

Message from the Principal and SIC Chair

The 2015-16 school year has been an exciting time of growth and change, starting with the move to a new state-of-the-art facility. As you will see in this report, WHS continues to receive local, state and national recognition, and our students, teachers and SIC have received numerous awards and recognition.

Over the past year, our SIC focused on building a stronger foundation and setting goals for the coming school year. We are committed to promoting a positive school culture where all students and families feel welcome and involved in the educational experience. Toward meeting this goal, we are working on ways to help families become more informed about opportunities for student and parental involvement.

Through the hard work and commitment of our students, teachers, parents, and the community, WHS students continue to excel and prepare to be successful citizens. We invite your input and involvement. Thank you for supporting our school and your child's educational experience.

Steve Garrett, Principal
Lorilei Swanson, SIC Chair 2015-16



Razor Robotics Team advanced to VEX State Championship

Student Programs and Extracurricular Activities

Agriculture Program, AP & Honors Courses, APEX Credit Recovery, Attendance Retrieval Program, Dual Enrollment Courses, Entrepreneurship, F-Troop Program, Foreign Languages (Spanish and German), Hamilton Career Center, HS 102 Freshman Focus Course, Hybrid Courses, JROTC Program, Platinum Seal Program, Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Program, RAZOR Advisor/Advisee Program, Service Learning, Teacher Cadets, 28 Athletic Teams in 12 sports, Student Government Association (SGA), Beta Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National Art Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Future Farmers of America (FFA) Student Chapter, Orchestra, Chorus, Band, Future Educators of America, JROTC Drill Team, Archery Team, Rifle Team & Raiders, Robotics Team, Clemson University (CU) Declamation Contest, CU Biology Merit Exam, Special Olympics, Poetry Coffee House, 28 student clubs, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Talent Show, School Play, Walhira Pageant, Yearbook

SIC Members 2015 - 2016

- Lorilei Swanson, SIC Chair, parent, lswanson@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Sandy Prather, SIC Vice Chair, parent, sandy@timthephoneman.com
- Dora Leonard, SIC Secretary, parent, dora.h.leonard1@gmail.com
- Kaylee Alvarez, student, kayleesalvarez@yahoo.com
- Terry Buckallew, teacher, tbuckallew@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Mike Crenshaw, community/parent, mcrenshaw@oconeelaw.com
- Emily Dover, student, emily.dover@gmail.com
- Laura Estes, community/parent, estes005@bellsouth.net
- Tammy Fodor, teacher, tfodor@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Amanda Harris, teacher, abharris@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Paul Holleran, teacher, pholleran@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Sherri Hopkins, parent, sherrighopkins@yahoo.com
- Darlene Kerr, faculty, dhkerr@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Alicia Keys, parent, aliciakeyswh@gmail.com
- Christie Lee, parent, clee601@gmail.com
- Charles Long, parent, road2025@yahoo.com
- Cindy Long, parent, lcynthi@clemson.edu
- Bruce MacLachlan, parent, bruce.d.maclachlan@jci.com
- Vanessa Penton, community, director@walhallachamber.com
- Anna Wholey, parent, theblessedone73@gmail.com
- Ana Wright, student, anamwright99@hotmail.com
- Steve Garrett, Principal, sgarrett@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Robert Kelly, Asst. Principal, rckelly@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Erin Phillips, Asst. Principal, emphillips@oconee.k12.sc.us
- Corey Willimon, Asst. Principal, cwillimon@oconee.k12.sc.us

Razor Nation Community Involvement

School Improvement Council, Razorback Booster Club, Band Booster Club, Alumni Speakers, Literary Legacy, Athletic Hall of Fame, Relay for Life, Senior Blood Drive, Rotary Student of Quarter, WHS Student of the Month, Rotary Scholar Awards, Career Shadowing, Alumni Soccer Game, Alive at 25, Young Life, White Christmas, Canned Food Drives, FAFSA Night, Ralph's Trophy Shop Student Athletes Award, Senior Financial Aid Night, Freshman Rally, SPED Career Fair, Special Olympics, SGA Haunted House, FFA Farm Day, FFA Greenhouse Sale, Prom Promise, United Walhalla Community Outreach Program

The School District of Oconee County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: employment or gender related issues – Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; 504 or disability related issues – Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; equal access issues – Assistant Superintendent for Operations. All may be contacted by mail at 414 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691 or by phone at 864-886-4400.

Walhalla High School

Annual School Improvement Council REPORT TO THE PARENTS 2015-16

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.



4701 North Highway 11
Walhalla, SC 29691
864-886-4490

www.oconee.k12.sc.us/WalhallaHS.cfm

Purpose of the Report

The Report to the Parents is issued by the School Improvement Council (SIC) at Walhalla High School (WHS) in accordance with South Carolina law. Its purpose is to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC and other accomplishments during the school year.

