

2023 -2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR IN REVIEW



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WOULD YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, BE INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH US?

Check out our job board on our website to learn more about our open employment opportunities!

Scan the QR code or follow the link: www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/Page/9660

Scan me!



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Rock Hill Schools Supporters,

As I reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, one of the defining themes of our work has been inspiring confident leaders district wide. Our team focused on nurturing leadership at every level, from pre-K all the way through our executive team.

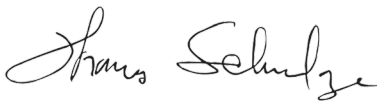
We also committed resources and future investments toward our goal of developing *The Leader In Me* in every school and department across our district. This work could not have been done without the support of our community and the generous donors who have fully funded the program for years to come.

The pages included in this report highlight our strong emphasis on, and progress in, building compassionate, caring, and creative graduates who can tackle any challenge with innovation, collaboration, and top-notch communication.

Our students are truly **Rock Solid**, and I am confident this work has set the stage to create tomorrow's best and brightest leaders.

As we continue to encourage confidence in our children, I am deeply grateful for your ongoing support of our programs and district.

Thank you,



Dr. Tommy Schmolze, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Learn more about the Leader in Me Symposium here! →

2023 - 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our school board recognizes public support and open lines of communication are vital to a successful educational environment for students and employees. Citizens are encouraged to stay informed on the decisions which affect students and teachers, to let board members know opinions on important issues, and to attend board meetings whenever possible.



James Burns



Patrice Cherry



Windy Cole



Mildred Douglas



Bryan McAlinden



Helena Miller



Pete Nosal

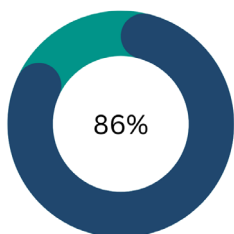
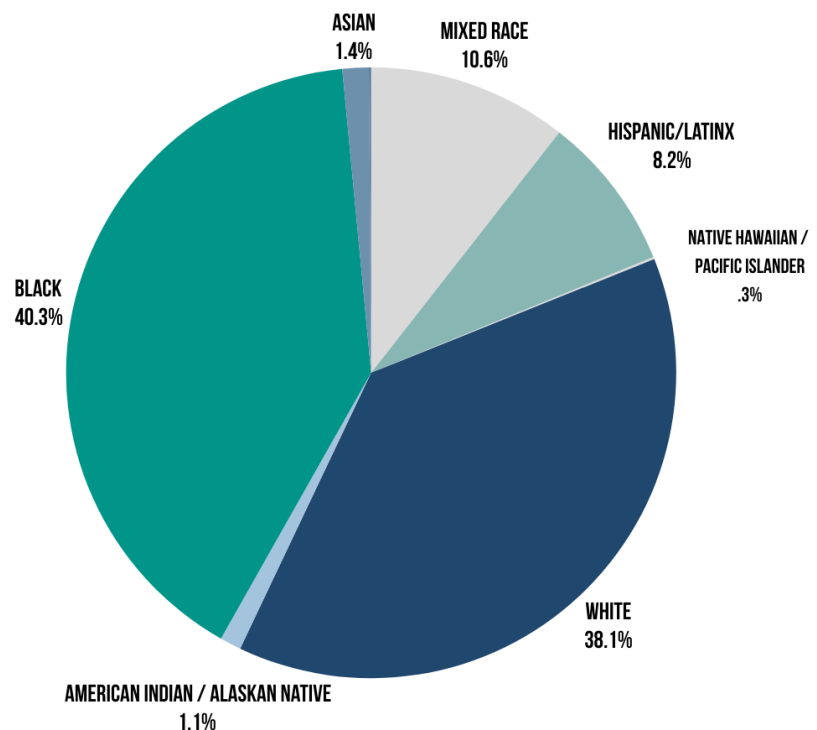
ABOUT ROCK HILL SCHOOLS



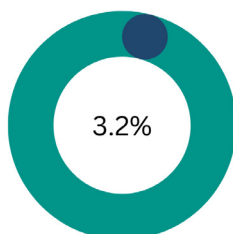
STUDENT ENROLLMENT: 16,569

Rock Hill Schools is the second largest school district in York County and one of the largest in South Carolina. We are home to 14 elementary schools, five middle schools, and three high schools.

