

# WHS SIC REPORT TO THE PARENTS

## WHS Mission

Together, we are empowering students to become life-long learners by building rapport and providing relevant, rigorous instruction.

## WHS Vision

To become a school that:

- provides the foundation and desire for lifelong learning,
- fosters civic responsibility, and
- promotes global understanding and compassion.

## Principal

Steve Garrett

[sgarrett@g.oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:sgarrett@g.oconee.k12.sc.us)

## Assistant Principals

Adam Lanford

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Robbie Morris

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Erin Phillips

[emphillips@g.oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:emphillips@g.oconee.k12.sc.us)

## School Board Representative for District II

Joe Rukat

## Walhalla High School

4701 North Highway 11

Walhalla, SC 29691

864-886-4490

## Website:

<http://whs.oconee.k12.sc.us/>

## Follow WHS SIC



## WHS SIC WINS 2018 RILEY AWARD

Walhalla High School is the winner of the 2018 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence. The award was presented April 14, 2018, during the SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Annual Meeting at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

The annual Riley Award for SIC Excellence was created in 2002 to highlight the significant contributions made to public education by the over 13,000 School Improvement Council members who volunteer in every public school in the state. The award is named in honor of the former SC Governor and US Secretary of Education and his late wife, recognizing the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.

"Walhalla High SIC has



WHS SIC members accepting the Riley Award for SIC Excellence: (left to right) Cooper Timms, Olivia Timms, Rachel Twitty, Lorilei Swanson, Brij Patel, Elliott Wechter, Jessica Duke, Madison MacLachlan, and Tricia Burgess.

done outstanding work well-deserving of this statewide honor," said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Amelia B. McKie. "Parents, educators, students, and community members working collabo-

rationally on their School Improvement Councils are vital in making significant, positive, and lasting impact for our schools, our students, their families, and our communities."

## MESSAGE FROM WHS SIC CO-CHAIRS

Lorilei Swanson and Jessica Duke

This year we are proud to be the recipient of the prestigious Riley Award. This achievement could not have been possible without the enthusiasm and hard work of each one of our members. We are dedicated to promoting a positive culture where all

students and families feel welcome and involved in the educational experience at Walhalla High School. Toward meeting this goal, we are continuously working on ways to help families become more informed about opportunities for student engage-

ment and parent involvement. Our hope is for students and parents to feel valued and to know that their voice matters. We welcome your input and encourage your involvement with SIC. Please consider joining our award-winning team.

# SIC ANNUAL GOALS AND PROGRESS

**GOAL: Collect and review available data to find out more about what parents experience at WHS**

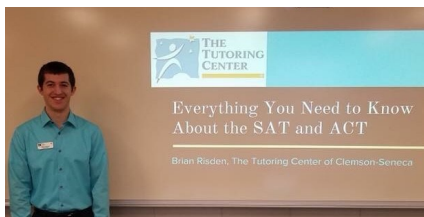
- Created online parent survey
- Chrome books and link to online survey provided to parents prior to IGP meetings
- Reviewed results from 2017 focus group with Latino parents and identified meaningful goals

**GOAL: Increase student, teacher and community involvement**

- Student serves as Vice Chair of SIC
- 15 student members meet twice a month to assess school needs and identify solutions
- Students are placed early on the meeting agenda so they may leave when school starts
- Added three new community partners who are actively involved on SIC committees
- Community members featured at monthly meeting

**GOAL: Improve communication with parents and increase awareness of opportunities for involvement**

- Actively used social media to advertise school and SIC sponsored events, and opportunities to get involved
- Hosted second annual Family Focus Night with guest speakers Dr. Miriam Johnson from Oconee Academy, and Brian Ridsen from Clemson Tutoring Center
- Co-sponsored first College Information Night for Juniors
- Promoted opportunities for parents to volunteer
- Sponsored Canvas Help Session for parents to learn how to navigate the new online learning management system
- Improved communication and outreach to Latino families
  - ◊ Continued to have strong bilingual representation on SIC
  - ◊ Formed a Latino Outreach Committee
  - ◊ Created an Ex-Officio position for WHS Family Liaison
  - ◊ Bilingual SIC members invited Latino families to College Information Night and FAFSA Night
  - ◊ Partnership formed with Southern Wesleyan University (SWU), Clemson University and United Way to support Latino families
  - ◊ Coordinated district-wide college readiness workshop led by SIC community member Dr. Raul Chavez for Latino parents



**GOAL: Support school programs to meet the needs of students at risk**

- Partnered with SWU to support mentoring program for Latino youth and provide college readiness resources
- Student SIC members hosted the first annual Snow Ball to raise money for the White Christmas Fund and collect canned goods for the local food pantry
- Increased school recognition of student achievements, including co-sponsoring second annual Underclassman Awards Night and highlighting student achievements on SIC social media throughout the year
- Implemented SIC Wellness Committee to oversee wellness initiatives on campus
  - ◊ Increased opportunities for recycling on campus
  - ◊ Supported student led Nature Trail Initiative and organized a Volunteer Work Day
  - ◊ Worked with KOBA to sponsor Litter Free Football Game
  - ◊ Actively seeking Green Steps Initiative recognition



