

# Pelion High School

600 Lydia Drive  
Pelion, South Carolina 29123

## 2024-2025

## SIC Annual Report to Parents



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At Pelion High School, we are committed to fulfilling the vision and mission of Lexington School District One: “Empower each child to design the future and cultivate a caring community where ALL learners are extraordinary communicators, collaborators, creators and critical thinkers.”

### The Vision of Pelion High School

Pelion High School students will graduate on time and display the competencies of the Lexington One Graduate Profile.

### The Mission of Pelion High School

Pelion High School, in partnership with our community stakeholders, will guide, challenge and support our students in developing the knowledge and skills they need to excel in college, career or military endeavors.

## **School Improvement Council Members**

Sean Bishton, Principal, Tracy Gooding (Assistant Principal), Kimberly Oxendine (Assistant Principal), Robert Arcovio (Chairperson), Tabitha Causey (Parent), Melissa Craft (Faculty Member), Jan Creech (Staff Member), Lisa Kendall (Staff Member), Jessica Shumpert (Staff Member), Dona Smith (Staff Member), Officer Eddie Stone (School SRO), Justin Tipton (Faculty Member), Christian Wilson (Parent), Jesse Zeaser (Community Member), Rachel Connelly (Student), Keri Goff (Student), Emma Jackson (Student), Nevaeh Orr (Student), Summer Randolph (Student) and A'siah Sweatman (Student).



## **Daily Expectations**

- \*Be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.
- \*Do your personal best.
- \*Give respect in order to get respect.
- \*Serve your school and your community.

*Make it a great day or not; the choice is yours!*

## **Pelion High School Goals**

**Students On-Track: Increase the percentage of students on track to graduate.**

At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, our percentage of students on track to graduate was 72%. At the middle of the 2024-2025 school year, our percentage of students on track to graduate is 74.5%. During the 2023-2024 school year, Pelion High School had three students, in the Senior Class, who were Palmetto Fellows. At the middle of the 2024-2025 school year, Pelion High School has six students, in the Senior Class, who are Palmetto Fellows. To qualify for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, a student must earn at least 1200 on the SAT (25 on the ACT), earn a cumulative 3.5 GPA at the end of their junior year and rank in the top 6% of their class at the end of their sophomore or junior year.

**Student Achievement:** Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed standards (earning a 'C' or higher) on the English 2 EOCEP, on the Algebra 1 EOCEP, on the Biology 1 EOCEP and on the US History and Constitution EOCEP.

At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Pelion High School had 44% of the students earning a 'C' or higher on their English 2 EOCEP as compared to 41.1% mid-year of the 2024-2025 school year. At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Pelion High School had 13% of the students earning a 'C' or higher on their Algebra 1 EOCEP as compared to 26.7% mid-year of the 2024-2025 school year. At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Pelion High School had 14% of students earning a 'C' or higher on their Biology 1 EOCEP, as compared to 52% mid-year of the 2024-2025 school year. At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Pelion High School had 23% of the students earning a 'C' or higher on their US History and Constitution EOCEP, as compared to 29.9% mid-year of the 2024-2025 school year.

**Student Experience:** Increase student perceptions of teaching and learning as evidenced by a climate pulse check from the middle of the 2024 to the middle of the 2025 school year.

At the middle of the 2024-2025 school year, students completed a pulse-check survey which asked about the Social and Physical environment of the school, the Learning Environment of the school, and their level of Safety at and on the school property. When students were asked if students at our school behave well in class, 61.3% of them somewhat agreed, mostly agreed, or strongly agreed. When asked if students at our school behave well in the hallways, in the cafeteria, and on school property, 69.3% of them somewhat agreed, mostly agreed, or strongly agreed. When asked about the learning environment, 76.4% of the students somewhat agreed, mostly agreed, or strongly agreed that their classes are challenging. When asked about their teachers' perspective of the learning environment, 81.5% of the students somewhat agreed, mostly agreed, or strongly agreed their teachers want students to understand the learning; not just remember facts. Also, 81.5% of the students agreed that their teachers help them when they don't understand something. In terms of safety, 84.9% of the students somewhat agreed, mostly agreed, or strongly agreed they felt safe at our school before and after hours. When asked if they feel safe at school during the school day, 81.5% of them agreed. When asked if they felt safe going to or coming from our school, 87.6% of the students somewhat agreed, mostly agreed, or strongly agreed.

