

Fine Arts

One student successfully auditioned for and participated in Region Orchestra.

LDHS Choir Club performed for Black History Month in February at LDHS. The choir has also performed at a number of area churches.

LDHS Raider Marching Band received five superior ratings, had multiple caption winners, and were Grand Champions of Loris Band Day. Twelve students placed in South Carolina Band Director's Association (SCBDA) All-Region Band.

LDHS Wind Ensemble received a superior rating at SCBDA State Concert Festival.

LDHS WinterGuard performed at CIPA Championships in April.

Six band students will receive music scholarships from area colleges.

Community Service

The Blood Connection comes to LDHS in the fall and spring each year. The community is welcomed to participate. This spring's blood drive served 133 donors and finished with 108 total units!

The Laurens District 55 High School National Beta Club donated 151 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to



Samaritan's Purse as one of its service projects for the 2012-2013 school year. The LDHS Beta Club led a school-wide collection for the Leukemia and Lymphoma

Society's Pennies for Patients annual event, raising \$1051 for the charity.

Community Service continued ...

This year Beta Club also participated in the National Beta Club's State Convention held in Myrtle Beach. Eighteen students traveled and competed in the State Convention in academic areas such as math, science, English, history, creative writing and Spanish, as well as group talent, banner, scrapbook and officer candidacy. A sophomore placed as 1st runner up in the Spanish division and secured a national bid to Mobile, Alabama, this summer. So far this year Beta Club members have completed more than 2000 hours of community service in Laurens County.

The Laurens District 55 High School National Honor Society hosted "Reading Extravaganza" in August and gave away 168 book bags full of school supplies. They also gave away hundreds of books to children across the school district. National Honor Society sponsored Thanksgiving dinner for four LDHS families. The society, along with Student Council, purchased and wrapped Christmas gifts for five LDHS families. In February they hosted a Red-Out event to support the American Heart Association.

Freshman Focus classes have adopted the Laurens Memorial Home. Students have taken Halloween treats, Christmas stockings, and Valentine surprises to residents.

The Raider Spirit Store opened in October. It was constructed by the Building Construction classes at LDHS and sells Raider attire and supplies.

Raider Squad and Student Council helped conduct the Career Expo for all district 8th graders.

Raider Squad and Student Council assisted with Special Olympics at Presbyterian College.

The Graphic Design Department has promoted numerous performances and events at Laurens District 55 High School and throughout the community with poster, T-shirt and logo designs.

LDHS Student Council collected more than 1,000 canned goods for the Laurens Crisis Center and raised more than \$1000 for local Laurens families for Christmas during the annual Civil War Week.



Laurens District 55 High School

**Report
to the
Community**

2012-2013

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Academics

In the 2012-2013 school year, dual enrollment courses are being offered through the University of South Carolina in chemistry, English and U.S. History.

Rising seniors and juniors have had the opportunity during Individual Graduation Plan conferences to register for twenty-five dual enrollment courses through the University of South Carolina-Union and Piedmont Technical College for the 2013-2014 school year.



Miss South Carolina, LDHS Alumna Ali Rogers, spoke at the Academic Letter Ceremony. During the March 4 ceremony, 428 students were awarded academic letters.

Occupational Credential students have been writing personal histories with future goals and plans in preparation for writing cover letters and resumes.

Free SAT prep classes have been offered to all juniors and seniors.

Rob Sheffield was named Teacher of the Year for Laurens District High School and Laurens County School District 55.

Sword & Shield, the LDHS student newspaper, submitted entries in ten categories of the SC Scholastic Press Association's Excellence in Scholastic Newspaper Awards (ESNA) competition in November. These scores, combined with any wins in the March ESNA competition, will put the newspaper in the running for the yearly ESNA awards and in the position to place or win in the ESNA sweepstakes competition. *Sword & Shield* placed in 6 categories.

Academics continued . . .

Also, *Sword & Shield* has been submitting student news online, both on its website www.myhsj.org/swordandshield and on www.LDHSsports.com.

Rexroth Bosch sponsored a new F.I.R.S.T Robotics Team 4451 "Robotz Garage." They have earned the following awards: Industrial Safety, Rookie Top Seed, and Rookie All-Star at both regional competitions they attended. The team will compete in the World Championships April 24-27.

LDHS Student Council received the AAAA School Pride Award for the welcome back to school teacher breakfast.

Student Council received 3rd place for AAAA Outstanding Council of the Year, based on a scrapbook of Council events submitted at the state conference.

Student Council also earned the Gold Council Award for their efforts and accomplishments this year.

A senior Student Council member received the Terry McCoy Leadership Hall of Fame Award.

Professional Development

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.

The entire LDHS faculty completed intensive training on Cultural Responsiveness in the Classroom.

LDHS faculty members were trained on the use of My Big Campus.

Digital Art and Design teacher Brad Bryant received a \$2,000 ING Unsung Hero grant. Only 100 of these grants were awarded nationwide.

Athletics

The following teams qualified for post-season play: football, girls tennis, boys basketball and wrestling. Eight Raiders qualified for the all-region football team.

Two Raiders qualified for the all-region girls tennis team.

One Raider qualified for the all-region wrestling team.

Two Raiders qualified for the all-region boys basketball team.

One Raider qualified for the all-region girls basketball team.

Two Raider wrestlers competed in the state championship.

NJROTC

This year saw the beginning of a new era for Laurens NJROTC, as CDR John Lancaster, who served faithfully for 17 years at the helm of the unit, retired.

The unit started the year with its annual off-site inspection at which the unit continued to show their aptitude as one of the best units in the State of South Carolina.

The unit also played a significant role in the Hall of Heroes Ceremony held at Laurens District 55 High School.

A junior cadet won this year's Sons of the American Revolution, South Carolina NJROTC Cadet of the Year Award. This award comes with a medal and a \$500 cash award.

The unit will conduct its first sea cruise in more than five years in Mayport, Florida (17-20 April). This will be a once-in-a-life-time experience for most of the cadets.