**GOAL: Connect with teachers and staff to let them know how much they are valued**

- Latino parents hosted Cinco Di Mayo Teacher Appreciation luncheon
- Hosted Holiday Dessert Day for teachers and staff
- Purchased two toaster ovens the teacher workrooms
- Held drawings for gift baskets/gift cards and surprised all teachers/staff with cards and treats



WHS FOUR-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE			
2014	2015	2016	2017
88.4	87.7	85.8	88.1

## WHS STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals and activities of the WHS SIC promote a positive school climate and a welcoming environment for all students, families and visitors at Walhalla High School. They also support and promote student achievement in a variety of ways and are aligned with the following performance goals in the WHS Strategic Plan:

**School Climate Performance Goal**

The percentage of students and parents that are satisfied with the learning environment, as reported on the school report card survey, will increase from 86% to 90% for students and from 95% to 98% for parents from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

**Student Achievement Performance Goal**

The percentage of students graduating with their 4-year cohort group will increase from 85.8% in 2016-17 to 88.8% in 2020-21 (see chart).

# WALHALLA RAZORBACKS RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

## Academics

- All students issued Chromebooks for 1 to 1 technology
- 9 Foundations of World History Students went to State NHD Competition; Award for Outstanding Entry on World History - Brady Lusk; Award for Outstanding Interview - Bennett Bost, Kohl Rowland
- AP English students recognized by *The New York Times* Learning network; one student's post selected as "Reader's Choice" - Randy Parris
- Senior accepted into the Clemson Life Program - Brock Chappellear
- Now offering AP Calculus
- AP Stats students took AP Practice Exam at Clemson
- Implemented ICU Academic Support Incentive Program
- Student Success Center opened during lunch to provide academic assistance

## Athletics

- 2017 Boys Soccer Western 3A Region Champions
- 2017 Boys Soccer- Co-Players of the Year in Region 1 AAA- Henry Lopez and Patrick Nations
- 2017 Girls Soccer- All Mountain Lakes Player of the Year- Brienne Hendrickson
- 2018 Girls Soccer- Western AAA Region Champions and undefeated in Region play
- 2017 Boys Track- 5 All-Region selections
- 2017 Girls Track- 4 All-Region selections
- 2017 Softball District 4 Champions
- 2017 Boys Golf- Top 10 in State; 2 All-region players - Zeke Moore, Grayson Edmonds
- 2017 Girls Golf- 8th at State Playoffs; 2 All-Region players- Alivia Davis, Sheridan McCoy; Alivia Davis named to North/South All-Star Team
- Tennis- 2 All-Region selections - Olivia Grant, Nick Eleftheriou

- Boys Cross Country 3A Upper State Champions
- Boys Basketball Advanced to State Final Four-Upper State Championship Game
- Boys Basketball- 2 All State Selections; 4 All-Region Selections
- Boys Basketball- Western Region AAA Player of the Year and All Mountain Lakes Player of the Year- John Thorsland
- Boys Basketball- Undefeated in Region Western AAA
- Girls Basketball- All-Mountain Lakes Team - Madison Briley
- Football - set a new school record with ten players selected for All-Region
- Wrestling - State Qualifiers - Gray Lusk, Aaron Moran
- All Athletic Teams qualified for 3A State Playoffs

## Agriculture

- Two WHS Ag students qualified for State FFA Degree Award - Kristin Heap, Leland Martin
- Group of WHS FFA students qualified for FFA State Tool ID Contest and top individual score

## JROTC

- Rifle Team set school record and finished 19th at the JROTC National Championships
- Drill Team won County Drill Championship record for 7th straight year
- Academic Team advanced to semi-finals of National Academic Challenge

## Robotics

- Viking Rumble in the Valley - Excellence Award and Robot Skills Champion
- Golden Corner VEX Tournament - Robot Skills Champion
- Electric City In the Zone Tournament Champion
- JL Mann Upstate VEX Qualifier- Tournament Champion
- Palmetto State VEX Robotics Championship - Robot Skills Champion

## Band

- 11 students placed in Re-

gion Band; 2 students made All-State callback auditions

- Outstanding Performance Award for the second time in school history
- 6 students selected to participate in the USC Honor Band Clinic
- WHS Symphonic Band received Superior rating at Concert Performance Assessment for the first time in 20+ years
- WHS Winter Guard placed 7th at CWEA Circuit Championships

## Orchestra

- WHS Strings received 49 Superior ratings and 13 Excellent ratings at 2017 Solo & Ensemble Event
- 15 Strings students selected for 2018 All-County Orchestra
- 1 String student selected for 2017 All-Region Orchestra
- WHS Strings received Excellent rating at 2018 Concert Performance Assessment