**Certified Staff Experience:** Increase certified staff perceptions of teaching and learning as evidenced by a climate pulse check from the middle of the 2024 to the middle of the 2025 school year.

Certified staff also completed a pulse check at the middle of the 2024-2025 school year. The questions were in regards to the Instructional Focus, Working Conditions, and Safety at Pelion High School. When asked if the school provides challenging instructional programs for students, 87.5% of the faculty

mostly or strongly agreed. Teachers focusing their instruction on student understanding; not just memorizing facts was 82.5% of mostly or strongly agreeing. Eighty percent of the teachers mostly or strongly agreed that they use student assessment information effectively to set goals and plan instruction. Seventy-five percent of teachers mostly or strongly agreed that they used effective instructional strategies to meet the needs of low-achieving students. When asked about using instructional strategies to meet the needs of academically-gifted students, 80% of the teachers mostly or strongly agreed with the statement. For the working conditions at Pelion High School, 55% of the teachers said students behave well in class and 45% mostly or strongly agreed that students at our school behave well in the hallways, the cafeteria and on school grounds. Of the teachers who took this survey, 87.5% mostly or strongly agreed that the school administration provides effective instructional leadership. On the topic of safety, 92.5% of the teachers agreed they feel safe before and after school hours, as well as during the school day.

### In Summary

Students at Pelion High School have many opportunities for academic support. In the 2023-2024 school year, Biology 1 and Algebra 1 teachers organized and led an Academic Blitz for their content in preparation for the EOCEP in those respective courses. This year, teachers of Algebra I, Biology I, English 2, and US History and Constitution are having an Academic Blitz for their respective EOCEP preparation.

Morning tutoring is available for all math content and afternoon tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays is available for all content areas. These tutoring opportunities are free to students, however, they must sign up in advance to participate. Another opportunity for academic success is through our Advisory time on Tuesdays and Thursdays in what we call 'Zap the Zeros'. Two days a week, during Advisory, students are given 35 minutes on those days to work on missing assignments, receive additional help, finish a test, or retake a test.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Pelion High School had one graduation coach who served the entire student population. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, we were fortunate enough to have two graduation coaches. One graduation coach serves the 9th and 11th graders, along with that grade level school counselor and another graduation coach serves the 10th and 12th graders, along with that grade level school counselor. These graduation coaches are able to monitor students' progress toward earning their required high school credits and are a valuable part of the students' future success. In addition to the many responsibilities and services our school counselors provide, they, too, work with the students to plan their pathway of courses as they look toward their high school graduation. Another important person on Pelion High School Campus is our career specialist. The roles of the career specialist include, but are not limited to, helping students with becoming CCR (College and Career Ready), preparing for the ASVAB/Career Readiness Assessment, preparing for the driver's education test, coordinating career fairs, helping students find internships, helping students complete internship applications, helping students to prepare a resume, helping students complete college applications and helping students research financial aid opportunities.

Pelion High School offers grade level, honors, AP (Advanced Placement), DE (Dual Enrollment)

courses, in addition to CTE Certifications and JROTC training and experience. There has been an increase in the number of students taking DE (Dual Enrollment) courses since last year. In the 2023-2024 school year, there were 34 students enrolled in courses within the Agriculture, English, History and Math Department. This year, the number of students enrolled in DE courses has increased to 42 students. Pelion High School has also seen an increase in the number of internships since last year. In the 2023-2024 school year, 28 students participated in an internship either on campus or at a community business. This year, the number of students participating in an internship has increased to 63. Pelion High School also experienced an increase in the percentage of students being CCR (College and Career Ready) from 53% in 2024 to 66.4% at midpoint in 2025.

Pelion High School offers many opportunities for students to be involved. Students can participate or support the various athletic programs, participate in clubs once a month, apply for AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), join FFA (Future Farmers of America), join the LINK Crew, sign up for Broadcasting or Yearbook, serve on the Student Council, participate in various Fine Art Programs, participate in service learning opportunities plus so much more.

## **2024- 2025 Accolades & Highlights**

### **Academics & Leadership**

- \*Six PHS students qualified for Palmetto Fellows (nearly \$180,000 in scholarship money).
- \*One PHS student won the 'Living Our Values' Award at the LRADAC Leadership Summit (LOCC Club).
- \*One PHS student was recognized as a 'Delegate to the June 2024 Congress of Future Medical Leaders'. This same student was awarded the 'Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence (June 2024).
- \*Two PHS seniors have been accepted in the Michelin Scholars Program.
- \*Six PHS seniors have committed to military enlistment following graduation.
- \*Seventeen PHS students were inducted into the Pelion Chapter of the National Honor Society (April 2025).
- \*Over fifty PHS seniors have been accepted into either a 2 or 4 year college.

