, during which GEAR UP partnered with volunteers from the community, tax experts, and college financial aid representatives in order to assist the class of 2016 and their parents to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

On a daily basis GEAR UP coaches meet with students who are at risk of failing subjects to offer intervention plans. We have a goal to see DHS's Class of 2017 graduate and pursue postsecondary education!



DHS Band

The marching band has made major progress since

Mr. Johnson's arrival! In the summer of 2015, at the beginning of our season, we started off with about 35 members. By the first game, the marching band was up to 81 people. They've won a number of competitions, parades and band showcases.

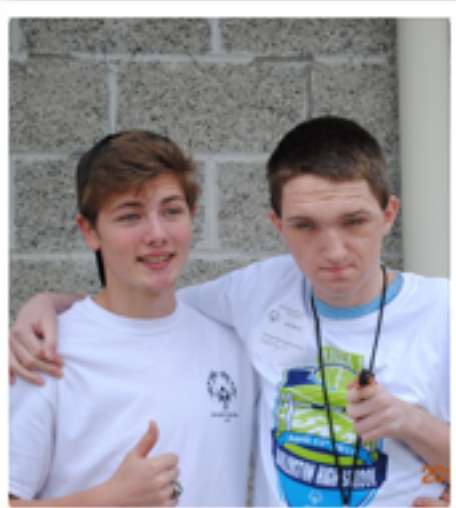
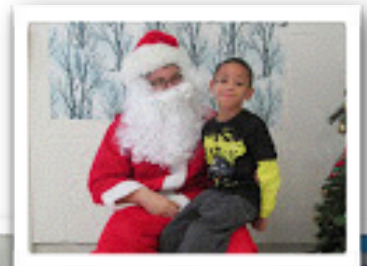
They've traveled all through the state of South Carolina, North Carolina, and even Virginia. The band has raised over \$70,000 in fundraising which goes towards transportation to events and festivities, instrument purchases and repairs, sponsoring events and purchasing uniforms for

future growth. The band program had their record breaking spring Pre Drills where 140 students came and participated to show interest in joining next year. If all of these students return back for the band season, the band will hit a record breaking size. The band is under the direction of Mr. Brendan L. Johnson and his staff: Amanda Greene (Director of Bands @ DMS and Asst. Director of DHS) Tameka Ham (Director of Auxiliary) Quenten Little (Director of Percussion), Justin Means (Band Coordinator) Tempestt Gavins and Darwin McCray (Brass Instructors).

SPECIAL EVENTS



- Miss DHS
- Falcon Fest
- Taste of the Falcons
- Falcon Golf Tournament
- Christmas Concert
- Brunch with Santa
- Military Ball
- Prom
- Special Olympics
- Art in Business
- Mr. DHS
- College Night
- Parent Day at the Academy
- On-A- Roll Celebrations
- Black History Month Assembly
- Four Star Falcons Celebration
- Powder Puff Game
- Video Game Night
- Elementary School Pep Rallies
- Warrior Fit
- Early College Soc Hop
- Battle of the Drumlines and Greek Showcase
- Old Peoples' Christmas
- Kiwanis Pancake Supper



ATHLETICS

FALL SPORTS



Varsity Football – John Jones They made the playoffs with a 6-4 record. Also, they had 12 All-Region players. The WPDE All-Zone team members were QB Frankie Johnson and WR/RB/CB Elmo Johnson.

Girls Tennis- Cameron Bridgeman They made the playoffs and hosted a first round game.

Volleyball – Jessica DeStefano They made the playoffs for 4th straight year.



Cross Country – Rich Wideman The boys cross country runners were Region champs & qualified for state.

Girls Golf – Stanley Goodwin This is just their 2nd full season. They went 4-2 and Elise Haynes qualified for the State Tournament for the 2nd year in a row.



WINTER SPORTS

Varsity Boys Basketball – Ken Howle They were region VI-AAA Runner-Ups with a 21-6 record. This makes 12 straight years of making playoffs. They are also Champions of the "Panther Classic" Invitational Tournament.

Varsity Girls Basketball – Frances Fields LaDaysha Bonaparte made All-State team and Hope Richardson was nominated for All-Region team.



JV Boys Basketball – Bradley Knox They went 14-2 for the season.

JV Girls Basketball – Regina Damon The JV Lady Falcons Basketball finished the season in second place in Region Rankings.

Wrestling- Dean Fullard The 2016 Wrestling team had their best season in terms of team wins with 10. They had four students that participated at Lower state, with one, Robert Bacote, advancing to the State Tournament for the second time finishing 5th in the State @ 220lb.



ATHLETICS CONTINUED

FALL/WINTER SPORTS

Varsity Cheerleading- Coach Kendre Williamson and JV Coach Ginger Hendricks They worked with Special Olympics, Senior Nights, and Pep Rallies along with their many other duties. They made a huge impact in school spirit!



SPRING SPORTS

Track- Rich Wideman Girls track was 1st in the region. Also, the girls 4x100 team won state. Kadasia Evans was the state high jump champ. Other All-State athletes were Zach White, Heidi McNeil, Jonathan Segres, and Karissa Lunn.

Varsity Baseball- Dennis Gearhart The varsity baseball team has made the playoffs for 7 straight years and has a 3-1 region record so far for the 2016 season.

JV Baseball- Doc Lewis They hold a record of 17-4 for the 2015 season.

Softball- Tim Wiley They finished 2nd in the region and advanced to the 2nd round of the playoffs.

Boys Tennis- Michael Van Tyner They finished 3rd in the region and made the playoffs for the 4th straight year. They also ended the 2015 season with a win against our crosstown rival, Hartsville.

Boys Golf- Stanley Goodwin The boys golf has a record of 40-8 over the last 2.5 seasons. Grainger Howle qualified for State 3 consecutive years. Grainger Howle and Dylan Dickerson qualified for State last year.

Girls soccer- Ezequiel Gomez They tied for 1st place in the region and beat our rival, Hartsville, to finish the regular season. They also hosted a playoff game for the first time

ever.

Boys Soccer- Jerry Brito This was the second year of rebuilding the program.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

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Eads Chiropractic

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Convenience

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Takis Diner

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THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS!

GREG HARRISON (PRINCIPAL), JANE LLOYD (ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL), LINDSEY COTE (SECRETARY, TEACHER OF THE YEAR), TERESA MOORE (CHAIR, COMMUNITY MEMBER), WILL ISGETT (COMMUNITY MEMBER), KIMBERLY EPPS (PARENT), DAWN SUMNER (PARENT), DAVIDA SCOTT (STUDENT, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT), BLAKE TURNER (STUDENT, STUDENT BODY SECRETARY), SHA'KEMA MCALLISTER (STUDENT)