



Promoting Excellence

(As of January 22, 2013)



Sumter School District

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Excellence in the Classroom

- ◆ The Class of 2012 earned more than \$19 million in merit-based scholarships.
- ◆ The 2012 Graduation Rate was 81.6%, which surpassed the state average of 74.9%.
- ◆ Sumter School District's dropout rate is 1.1%, which is below the state's dropout rate of 2.8%.
- ◆ Schools in Sumter School District earned higher ratings on the annual report cards released by the South Carolina Department of Education. Overall, 100% of our schools improved or maintained their absolute ratings, and 80% improved or maintained their growth ratings. In 2011, 85% of our schools improved or maintained their absolute ratings, and 65% improved or maintained their growth ratings.
- ◆ Sumter School District earned a rating of B for exceeding state standards on the federal report card.
- ◆ Five members of the Sumter School District Board of Trustees earned recognition by the South Carolina School Boards Association for achievement in the association's Boardmanship Institute.
- ◆ Trevor T. Ivey, a sixth grade science teacher at Alice Drive Middle School, was named the Sumter School District Teacher of the Year. Tiffany Ardis from Manchester Elementary was named the elementary school finalist, and Janet Adams-Lainé from Crestwood High was named the high school finalist.
- ◆ Eight teachers in Sumter School District achieved National Board Certification bringing the district's total to 114. Congratulations to the following new National Board Certified teachers: Ashleigh Johnson (Alice Drive Elementary), Amie Rutherford, Michelle Snyder and Trevor Ivey (Alice Drive Middle), Sylvester Hickmon and Laura Lyles (Kingsbury Elementary), Rebecca Osteen (Millwood Elementary) and Erica Jefferson (Wilder Elementary).
- ◆ Audrey Keys, Ebenezer Middle School Career Specialist, received the prestigious Barbara H. James Career Specialist of the Year Award at the 2012 Education and Business Summit.
- ◆ Mary Tuggle, a teacher at Lemira Elementary School, submitted a photo that was chosen for the juried exhibition Personal Portraits at Photo Place Gallery in Middlebury, Vermont.
- ◆ Brittini H. Buitureira, a third grade teacher at Alice Drive Elementary School, was named the USC Education Student of the Year.
- ◆ Three Sumter School District Teachers were named Golden Apple Teachers. WLTX News Anchor Darci Strickland surprised R.E. Davis Elementary School teachers Dianne Smith and Melissa Beasley and Kingsbury Elementary Math Interventionist Pam Wilfong each with the award.
- ◆ For the second year in a row, Jason Gore was named the winner of the Pee Dee Regional Teacher Turn the Key award. The South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators presents this award to the Outstanding Agriculture Teacher in his/her first two to four years of teaching.
- ◆ Linda Avery, an entrepreneurship teacher at Crestwood High School, was chosen to receive a scholarship for the 30th Annual Entrepreneurship Education Forum.
- ◆ Michael Lear was named president of the SC Association of Career and Technology Education Manufacturing and Engineering Division.
- ◆ Melissa Porter from Shaw Heights Elementary and Jamie Lessard from Lakewood High School were named Distinguished Reading Teachers by the Sumter Area Reading Council.
- ◆ MSGT Eric Avery, USAF (Ret) from Crestwood High earned the Advanced Aerospace Science Instructor Instruction award. This designation recognizes his superior professionalism, instructor skills and adherence to AFJROTC standards.
- ◆ Leon Williams, Sumter School District Food Services Director, was selected as a Supervisor/Director Chair for the 2013-2014 year with the SC School Nutrition Association.
- ◆ Lemira Elementary School students in Benita Duncan's and Shamarla Hart's classes were selected as two of the top ten overall reading classes in the Read with the Gamecocks program.
- ◆ Laura Baker, an art teacher at Bates Middle School, won first place in the 2012 Santee Lynches Adult Poster Contest for the State of South Carolina.
- ◆ Eileen Mahoney, a student at Sumter High School, was named a semifinalist in the 58th annual National Merit Scholarship program.
- ◆ Nhantrung T. Phan, a senior at Sumter High School, was named a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship program.
- ◆ Sumter High School senior Blake Ward was selected as one of two SC students to serve as the 2013 US Senate Youth Scholarship state delegates.
- ◆ Seven students from Lemira Elementary were named finalists on the WIS Greatest Grandparent writing contest. Congratulations to Cheyenne Hodge, James Council and Brynne Haddock from Ms. Mitzenheim's class; Daquan Colclough from Ms. Massingill's class; and Z'Keyus Milledge and Travion Burgess from Ms. Watkins' class.
- ◆ Zachary Delaney, an 8th grade student at Bates Middle School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship.
- ◆ Chestnut Oaks Middle School students Brittney Moses, Allura King and Malik Bradley placed first through third, respectively in the school level Poetry Out-Loud Competition at Chestnut Oaks Middle School.

