

With only a few weeks left in the school year, it is good to pause and consider the past year we have enjoyed with your students. Education is most effective and meaningful when faculty, students, families, and the community work together closely with a focus on our students. These incredible students and the amazing adults who work together each day to perpetuate the Tradition of Excellence at D.W. Daniel High School.

This year, the community, students, and the faculty collaborated to define the behavioral standard we seek for each Lion. The result is PRIDE: Pride, Responsibility, Integrity, Daring, and Education. We have worked hard this school year to help our students embrace and exemplify these characteristics through homeroom sessions, school signage, and RoarX. Our success is not limited to the creation of PRIDE. Our Tradition of Excellence is stronger than ever.

- Excellent on the School Report Card
- Silver High Performing School on the South Carolina Report Card
- 2 National Merit Finalists
- Individual State Champions in Boys and Girls Swim
- The Fourth Consecutive State Championship for the Lions Pride Marching Band
- The JRTOC Flying Lions serving our community at the Semper Fi Barn
- Highest SAT Score for a Traditional Public School
- AP School Honor Roll- added two additional AP classes and will surpass last year's record number of tests given, with over 1250 tests.
- Swim Coach Laura Henry named the State Coach of the Year
- The chorus earned a Superior at the SCMEA State Choral Performance Assessment
- The Lions Pride Marching Band was awarded the SCBDA Outstanding Performance Award
- Band Director Chaz Paxton was inducted into the SCBDA Hall of Fame
- Expansion of opportunities and amenities for outdoor classrooms
- Development of the Behavioral MTSS Framework, teaching the lessons of PRIDE
- The ManeStage Players added a 24-hour musical, in addition to the fall performance of Trapped and the spring musical- Frozen
- Expanded the IGP Process by introducing student-led IGPs to the freshmen class
- Improved security with the introduction of the Evolv Weapons Detection System
- Our Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Club won the State Championship
- A DWD Student was named the 2026 National STEM Champion for South Carolina
- D.W. Daniel Festival Orchestra performed for the SCMEA CPA, earning a Superior with Distinction
- Our Boys Golf Team was state runners-up
- School Communications received a state award from the SCNCPPRA

In a few weeks, the class of 2026 will graduate and become alumni of this tremendous school. Their great work has extended a tradition that will serve them well, as they have learned the

value of working with a purpose, being responsible in life, showing integrity at all times, being willing to take appropriate risks, and exhibiting empathy for their fellow person.

In 2026- 2027, we look to build our Tradition of Excellence. Save these dates for the beginning of the next school year:

Freshmen Orientation:

- July 22nd, 8 am-12 pm

Registration:

- July 22, 11-5 pm- 9th grade
- July 23, 11-5 pm- 10th and 11th grades
- July 24, 11-5 pm- 12th grade

Open House

- August 10th, 6pm- 8pm

Serve EACH Student; Take Care of People!

#OneDaniel