

2011 Spotlight on Excellence



EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS

- SHS students outscored the State and National ACT averages with an average composite score of 21.4. Multiple Senior SAT scores exceeded the national average; SHS received the Cum Laude Award for SAT & ACT Excellent Performance; SHS had 160 students to take 274 AP exams with an overall 48% passage rate on AP exams.
- Class of 2011: SHS graduated 240 seniors. The graduating class received over 6.717 million dollars in scholarships. Three SHS seniors received the prestigious National Merit Scholarship, two seniors were designated as National Achievement Scholars, and two seniors received the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship. Sixteen seniors were recipients of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship; 85 seniors were eligible for the Life Scholarship and seven were recipients of the State Academic Diploma. Over 80% of the seniors earned the Platinum Honor Cord.
- The Department of the Army designated Seneca High School's JROTC unit as an Honor Unit with Distinction. The JROTC's Raider Team is a three-time state champion.
- The SHS Academic Team received 2nd place in the SC Quiz Bowl Competition. The Mock Trial group received several awards during the Regional Competition. The SHS Key Club was recognized at the Club Carolina's District Key Club Convention as one of the five chapters in North and South Carolina to be named as a "Distinguished Club."

EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

- The Honors Chorale captured 1st place in the AAA division at the SC Music Educator's Choral Festival, for the 3rd year in a row. Thirty-four students were named to All-State Chorus.
- A SHS art student received the James M. Brown Art Scholarship. Art classes hosted visiting Artist in Resident, Jeremiah Miller, and participated in Artist on the Green and the District Art Exhibit.
- Band, strings, and choral students participated in All-County programs. The Strings Program received a superior rating at the SC Music Festival and had a student make All-Region Orchestra.

EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS

- SHS boasts 450 total athletes participating in 28 Bobcat athletic teams. SHS enjoys incredible success in all athletic events.
- Seneca High Bobcat teams made the playoffs or competed at the state level in football, cross country, girls golf, volleyball, wrestling, baseball, softball, boys and girls track, and boys and girls soccer.
- The Lady Cat Track Team placed 2nd in the AAA Track State Championship and the Bobcat Boys Track Team finished 7th in the AAA Track State Championship.
- Eleven of our Bobcat student athletes signed athletic letters of intent to play collegiate sports.
- Six Bobcat student athletes were individual State Champions and named to All-State Teams. A member of the SHS Wrestling Team placed 2nd in the 3A State Wrestling Individual Tourny.
- Seneca High School was well-represented in the prestigious 2011 North-South All-Star Football Game. During this game, a Bobcat running back was named as the Offensive MVP.

Share That Bobcat Pride



Incentive Awards and Recognition

Palmetto Gold Award Winner for Academic Achievement
2002, 2003, 2004, 2006
Palmetto Silver Award Winner 2009
Cum Laude Award SAT/ACT Excellent Performance 2009
Palmetto's Finest Finalist 1998 & 2004
Red Carpet School from 2004-2011
Eight Teachers are National Board Certified
Five SC State Department of Education Incentive Awards

South Carolina School Report Card Ratings

This past year, Seneca High School received an overall Absolute Rating of Good on the South Carolina School Report Card. With a 6.7% increase in our school's Graduation Rate, our At-Risk Improvement Rating in 2010 improved to Average in 2011. With the implementation of two Graduation Coaches, we are working to increase Student Achievement and eliminate Achievement Gaps. We have seen significant increases in Proficient and Advanced levels on both sections of the HSAP test.

SC Annual School Report Card Absolute Ratings

	2009	2010	2011
SHS	Average	Average	Good
District	Below Average	Average	Good

Unique Programs: Academic Banquet, Advanced Placement & Dual Credit Courses, Agriculture Program, Alive at 25, Army JROTC, Artist in Residence, Athletic Hall of Fame, Career Shadowing, CAT Advisory Program, CAT Parent Day, Choral Madrigal Singers, 5th Block Enrichment Program, Graduation Program, Hybrid Courses, APEX Course Recovery, Platinum Seal Program, PLTW Pre-Engineering, Professional Learning Community, SAT and ACT Workshops, Service Learning, Student Athlete-of-the-Month, Students of Character, Teacher Cadets, The Power of "I", 1200 Club Wall of Fame.

Accreditation Status: Seneca High School continues to maintain satisfactory accreditation status from both the State Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Seneca High has been an SREB HSTW site since 1988.

Attendance Data: Based on the 45th day attendance count, the student enrollment is 975. The 2011 average attendance rate for both students and faculty members was approximately 95%. The 2011 annual student dropout rate was approximately 4%.

