
RIDGE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

School Improvement Council Annual Report

April, 2012

Ridge View High School Mission Statement

Ridge View High School, an active partner with its growing and diverse community, guarantees each student the opportunity to achieve excellence in academic knowledge, critical and creative thinking skills, and personal management resulting in life-long learning and responsible citizenship.

A Message from Dr. Marty Martin, Principal

A slogan that we've adopted recently is "We Expect Success." To make that slogan even more clear, you will now see and hear "Everybody Graduates." Our professional development and a redefining of every role in every department at the school will focus on this primary purpose – "Everybody Graduates." It does not change, but increases our energy towards personalizing the learning experiences for each student.

To accomplish our personalization focus we continue to ensure that opportunities are available in what I call the four A's: Academics, Athletics, the Arts, and Student Activities. This focus has led to the implementation of an extremely successful Medical and Health Science magnet and continued advancements in our activities, athletics and arts programs.

Ridge View has been recognized as a Palmetto Gold Award winner for closing the achievement gap and received an Excellent rating on the most recent SC Report Card.

We will increase our very successful credit recovery and retrieval computer programs for qualified students using the NovaNET and ALEKS systems and add virtual course opportunities.

The Advisory Program has been very successful and student will continue to benefit from this personalized approach to guide their academic and social choices.

To help ensure our commitment to focus on the success of each student, the involvement of our dedicated parents is expected. Our efforts continue to include parents in the education process of their children.

To simplify all of the demands of the above expectations we will continue to focus our resources on the accomplishment of the following goals:

- Goal #1: Ensure academic success for all students.
- Goal #2: Ensure all students have a sense of belonging to the school and community

Awards and Recognitions

• RVHS student council recognized as a 2012 NASC National Gold Council of Excellence • 2011-2012 Palmetto Gold Award for General Performance and Closing the Achievement Gap • Katherine Hafner has been named as a candidate for the 2012 Presidential Scholars Program • Cheyenne Hammond is a 2012 National Achievement Scholarship Finalist • Amber Brown is a 2012 National Achievement Scholarship Semi-Finalist • National HOSA Award • Excellent on High School Report Card • 2011 Girls Cross Country Region Champs • \$18,000 Grant for Arts Innovation Distinguished Arts Program 2002-2012 • \$800,000 Department of Defense Grant • Gear Up Grant • Cross Country Team 2nd in the Region 4A Championships • Blazer Band finished 4th place at the SCBDA 4A State Championships • Ridge View High School's literary magazine, "Pegasus" received the rank of Superior in the 2011 National Council of Teachers of English Program • Coach John Donohue for being named as one of the coaches for the 2012 North-South All-Star Soccer Classic • National DECA award for 1st Place in the state for the H&R Block Dollars and Sense Challenge • One of three Richland District schools that are recipients of 2011-12 Gold Awards in both of the following areas: general performance and closing the achievement gap • Symphonic and Concert Bands for receiving Superior Ratings at the 2012 State Concert Band Festival • 4 of our students have been selected to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship through the Sparkleberry Country Fair

**Richland School District Two
&
Ridge View High School Aims**

- Excellence in Student Learning
- Meeting Diverse Student Needs
- Safe and Secure Environment
- Quality Teachers and Personnel
- Effective Leadership and Management Resources
- School, Parent, Student and Community Partnerships

Learner Standards

- Every student will succeed in the instructional disciplines.
- Every student will use critical and creative thinking to solve problems and generate ideas.
- Every student will be well-prepared to advance through Richland School District Two and to compete successfully in higher education and/or the global workforce.
- Every student will demonstrate ethical behavior and interpersonal competence as a contributing member of our democratic society.
- Every student's learning will be facilitated by tailored programs, integrated modern technologies and continuous professional development.
- Students will be self-directed, lifelong learner



South Carolina Life Scholars

The Legislative Incentive for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship administered by the financial aid office at each eligible public and independent institution in SC. Students attending a 4 year public school may receive up to \$5000 per year for four years.

