

### Vision Statement

Laurens District 55 High School will be a school of excellence and equity in educational practices for each learner.

### Mission Statement

The mission of Laurens District 55 High School is to create a community of learners who are responsible and productive citizens.

### Belief Statements

We believe that...

- Children are our most valuable resource.
- Every individual can learn and be successful.
- Every individual can make a valuable contribution to society.
- The total education of our children is the shared responsibility of our students, parents, schools, government, and community.
- The family is the primary influence in the development of an individual.
- A diversified education strengthens individuals and society.
- Every individual deserves to be treated with dignity, fairness and respect.
- Each individual has different needs and deserves equal opportunities for success in learning.
- Excellence is achievable through high expectations and continuous improvement.
- Every individual has the right to learn in a safe, clean and comfortable environment.
- Learning is a life-long process.
- Every individual deserves a relevant and challenging education that prepares him/her for the future.
- All school decisions should be based on data and meet the needs of our learning community.

**All system decisions will be based on data to meet the needs of our students.**

Laurens County School District 55 is committed to the principle of equal opportunity. It is the policy of the district not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, age, national origin, immigrant status, English-speaking status, familial status, or disability with regard to its students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment. Inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies should be made to the director of Pupil Personnel Services, Laurens County School District No. 55, 1029 West Main Street, Laurens, South Carolina 29360, 864-984-3568.

# Laurens District 55 High School

**Sonya M. Bryant, Principal**

## Report to the Community 2013-2014

### Contact Information

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## Academics

During the 2013-2014 school year LDHS students participated in dual enrollment courses with the following institutions: Piedmont Technical College, Presbyterian College and the University of South Carolina at Union.

LDHS partnered with three other schools in the state to apply for a federal grant to redesign high school. Our team was awarded a grant totaling seven million dollars. This grant will broaden dual enrollment possibilities for students.

Jonathan Schwalbe was named Teacher of the Year for Laurens District 55 High School.

Project Lead the Way assisted the engineers from Michelin Laurens Proving Grounds in conducting the Michelin STEM Challenge. Nine students participated in the PLTW High School Engineering Competition at USC College of Engineering and Computing.

LDHS Robotics Team won the Orlando Regional Pit Safety Award. The team won the Orlando Regional Underwriter's Laboratories Industrial Safety Award and the Orlando Regional Gracious Professionalism Award. The team's safety captain earned an Orlando Regional Gold Safety Star.

LDHS is using CareerReady 101 to prepare students for WorkKeys.

Students participated in Virtual Job Shadowing on [virtualjobshadow.com](http://virtualjobshadow.com).

Nineteen students participated in job shadowing in February.

Forty-two students visited technical schools and colleges.

One hundred students participated in a National Tobacco Survey.

LDHS had regional and state winners for the PEBA Poster and Poetry Contest.

Students participated in the following:

FAFSA Day  
Op-Ed Day  
College Application Day  
ASVAB and free ACT for juniors

A Digital Art and Design student and the classroom teacher were the state winners in the National Career Development Association Poster Contest in their respective categories.

*Sword & Shield* student newspaper received the following awards from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association:

Excellence in Scholastic Newspaper Awards monthly competition: 1st place -- Computer Graphics ; 1st place - Editorials; 2nd place -- Advertising

Excellence in Scholastic Newspaper Awards yearly competition: 1st place -- Advertising; 2nd place -- Editorials; 2nd place -- Computer Graphics; 3rd place -- Sports

Excellence in Scholastic Newspaper Awards Sweepstakes: 3rd place

SCSPA Newspaper Evaluation: Superior

Agriculture student/team recognitions are as follows:

Two students were awarded \$250 each for winning state in their proficiency areas.

Two students earned their State FFA Degree and were recognized at the State FFA Convention.

One student was chosen to serve on the State Nominating Committee for Appointing of State FFA Officers.

One student and the classroom teacher were awarded scholarships to attend the Sustainable Agriculture Workshop.

One student was awarded a \$500.00 State Fair Scholarship.

FFA Horse Judging finished 3rd in the state as a team and one student finished second individually.

FFA Dairy Judging finished 4th in the state.

FFA Livestock Judging finished 5th in the state.

FFA Wildlife team finished in the top half of the teams attending.

FFA Tractor Driving also finished in the top half of the teams attending.

## Professional Development

LDHS faculty participated in a summer retreat July 19-20, 2013, where they formed focus teams. All certified faculty members meet monthly with their respective focus teams.

All departments at LDHS meet monthly in professional learning communities to work in preparation for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

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

Math and ELA instructional coaches work closely with classroom teachers in individual and group settings.

Teachers receive ESOL and technology professional development during monthly faculty meetings.

## Athletics

The following teams qualified for post-season play: football, girls tennis, boys basketball and wrestling. Eleven Raiders were awarded all region: football, volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, girls tennis, and wrestling.

One Raider played in an all-star football game. One Raider wrestled in an all-star tournament. One Raider wrestled in the state championship tournament.