### **Agriculture**

- \*Five PHS agriculture students participated in the Tractor Driving CDE.
- \*One PHS agriculture student won the Miss FFA Pageant.
- \*Eleven PHS agriculture students visited & read books to Forts Pond and Pelion Elementary School students.
- \*Eight PHS agriculture students prepared and served breakfast to teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- \*Eleven PHS agriculture students participated in Farm Day at Forts Pond Elementary School.
- \*All PHS agriculture students participated in picking & selling peanuts for the Pelion Peanut Party.
- \*All PHS agriculture students participated in growing & selling poinsettias to the Pelion Community.
- \*All PHS agriculture students participated in the Angel Tree Donation Drive.
- \*Seven PHS agriculture students participated in the Pelion Community Trunk or Treat Event.
- \*Eight PHS agriculture students participated in the Legislators Appreciation Day Event at the SC State House.

- \*Two PHS agriculture students attended the National FFA Conference.
- \*One PHS agriculture student was awarded a SC State Fair Scholarship.
- \*Two PHS agriculture students have received early acceptance to Clemson University: College of Agriculture.
- \*The PHS Agriculture Department received the National 3 Star FFA Chapter Award.

## Archery

- \*PHS archers won 2nd Place overall in the HS IBO/3D at the Gator Shootout (November 2024).
- \*PHS archers won 3rd Place overall in the HS Bullseye at the Gator Shootout (November 2024).
- \*One PHS archer won 4th Place in the HS Girls IBO/3D at the Gator Shootout (November 2024).
- \*One PHS archer won 3rd Place in the HS Boys IBO/3D at the Gator Shootout (November 2024).
- \*One PHS archer won 2nd Place in the HS Boys IBO/3D at the Gator Shootout (November 2024).
- \*PHS archers won 1st Place in IBO/3D at the Gray Collegiate State Qualifier (January 2025).
- \*PHS archers won 2nd Place in Bullseye at the Gray Collegiate State Qualifier (January 2025).
- \*One PHS archer won 1st Place in IBO/3D for HS Boys at the Gray Collegiate State Qualifier (January 2025).
- \*One PHS archer won 3rd Place in Bullseye for HS Boys at the Gray Collegiate State Qualifier (January 2025).
- \*PHS archers won 2nd Place in Bullseye at RBHS (February 2025).
- \*PHS archers won 3rd Place in IBO/3D at RBHS (February 2025).
- \*PHS archers won 3rd, 4th and 5th Place in Bullseye at RBHS (February 2025).
- \*PHS archers won 4th and 5th Place in the HS Boys IBO/3D at RBHS (February 2025).
- \*PHS archers placed 1st in Bullseye and 2nd in IBO/3D at the State Qualifier (February 2025).
- \*One PHS archer placed 2nd in IBO/3D for HS Girls at the State Qualifier (February 2025).
- \*One PHS archer placed 2nd in Bullseye for HS Boys at the State Qualifier (February 2025).
- \*One PHS archer placed 3rd in IBO/3D and 1st in Bullseye for HS Boys at the State Qualifier (February 2025).
- \*PHS archers placed 5th in the State for IBO and 6th in the State in Bullseye (February 2025).
- \*One PHS archer won 3rd place in Bullseye for HS Girls in South Carolina (February 2025).
- \*PHS archers placed 2nd at the Southern Draw IBO/3D Challenge (February 2025).
- \*PHS archers placed 2nd at the Battle of the Bows Bullseye (February 2025).
- \*One PHS archer placed 2nd in HS Girls at the Greenville Fun Shootout (February 2025).
- \*One PHS archer placed 3rd in HS Girls at the Greenville Fun Shootout (February 2025).
- \*The PHS Archery Team placed 1st in Bullseye at the tournament hosted at East Point Academy (March 2025).

## Athletics

- \*Two PHS students are collegiate signees.
- \*PHS had two sports- teams to be region champions.
- \*The PHS Cheer program has been rebuilt with great participation.
- \*PHS had forty-six students to be 'All Region' players in their sport.
- \*One PHS faculty member was named 'Region Coach of the Year'.
- \*PHS had two students to be 'All State' players in their sport.