The purpose of the LIFE Scholarship is to:

- Increase **ACCESS** to higher education
- Improve **EMPLOYMENT** of South Carolina's students
- Provide **INCENTIVES** for students to be better prepared for college
- Encourage students to **GRADUATE** from college on time

**107 of Ridge View's 2011 graduating seniors
qualified for the LIFE Scholarship.**

For more information on the LIFE Scholarship, including general eligibility requirements, see page 4.

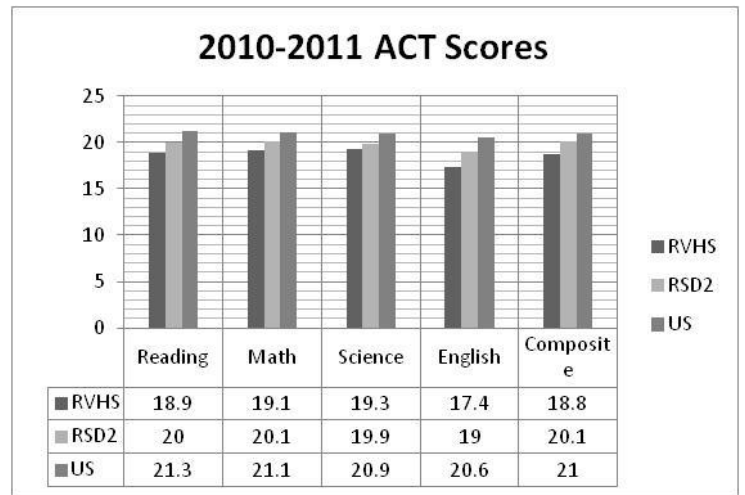
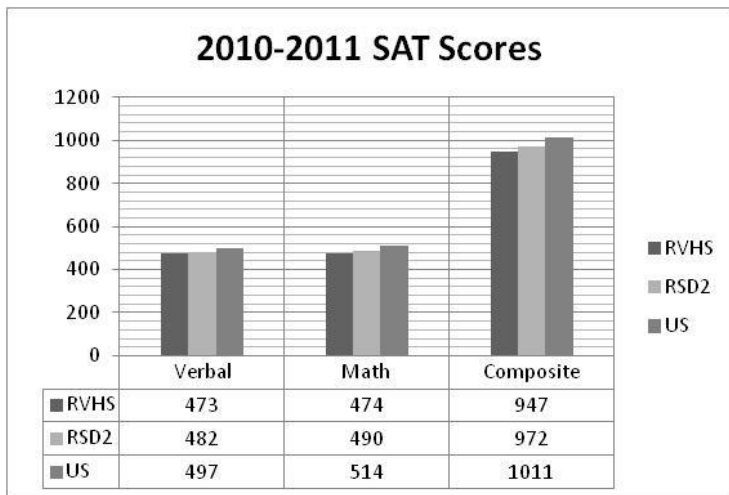
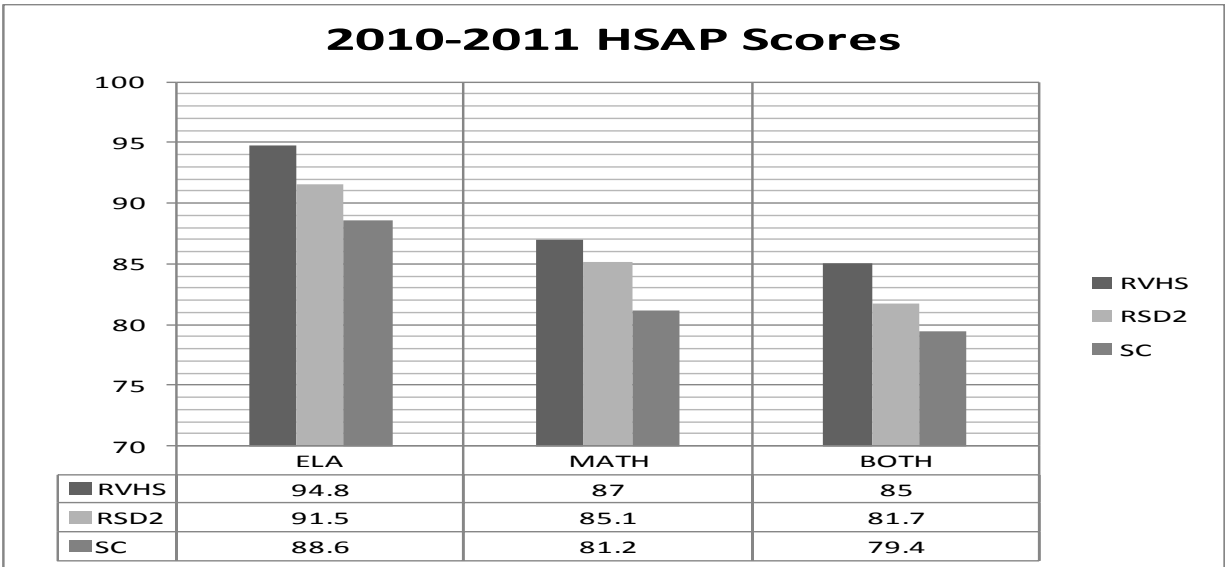
RIDGE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

