

From the Desk of the Principal

Vision. Integrity. Structure. Accountability.

These four words embody our school's goal of providing our students with an outstanding education which they will need to be successful in their life's aspirations. Our staff started the 2010 - 2011 school year with a focus on *vision, integrity, structure, and accountability*. We have worked hard this year to infuse these tenets into every area at WHS.

The teachers and administrators at WHS offer a student-centered learning environment that is safe, caring, individualized, and challenging. Using progressive educational approaches coupled with an emphasis on traditional expectations for student behavior and work ethic, our teachers and staff help each student find the right formula for success.

We are continuously seeking to improve facilities, technology, curriculum, and extracurricular activities. Our staff actively participates in focus groups and leadership teams that help to improve WHS. At the same time, we have never lost sight of the goal of providing students with a solid educational foundation and cultivating in them the self-confidence and intellectual curiosity to succeed wherever they may go.

During this school year, our staff has focused on several initiatives and taken part in professional training sessions in order to help better prepare the students of WHS. Some of those initiatives were:

- **Castle Learning Presentation & Workshop**
- **Literacy Across Curriculum**
- **High Schools That Work**
- **Data Notebooks**
- **ESOL Staff Development**

We are proud of the many achievements of the students, faculty, and staff. As we look toward next year, WHS will work to maintain improvements in home-school communication and focus on programs that will help us to meet the diverse needs of a growing student body. We are most fortunate to have a faculty and staff that looks at student achievement beyond what is measured on standardized tests. Wilson High School will continue to embody a strong commitment to the overall development of students, allowing them to experience success in and out of the classroom while providing them with opportunities to develop character and responsibility needed by those who are the future of our communities, our state, and our nation.

Thank you for your continued support! Go Wilson!



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES PALMETTO GOLD AWARD	2
WHS RECEIVES CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAP RECOGNITION	2
WHS ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD	3
WHS RECEIVES SAT AWARD	4
WILSON ACADEMIC TEAM CHAMPS	4
WHS GERMAN STUDENTS EXCEL ON NATIONAL EXAM	4
WHS STUDENT SCORES PERFECT ON SAT	4
WILSON STUDENTS RAISE DONATION.....	4



WILSON IS AWARDED PALMETTO GOLD

Wilson High School, along with 100 other high schools and career centers in the state have earned recognition for academic achievement and closing achievement gaps in 2010. WHS received a gold award for student achievement. The Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards Program was established by the Education Accountability Act of 1998. As an important part of the education accountability system in South Carolina, the Awards program is designed to recognize and reward schools that attain high levels of absolute performance and schools that attain high rates of improvement. Schools receive general awards for

overall performance based on both their absolute and growth ratings and the growth index found on school report cards. On the 2010 Annual School Report Card, WHS received an Average and Excellent.

Of the state's 221 high schools, 43 earned either a Palmetto Gold or Palmetto Silver award for general performance – 32 Gold and 11 Silver.

"I am proud for our faculty, students, and parents. These awards illustrate that Wilson High School is committed to achievement and to ensuring that students learn and succeed," stated Dr. Gerard Edwards.

"I am proud for our faculty, students, and parents. These awards illustrate that Wilson High School is committed to achievement and to ensuring that students learn and succeed." - Dr. Gerard Edwards

South Carolina Recognizes High Schools, Career Centers for Academic Improvement

More than 100 high schools and career centers in the state have earned recognition for academic achievement and closing achievement gaps in 2010. In its 10th year, the Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver awards program was created by the South Carolina General Assembly to recognize schools that attained high levels of absolute performance, high rates of growth and substantial progress in closing achievement gaps between groups of students. The state's Education Oversight Committee establishes criteria for the awards, and the Department of Education applies those criteria to determine which schools are honored. More than half the schools being recognized have a poverty index of 60 percent or higher. Schools receive general awards for overall performance based on both their absolute and growth ratings and the growth index found on school report cards.

WILSON RECEIVES AWARD FOR CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAP

High schools received closing the achievement gap awards for on-time graduation rate performance by students who fall into four subgroups – African-American students, Hispanic students, students participating in federal free or reduced-price lunch programs and students with non-speech disabilities. Wilson High School was recognized for a graduation rate of 79% for African-American students.