## **Band**

- \*Two band students participated in the USC Band Clinic (February 2025).
- \*One band student played in the 2025 SCBDA All-State Honor Band.
- \*Five band students played in the 2025 SCBDA Region Two Honor Band (February 2025).
- \*Band students will participate in the SCBDA All-State Band Clinic (mid-March 2025) at Clemson University.
- \*The Pelion Panther Marching Band performed in the 2A State Championship (October 2024).
- \*The Pelion High School Winterguard had their first performance at the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association competition (hosted at Dorman HS) since 2020.
- \*The PHS '4:00 O'Clock' Big Band earned an overall 'Excellent' rating at the SCBDA Jazz Performance Assessment (March 2025).
- \*One student in the PHS '4:00 O'Clock' Big Band was recognized as the 'Most Outstanding Soloist' at the SCBDA Jazz Performance Assessment (March 2025).
- \*The Panther Marching Pride performed at the Chesnee Eagle Classic winning 2nd Place in Class 2 and also was awarded the 'Best Pit Crew' Award.
- \*Several of the PHS Band members performed at the Celebration of Excellence at WKHS (March 2025).
- \*The PHS Band received an 'Excellent' rating on the state concert performance assessment (March 2025).

## **Basketball**

- \*One PHS student was named 'Girls Basketball All-Region'.
- \*Our PHS Basketball Team had a 15-win season (2024-2025).

## **Career & Internships**

- \*PHS sponsored a Career Day in March 2025 for students in all grade levels to learn more about community businesses & future career interests.
- \*PHS offers more than 25 areas of internship opportunities for students to earn an honors credit and have the opportunity to become a 'completer' in that area with more than 240 hours in one semester.

## **Choir**

- \*PHS hosted the USC Concert Choir for a Recruitment Performance and Information Session (Post-Graduation Music Opportunities).
- \*Eleven PHS students were selected to the SCMEA Midlands Region Choir at Newberry College.
- \*Five PHS students auditioned for and were selected to the Lexington One District Honor Choir.
- \*Two PHS Honor Choir students rehearsed with some of the most talented singers from across the state under the direction of nationally renowned clinicians, Dr. Julie Yu of Oklahoma City University and Dr. Jefferson from the University of Kentucky during the SC Choral Directors Association Honor Choir Clinic at Francis Marion University.
- \*One PHS student auditioned and was selected to the SCMEA All-State Honor Choir (Winthrop University).

These students rehearsed and performed under the direction of Dr. Alison Mann.  
The two PHS Graduates (Class of '22 and '24) are currently pursuing Music Education Degrees from Winthrop University.

\*The PHS Concert Choir earned an Excellent rating at their State Assessment (March 2025).

## **Cross Country and Track**

\*One PHS student was named 'All State Cross Country' and 'Podium-Finisher' (3rd Place).

\*One PHS student was named 'State Champion in 2-AA Boys High Jump' and 'All State Selection'.

\*One PHS student was named 'State 2-AA High Jump Runner-Up'.

\*Our PHS Cross Country Team won a 5-Way Meet defeating Gilbert High School, Gray Academy, Ridge Spring-Monetta and PAC.

\*Our Mighty Panther Track Teams opened up the 2025 season with a successful result for the boys and girls teams. In the 4-way meet the Lady Panthers defeated Airport with 112.5 points to their 70.5 points, Orangeburg Prep with 46 points and Brookland Cayce with 29 points.

\*There were overall winners from PHS track in the 800 meters, one student won in the 1 and 2 mile runs, five students in the pole vault and the 4 X 800 relay team.

\*The boys track also excelled in the opening season with 124 points to Airports' 61 points and Brookland Cayce with 54 points. There were winners in the 400, the 400 hurdles, the pole vault, the 1 and 2 mile runs and the relay teams.

\*One PHS student won both the 100 and 200 meter dashes as well as setting a new school record in the 100 meters running 10.95, broke the record that stood for the past 13 years.

## **Culinary Arts**

\*The PHS Culinary department prepared and served refreshments for the 'Hall of Fame' reception.

\*The Pelion Culinary Team and Management Team placed 5th at the SC ProStart Invitational.

\*The Pelion Culinary department prepared food for an event at the State House (April 2025).