2011-2012 SHS School Improvement Council: Chairperson: Kerri Doud; Parents Elected: Rex Blanton, Lee Bryson, Jennifer Dodd, Teri Elliott, Kim Fisher, Kathleen Grant, Charles Greenlee, Melanie Guill, Sydney Jones, Cathleen Jutze, Mimi Kidd, Heena Patel, Betty Rogers, Sherry Watts Community Members Appointed: Shane Clardy, Ginger Ellenberg, Wendy Evans, Dan Holland, Lance McKinney, Greg Oliver, Martin Page, Blake Pitts, Lisa Purcell, Lee Ann Stephens, and Randall Wright Elected Students: Anna Foster Crowe, Kate Dodd, Charles Greenlee, Damika Henderson, Jason Jennings, Michael Jutze, Trevor Kierecki, Leslie Lamson-Scribner; Elected Teachers: Nanelle Cook, Terry Roberson, and Susie Wearing; Ex-Officio: Cliff Roberts, principal and Felicia LeRoy, assistant principal.

The School District of Oconee County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or handicap in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities. Earnestine Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services (Title IX), Marge Bright, 504/ADA Coordinator, and Dianne England, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction (Title II) have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding any discrimination matter. Their offices are located at 414 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC

Seneca High School



Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics

2011-2012 School Summary Report to the Parents



Mission Statement

Through the pursuit of excellence in academics, arts, and athletics, the mission of Seneca High School is to create lifelong learners who are prepared to compete in a global environment and actively participate in diverse societies.

T. Cliff Roberts, Principal
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Copies of the School Improvement Plan are located in the SHS Media Center.



As required by Act 135, the School Improvement Council at Seneca High School has prepared this Annual School Summary Report to provide an update of our progress toward the school's major goals as indicated in our school improvement action plan. This report also includes accomplishments and test data for each grade level from last year, as well as school improvement activities planned for this school year. Please take time to review this information and contact the school if you have any questions regarding this report. Your suggestions concerning the improvement of our school program are always welcome.

State End-of-Course (EOC) Examinations

The examinations, which count 20% of the students' final grade in each gateway or benchmark course, currently include Algebra 1/Algebra 1B, English 1, Biology 1 and US History. SHS 2011 EOC scores indicate that students had a passage rate of 84.8% in Algebra 1/1B (state 81%); 73% in English 1 (state 77%); 74% in Biology 1 (state 77%); and 72% in US History (state 71%). Strategies for continued improvement on EOC scores will be included in the School Improvement Plan.

High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exit Exam

On the state's exit exam, Seneca High School's tenth graders' average scores were lower than the state average on both English Language Arts and Mathematics. The SHS pass rate in ELA was 91% and 80% in math; the SC pass rate in ELA was 88% and 81% in math. The overall pass rate for SHS was 78% and 79% for SC. Strategies for continued improvement on HSAP scores will be included in the School Improvement Plan.

SAT

SHS was awarded Cum Laude for SAT Excellent Performance. Seniors in the 2011 graduation class who took the SAT scored an average composite score in critical reading and math of 973. South Carolina seniors' average composite score for math and critical reading was 984 and the national composite score was 1011. Seneca High's 2011 SAT overall composite score was 1407.

American College Test (ACT)

SHS was awarded Cum Laude for ACT Excellent Performance. The average ACT composite score of 21.4 for SHS seniors **exceeded** the State average ACT composite score of 20.1 and the National average ACT composite score of 21.1 based on a 36 point scale. A 2011 SHS senior scored a perfect score of 36 on the ACT.

Advanced Placement Scores (AP)

SHS offers thirteen AP courses, the largest number in our school district. The number of AP exams SHS students are taking has increased from 129 in 2006 to 274 in 2011. SHS students scored an overall 48% pass rate on AP exams in 2011. The State 2011 AP pass rate was 56% and the National AP pass rate was 57%. SHS had a 100% passage rate on the Music Theory, Studio Art, and Chemistry AP exams in 2010, and AP US Government in 2011.

2010-2011 School Improvement Goals Accomplished

School and Community Goal: *We will work to provide an accurate account of things related to Seneca High School for students, parents, employees, stakeholders, and community members.*

- The Guidance Department hosted "Parent Coffees" for parents of students at each grade level. Counselors held individual IGP conferences with all students. Guidance emails continued to be sent directly to parents about events, scholarships, student opportunities, grade-level guidance bulletins and volunteer opportunities. Guidance held the annual Financial Aid Workshop. Freshman Parent Night for rising 9th graders and their parents was held. CAT Parent Day was held to review student IGPs.

- Drama students produced and performed their annual drama production. The Foreign Language Department celebrated its annual Foreign Language Awareness Week with Foreign Language Piñata Contests. Quiz Bowl students and Mock Trial students competed at the regional level. The Key Club was recognized as a "Distinguished Club." The fifth annual Music Fest was held to highlight student musical talent.

- Professional Development opportunities were offered during PLC Early Release Days to include High Schools That Work Focus Team discussions. A team of teachers attended the Education Business Summit in Greenville as well as the National HSTW Conference held in Nashville. Review of test data with all faculty members continued and a renewal of literacy goals continued to take shape. AP Teachers submitted AP course syllabi for approval for the AP Course Audit mandated by the College Board.

