
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

SOCASTEE HIGH SCHOOL

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Socastee High School has had another positive year of growth and achievement in academics, extra curriculars, athletics, and the arts. This report will give highlights from all areas.

ACADEMICS

In academics, we were named to Newsweek's, US News and World Reports, and the Washington Post's top American High Schools in June of 2013. Our Graduation rate declined a little to 80.7%, but was still three points higher than "Schools Like Us". Our Senior Class SAT average was second highest of any public high school in South Carolina and the high school who ranked higher only tested 19% of its seniors while we tested 59%. SHS had our highest first time passage rate ever for HSAP, with a percentage of 93.3%. Our EOC scores were the highest in school history with a passage rate of 84.3%. Our Seniors received \$10.1 M in scholarships which is the highest amount in Horry County high schools for 2013. And, for the first time we received an "A" in Federal Accountability guidelines. Socastee's two effective at-risk programs, The Red Bow Ladies for older females and the Envision Group for 9th and 10th graders grew and flourished this year. The SHS IB Program was successful again in having exam scores and Diploma rates above the National Average. Along with the IB successes, SHS students took over 600 A.P. exams, the most in the District. Our Air Force JROTC program received a Distinguished Unit Award for the twelfth straight year. Jennifer Ainsworth, Special needs teacher and Horry County Teacher of the Year was named South Carolina Teacher of the Year. In looking to our academic future, we have adopted Google Applications as a school-wide initiative which has been implemented by a large percentage of our faculty. We are incorporating blended learning techniques and we have established a Blended Learning Team to lead us in this instructional strategy. In addition each faculty member has received a Dell Venue 11 in preparation for each student receiving a device at the beginning of the 2014/2015 school year.

In CATE, DECA, FFA and FCCLA qualified for state and/or international competition and DECA finished in a Top Ten spot at the International Competition in California. Our DECA student

store has received a Gold Award for the second straight year. Twenty-two DECA students have qualified for the International competition in Orlando, Florida.

THE ARTS

In the arts, our marching band advanced to the State Finals for the second year and had its highest ever finish. The Jazz Ambassadors were again named SC's best jazz band for the fourth straight year. In visual arts, the 11th annual "A Plus Art Show" was put on in the auxiliary gym to almost 1400 patrons, including the Superintendent, who viewed 672 works of art. The art department also had a winner in the Congressional Art Competition and several students won at the regional art competition qualifying them for the State Finals, and students also placed in the Duck Stamp competition. The Music/Drama Department put on Shrek to over 5000 patrons, 2000 of which were elementary and middle school students at matinees. The Band and Music Departments dominated the All-County competitions, placing more students than any other Horry County high school.

ATHLETICS

In athletics, Socastee High offered thirty-three sports and over 540 students participated on Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. Socastee won six region championships and wrestling won a Lower State Championship. Boys' swimming finished 1st in the State in III-A. Although the Spring play-offs are just beginning, tennis and baseball have won Region championships and soccer, softball, lacrosse, track and golf have qualified for the State play-offs.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SERVICE

SHS continued its focus on "paying it forward" with service projects. The SHS Leadership class sponsored three Red Cross Bloodmobiles to encourage students to become lifelong blood donors. The FFA and JROTC sponsored a Senior Citizens' and Veterans' luncheon and concert attended by 225 senior citizens, with the Socastee Singers and Jazz Band putting on a rousing and patriotic salute. SHS athletes served as Reading Buddies at Socastee Elementary School and IB students sponsored special needs students' holiday parties. In addition, the Socastee Singers and Jazz Band performed at numerous elder-care facilities and benefits. In the Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics, SHS won the award for most money raised. In addition, for the 16th straight year, SHS hosted the County Special Olympics with the most participants and spectators in history.

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