

May 2014

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
Sally Young, SIC Chairman

School Improvement Council

Sally Young, *Chairman, Parent*
Andrea Wilkins, *Secretary, Parent*
Rodney Brown, *Area Rep., Parent*
Janice Moreale, *HCS Board Member*

Vann Pennell, *Principal*
NaTasha Best, *Assistant Principal*
Brett Mahaffey, *Instructional Coach*
Anita Guthrie, *Guidance Counselor*
Beth Cox, *Teacher of the Year*
Laura Burdick, *Teacher*
Sessalie Gore, *Student Body President*
Gabiella Young, *Student*

Susan Peavey, *Parent*
Christine Lane, *Parent*
Brenda Morris, *Parent*
Kathy Heath, *Parent*



Saint James High School
10800 HWY 707
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843) 650-5600





Achievements in 2013-2014

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 -

- Saint James High School ranked *Excellent* in both Absolute and Growth ratings on the 2013 South Carolina School Report Card. This is the second year in a row that our school has received *Excellent* rankings in both categories! Of the 31 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 third consecutive year that our school has been recognized with this award!
- The four-year graduation rate for the St. James Class of 2013 was 84.95%. This is the highest graduation rate in the school's history!
- As of May, the graduating class of 2014 has been offered over \$8.1 million in scholarships.
- Through the 135th day of school, our 2013-2014 daily student attendance rate is 96.7%. 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.
- Our students' average score on the SAT climbed dramatically to 1036. This represents a gain of nearly 50 points over last year's average score!
- Students earned an overall pass rate of 86.1% on state-mandated End of Course assessments in 2013. This is nearly 10% higher than the average for schools with similar student populations. Student pass rates on the US History and Constitution and Biology End of Course assessments were among the highest in Horry County.
- Our own St. James High School Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Beth Cox, was named as a top-five finalist for the Horry County Schools Teacher of the Year.
- St. James teachers Ms. Kristen Rogers and Mrs. Jeanna Johnson have been accepted as presenters at the 2014 *High Schools that Work* National Summer Staff Development Conference in July.
- The school's journalism program continues to grow; it now features a daily television broadcast, website, and a monthly magazine - *Shark Attack*. In April, the *Shark Attack* staff published an edition enhanced with special, augmented-reality media features.
- Both the *Future Business Leaders of America* and *Virtual Enterprise* programs continue to excel at the local, state, and national levels. Rising senior Alyssa Koziarski was elected to serve as President of the South Carolina FBLA, and senior Hunter Brown and a team of international students won 2nd place in the 2014 Global Business Challenge.
- The St. James High School Academic Team once again qualified for the NAQT National Academic Team Championship Tournament by virtue of their runner-up finish in the Horry County Schools Academic Olympics. This is the third time in four years that the team has been invited to this prestigious tournament.
- 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. The spring musical production of *Fame* received stellar reviews and was seen by over 1,600 people during its four day run.
- 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!
- 10 St. James Senior Shark Athletes signed national letters of intent to continue their athletic careers as student-athletes at a number of colleges and universities.
- The Boy's Golf Team claimed an unexpected victory at the South Carolina Lower State Championship Tournament in May.
- Sophomore tennis player, Jeffery Dayton once again qualified for the state tournament. His coach, Lee Cannon, was named Region Coach of the Year, leading his team to their first-ever appearance in the state tournament.
- In just their second year of existence, the varsity Competition Cheer squad placed 2nd in the South Carolina Lower State competition and 8th overall at the state level.



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 2012-2013	Goal 2013-2014
1) 95% of Algebra I and Math Tech 2 students will pass state's end-of-course Algebra I test by 2015.	91.1%	95%
2) 90% of students will pass the state's English I end-of-course test by 2015.	82.4%	90%
3) 90% of students will pass the state's Biology end-of-course test by 2015.	89.4%	93%
4) 85% of the students will pass the state's U.S. History end-of-course test by 2015.	81.2%	88%
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.	1036	1040
7) The average ACT score (combined) for high school seniors will be equal to or greater than the national average.	21.7	22.0
8) 75% of second-year high school students will meet the state's proficiency standard in English Language Arts by 2015 .	69%	73%
9) 75% of second-year high school students will meet the state's proficiency standard in Mathematics by 2015	64%	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.	88.0%	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%	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.	84.95%	88%
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 ***Looking toward the Future at SJHS***

What's on the horizon at St. James High School?

As our student population continues to grow and diversify, our school must continuously look for ways to provide the young people who enter our doors everyday with an education that is both relevant to their lives today and that is able to prepare them for an ever-evolving future.

The implementation of the Horry County Schools Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) initiative in the fall of 2014 will provide *every* St. James High School student with access to a fully digital learning experience through their own Dell Venue 11 Pro tablet computer. Teachers and instructional leaders are preparing in earnest to prepare lessons and activities that will fully embrace this new educational reality. Parents, be prepared to hear a great deal about *Google Apps for Education* and *Blended Learning* from your student in the very near future!

Without a doubt, this *is* and *should be* an exciting time for students, parents, and educators. The rollout of PDL and the many changes it entails - individualized learning, real-world assessment, real-time collaboration, paperless classrooms, etc. - will be the most significant educational reform ever at St. James High School. It also represents a significant investment of time and resources into our young peoples' futures. We hope you will join us in embracing this change as we continue to move FORWARD like true Sharks!