## Chorus

- 25 WHS Choral students selected for 2017 Oconee County Honors Chorus
- 8 WHS Choral students auditioned and participated in 2018 SC All State Chorus
- 23 WHS Choral students participated in 2018 SC Western Region Chorus
- 2 WHS Choral Ensembles received Excellent rating in 2018 SC State Choral Assessment
- 28 student soloists and 5 ensembles participated in 2018 SC Solo & Ensemble Festival
- 8AM Singers— opening act for Oconee County's 1st Stumphouse Music Festival

- 8 Students elected to perform with 2017 SCADA Honor Chorus at State Convention

## Visual Arts

- 39 Art students represented WHS at SDOC Annual County Art Show
- GT Art students worked with Artist-in-residence Fred Edgerton to complete a school mural



Foundations of World History Students



Orchestra



Chorus



Softball



Band



Boys Soccer



Mu Alpha Theta

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The School Improvement Council (SIC) is required by law and serves as an advisory committee to the school's principal and faculty. The SIC brings parents, educators, students and community stakeholders together to work collectively to improve the school. The SIC is responsible for working with school administration to develop, support and monitor progress toward the five-year school improvement plan.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We welcome your participation in the SIC. You can nominate someone or yourself as a member; or communicate your comments, concerns and ideas by contacting an SIC member or attending a meeting.

### Everyone is welcome!

For meeting dates and times, as well as member contact information, meeting minutes and reports, please visit the WHS SIC Website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/g.oconee.k12.sc.us/walhalla-high-school/resources/sic>

## CONNECT WITH & FOLLOW YOUR SIC



[facebook.com/WHSSIC](https://facebook.com/WHSSIC)

[@walhallahighschoolsic](https://instagram.com/walhallahighschoolsic)

[twitter.com/walhallahigh](https://twitter.com/walhallahigh)  
WalhallaHighSIC

email:  
[WHSSIC@g.oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:WHSSIC@g.oconee.k12.sc.us)

## WALHALLA RAZORBACKS RECOGNITION AND AWARDS— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

### Faculty

- All 82 Faculty members have been trained for the John Collins Writing and Thinking Program
- Two teachers earned Library Media Specialist degrees
- Kathleen Lynch was recognized as Teacher of the Year
- Josh McCall served as President for SCAAE and served on the State FFA Board of Directors
- WHS team attended Clemson University Math WRAPPED Conference in Charleston
- WHS delegate on the SDOC math team to attend NCTM Conference in Washington

### Guidance

- Hosted the first annual Parent Meeting for Juniors
- Hosted FAFSA Night with additional support for our Latino Students and Parents
- Graduation Success Program coordinated college day visit to TCTC Welding Program

### Community

- SDOC Math Madness hosted at WHS with more than 60 student volunteers assisting
- Cliffs Residents Outreach Program established new partnership with WHS
- SWU Mentoring Program continued with boys soccer players
- Boys Soccer Team sponsored a free Youth Soccer Clinic in the Fall
- Walhalla Church of God provided Thanksgiving meal for Graduation Success Program
- The Woods of Walhalla Walking Trail was created in partnership with Keep Oconee Beautiful Association, The Andrew Pickens Ranger District, MoreSun Custom Woodworking Inc., and Duke Energy; over 40 volunteers participated in a trail work day



Jason Moss— Teacher of the Year 2016-17; SIC Student Advisor 2017-18



Kathleen Lynch— Teacher of the Year 2017-18; SIC Student Advisor 2018-19

## WHS SIC MEMBERS

### Teachers

Amanda Gladys  
Amanda Harris  
Paul Holleran  
Jason Moss  
Haley McAnally

### Community

Raul Chavez, Southern Wesleyan University  
Michelle Deem, Clemson University Sullivan Clinic  
Lisa Nock, Keep Oconee Beautiful Association  
Brian Risdan, The Tutoring Center  
Julie-ann Shannon, Grace's Closet  
Walter Torres, Burrito Shack; Printing Solutions  
Maureen Whitman, Oconee County Solid Waste

### Students

Brij Patel  
Meredith Cobb  
Layla Dacosta  
Kiley Dempsey  
Alex Galvez  
Alex Hernandez  
Trey Keys  
Madison MacLachlan  
Carter McInnis  
Emma Sauer  
Matthew Shannon  
Cooper Timms  
John Twitty  
Rachel Twitty  
Sydney Vickery  
Elliott Wechter, Vice Chair

### Parents

Katherine Allen  
Tricia Burgess, Secretary

Melissa Dempsey  
Jessica Duke, Co-chair  
Joy Duncan  
Carrie Dunton  
Laura Estes  
Melinda Fischer  
JoAnn Heaton  
Alicia Keys  
Dora Leonard  
Lori MacLachlan  
Annette Orr  
Lorilei Swanson, Co-chair  
Olivia Timms  
John Twitty

### Ex-Officio

Steve Garrett, Principal  
Erin Phillips, Assistant Principal  
Esther Phillips, WHS Family Liaison