- ◆ Hannah Partin, a seventh grade student at Furman Middle School, was selected to honor nationally known children's author Roseanne Perry for her book Heart of a Shepherd, at the South Carolina Association of School Librarians Conference.
- ◆ Donovan Adams, a student at Ebenezer Middle School, placed first in the state in the National Career and Development Association's Poetry contest.
- ◆ The Ebenezer FBLA earned national recognition as the winner of the FBLA Go Green Project.
- ◆ Crestwood High School was awarded the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Distinguished Unit Award With Merit.
- ◆ Sumter High and Crestwood High AFJROTC Cadets earned top awards at the Cadet Officer Leadership School.
- ◆ Crestwood High School's Air Force Junior ROTC Drill Team came away with top honors at the Irmo High School Drill Meet and Conway High School Drill Meet.
- ◆ Alice Drive Middle School was selected by S2TEM Centers SC and South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics and Science for participation in the STEM School Support program.
- ◆ Three schools benefited from an \$810,000 grant awarded through the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Educational Partnership program. Sumter School District's Patriot Project will provide academic and social/emotional support to military connected students of Shaw Air Force Base, home to headquarters of the 20th Fighter Wing, Ninth Air Force, US Air Forces Central, and Third Army/US Army Central.
- ◆ Sumter School District was one of 47 school districts in the nation to receive the AT&T Aspire Grant in the amount of \$100,000.
- ◆ Two hundred students will continue to receive assistance after school thanks to a \$433,125 21st Century grant for HYPE programs at the HOPE Centers.
- ◆ Angela Boykin, a CATE teacher at Brewington Academy, received a \$500 award from the Sumter Home Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to use in her classes.
- ◆ Brian Jackson, a teacher at Crestwood High, received a grant through DonorsChoose.org to purchase 35 eight gigabyte flash drives for students to save their classwork.
- ◆ Math students at Alice Drive Middle had an opportunity to learn the Common Core Math Standards in an innovative manner thanks to the NBA Math Hoops Classroom Kit. Michelle Snyder was one of 300 teachers in the nation to receive this kit.
- ◆ Hats off to Crestwood High and Shaw Heights Elementary for being awarded \$500 grants from Walmart.
- ◆ The Crestwood High School Marching Knights placed first overall in the Showstyle Division at the Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School Bulldog Band Bash. The Marching Knights earned additional trophies in the following categories: 1st Place Marching and Maneuvering, Most Spirited award, 1st Place Drumline, 2nd Place Colorguard, 2nd Place Hornline, 1st Place General Effect and 1st Place Drum Major.
- ◆ The Marching Knights took home first place overall at the Dillon Battle of the Bands. They also placed first in the categories of Colorguard, Drumline, Dance Line and Drum Major.
- ◆ With six bands competing in the Showstyle Division, the Crestwood Marching Knights earned another First Place award at the Orangeburg-Wilkinson Battle of the Bands. The Knights received First Place for Hornline and Drumline. Additionally, they received First Place Overall, a Superior rating, and the Ronald J. Sarjeant award for the highest score in Showstyle.
- ◆ Sumter High students in Heidi Adler's IB/Art 3 class were asked to carve pumpkins for the Halloween special of Making it Grow.
- ◆ Will Stallings and Anitra Simonson from Sumter High School placed second and third, respectively, in the Sumter Oktoberfest art contest.
- ◆ Students in Sumter School District won top awards at the Sumter County Fair art show.
- ◆ Our choirs presented the 8th annual National Anthem Project to honor our troops, past and present.

Excellence in the Fine Arts

- ◆ Thirty chorus students from Lakewood and Crestwood were selected for the South Carolina All-State Chorus.
- ◆ Jessica Beal, Michelle Casey and Taylor Willis from Sumter High were selected for the All-State Orchestra.
- ◆ The following Sumter High School Orchestra students were selected through competitive audition for the Region 4 (Lowcountry) Orchestra: Senior Orchestra (10-12 grade): Jessica Beal, Michelle Casey, Ashley Gantt, Breana Sanders and Taylor Willis. Junior Orchestra (7-9 grade): Kiana Colclough, Bailey Elmore and Savannah Jordan.

