

May 2013

Saint James High School School Summary Report



OUR MISSION:

Every student will graduate from Saint James High School with the skills to start work or attend college with no remediation.

Dear Shark Family Members,

As Saint James High School enters its second decade of existence, we want to thank you for your continued support in our efforts to provide a premier educational experience to the students who enter our building everyday. We know that the many achievements and gains we have made over the past ten years would not be possible without the backing of dedicated parents, guardians, and community partners. We hope that you will celebrate with us as you review the many successes covered in this annual report. Remember, as a valued stakeholder in our school, your opinions are critical to our ongoing improvement. Together, we can ensure that, like true Sharks, our school continues to move in only one direction - FORWARD!

Vann Pennell, Principal
Sally Young, SIC Chairman

School Improvement Council

Sally Young, *Chairman*
Susan Peavey, *Vice Chairman*
Kathy Smith, *Secretary*
Rodney Brown, *Area Representative*
Janice Moreale, *HCS Board Member*
Vann Pennell, *Principal*

Brett Mahaffey, *Instructional Coach*
Anita Guthrie, *Guidance Counselor*
Robert Pisaniello, *Teacher of the Year*
Taylor Zeitler, *Student Body President*
Mackenzie Fischer, *Student*
Ethan Griggs, *Student*
Melinda Sansbury, *Parent*
Andrea Wilkins, *Parent*

Christine Lane, *Parent*
Brenda Morris, *Parent*
Kathy Heath, *Parent*
Robyn Hays, *Parent*
Jennifer Bayliff, *Parent*
Terri Larkin, *Parent*
Kitty Howell, *Parent*



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Achievements in 2012-2013

Moving FORWARD in the Classroom, on the Field, and in the Community

- Saint James High School ranked *Excellent* in both Absolute and Growth ratings on the 2012 South Carolina School Report Card. This is the first time in its existence that our school has received *Excellent* rankings in both categories! Of the 34 high schools in the state with student populations similar to ours, Saint James ranked 6th in overall performance.
- South Carolina recognized our school with the *Palmetto Gold Award* for general performance.
- In April 2013, *US News & World Report* ranked St. James as the 10th best comprehensive high school in the state of South Carolina.
- The four-year graduation rate for the St. James Class of 2012 was 79.3%. This is the highest graduation rate in the school's history!
- Through the 135th day of schools, our 2012-2013 daily student attendance rate is 95.6%. This is the highest rate in the school's history!
- Overall student pass rates on Advanced Placements exams continued to outpace state and national averages.
- Seniors Margaret Shelton and Taylor Seagle were named finalists for the National Merit Scholarship program.
- Students earned an overall pass rate of 81.2% on state-mandated End of Course assessments in 2012. This is nearly 10% higher than the average for schools with similar student populations. Student pass rates on the US History and Constitution EOC were the highest in Horry County.
- Social Studies teacher Adam Jones successfully completed National Board Certification.
- Mathematics teacher Lee Cannon designed and piloted an Advanced Placement Calculus class for the Horry County Virtual School.
- Virtual Enterprise students dominated at the annual South Carolina Trade Show, taking 1st or 2nd place in seven categories. These students went on to place 9th in the nation in the National Business Plan Competition held in New York City. Sophomore Jordan Walker placed 3rd in the Global Business Challenge.
- The school's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America earned recognition as the largest among AAA schools in the state. Students Jonathan Dick, Ricky Singh, Allen Ray, Terrell Knox, and Ariel Roebuck placed 1st in their respective state-level FBLA competitions and will travel to Anaheim, California this summer to compete for the national title.
- *Fathomless Minds*, the first literature and art magazine in school history, debuted in April, featuring a wide range of student-generated creative writing and visual art.
- Visual arts students continue to be recognized for excellence. Multiple students have placed in regional art competitions. Senior Kelly Newell has received over \$30,000 in academic and art scholarships from Converse College.
- Visual arts teacher Sherry Martin's artwork was accepted into the Artfield's Juried Art Exhibition held in Lake City, South Carolina. She was one of only 400 artists from 12 southern states to be selected. She was also named Grand Strand Artist of the month for April 2013.
- The school's National Art Honor Society continued its tradition of excellence and service through numerous projects, including the annual Souper Bowl fundraiser, which raised \$600 to benefit Relay for Life.
- The school's Drama department continues to excel. In the fall, the ensemble won a *superior* rating for their production of *The Audition* at the Horry County Theatre Festival. Claire Collins and Josie Thompson were named to the festival's All-Star Cast. The spring production of *The Sound of Music* featured accompaniment by members of the school's band and orchestra and was viewed by over 1,500 people.
- 100% of Saint James High School Orchestra students who auditioned will participate in the Summer Arts Academy on full scholarship. Orchestra director Elizabeth Sullivan will once again be directing the Middle School Orchestra at this event.
- En route to another appearance in the state championships, The Pride of St. James Marching Band hosted the first annual *Fin Fest* marching band competition. The band collected numerous awards and *superior* ratings during the marching season.
- Both the Bel Canto and Chorale choral ensembles were selected to perform at the first annual *Waves of the Future* talent showcase.
- The Saint James Army Junior ROTC unit continued to amass numerous awards and distinctions, including the title of *Grand Champions* at the regional drill competition.
- A team of students have created and maintained a school "pantry," stocking donated clothing, food, and other household items for distribution to their peers who are in need. During the February "month of giving", these students orchestrated a collection drive that raised over \$10,000 in clothes and supplies.
- Saint James High seniors Charles Whittington and Michael Jones have been recognized for perfect attendance through 12 years of school.
- The St. James High School Academic Team finished 2nd in the Horry County Schools Academic Olympics. The team will travel to Atlanta in May to compete in the NAQT National Academic Team Championship Tournament.
- Principal Vann Pennell and Athletic Director Paula Lee were recognized by the South Carolina High School League for their outstanding leadership, receiving awards as AAA Principal of the Year and Region 8 AAA Athletic Director of the Year, respectively.
- Senior athlete Billy Krier finished 5th overall at the 2012 Cross Country State Championships with a school-record time of 15:54. Junior Samantha Cunningham finished 11th in the state with a school-record time of 20:52.
- The school's varsity Baseball team continued its run of excellence, capturing a fourth straight region championship and a title in the annual Mingo Bay Spring Break Tournament.
- Senior wrestler De'Eante Salam finished runner-up in his weight class during this year's state tournament.
- In their second year of competition, the Sharkies Dance Team attended the UDA Georgia State Dance Championships, finishing 2nd in the varsity high kick category and 7th in the varsity jazz category.
- In their first year of existence, the varsity Competition Cheer squad qualified for the state finals and collected 1st place AAA division wins in three separate tournaments.



