

April 2015

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,

St. James remains dedicated to the mission of preparing all students for the evolving realities of an ever-changing world through a rigorous, relevant, and engaging high school experience. We hope that you will celebrate with us as you review the many successes covered in this annual report. Most importantly, we understand that the rising test scores, academic accomplishments, and athletic achievements of this school year would not have been possible without the backing of dedicated parents, guardians, and community partners. Remember, as a valued stakeholder in our school, your opinions are critical to our ongoing improvement, and we encourage you to get involved in our Shark Family. Working together, we can ensure that, like true Sharks, our school continues to move in only one direction - FORWARD!

Vann Pennell, Principal
Teresa Larkin, SIC President

School Improvement Council

Teresa Larkin, *President*
Sally Young, *Past President*
Kathy Heath, *Secretary, Parent*
Rodney Brown, *Advisory Board., Parent*
Janice Moreale, *HCS Board Member*
Vann Pennell, *Principal*

NaTasha Best, *Assistant Principal*
Brett Mahaffey, *Instructional Coach*
Laura Burdick, *Teacher*
Alyssa Koziarski, *Student Body President*
Michelle Collins, *Parent*
Jennifer Hurston, *Parent*
Jennifer Bayliff, *Parent*

Kathy Johnson, *Parent*
Susan Peavey, *Parent*
Robyn Hays, *Parent*
Nancy Ward, *Parent*
Kelly Papotto, *Parent*
Jean Young, *Parent*
Rhonda Blackmon, *Parent*



Saint James High School
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Achievements in 2014-2015

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

Listed below is just a small sample of the many accomplishments we have enjoyed at SJHS over the past year -

- St. James High School was named a finalist for the 2015 *Palmetto's Finest Award*, one of just three high schools in the state to earn this distinction!
- Saint James ranked *Excellent* in Absolute rating and *Good* in the Growth rating on the 2014 South Carolina School Report Card. This is the fourth year in a row that our school has received an *Excellent* overall rating! Of the 33 high schools in the state with student populations similar to ours, Saint James ranked 4th in overall performance.
- South Carolina recognized our school with the *Palmetto Gold Award* for general performance. This was the fourth consecutive year that our school has been recognized with this award!
- The four-year graduation rate for the St. James Class of 2014 was 81.8%.
- The graduating class of 2014 was been offered over \$8.1 million in scholarships.
- Through the 135th day of school, our 2014-2015 daily student attendance rate is 95.7%.
- Overall student pass rates on Advanced Placements exams continued to outpace other schools. Advanced Placement students at St. James High School earned a mean AP exam score of 3.14, higher than county, state, national, and global averages!
- Our students' average score on the SAT remained higher than district and state averages. Composite ACT scores for college-bound seniors also met the national average.
- Students earned an overall pass rate of 89.2% on state-mandated End of Course assessments in 2013-2014. This is over 10% higher than the average for schools with similar student populations. Student pass rates on the Algebra 1 and Biology End of Course assessments were the highest in Horry County.
- Our own St. James High School Teacher of the Year, Mr. Paul Hudacko, was named as a top-five finalist for the Horry County Schools Teacher of the Year. Since 2007, St. James has had four teachers named as top-five finalists, more than any other school in the district!
- St. James teachers Ms. Kristen Rogers and Mrs. Jeanna Johnson presented at the 2014 *High Schools that Work* National Summer Staff Development Conference in July. Instructional Coach Brett Mahaffey presented at the SC School Board Association Conference in February.
- The *Learners at Work* program opened the *Fintastic Stitches Embroidery Program*, providing students on a non-traditional diploma track valuable experience in the operating a business.
- The *Future Business Leaders of America*, *Virtual Enterprise*, and *DECA* programs continue to excel at the local, state, and national levels. Student Body President Alyssa Koziarski was to served as President of the South Carolina FBLA.
- The St. James High School Academic Team once again qualified for the NAQT National Academic Team Championship Tournament by winning the 2014 Horry County Schools Academic Olympics.
- The Pride of St. James High School Marching band once again qualified to participate in the state championship tournament. During the season, the band received numerous superior ratings and top rankings in a number of categories.
- The St. James High School Drama Department competed in both the Horry County and South Carolina Theatre Festivals. Senior Danielle Jeanjaquet won the Palmetto Theatre Association's Senior Theatre Scholarship. The spring musical production of *Footloose* received stellar reviews and was seen by over 1,600 people during it's four day run.
- The St. James High School choral department traveled to Walt Disney world to perform in the annual Candlelight Processional at EPCOT.
- 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. The cadets' academic competition squad also placed in the top 10 nationally!
- St. James Visual Arts students continue to excel in local and regional art shows and competitions. Senior Christina Melchiorre won *Best in Show* at the Horry Georgetown Juried Student Art Exhibition.
- Four St. James athletic coaches were named Region Coach of the Year.
- The girls' golf team capped off an amazing season by winning the SC Lower State Championship and finishing runner up at the state tournament. Two Lady Sharks golfers, Smith Knaffle and Kelli Smith were named to the All-State and Toast of the Coast teams.
- The St. James Sharks varsity softball team had the 12th highest team GPA in the nation. 11 of 13 players earned Academic All-American status.



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 2013-2014	Goal 2014-2015
1) 95% of Algebra I and Math Tech 2 students will pass state's end-of-course Algebra I test by 2015.	96%	97%
2) 90% of students will pass the state's English I end-of-course test by 2015.	86%	90%
3) 90% of students will pass the state's Biology end-of-course test by 2015.	92.7%	94%
4) 85% of the students will pass the state's U.S. History end-of-course test by 2015.	83.4%	86%
5) At least 30% of graduates will successfully complete at least one Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or college credit course.	14.9%	20%
6) The average SAT score (combined math and verbal) for high school students will be equal to or greater than the national average.	999	1030
7) The average ACT score (combined) for high school seniors will be equal to or greater than the national average.	21.0	22.0
8) 75% of second-year high school students will meet the state's proficiency standard in English Language Arts on HSAP by 2015 .	76%	N/A
9) 75% of second-year high school students will meet the state's proficiency standard in Mathematics on HSAP by 2015	60%	N/A
10) 90% of second-year high school students will pass both sections of the state's exit exam (HSAP) on first try by 2015.	87.3%	N/A
11) 100% of high school students will pass both sections of HSAP within 2 years of taking it the first time, by 2015.	97.3%	N/A
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.	81.8%	88%
13) The average daily attendance rate for students will be 96% or higher every year.	96.7%	97%
14) The average daily attendance rate for teachers will be 96% or higher every year.	94.4%	96%
15) The percentage of teachers with advanced degrees will increase to 60% by 2015.	66.7%	67%

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Moving Forward ***Looking toward the Future at SJHS***

As always, it's a very exciting time to be a Shark!

The 2014-2015 school year saw major developments in the classrooms of St. James High School! The implementation of Horry County's *Personalized Digital Learning Initiative* (PDL) provided students with unprecedented access to new ways of thinking and learning through the power of connective technology. As teachers and students become more comfortable with this "new normal" in the classroom, you can expect even greater changes in the coming months.

What does this mean? Imagine a classroom in which instruction is tailored to the learning needs of individual students. This is a classroom in which the teacher works face-to-face with a small group of students to ensure that learning is meaningful. In another corner, students work collaboratively on an extended project with peers in another state. Elsewhere students are taking notes on new material they are receiving through one of a number of online content providers. This is not a futuristic vision of education; this is the here-and-now that the PDL initiative allow allows for.

This *is* and *should be* a very exciting time for the students, parents, and educators of St. James High School. Working together, we can ensure that we continue to move FORWARD - like true Sharks!