

## WADE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL GREENVILLE, SC

### SIC Report to the Community

Wade Hampton High School has maintained a tradition of academic excellence for more than half a century. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students and faculty. In 2016, we were honored by the federal government with the designation as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. Wade Hampton's strength emanates from the educational partnerships between the students and faculty, the wealth of parental and community involvement, and the love of learning that exists as a result. This school year opened with over 1,800 students in attendance and many more on the waiting list.

Wade Hampton High School is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by providing a safe, caring, and academically rigorous learning environment. With a clearly defined mission to "Educate,, Inspire, and Empower" each of our students, we work diligently to implement a personalized learning plan for all students beginning at their current academic level and guiding them to graduation and beyond.

The accomplishments and recognitions of the 2022-2023 school year confirm Wade Hampton High School's standing as one of the top high schools in South Carolina and our nation. While this year is ripe with challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aiming for the school to be no different. Our students once again outpaced district, state, and national averages in every major measurement of academic performance. As part of our Graduation + initiative, our students completed over 780 college level courses and an additional 322 industry standard certifications. The Class of 2022 had over 30 Palmetto Fellows and earned over \$10 million in college scholarships. These accomplishments will position our students well to compete for college admission and 21st century jobs. In this fast-changing world, the responsibility is upon us, more than it has ever been before, to continue learning and growing. Our students will soon be heading off to some form of post-secondary opportunity--whether its community college, the military, 4-year college and/or the world of work. We implore them to never stop learning. We will further cultivate the potential of each student as graduates who will become productive members of their community while ensuring they can adapt to a diverse, ever-changing world.

Our students, led by our award-winning Student Council, continue to set the bar high for all schools by raising a six-year total of \$1,683,460 in a single week to support the various charities. Our Air Force JROTC received the Outstanding Organization Award, and many students earned local, state and national distinction in our fine arts programs. We have students earning AP Scholar Awards, Teaching Fellow Scholars recognitions, and National Merit Winners.

Students are more likely to succeed when they are well rounded and engage in connections outside the classroom. We have strong extracurricular programs in Athletics, Community

Service, Science Technology Arts and Engineering (STEAM), and Performing Arts. Our students lead a variety of clubs and special interests groups that represent the diverse nature of our student body. At Wade Hampton High School we believe the school, family, and community must share the educational responsibility of our children. Success for our students is dependent on the active participation of all our stakeholders.

The Wade Hampton High School goals are the force that drives what we do and are aligned with the goals of Greenville County Schools. These three goals will be described in this report to the community along with many accomplishments in each area.

**First Goal: Raise the academic challenge and performance of each student.** Wade Hampton High School is one of the highest performing high schools in South Carolina. We are excited and proud to announce that our 4-year graduation rate was 87.8% in 2021 which exceeded the district and state graduation percentages. It is notable that WHHS had the highest graduation rate among all GCS for the last 6 out of 9 years! The Class of 2022 accomplished so much in their four years at Wade Hampton. This group contained an impressive 322 Life Scholarship Winners. This group completed 565 college credit hours through dual credit and AP classes and earned 67 industry standard certifications in our Career and Tech Classes. Four times, they were recognized by US News and World Report as one of the top high schools in the state of South Carolina. Outside of the classroom, the accomplishments of this group were just as spectacular. They have been spotted all over the community, opening doors in elementary car lines, organizing food drives, and volunteering with local organizations.

**Second Goal: Ensure quality personnel in all positions.** The faculty and staff of Wade Hampton High School are committed to a strong focus on student-centered learning. We use both historical and current student achievement data to examine instructional practices and make decisions regarding how to meet the diverse needs of our students. Recognizing that we are stronger together, our teachers operate within the framework of Professional Learning Communities in order to continuously evaluate, plan, and improve student learning. There are 11 educators on the faculty with National Board Certificates, 67 with advanced degrees, 27 with AP endorsements, and 28 endorsed to teach gifted learners. Of the past 11 candidates for Teacher of the Year, 8 were among the top 10 finalists for the district. The WHHS faculty is a dynamic cohort of educators who are dedicated to instilling a love of learning in each of their students.

**Third Goal: Provide a school environment supportive of learning.** School safety, once taken for granted, is a major concern to all stakeholders within most communities. Annual state surveys taken by the parents, students, and teachers of WHHS reveal that the majority of our stakeholders believe that WHHS is a safe environment. Programs and policies such as ID badges, Ignore the Door, and the secured front office entry are measures that have been taken to further protect the students and faculty. Enhancements have been made to the instructional program as well. Academics are supported through established programs such as The Freshman Academy, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, and the After School Tutoring program, which provides free

transportation home for students within WHHS's attendance zone. Additionally, approximately 25% of the student body takes advantage of specialized curricula at The Fine Arts Center or one of the four Career Centers throughout the county. In 2014, Greenville County Schools launched Graduation Plus. This initiative was designed to encourage students to enhance their diploma program by selecting course work that leads to completer certificates in technical areas or college credits through the dual credit program, as well as offering opportunities for Early College. We are proud of our College and Career Readiness status which, at 74%, was one the highest in the district. Currently, WHHS offers dual credit courses in English, Marketing, and Teacher Cadet. We believe that variety in the instructional program is vital to meeting the needs of our students.

At Wade Hampton High School we believe the school, family, and community must share the educational responsibility of our children. Success for our students is dependent on the active participation of all our stakeholders. Thank you for all of your support as we continue to develop our future South Carolina graduates and leaders!

Dr. Carlos Grant, Principal

Pam Roberson, SIC Chair