Our Performance Goals

Measuring our Achievements

While there is no definitive way to identify a high-performing high school, accountability guidelines developed by the state of South Carolina and the federal government do give us a useful way to measure our achievements. At Saint James we have adopted the following performance goals to help us reach our school's full potential.

Performance Goal	Status 2011-2012	Goal 2012-2013
1) 95% of Algebra I and Math Tech 2 students will pass state's end-of-course Algebra I test by 2015.	82.5%	90%
2) 90% of students will pass the state's English I end-of-course test by 2015.	82.2%	90%
3) 90% of students will pass the state's Biology end-of-course test by 2015.	80.4%	90%
4) 85% of the students will pass the state's U.S. History end-of-course test by 2015.	78.4%	88%
5) At least 30% of graduates will successfully complete at least one Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or college credit course.	16.1%	20%
6) The average SAT score (combined math and verbal) for high school students will be equal to or greater than the national average.	988	1005
7) The average ACT score (combined) for high school seniors will be equal to or greater than the national average.	21.6	22.0
8) 75% of second-year high school students will meet the state's proficiency standard in English Language Arts by 2015 .	63.3%	70%
9) 75% of second-year high school students will meet the state's proficiency standard in Mathematics by 2015	61.7%	70%
10) 90% of second-year high school students will pass both sections of the state's exit exam (HSAP) on first try by 2015.	88.3%	90%
11) 100% of high school students will pass both sections of HSAP within 2 years of taking it the first time, by 2015.	94.8%	98%
12) 90% of high school students will earn state high school diplomas within four years or less (on time) after entering the ninth grade by 2015.	79.3%	85%
13) The average daily attendance rate for students will be 96% or higher every year.	94.9%	96%
14) The average daily attendance rate for teachers will be 96% or higher every year.	94.5%	96%
15) The percentage of teachers with advanced degrees will increase to 60% by 2015.	65.8%	68%

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Moving Forward ***Actions to Ensure Future Success***

- Teachers have started undertaking training and professional development opportunities to prepare our school for the implementation of the *Common Core State Standards*. These new, rigorous, nationwide academic standards in English and Mathematics have been adopted by 46 states and will be fully implemented during the 2014-2015 school year. Saint James has set the goal of leading the county in embracing these new learning standards.
- Our school continues to implement and refine the *High Schools that Work* school improvement initiative, embracing such best practices as maintaining a four-year Advisory program, the integration of innovative technology in the classroom, and ensuring a rigorous, college-preparatory course of study for all students.
- Teachers, counselors, and administrators are more effectively monitoring student attendance and achievement in order to ensure an effective and individualized learning experience. Resources and programs such as Compass Odyssey, USA TestPrep, APEX Credit Recovery, Achievement Series Benchmarking, and Read 180 provide educators and students with the ability to identify and address a variety of learning needs. Our core class placement rubrics ensure that students are enrolled in the most appropriate learning environment.
- Improved website and communication software make it easier for our school to collaborate with our key stakeholders, especially parents and community members. For the 2013-2014 school year, all student registration will be completed online. As student records continue to migrate to a paperless environment, tracking student performance and specific academic needs will be easier than ever before.