If the on-time graduation rate of at least one of the subgroups exceeds the average on-time graduation rate of white and pay lunch students statewide, the school earns Gold end-of-year performance closing the achievement gap honors. Wilson High School received Gold end-of-year performance closing the achievement gap honors.

A total of 75 high schools earned a Gold or Silver award for closing the achievement gap – 45 Gold awards and 30 Silver. This is the third year that these awards have been part of the Palmetto Gold and Silver program.

"Both the Palmetto Gold and Closing the Achievement Gap awards demonstrate how high expectations and hard work can lead to outstanding student achievement. Our faculty and staff has worked hard during professional development activities, focus groups, and scheduled staff development sessions on instruction, literacy, and HSAP & EOC coursework," stated Dr. Gerard Edwards.



Mr. Willie Shaw receives Closing Achievement Gap and Palmetto Gold at April Board Meeting

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL'S ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

WILSON SENIOR HIGH

1411 Old Marion Highway
Florence, SC 29506

Grades 9-12 High School
Enrollment 1,316 Students
Principal Dr. Gerard Spencer 843-664-8440
Superintendent Allie E. Brooks 843-669-4141
Board Chair Porter Stewart 843-669-6395

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2010 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2010	Average	Excellent*
2009	Below Average	At-Risk
2008	Average	Excellent
2007	At-Risk	At-Risk
2006	Below Average	Average

* The School's 2010 Growth Rating was raised one level because of substantial improvement in the achievement of students belonging to historically underachieving groups of students. The Growth Rating may or may not have been affected by the performance of these groups in prior years.

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- **Excellent** – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- **Good** – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- **Average** – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- **Below Average** – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- **At-Risk** – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE VISION

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

<http://ed.sc.gov>
<http://www.eoc.sc.gov>

WILSON SENIOR HIGH

03/24/11-2101006

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
1	4	20	2	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/24/2011.

High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exam Passage Rate: Second Year Students

	Our High School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Passed 2 subtests (%)	64.8%	68.2%	73.1%	74.2%	70.7%	72.7%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	20.3%	16.0%	12.0%	13.1%	15.9%	14.7%
Passed no subtests (%)	14.8%	15.7%	14.9%	12.7%	13.4%	12.7%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2010

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Percent	91.2%	87.9%

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2009*	2010	2009*	2010
Number of Students in Four-Year Cohort	501	312	214	236
Number of Graduates in Cohort	224	240	152	162
Rate	44.7%	76.9%	72.2%	70.2%

*Used to calculate current AYP.

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours*
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	65.8%	66.9%
English 1	56.9%	60.0%
Physical Science	54.9%	48.0%
US History and the Constitution	49.1%	35.4%
All Tests	56.1%	52.3%

* High Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

REPORT CARD STATEMENT

High schools and universities across our state and nation face the challenge of producing graduates who are prepared to work in the fields of science, engineering, mathematics, and technology. As such, we have made it a goal to develop a program that would afford interested students increased rigor in these particular areas. During this school year, our staff has focused on several initiatives and taken part in professional training sessions in order to help better prepare the students of Wilson High School. We have taken part in Nine Schools Project, High Schools That Work, Cultural Diversity, and The National Network of Partnership Schools professional development training.

As we look toward next year, Wilson High School will work to maintain improvements in home-school communication and focus on programs that will help us to meet the diverse needs of a growing student body.

We are most fortunate to have a faculty and staff that looks at student achievement beyond what is measured on standardized tests. Wilson High School will continue to embody a strong commitment to the overall development of students, allowing them to experience success in and out of the classroom while providing them with opportunities to develop character and responsibility needed by those who are the future of our communities, our state, and our nation.

We are proud to proclaim that our students, with the encouragement of a caring faculty and supportive alumni, forged their mark in Wilson history.