## NJROTC

NJROTC had a fantastic 2013-2014 school year filled with many firsts for the battalion of cadets. First semester started with the battalion conducting their annual military inspection (AMI). This year's inspection was completed by the Area Manager. He stated in his report "Only the most organized and well-run programs with highly motivated and focused cadets have the ability to

prepare for an inspection of this magnitude in just a few weeks and look sharper than most other units will in March." It was a very successful inspection that kick started one of the most successful years in LDHS NJROTC history.

The schedule of events included a number of competitions in drill, athletics, rifle, orienteering and academics. The battalion competed in three drill/rifle/field meets in the fall and took first place overall in two of the three meets. This accomplishment led to the drill/athletic teams being invited to the Area Six Championships (North and South Carolina Combined State Championship) for the first time in unit history. The unit looked outstanding at the championships and earned 4th in the personnel inspection and became the Area 6 Champions (1st place) in Color Guard.

The rifle team continued its dominance in the upstate winning three of four rifle meets including the upstate regional championship earning their way back to the Area 6 Championships for the fifth straight year. At the Area 6 Championships they hit the target and earned 3rd place missing the opportunity to go to the National Championship.

The big surprises this year were the orienteering and academic teams. The battalion's orienteering team participated in three events this year. After a warm up meet in the fall the team went to the Area 6 Championships and took 3rd in the National Orienteering Championships. Three of the cadets earned medals for being in the top ten in the nation. One cadet was 3rd.

The Academic Team started the year off by winning two of three academic competitions. They competed in the National Academic Exam (NAE) and placed in the top 15 percent in the Nation. This is the highest that the unit has ever placed in the NAE! Additionally, the unit went to the Area 6 Championships and made it to the final round and took 4th place overall, a huge accomplishment for a unit that has not been competitive in the area of academics in the past.

Not only have the teams been competitive area wide and nationally, but individual cadets have been very successful. For the first time in the unit's history a cadet earned the Joseph C. Gilliam award as the NJROTC top cadet in the nation. One cadet was awarded the Sons of the American Revolution South Carolina Cadet of the Year. Another cadet was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution NJROTC Cadet of the Year.

## Fine Arts

LDHS Raider Marching Band finished in 9th place at the SCBDA 4A Marching Band State Championship.

Raider Indoor Drumline won the SCBDA Scholastic AA State Championship in their inaugural season.

Eight band students participated in the Coastal Carolina University Band and Scholarship Festival.

Ten students participated in Region 1 Honor Band.

Raider Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band both received excellent ratings in class 5 and in class 4 respectively at the SCBDA State Concert Festival.

Raider band performed at a memorial concert at Pearl Harbor on March 30.

Three chorus members auditioned and were selected to participate in the South Carolina All-State Choral Clinic. The state of South Carolina chooses about 700 singers in the state to perform a concert. This is the first time any student has participated in All-State from Laurens District 55 High School since 1994.

## Community Service

The Digital Art and Design program provided several designs for community and school organizations this year.

Building Construction partnered with Habitat for Humanity, building a house for the organization.

The Interact Club volunteered at the soup kitchen to prepare Thanksgiving meals. Students arrived Wednesday at 6 pm and worked until 11 pm. They returned at 8 am the next morning and worked until 2 pm.

The Robotics Team conducted two "Hot Rod" STEM workshops with local child care facilities—New Prospect Child Development Center and Laurens YMCA Summer Camp. The team hosted Teaching the Teachers Day with the Laurens District 55 STEM Summer Institute in an effort to inform participants about the FIRST programs offered in Laurens County School District 55. They also helped with the United Way School Supplies Drive at Wal-Mart. Robotics Team collected toys for the Laurens County Sheriff's Office Christmas for Kids Program.

LDHS is receiving an award from March Of Dimes for the most

monies raised by a school in Laurens County. Health science students and student council raised \$650.00.

Student Council sponsored a canned food drive collecting 4700 canned goods for the Laurens Crisis Center. A junior student council member was named to the Terry McCoy Leadership Hall of Fame. A sophomore student council member was elected to serve as the SCASC District 6 Chair for 2014-2015. Student Council earned the Gold Council Award at the annual state convention. They also collected over \$1000 to help families in Laurens County celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. Members participate in the monthly Adopt-a-Highway Program. Student Council sponsored a Fill the Canister Campaign for Relay for Life.

National Honor Society and Student Council hosted the second annual "Reading on the River" and gave away book bags full of school supplies and books. National Honor Society students volunteered at Agape Retirement Center. They also adopted four LDHS families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Laurens District 55 High School National Beta Club inducted ninety-eight new members in December. This year a total of eighteen members attended the South Carolina Beta Club Convention at Myrtle Beach. Areas of competition for LDHS this year included: Scrapbook, Banner, and Academics including Math and Spanish. LDHS Beta Club was awarded a third place finish in Banner. Members this year have completed over 2500 hours of community service including their participation in Operation Christmas Child for the second year.

NJROTC cadets participated in the following community events and service projects: Veteran's Affairs sponsored Hall of Heroes; Veteran's Day events across Laurens County; Adopt-A-Highway and revitalization projects within the city.

Two students in the LDHS Fishing Club won the TBF / FLW State Championship on Lake Russell on March 8 giving them a chance to compete in the Regionals in September in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for scholarship opportunities.

Agriculture students participated in Baby Animal Day with over 600 4 and 5 year old kindergartners in attendance.