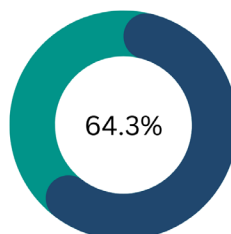
We are also proud of our amazing, high-quality programs including the Applied Technology Center, Adult Education, and Alternative Programs. Additionally, our district offers a robust amount of program options including language immersion, arts integration, career and technical education, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) learning. These programs offer families choices to fit their student's educational needs and nurture their talents, interests, and unique genius. The strength of Rock Hill Schools emanates from the expertise of our people. Success stories range from the classrooms of IB programs, to the preparation of students for real-world careers, to reaching students of all abilities.



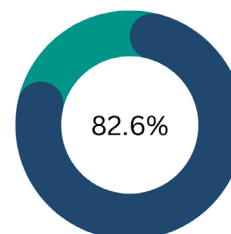
ATTENDANCE RATE



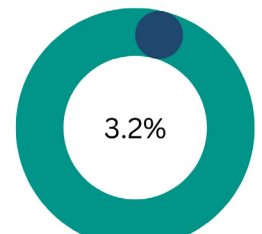
DROP - OUT RATE



QUALIFIED FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH



GRADUATION RATE



STUDENTS CLASSIFIED AS SPECIAL EDUCATION

2023-2024 FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 313,067,246



FEDERAL SOURCES
\$ 42,011,652



STATE SOURCES
\$ 135,433,091



LOCAL SOURCES
\$ 134,433,025



INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE
\$ 1,190,177

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$ 285,388,426



INSTRUCTION
\$ 125,258,164



SUPPORT SERVICES
\$ 125,681,808



COMMUNITY SERVICES
\$ 217,484



INTERGOVERNMENTAL
\$ 1,196,950



CAPITAL OUTLAY
\$ 16,611,638



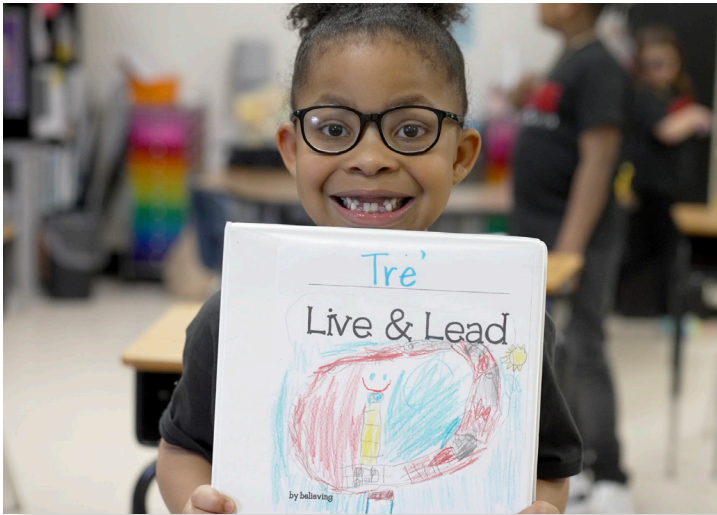
DEBT SERVICE
\$ 15,422,714

BUDGET PROCESS

The 2023-2024 budget process incorporated a balance to maintain educational excellence and fiscal responsibility for the Rock Hill Schools community.

In June 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a balanced General Fund budget of approximately **\$217.3 million** for the year ending June 30, 2024.