Dr. Gerard Edwards

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ 7 Time Pee-Dee Regional High-School Mathematics Tournament 2004–2010
- ◆ 2011 Pee Dee Academic Team Champions
- ◆ 2010 Magna Cum Laude SAT Award
- ◆ Palmetto Gold Award
- ◆ Closing the Achievement Gap Award
- ◆ Chia-Yu “Ja Ja” Liao scores 2400 on SAT
- ◆ WHS German students excel on National German Examination
- ◆ Justin Kelly named Region VIII-AAA Player of Year in Basketball
- ◆ WHS Tennis Team wins Region VIII-AAA Championship
- ◆ WHS Boys Basketball Team wins Region VIII-AAA Championship
- ◆ WHS Civinettes banner year in fundraising and donations
- ◆ WHS Rocketry Team entered TARC qualifying
- ◆ WHS students place at Sand Hills Region IV Science Fair
- ◆ Chia-Yu “Ja Ja” Liao awarded summer residency at MIT
- ◆ National Honor Society inducts 40 WHS students
- ◆ Science National Honor Society & Art Honor Society hold induction ceremonies
- ◆ WHS wins 2010 Helpful Hands Campaign Award Winner from ACE Hardware

WHS RECEIVES STATE SAT AWARD



WHS, along with seventy-two other high schools from 37 school districts across South Carolina, has been recognized for their 2009-10 achievement on the SAT college entrance exams.

In their second year, the ACT/SAT Performance Improvement Awards (ASPI) were created to salute schools that showed high performance on the ACT or SAT and those that have had rapid or continuous improvement in their scores. The recipients receive banners and certificates of achievement as part of the state's SAT/ACT Improvement Program.

“I congratulate these schools for what they have accomplished,” said State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex. “Their students, teachers, counselors, administrators and parents have worked extreme-

ly hard – setting an example for other schools in their districts and regions.”

The award banners for the schools indicate Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Cum Laude honors for the level of award given. Awards for high performance go to schools whose average composite score exceeds the national average, whose improvement in composite score exceeds the state average, or whose score is in the top tenth percentile in the state.

Improvement awards go to schools whose score exceeds the state average and level of significant improvement, whose improvement is at the 75th percentile statewide without a decline in performance and who show improvement over a three-year period.

WILSON ACADEMIC TEAM CHAMPIONS



The Wilson Academic Team won the Pee Dee Regional Tournament Saturday, March 19. The Wilson Tigers defeated West Florence in the championship round.

The Wilson Academic Team finished the 2011 season 5–1. The academic team defeated Marlboro County, Mayo Magnet School, South Florence, Pageland Central, and Lee Central.

WHS GERMAN STUDENTS EXCEL ON EXAM

Wilson High German students recently excelled on the National German Examination sponsored by American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Because they scored above the 90th percentile on the examination, these students in Level 3 German are eligible to apply for the AATG-PAD (the Pedagogical Exchange Service) Study Trip Awards.

The high scoring students are Margaret Johnson, 98 percent; Christopher Ruggiero, 96 percent; Malcolm Nowlin, 93 percent; Hunter Heger, 93 percent; and Paul Lee, 91 percent. In addition, students Cody Smithy, Anthony Mantone, and Jordan Woodberry met the AATG criteria for honor certificates. Instructors of German at Wilson are Dr. Lucia Huang and Doris Sears.



***Did you know?** Approximately 1,000,000 students take the SAT each year and on average, only 20 of them get a perfect score.*

CHIA-YU “JA JA” LIAO SCORES 2400 ON SAT

About one million students take the SAT each year. Only 200 of them get a perfect score. Wilson High School honored junior Chia-Yu “Ja Ja” Liao at their Drop into Wilson event Thursday night for scoring a 2400 on the test. Wilson Principal Dr. Gerard Edwards presented Liao with a plaque and 24 roses. “This year was her first year taking the full SAT. She took the whole test in October and got 800, 800, 800,” Edwards said.