SIC Annual Goals

The main goal for the SIC in the 2015-16 school year was to put key pieces into place for a stronger foundation. As mandated by the State, members implemented bylaws and implemented a formal nomination and election process. We also invited a State SIC representative to facilitate a planning session to help us identify goals based on the 5-year School Improvement Plan. We are currently assessing data from the School Climate Survey to use these findings to develop specific goals and objectives for implementation in the 2016-17 school year.

GOAL 1: Build strong foundation for WHS SIC

- Developed SIC bylaws
- Reviewed WHS Strategic Plan, surveys and other data to identify needs and goals
- Conducted SIC self-assessment to identify areas for improvement
- Implemented a formal SIC nomination and election process

GOAL 2: Outreach to Tamassee-Salem Middle/High School (TSMHS) students and parents

- Invited TSMHS SIC members to join WHS SIC
- Participated in the WHS Open House for TSMHS families
- Collaborated with TSMHS SIC on the data review process, elections, and to determine needs for the transition to WHS

About the SIC

The SIC is mandated by law and serves as an advisory committee to the school's principal and faculty. The SIC brings parents, educators and community stakeholders together to work collectively to improve the school. The SIC is responsible for working with administration and faculty to develop a five-year school improvement plan and evaluating the school's success in reaching the plan's goals and objectives.

How to Get Involved

We welcome your participation in the SIC. You can 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 contact information, minutes and reports, visit the WHS website (www.oconee.k12.sc.us/WalhallaHS.cfm) and look for the SIC link on the left column under Quick Links.

WHS Spring 2015 State Testing Performance

ACT WorkKeys (Job Skills Assessment)

% Meeting Platinum, Gold, or Silver	WHS	State
Applied Mathematics	81.8	71.2
Reading for Information	95.3	93.2
Locating Information	87.7	87.7

End of Course (EOC) Tests

Percent of tests with scores ≥ 70	WHS	State
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	78.6	85.7
English 1	73.8	75.1
Biology 1	80.6	77.8
US History & Constitution	74.4	69.1
All Subjects	77.0	77.3

SAT Scores	SAT Composite	ACT Scores	ACT Composite	AP Scores	AP Pass Rate
WHS	1525	WHS	23.0	WHS	58%
SC	1442	SC	20.4	SC	58%
US	1490	US	21.0	US	57.5%

Testing Highlights

- WHS senior score average SAT and ACT scores exceeded both State and National averages
- WHS exceeded the National AP pass rate
- EOC passage rate for Biology 1 and US History exceeded the State average
- WorkKeys certificates earned for workplace readiness exceeded or met the State average

Graduating Class of 2015

- 223 Graduates; 87.7% graduation rate
- Over \$6 million in scholarships
- 46.9% eligible for Life Scholarships
- 13 Palmetto Fellows, 34 High-Honor Graduates, 41 Honor Graduates
- 77% earned Platinum Honor Cord and Seal
- 24 AP Scholars
- 23 ACT composite score
- 1525 SAT composite score
- 27% @ 4-year institutions, 55% @ 2-year colleges, 5% military, 10% workforce, 3% other

Special Recognition & Awards

- Ranked #25 in 2016 Best Public SC High Schools by NICHE
- Palmetto Gold Award - student achievement general performance
- Bronze Medal as a *Best High School in SC* - US News & World Report
- JROTC designated as Honor Unit with Distinction with 95% rating or higher in all areas
- Sophomore Matthew Smith placed first at Northern region JROTC National Rifle Championship and qualified for the Junior Olympics
- Razor Robotics Team advanced to VEX State Championship
- World History students qualified for SC National History Day Contest
- WHS FFA hosted nationally acclaimed TV show, Fishing University
- Senior Chase Wells named 2016 SCDNR State Trap Champion



- Ladies Honors Chorus rated Superior at SC State Chorus Festival; in top 18% of Division AAA choirs
- Strings Solo & Ensemble Festival—35 Superior ratings and 21 Excellent ratings; Region Orchestra—Turner McCullough made Region; All-County Orchestra—16 students made All-County
- Marching Band received Excellent Rating at 3A Upper State Championships; 16 Band students selected for Oconee All-County Band; 9 students participated in the SC Region 1 Honor Band; Symphonic Band and Concert Band each received Excellent rating at SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment
- 28 Men's and Women's Competitive Athletic Teams – 6 teams advanced to 3A playoffs: Men's Basketball, Men's Tennis, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Cross Country and Women's Golf
- English Teacher Amanda Harris named WHS Teacher of the Year
- Sandy Haines selected as the Support Employee of the Year
- Ralph Nix chosen as Friend of Walhalla
- Executive Board of the Athletic Dept. named Volunteer of the Year
- SIC parent members Lorlei Swanson and Dora Leonard named 2016 SC SIC Advocates of the Year