## **DECA**

\*One PHS student placed in the top seven in 'Startup Business Plan' at the DECA State Leadership Conference, in Charleston, SC (February 2025).

\*Two PHS students placed in the top twenty in 'Marketing Management Team Decision Making' at the DECA State Leadership Conference, in Charleston, SC (February 2025).

\*Two PHS students placed in the top ten in 'Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making' at the DECA State Leadership Conference, in Charleston, SC (February 2025).

\*Two PHS students placed in the top ten in 'Integrated Marketing Campaign- Product' at the DECA State Leadership Conference, in Charleston, SC (February 2025).

\*Two PHS students received 'Gold' in the 'Program of Work' event at the DECA State Leadership Conference,



in Charleston, SC (February 2025).

\*PHS DECA students received the 'Bronze Level' for their 'Chapter Campaign Award' at the DECA State Leadership Conference, in Charleston, SC (February 2025).

## **HOSA**

\*Eight PHS students participated in the 2025 SC HOSA State Leadership Conference (March 2025); five students placed in the top 5; three placed in the top 3 (eligible to attend the HOSA International Leadership Conference hosted in Nashville, TN).

\*One PHS student placed 1st in Pharmacy Science.

\*One PHS student placed 3rd in Sports Medicine.

\*One PHS student placed 3rd in Clinical Speciality

\*One PHS student placed in the top 5 in Clinical Speciality.

\*One PHS student placed in the top 5 in Health Career Photography.

## **Orchestra**

\*One PHS student auditioned and made it into the SCMEA Region 3 Orchestra.

\*One PHS student auditioned and was named 'Alternate' into the SCMEA Region 3 Orchestra.

\*Ten PHS students auditioned and were accepted into the Lexington District One Honors Orchestra.

\*The PHS Orchestra held a Fall Concert- Hallowstrings (October 2024).

\*The PHS Orchestra held a joint concert with the Effingham Community Orchestra (December 2024).

\*The PHS Orchestra performed a Winter Showcase (December 2024)- Orchestra, Band, Chorus & Visual Arts.

\*The PHS Orchestra held its Pre-Concert Performance Evaluation Concert (March 2025) at PHS.

\*The PHS Orchestra earned an overall 'Excellent' rating at the State Assessment and one 'Superior' rating (March 2025).

## **Service Learning & Community Connections**

\*PHS students participated in a multitude of service learning activities this year: HOSA Community Food Drive, BETA Club Pet Supply Drive, HOSA Blood Drive, DECA Pop Tab Collection, Angel Tree, Pelion Peanut Party, Pelion Area Showcase, Sole Stepping, Special Olympics Rally, the Polar Plunge, PAWs Cafe, the School Store, etc.

\*PHS has several school-based enterprises: PAWS Cafe (coffee shop), School Store, and AGR/FFA (peanuts, poinsettias & other flowers).

\*PHS students had the opportunity to participate in structured field studies to places such as: Lexington Technology Center, Newberry College, Greenwood Genetics Lab, Lander University, USC Columbia, Riverbanks Zoo, WP Rawl, Edisto Beach Marine Science, USC Aiken STEM Friday, Midlands Tech Tour, AAC Ammunition Factory, construction site tours, equipment operations safety tours, Columbia College tour, USC Aiken tour, Winthrop LIFE tour, Be Pro Be Proud Experience and the SC Forestry Commission.

## **Special Olympics and Unified Partners**

- \*The PHS Special Olympics and Unified Panthers raised \$750 this year for the 2025 Polar Plunge and more than doubled the number of participants to 42 people.
- \*The Unified Panthers placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the SC Special Olympics Fall Games (2024).
- \*The Unified Panthers have been invited as 'honored guests' to the PDGA World Championship (Fall 2025).
- \*The Miss Sleighbell Pageant raised over \$1600 to support the Unified Panthers at PHS.
- \*The Unified Panthers received a \$3000 Diversity & Outreach grant from the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) to implement unified disc golf at PHS.

## **Volleyball**

- \*Two PHS students were named 'Volleyball All-Region'.

## **Wrestling**

- \*PHS began a women's wrestling program (2024-2025).
- \*A PHS wrestler also podiumed, placing 3rd in the 165 Weight Class (February 2025).
- \*PHS began a women's wrestling program (2024-2025).
- \*A PHS wrestler won the State Championship in the 113 Weight Class (February 2025).

## **Pelion High School**

## **One Team-One Family-One Community**