Liao went into the test with no expectations. She took what she had already learned and used the test as a chance to apply basic concepts she picked up in school. She said people should learn not to stress the numbers — they become a distraction from the actual material a student should know. “If you pay too much attention to your grades then you often just play the GPA game,” she said. Liao’s focus is more on learning the content than making the grade. “It isn’t about how smart you are and how much material you know,” she said. “It’s about the way you think and the way you approach a problem.” It’s just the way Edwards described Liao after reviewing her results again Wednesday morning. “She’s driven, but she’s very humble. She works hard in everything that she does but it’s almost like how Michael Jordan



would play basketball. It’s just effortlessly,” Edwards said.

She said she didn’t study much for the SAT — not because she didn’t want to, but because between practicing the cello, piano, working on an independent research project and other activities outside of school. She didn’t have much time for test prep. “So I wasn’t expecting it at all. I was thinking I could take it a few times and increase my score each time,” Liao said. Looks like now she won’t have to.

From article by Carlton Purvis, <http://www2.scnw.com/news/2010/nov/18/wilson-high-junior-earns-perfect-sat-score->

**WILSON HIGH
SCHOOL**

At Wilson High School,
WE commit to
developing in all
students the
KNOWLEDGE,
SKILLS, and
CHARACTER to
achieve personal
success.

Wilson High School
1411 Old Marion
Highway
Florence, South
Carolina
29506-7421
843 664-8440

WHS STUDENTS SHOW THAT THEY CARE

At Wilson High School, our individual grade levels are divided into separate schools within the school. All Freshmen belong to the School of Foundational Studies (SOFS). One of the unique features of SOFS is the course Academic Enhancement. This class was created to give Freshmen extra practice skills for being a good student and a model citizen. Each teacher is allowed the freedom to mold the class towards the individual group of students that they teach.

This semester, the students in John "Coach" Bailey's Academic Enhancement Class were looking for a service project to support. It was just a few weeks into the 2nd Semester that we learned about Kellyson Swinney Poe. She is the 33 year old daughter of the Wilson High School Sophomore Administrator, Dr. Deborah Swinney. Kellyson was diagnosed with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma (ACC), a very rare form of cancer. She and Dr. Swinney flew out to Seattle, Washington for neutron radiation treatment in order to defend her from this disease, and were there for a total of five (5) weeks! The students and Coach Bailey decided to collect a Love Offering for Dr. Swinney to apply towards medical expenses and travel for treatments.

Over the course of five days, the class split into groups and walked all three lunches at Wilson collecting change and donations for the Love Offering. The class was challenged to meet certain goals by Coach Bailey. Originally, the group that collected the most donations would receive a Pizza Party. However, the class asked if they collected \$500 as a group, could the whole class get a Pizza Party? Coach Bailey agreed and the students worked very hard towards that total. With April being National Oral Cancer Awareness Month, the activities were very appropriate. Also, as part of the fundraising efforts the students made and sold red and white ribbons.

One of the students, Lauren Bynum asked if she could appeal to her church for help. Liberty Chapel UMC then "passed the plate" and gave \$233.00 towards the effort. After all the money was totaled, the students had collected an incredible \$800.00! Helped by contributions from students' parents and a surprise gift of drinks from Coca-Cola, the presentation of the money and the hard earned Pizza Party was held at Wilson High School in the Main Conference Room of the Guidance Department on April 21, 2011.

Coach Bailey would like to thank his Advisement Class for their incredible hard work, integrity and honesty in collecting coins and cash over the course of the week. He would also like to thank all the students, faculty and staff of Wilson High School for their generous giving. An extra special "Thank You" goes to the members of the Liberty Chapel UMC who gave money to a person none of them knew – only because a youth of their church asked for their help. And finally, "Thank You" to the Wilson High School, parents and Coca-Cola for helping to reward the hard efforts of these students by providing the Pizza Party.

Kellyson is home for now and will return to Seattle for follow-up tests in the near future. We wish her safe travel and good news. We will continue to pray for her full recovery and safe return. If you would like to donate, you may do so at:

Kellyson's ACC Medical Fund
c/o Robert Abson
New Canaan AME Church
P. O. Box 1748
Dillon, S. C. 29536

Kellyson's ACC Medical Fund
First Bank
P. O. Box 1106
Dillon, S. C. 29535

**All donations should be made payable
to "Kellyson's ACC Medical Fund"**