- The faculty Leadership Advisory Council (LAC) continued to meet in order to develop a school-wide professional dress code, and to share in other leadership decisions with the principal.

Continual Instructional Reform Goal: *The faculty and staff will continue to monitor and adjust instruction and assessment practices to improve student achievement.*

- The web-based USA Test Prep software license was renewed for EOCEP, HSAP and SAT test prep. An SAT and ACT workshop was held in the fall and spring. SAT and HSAP math and verbal courses were incorporated in our master schedule.

- KUDER was administered to freshmen to identify career interests and academic strengths and weaknesses. All English 3 students took the COMPASS assessment for college readiness.

- The media specialists hosted a book club during student lunch periods. The SDOC summer reading initiative was continued to promote positive reading habits. Books were purchased for all students.

- English 1 and English 2, English 3 and Vocabulary Development, Algebra IA and ICP, and Biology IA and IB continued to be offered as hybrid courses.

Personal and Social Responsibility Goal: *Students will take responsibility for personal actions and act ethically (e.g., demonstrate honesty, fairness, and integrity).*

- SHS was recognized for placing 2nd in the district in the Annual Film Festival for Addressing Underage Drinking.

- SHS seniors hosted their annual blood drive.

- Over 200 students participated in Service Learning classes.

- Selected SHS classrooms participated in the International Teaching Fellowship program through Clemson University for the 2nd year.

- Freshmen Health classes and CAT classes participated in Bully Prevention Awareness and Relationship Awareness Program through Safe Harbor's Megan Project.

- Summer Attendance Retrieval, After-School Attendance Retrieval, and Saturday School Attendance Retrieval are held at SHS for seat time recovery to decrease the number of repeaters.

- School spirit is encouraged through the use of our CATS logo and newly painted hallways in the school's colors of blue and gold.



2010-2011 School Improvement Strategies

Increase the Graduation Rate

- SHS wrote and was awarded a \$350,000 grant enabling us to implement a Graduation Program to provide an adult mentor for at-risk students. The PROJECT RAPTOR grant enabled SHS to hire two Graduation Coaches and to implement Graduation Services at our school.

- 5th Block Enrichment, a system of Extra Time and Extra Help, was implemented to provide assistance in core subjects. Bus transportation is provided through a grant.

- CAT Adviser-Advisee Program was expanded to include more time for Career Fridays, Club Breakaways, and standardized test preparation, including an ACT and SAT Question of the Day.

- Hybrid courses were offered in English 1 & 2, Algebra 1A & 1B, and Biology 1A & 1B to help students become better prepared for End of Course Testing.

- The Guidance Department continued the Speakers Bureau for at-risk students and continued to sponsor identified students through the Faculty Blue Jeans Christmas Fund.

Increase Student Achievement

- SHS proudly increased its Graduation Rate from 72.0% to 78.7% in 2010. This is the largest graduation increase in our school district as well as the highest graduation rate in the last five years for our school**

- During the SREB's *High Schools That Work* Technical Assistance Visit, SHS was commended for its 5th Block Enrichment, CAT Advisement, Club Breakaways, and our welcoming Red Carpet school climate.

- Teachers continued to examine test data during our PLC Early Release days to identify strategies to reduce the achievement gaps. We also provided PowerSchool refresher sessions for teachers to learn how to update grades to best portray student achievement. The English Dept. participated in a book study about literacy. The Science Dept. continued with its refinement of the Power of "I" Grading Policy, as well as, implementing required review sessions to improve students' End of Course Test success. We welcomed a guest speaker to educate our faculty and staff on Children of Poverty, and our own faculty members presented best practice strategies in order to increase student engagement.

- A fall SAT workshop was offered to students. USA TestPrep was renewed. Smartboards were purchased for many SHS classrooms.

- The COMPASS college readiness test was administered to all juniors. Selected sophomores participated in the NAEP assessment. The ASVAB career inventory is administered to all interested juniors/seniors.

- AP course offerings were expanded to include AP US Government and AP Psychology, bringing our AP class offerings to a grand total of 13.

Build Positive Home Communication & School Climate

- The SHS Alumni Club continued to grow in its 3rd year. The SHS Athletic Hall of Fame inducted another group of distinguished graduates.

- A Community Guidance Coffee was held at Ebenezer Church. CAT Parent Day was held for parents to meet with their student's advisor.

- All Teachers continued to use *SchoolWorld* to develop and maintain a current teacher webpage and calendar with teaching resources for students and parents.

- CNN news will be broadcasted live by students through the broadcast class. A local radio announcer broadcasted a live show from SHS.

- Alive at 25* continues to be required for student drivers to learn safe driving techniques.

- The SHS Media Center's technology was upgraded with the purchase of Smartboards.

- Construction was completed for the remodeling of SHS to increase positive school climate and student opportunities. Additions include the main office renovations; the cafeteria and courtyard expansion; a new mini gym for Wrestling, Cheerleading, and Volleyball teams; a new Agricultural building; a new Weight Room; and a new Science Lab wing.