



Richland Northeast High School

SIC Annual Report 2025 - 2026

Richland Northeast High School remains steadfast in its commitment to serving and supporting every student with purpose, care, and intentionality. The questions we ask, the issues we examine, and the recommendations we advance are all grounded in a shared mission: to ensure that each student has access to high-quality, equitable opportunities that prepare them for success beyond high school. We recognize that education is both a profound responsibility and a privilege, and we embrace our role in shaping the academic, social, and emotional growth of our students. Through a culture of high expectations, strong relationships, and continuous reflection, we strive to create an environment where all students can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

During the 2025–2026 school year, the Richland Northeast High School School Improvement Council (SIC) engaged in a thoughtful and comprehensive review of our school's performance, with a focus on strengthening the six key areas identified in our state report card: Academic Achievement, Preparing for Success, English Learners' Progress, College and Career Readiness, School Environment, and Graduation Rate. Through data analysis, stakeholder input, and ongoing dialogue, the SIC developed targeted recommendations aimed at driving meaningful and sustainable improvement. We firmly believe that the collective efforts of our parents, students, faculty, and community partners are essential to this work. By working together with a shared vision, we will continue to elevate excellence across the four A's—Academics, Activities, Arts, and Athletics—ensuring a well-rounded and enriching educational experience for every student.

Dr. Marlon L Thomas
Principal

Vision

Richland Northeast High strives to be an exemplary school by creating a learning environment "Where Joy Resides" for all students while expecting excellence in Academics, Activities, the Arts, and Athletics by affording students the opportunity to be enrolled, enlisted, or employed.

Mission

Richland Northeast High School, in partnership with the community, will ensure challenging academic opportunities that advance positive individual growth and prepare responsible global citizens for a post-secondary education, military, or career readiness.



Richland Two does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, or other protected characteristics in its programs and activities.

Highlights & Awards



State Art Fair Exhibition



Caleb and Caden Holloman



Addison Monroe



Caroline Brandes



A Semaj Long original design

ARTS

- Out of 11,000 entries, 29 Art students that had their work accepted into the SC State Fair Juried Student Art Competition this year!
- Jayden Gaskins and Addison Monroe, Palmetto Center for the Arts vocalists and Cavalier Chorale members, were selected as soloists on the Region Choir.
- Six choral students were selected for Richland District Two's District Honor Choir.
- Palmetto Center for the Arts Seniors Jayden Gaskins, Caden Holman, Caleb Holman, and Addison Monroe were selected for the 2025-2026 All-State Choir..
- Alayna Jackson, who earned a perfect score, was selected for Region Band.
- Semaj Long's original design was showcased at the Columbia Museum of Art "Runway Runway". Long's dress was modeled by Heather Robinson & collaborative built by Art 1 Magnet students.
- Orchestra earned a final rating of Superior with Distinction at CPA, the highest rating possible, and tied in 2nd place for the highest numerical rating in the region!
 - Jayden Gaskins was selected to participate in All-State Orchestra and chosen to lead the 2nd violin section
 - 8 orchestra students participate in the Richland 2 District Honors Orchestra!

ACADEMICS

- 14 Class of 2026 Horizon Magnet graduates were named AP Scholars, 4 were AP Scholars with Honors, 9 were AP Scholars with Distinction, and 2 received an AP Capstone Diploma.
- Horizon, Convergence Media, and Palmetto Center for the Arts became a Nationally Certified-Demonstration School and a Top Magnet School of Excellence.
- Richland Northeast High School is the first school in Richland Two to exit ATSI status after the first accountability cycle—achieving this milestone within three years rather than six.
- Caroline Brandes was named a National Merit Semi-finalist. She was also one of 33 students selected from across the country to join PBS News Student Reporting Labs' 2025-26 Student Advisory Team.
- At the SCSPA Fall Conference, Convergence Media's literary magazine received a Superior rating and the yearbook an Honor rating and Palmetto Award for Class III, which means it was the best yearbook from high schools with similar student enrollment numbers. The following students also received individual awards for their productions: Ranya Reed, Madison Derrick, Lyra Pinner, Jazmin Ragoza-Galvez, Asia Davis, Lillian Mirosavich, Isis Bryan, and Markell Watson, Tinnin Lewis.
- The NJROTC program was named a Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors, the highest national recognition from the Naval Service Training Command.
- Columbia Urban League recently honored our 60 Young & Gifted RNE students.
- Michael Ordonez-Mora is a Michelin Scholar and will begin his training at Midlands Tech in Fall 2026.



RNE Spanish students receive tutoring from UCC University, Columbia.



NJROTC named Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors.



Columbia Urban League Young & Gifted



Michael Ordonez-Mora, Michelin Scholar.

Highlights & Awards



Mock Trial finishes the season 4th in the state.