Excellence in Athletics

- ◆ Sumter High inducted Lee Hatfield, Frank Moses, Jermaine Williams and Rutledge Dingle into the Sumter High School Athletic Hall of Fame.
- ◆ Ben Jackson and Jon Dial from Sumter High were selected to play in the North/South All-Star Football Game.
- ◆ The Sumter Varsity Girls Basketball Team won the District 9 Holiday Tournament. Cy Cooper was named MVP.
- ◆ Madison Durant, Molly Duggan and Victoria Brooks from Sumter High were selected for the Girls Cross Country All-Region team.
- ◆ Annabelle Dallery signed a scholarship with Newberry College to play womens golf.
- ◆ SHS Volleyball Player Robbi Winfield was selected to the Region VI AAAA All-Region Team.
- ◆ The Crestwood High volleyball and football teams qualified for playoffs.
- ◆ Rebecca Burroughs from Crestwood was selected for the All-Region Volleyball team.
- ◆ Johnny Smalley, Keiton Burgess, Andre Bennett, Jonathan Ray, Antwan Conyers, Rakeem Benjamin and Marcus Hilton from Crestwood were selected for the All-Region Football team.
- ◆ Crestwood athletes won the following awards: Region 6 AAA Offensive Player of the Year- Rakeem Benjamin, Region 6 AAA Defensive Player of the Year- Andree Bennett, and Region 6 AAA Ronald Rouse Lineman of the Year- Keiton Burgess. Keiton Burgess was also selected to play in the Shrine Bowl.
- ◆ The Crestwood Girls and Boys Basketball teams won the Lake Marion Christmas Tournament, and Daniqwa Lewis and Seth Fitzgerald were named the MVPs.
- ◆ Crestwood Strength Coach Brian Jackson hosted the SCSCA Speed and Strength clinic with over 100 athletes in attendance.
- ◆ Crestwood Coach Randy Stogner was re-elected as the SCACA 3A Lower State Representative.
- ◆ Lakewood High cheerleaders Daja Murray and Wendeline Williams were selected to attend Cheer Hawaii USA.
- ◆ The Furman Middle School Football team won the regular season conference title with an undefeated regular season.
- ◆ Furman Coach Kevin Miller was selected as the conference Coach of the Year.
- ◆ Furman Middle had eight football players selected to the All-Conference team.
- ◆ The Furman Middle Boys and Girls Basketball teams placed first at the Chestnut Oaks Middle School Christmas Tournament. The Chestnut Oaks Lady Falcons placed second.
- ◆ The Alice Drive Middle School Hawks won the conference championship in football.
- ◆ Jaron Richardson, Rakeem Massingill, John White, Tiric Gadson, Kenan Davis, Jarvis Wheeler and Tariq Myers from Mayewood Middle were named All-Conference Football Players.
- ◆ Our schools participated in service projects including the United Way Campaign, Operation Christmas Child, Samaritans House, United Ministries, Emmanuel Soup Kitchen, Pennies for Patients, Toys for Tots, Angel Tree, Ronald McDonald House, Jump Rope for Heart, Lee Denim Day for Breast Cancer, and the Domestic Walk Against Violence.
- ◆ The Teacher Forum collected hundreds of teddy bears and school supplies for Hurricane Sandy victims.
- ◆ The Sumter Education Foundation opened its bank account with \$33,000 thanks to the generosity of Sumter County Council and Sumter City Council, which pledged \$16,000 and \$17,000, respectively.
- ◆ Lieutenant General Vincent K. Brooks donated \$1,000 to the Sumter Education Foundation.
- ◆ The foundation awarded \$100 mini grants to fifty-four teachers to support projects that enhance curriculum and classroom instruction.
- ◆ Through the Gear Up for Learning program, over 1,850 back to school supply packs and 500 book bags were delivered to Sumter School District.
- ◆ Lori Langford and Lauren Durney won \$50 gift certificates to Office Church and School Supply thanks to the Sumter Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- ◆ McDonalds provided teachers of the year with free breakfast for a year. Alice Drive Middle received \$250 in honor of Trevor Ivey, who was named the District Teacher of the Year.
- ◆ Through the Ruby Tuesday GiveBack program, Sumter School District receives 20% of the proceeds from all who eat in or carry-out at lunch or dinner and mention the district on Tuesdays.
- ◆ Ashley Furniture Home Store has localized A Hope to Dream, a national program that provides mattress sets to help local children in need. For every mattress sold by Ashley Furniture, \$5 is donated to the program.

Excellence in Community

Outreach

- ◆ Superintendent Randolph D. Bynum, Sr. opened the lines of two way communication through five advisory councils. He has also built strong partnerships by meeting directly with our stakeholders in the community including local government, the faith-based community, the education community, the business community, the military, and civic organizations.
- ◆ Thirty-one members of the community participated in the second annual Principal for the Day program.
- ◆ Middle and high school students were honored for outstanding character and citizenship by the Chamber.
- ◆ Our schools provided 1,996 dozen cookies and 2,474 cards for the annual Shower Shaw with Cookies project.