



Report to the Community

Laurens District 55 High School

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Academics

Dual credit courses are being offered through the University of South Carolina in Chemistry, English and U. S. History.

Dual credit courses are being offered through Piedmont Technical College in Medical Terminology and Law and Ethics.

Rising seniors and juniors have had the opportunity during IGP meetings to register for over fifteen different dual enrollment course pairings for the 2011-2012 school year.

Free SAT Improvement Courses are being offered to juniors and seniors.

Transition classes at LDHS operate Raiders Joe's, a coffee delivery business for faculty. They also sell slushies to the student body during all four lunches. These students are learning valuable workplace skills.

The LDHS Automotive Department was named by *Tomorrow Technician* Magazine as a Top 20 School of the Year and named to the top ten in the Ford/AAA State competition for the fifth year. In addition, an LDHS Automotive Student took first place in state NATEF Student Skills Competition.

The ACCESS Pre-GED program has seen much student growth in reading and math scores this year. The students earned their GEDs this semester.

Willa Johnson has been named Teacher of the Year at LDHS.

Professional Development

All departments at LDHS meet monthly in professional learning communities (PLCs) where they are examining student work and are positively affecting student achievement.

The LDHS Building Leadership Team meets monthly to review student achievement data and deal with pertinent issues at LDHS.

LDHS successfully completed its five year High Schools that Work Technical Assistance Visit in February.

The LDHS Faculty Book Club Skyped with the author of *Wench*, Dolen Perkins-Valdez, on April 19. Perkins-Valdez talked from Washington, DC, with the group of teachers for about an hour. The faculty members asked questions about Perkins-Valdez's first novel, a fictional account of an Ohio resort to which southern slave owners traveled with their slaves. Perkins-Valdez came across a historical note about the real resort in a biography of W. E. B. Du Bois and began to question the dilemmas that would be associated with such a place. The author discussed her writing process as well as answered questions about the characters, plot, symbols, and themes of her novel.

Athletics

Twenty-three Raider athletes were named to Region I-AAAA All-Region teams.

Mark Freeze was named Region I-AAAA Athletic Director of the Year.

The wrestling team had three All-State wrestlers, three wrestlers to compete in the state finals, and one to be named a North/South All Star. Rob Sheffield was named as a North/South Wrestling Coach.

The Lady Raider Softball Team won the Region I-AAAA Championship for the first time in history. They will advance to the playoffs. Seven Raider Athletes have signed to continue to participate in their respective sports at the collegiate level.

The following teams qualified for post-season play: football, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, baseball and softball.

Clubs and Organizations

Sword & Shield placed in the following categories in the Fall Excellence in Scholastic Newspaper Awards sponsored by the SC Scholastic Press Association: 1st Place Features, 1st Place Columns, 2nd Place Centerspread, and 2nd Place Art. These students' works were judged against entries from other South Carolina high schools with student populations of up to 1550.

The Laurens District 55 Band Program has enjoyed an outstanding year of success. During the 2010-2011 competition season, the Raider Marching Band earned five Superior Ratings, two Best Hornlines, Best Drumline, Best Visual Performance, and First Place in Classes 4 and 5. In addition, The Raider Band was twice named Grand Champions. District 55 was well represented at the South Carolina Band Directors Association's Region 1 Band with 14 students. Two students were named to the South Carolina Band Association's All-State Band. During Concert Season, the LDHS Wind Ensemble received a Superior Rating.

The Navy JROTC Unit Rifle Team was once again named Region Champions for the third year in a row. The Orienteering Team participated in several meets in North Carolina and Georgia. They dominated the competition and won the meet at Richard B. Russell State Park. The Drill Team placed in the top three in every competition this year. Overall, the Navy JROTC Unit was designated "Distinguished Unit" and finished second overall in the end-of-year tabulations for all Navy Units (37) in South Carolina.

The Interact Club sponsored the State Convention for approximately 230 people representing nine different schools and eight different countries. The convention raised \$5,900 for *Gift of Life*.

The LDHS Drama Club has presented a number of one-act plays this school year. They will finish the year with two performances of S.E. Hinton's classic novel, *The Outsiders*, adapted to the stage by Christopher Sergel.

FFA has had a successful year. Members finished 8th in the state for Livestock Judging. Two students are competing in the state proficiency contest in the Equine and Small Animal Divisions. One student has applied for the state FFA Degree and another has been named a finalist for a national FFA scholarship.

Community Service

The LDHS Graphic Design Program has been successful this year designing projects for our school and the Laurens Community including creating logos for the Miss Laurens County Pageant and the Laurens County Special Needs and Disabilities Board.

The LDHS Beta Club has actively served Laurens County this school year. In October, Beta Club ran the children's play area at Squealin' on the Square. For the Thanksgiving Project in November, Beta Club purchased and boxed four Thanksgiving dinners including Bi-Lo gift cards for families in our community. In December, Beta Club shopped at Wal-Mart to buy holiday gifts for a Laurens County family with three children. Beta Club members wrapped the presents.

The LDHS National Honor Society assisted in hosting a "Ghost Out" day to encourage students to remain drug and alcohol free. In November, they gave three Thanksgiving dinners complete with turkeys and bags of canned goods to families from our school. The society adopted children from the Safe Home and provided holiday gifts for them.

LDHS collected over four thousand cans of food for the Laurens Baptist Association's Crisis Center.

Work-Based Learning

LDHS had 147 interns placed this year. LDHS had 39 students to participate in off campus shadowing and 126 students have completed Virtual Shadowing.

Work-Based Learning hosted a Career Expo for ninth grade Academy students giving them an opportunity to check out different careers that are in the sixteen Career Cluster areas.