

Pendleton High School

Annual Report to Parents

2025-2026

The leadership team of Pendleton High School is excited to review the highlights of the continued progress it has made this school year, thanks to the significant contributions of all of its community stakeholders, including faculty, staff, campus and district leadership, students, and parents. As a school community, we continue to lean on these stakeholders to identify areas of growth, generate solutions, and establish consensus on our path forward.

College and Career Readiness

Pendleton High School continues to emphasize post-secondary readiness by recruiting students for programs at AIT, Tri-County Technical College, as well as for CTE programs on our home campus. We continue to offer an impressive number and variety of Advanced Placement courses, with students enrolled in 12 such courses this school year. PHS launched its second new CTE pathway in as many years, Digital Media Marketing. PHS students earned industry certifications, completed work-based learning/internships, and earned CTE completer status both at PHS and through the Anderson Institute of Technology. As a result of this, we had 87% of our students gain college or career readiness status this past year. Similarly, we are graduating students at a historic rate. Last year we set a school record with a 93% graduation rate; we project to again pass 90% this year.

Instruction and Staff Development

This year Pendleton High School continued its instructional emphasis on content specific literacy and high level academic discourse. The past two years we provided intensive professional development to our social studies and sciences departments on the different ways students should approach historical and scientific literature in order to understand and analyze those texts through the unique lenses of those content areas. Additionally, we continued our job-embedded, cohort-based professional development program, during which teachers are trained in strategies that teach students how to have engaged, college-level academic conversations which utilize both content-specific verbiage and textual evidence. Teachers were given the opportunity to immediately apply these newly-learned strategies in their classrooms, and be observed by their peers while doing so.

Student Achievement

Our students continue to amass distinctions in academics, CTSO's (career and technical student organizations), fine arts, athletics, and ROTC. The Pride of Pendleton won its seventh consecutive state championship in marching band. The band program also again won the prestigious South Carolina Band Directors Association Outstanding Performance Award, while

our Pendleton Rhythm Company finished third in the world at the WGI World Championships. Our Pendleton High School Singers received an Outstanding Performance Award, and our choral department also earned a superior rating through SCMEA. We also had three students qualify for all-state chorus. Our art program had students earn art show recognitions and honors at the county and state levels. Our new education pathway program won state championships through the Educators Rising program, and qualified for nationals, while our ROTC drone team ranked as high as #9 in the world, while the ROTC program as a whole received a Distinguished Award with Merit from the Air Force. Athletically, we continue to excel, with our athletic teams producing 48 All-Region athletes and 10 All-State athletes.

Pendleton High School continues to maintain an impressive amount of focus and momentum in all areas as we move into our new, state-of-the art campus this summer. It is our belief and hope that the new building will provide yet another opportunity for Pendleton High School to prepare all of its students for their next step, regardless of what that next step is.