Ridge View opened its doors in 1995. The explosive growth of the Northeast area led to the opening of Blythewood High School in 2005. Dr. Marty Martin became principal in 2004. Since that time, Ridge View has continued to excel and to focus on student personalization. The highly successful Freshman Academy has been expanded to include sophomores. Now called the Blazer Academy, its success continues with among the lowest retention rates for freshmen in South Carolina. The Ridge View Scholars Academy, the AVID program, and the School for the Arts ensure all students are provided with an expanding personalized approach to learning. Excellence is the constant focus for academics, the arts, athletics, career and technology and student activities. Student advisories, a on-lunch system and additional tutorial and credit retrieval programs will continue the focus on providing a "better future" for each student attending Ridge View High School.

**Ridge View High School
4801 Hard Scrabble Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29229**

**Phone: (803) 699-2999
Fax: (803) 699-2888
Website URL: www.richland2.org/rvh**

Test Score Information



NOTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972

Richland County School District Two is an equal opportunity employer and provides equal access to educational programs for all students regardless of race, sex, national origin or handicapping condition. Inquiries concerning application of Title IX or complaints alleging noncompliance should be directed to the: Personnel Director, Richland School District Two, 6831 Brookfield Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29206.

Continued from page 2

LIFE Scholarship General Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for a South Carolina LIFE Scholarship, a student must meet two of the following three criteria:

- Earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale
- Score an 1100 on the SAT or an equivalent 24 on the ACT
- Graduate in the top 30% of the graduating class

For additional information on the LIFE Scholarship, go to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education website at:

<http://www.che.sc.gov/>

Personalization at Ridge View

Personalization continues to be the “Name of the Game” at Ridge View High School. Numerous initiatives, some in the planning stages, others underway, are designed to address more effectively the needs of every student at Ridge View: the medical magnet; the schools-within-a-school programs; Blazer Academy; the implementation of High Schools that Work practices; literacy across the curriculum; expansion of tutoring programs; NovaNET and ALEKS credit retrieval systems; the development of Career Clusters and Individual Graduation Plans; the personalized arena scheduling process; implementation of a one-lunch activities period; the Advisory program. All are intended to build upon Ridge View’s successful past. Our aim will be to build each student’s experiences towards a better future.