Elijah Frasier, RSD2
Black History
Honoree



3rd Place at HOSA State Winner



2026 National Gold Honor Council
Awardee

ACTIVITIES

- Elijah Frasier, one of Richland Northeast's Instructional Support Aides, was honored in the Richland Two Black History Honorees Celebration.
- At the SC Association of Student Council Conference, our Student Council was named a 2026 National Gold Honor Council. They also received the following awards
 - 1st place: Community Service & Outreach
 - 1st Place: School Spirit and Pride
 - 2nd Place: School Recreational Activities
- Student Council President Journey Schofield was the recipient of the Terry McCoy Hall of Fame.
- The Richland Northeast High School Mock Trial Team finished this season 4th in the state. Abigail Geppert, Markell Watson, Sydnee Turner, and Caroline Brandes earned "Most Effective Attorney" awards. Nathaniel Britt, Prashika Pandit, Tristan Featherstone, and Tayla Hunter were Most Effective Witnesses.
- Michael Wilson won 3rd place for Health Informatics at the HOSA State Conference. Isis Bryan placed 5th in the state for Medical Spelling.

ATHLETICS

- 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees: Tremari "TJ" Brunson, Jake Mueller, Johnathan Martin, Gloria Gipson Deramus, and Gary Fulmer
- Girls Track & Field participated in the Coaches Elite competition with the following results:
 - 4th place (4x100 Relay): Kaidyn, Demya, Kyree, Janiyah
 - 1st place (400m hurdles) & 6th place (100m): Lacey Samuels
 - 7th place (110m hurdles): AD Willingham
 - 4th place (110m hurdles): Ke'Marion Willingham
 - 7th place (400m): Janiyah Cosby
- Reece Jackson named Player of the Week by The State Newspaper
- Jarell Turner selected for the North/South Bowl All-Star game.
- Region III-4A All Region athletes:
 - Volleyball: Alyese Small
 - Football: Donahue McNeal, Isaiah Small, Taylor Higgins, Brandon McFadden; Tennis:
 - Tennis: Journey Schofield, Allison King-Turner
 - Wrestling: Devonte Carter
 - Basketball: LaTia Ray (Girls), Logan Jacobs (Boys) Basketball
- Girls Basketball participated in Round 1 of the SCHSL 4A Playoffs
- Devante Carter was the 4A Upper State Champion for Wrestling & finished 3rd overall in the 4A State Championship
- Collegiate Commits: Ke'marion Willingham, track and field (Winthrop University), Brandon McFadden, football (Allen University), Ny'Jher Gano, football (Newberry College), Jarell Turner, football (University of North Carolina - Charlotte)



Girls Track & Field at Coaches Elite



2025 Hall of Fame Inductees

About Our School

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Increase the percentage of Year 1 students who on track to graduate
- Increase the percentage of students passing the Algebra EOCEP with a C or higher.
- Increase the percentage of Multilingual Language Learners (MLL) progress toward proficiency on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

- **Parent Members:** Erica Serbin (Chair), Michelle Morrison (Secretary), Jessica Brandes, Rebecca Brice, Joy McClendon, Pierce McNair, Courtney Robinson, Lisa Robinson, Victor Rodgers, Jeanna Smith, Danielle Whaley, Shawn Williams
- **Student Members:** Ken'asia McRae, Journey Schofield
- **Appointed Members:** Elisa Diaz, Kimberly Myers
- **Staff Members:** Alexis Black, Donald Byrne, Wardell Rouse, Derricka Thompson
- **Ex-Officio Members:** Charlie Butler, Dr. LaTonya Derrick, Sidney Johnson, Shaquetta Moultrie, Dr. Melissa Myers, Dr. Tinika Pierce-Boney, Maribelle Robinson, Dr. Marlon Thomas, Dr. Pamela Williams



MAGNET PROGRAMS

- **AVID:** Fosters a safe and open culture, high expectations for teachers and students, and collaboration in all classrooms. Mission: to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society. **Director:** MaryAnn Sansonetti-Wood
- **CavPlex Convergence Media:** An academic elective magnet that focuses on multimedia journalism. Students learn about communication and technology, while producing real-world and award-winning media products for a genuine audience. **Director:** Jeremy Ludemann
- **Horizon:** A rigorous learning community for driven, motivated, and academically talented students. Horizon promotes collaborative learning and leadership building driven by their commitment to Global Awareness and the necessity to make a difference both locally and globally through voice and action. **Director:** Sonja Merriwether-Hawkins
- **Palmetto Center for the Arts (PCA):** Nationally recognized as a National School of Distinction in Arts Education by the John F. Kennedy Center, this magnet offers students an innovative, challenging, and comprehensive curriculum in both the arts and academics. **Director:** Indira Cureton-Cummings