Schools-Within-A-School

- ***Achievement Via Individual Determination (AVID):*** *This program, based on a national program, identifies students who have been performing at average levels, presents them with the tools to move successfully to high level courses, and prepares them for a four-year college.*
- ***Institutes for Bio-Health Sciences and Allied Health Sciences:*** *The BioHealth Sciences Magnet program at Ridge View High School, in conjunction with the nationally recognized Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences™ program, offers highly achieving students a dynamic curriculum that uses real world experience and hands on learning. Students with interest in exploring the variety that health sciences offers will find PLTW’s Biomedical Sciences™ program to be a fantastic doorway for medical professions.*
- ***Ridge View Scholars Academy:*** *The Ridge View Scholars Academy is for highly motivated students who are interested in a curriculum with a strong interdisciplinary structure, incorporating humanities, science, math and the fine arts.*
- ***School for the Arts:*** *The School for the Arts is designed for students who have special talents and serious interest in the arts fields - visual arts, band, orchestra, chorus, dance, creative writing, and drama.*

Spotlight on “1 TWO 1”

The 1 TWO 1 computing initiative is an integral part of the [Richland Two Story](#). Using technology, students will inquire and explore their world. Transformative technologies will ignite a joy of learning in our students and inspire them to become 21st century learners. . . Through personalized, authentic and collaborative experiences, our students will develop the skills to prepare them for a future that we can only imagine (Richland2.org).

Ridge View High School’s 1TWO1 roll out began in January of 2012, when twenty five teachers received class sets of Chromebooks. Twenty six more teachers will begin using class sets of Chromebooks in August. Ridge View will have approximately 1300 devices for student use during the 2012-2013 school year. By the 2013-2014 school year, every student will have a device. Richland School District Two and Ridge View High School hope to accomplish the following goals with the 1TWO1 program:

1. ***Improved Student Learning:*** *Through instructional strategies that apply best practices in teaching with technology and a variety of resources which support the curriculum, student learning will improve.*
2. ***Meaningful Student Engagement:*** *We will offer 1 TWO 1 computing to make school more engaging and relevant for our students and to support meaningful and more challenging work as described in the Richland Two Story.*
3. ***21st Century Skills:*** *We will ensure that students have high level 21st century skills which will prepare them for a successful future.*
4. ***Project and Problem-based Learning Opportunities:*** *Through personalized, authentic, and collaborative experiences, students will solve problems and demonstrate their learning through project-based activities.*
5. ***Equity of Access:*** *We will bridge the digital divide by providing all students with access to technology tools and resources for anytime, anywhere learning.*

2011-2012 Accomplishments

- *Health Science Magnet fully implemented (4-year program)*
- *Scholars' Academy selected as District Magnet- expanded from our school within a school status*
- *Excellent rating on SC Report Card*
- *Palmetto Gold Award for closing the Achievement Gap*
- *DECA students selected to compete at the National level in Salt Lake, Utah*
- *Students named as National Advanced Placement Scholars*
- *State and National recognition for Career and Technology student groups*
- *Numerous 1st place winners in state HOSA and DECA competitions*
- *Fine Arts Department awarded Grant for the Art5s Innovation Distinguished Arts Program*
- *Student Council received first-place for Outstanding Project Award and AAAA Council of the Year*

2012-2013 Priorities

- *Expand internship opportunities for seniors*
- *Improve the achievement of students on state and national measures*
- *Work on programs to ensure repeaters get back on track to graduate*
- *Reduce discipline referrals, suspensions and expulsions*
- *Increase percentage of students participating in Student Activities*
- *Increase the student graduation rate*
- *Increase the number of students taking Advanced Placement and dual-credit courses*
- *Continue to reduce the percentage of students retained in the ninth grade*
- *Expand professional development to address student achievement*
- *Provide professional development that enables teachers to integrate increased technology use in the learning process*
- *Continue facilities improvements to include exterior fields and buildings*

A Message From Sonja Merriwether-Hawkins, Chair, RVHS SIC

The declarative statement, "It's All In The View" captures the true essence of Ridge View High School. Our students and faculty work tirelessly to continue the tradition of excellence in both academics and athletics that heralds "The View" among the best high schools in the midlands. Diversity among our students, staff and their experiences; the expansion of professional development opportunities; strong academic programs that meet the needs of each student; parental and community support; and our students' willingness to meet success have once again converged to earn Ridge View the prestigious Palmetto Gold School Award for closing the achievement gap.

As an advisory board to the principal and faculty, the Ridge View High School SIC is committed to helping our school define and exceed the goals necessary for our students' continued success; furthermore, we encourage parents and community members to involve themselves by exercising their voice in our efforts to continue to meet the needs of our students and our school, doing so improves school quality for all students and promotes ownership in our school community. Also, in working together we ALL help to ensure that the goals and objectives outlined in our school renewal plan are met with success, and that we maintain our status among the Palmetto State's top schools.

As we, Amelia Butler McKie, SIC Co-Chair; Cheryl Worrell and Quincelia McCollum, SIC Co-Secretaries; and I, end this (our first) year as the leadership team of the SIC, we thank those parents, faculty, and community members who have worked with us, and we encourage representation from every student and parent organization that exists at RidgeView High School to participate in the efforts of next year's school improvement council members; representation channels the voice of your organization. We look forward to your support as we gear up to meet the challenges that a new year will bring us.

Contact the school or visit the RVHS Website to learn more about the SIC, and please do join us on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Ridge View High School Media Center.

Let your voice be heard!

Sonja Merriwether-Hawkins

2011-2012 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Co-Chairs: *Amelia McKie & Sonja Merriwether-Hawkins*

Secretaries: *Quincelia McCollum and Cheryl Worrell*

Student Representatives	Parent Representatives	At-Large Representatives	Faculty/Staff Representatives
<i>Rahsaan Perry</i>	<i>Catina Barnes-Ricks</i> <i>Janise Brown</i> <i>Sharron Buoy</i> <i>Pamela Burgess</i> <i>Sophia Cornish</i> <i>Peggy Crowell</i> <i>Darold and Myra Dantzler</i> <i>Dawn Dawson-House</i> <i>Pam Donaldson</i> <i>Theresa English</i> <i>Kaye Evans</i> <i>Tammie Greene</i> <i>Susy Halbrook</i> <i>Warren Harley</i> <i>Geneva Jenkins</i> <i>Angela Jones</i> <i>Serena Kelley</i> <i>Suzan Leary</i> <i>Tarolyn Lee</i> <i>Kim Love</i> <i>Joann Madden</i> <i>David Marino</i> <i>Thomas McCullough</i> <i>Cathy Meadows</i> <i>Charleston Murphy</i> <i>Stan Nelson</i> <i>Wanda Nelson</i> <i>Angela Poore</i> <i>Kelly Randle</i> <i>Belinda Robbins</i> <i>Gardenia Robinson</i> <i>Gary Robinson</i> <i>Paula Scales</i> <i>Matthew Seuffer</i> <i>Anthony Stovall</i> <i>Jolanda Sulton</i> <i>Turrentine Cornell</i> <i>Donna White</i> <i>Gary Worrell</i>	<i>Nancy Allen</i> <i>Jema Belfanti</i> <i>Felicia Blake</i> <i>Regina Brown</i> <i>Lisa Call</i> <i>Greg Chandler</i> <i>Dr. Paul Feurstein</i> <i>Bill Fort</i> <i>Pat Heathcoe</i> <i>Chuck Hill</i> <i>Wayne Jefferson</i> <i>Joel Johnson, DMD</i> <i>Danny Nabors</i> <i>Donna Plunkett</i> <i>Val Richardson</i> <i>Veronica Watkins</i> <i>Gayel Wigfall</i>	<i>Pasquail Bates</i> <i>Helene Cargile</i> <i>Mary Harmon</i> <i>Sidney Johnson</i> <i>Brenda Mack-Foxworth</i> <i>Marty Martin</i> <i>Gordon Maynes</i> <i>Melissa Myers</i> <i>Gary Robinson</i> <i>Chris Seay</i>

Ridge View High School
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