CONNECTING TO OUR COMMUNITY



FIRST LEADER IN ME DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Rock Hill Schools made history by becoming the first district in South Carolina to implement the Leader in Me program district-wide. This groundbreaking initiative, inspired by Stephen Covey's principles of leadership and personal development, empowers students and staff to take ownership of their learning, cultivate leadership skills, and foster a positive school culture. By adopting this holistic approach, Rock Hill Schools is setting a powerful example for other districts in the state, demonstrating the potential of developing leadership at every level of the educational experience.

ESE STARRY NIGHT PROM

Rock Hill Schools made a significant and heartwarming step by hosting the district's first-ever Exceptional Student Education (ESE) prom, providing a memorable and inclusive celebration for students with all abilities. This event offered students the opportunity to enjoy a fun, supportive evening filled with music, dancing, and camaraderie, allowing them to experience the joy of a traditional prom in a welcoming environment. By organizing this event, Rock Hill Schools reinforced its commitment to inclusivity and ensured every student, regardless of ability, has the chance to create lasting memories and feel valued within our school community.



SLAM DUNK FOR 2ND GRADE

Rock Hill Schools hosted a unique and exciting event in partnership with Winthrop University. Slam Dunk for Second Grade was designed to connect literacy with basketball in an engaging way for all second graders in the district. Students read the book "Little Shaq", a story blending basketball with valuable lessons, before taking a memorable field trip to the coliseum to watch the women's basketball team in action. The event was further enhanced by the players, who visited each second grade classroom to read with students and share their personal experiences, making a lasting impact on students.



EXCELLENT EMPLOYEES

Take a look at our Recruitment Fair!



RECRUITMENT AND ONBOARDING

Recruitment of high-quality educators remains a top priority for the RH SOARS Recruitment and Retention initiative. RH Schools strengthened partnerships with colleges and universities across the state, including Clemson, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop. 2023-2024 recruitment efforts translated to a 27 percent decrease in certified vacancies for the start of the following school year. Recruitment initiatives led to fully staffing 97 percent of classrooms in critical needs areas: math, science, and special education.



EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

The Well-Being team prioritized highlighting employee resources to assist them with their work-life balance. There are provided resources embedded in benefits that employees have but need to be aware of, like our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). With the push from our team, the utilization rate increased to 8.23 percent for the year, and we are looking to continue to grow that percentage. Also, we have hosted events for employee recognition as well as employee advancement opportunities such as our First Time Homebuyer Workshop and Welcoming Wellness Fair.

SHARING THE LOVE WITH NEW TEACHERS

In February, embracing the spirit of the month, induction teachers gathered for a special New Teacher Institute meeting by grade bands (elementary, middle, and high) for a “Share the Love” event. During these sessions, teachers from across the district shared their favorite tips on a variety of topics, including instruction, engagement, and organization.



EDUCATOR SERVICES



EDUCATORS COMPLETED FORMAL EVALUATIONS



MENTORS SERVED NOVICE TEACHERS



CLASSROOM EDUCATORS SERVED ON EVALUATION TEAMS



EDUCATORS RENEWED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

2023 - 2024 POINTS OF PRIDE



- The College Board awarded students at Northwestern, South Pointe, and Rock Hill High national recognition.
- Students from Northwestern, South Pointe, and Rock Hill High earned awards for their academic achievements as Advanced Placement Scholars, International Baccalaureate Diploma recipients, and Dual Credit seniors.
- South Pointe graduate Garrett Brown was the 2023 AAAA Boys Cross Country State Champion.
- Rock Hill High graduate Isaiah Palmer was the South Carolina High School League 5A Pole Vault State Champion.
- Applied Technology Center students passed state and national certifications.
- Students from Northwestern, South Pointe, and Rock Hill High were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy which recognizes students' advanced proficiency in both English and one additional world language.

GRADUATION BY THE NUMBERS



HIGHEST HONOR



HONOR GRADUATES

18

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
DIPLOMA CANDIDATES

16

ACADEMIC HONOR CERTIFICATES FOR
SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

21

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

39

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLAR CANDIDATES

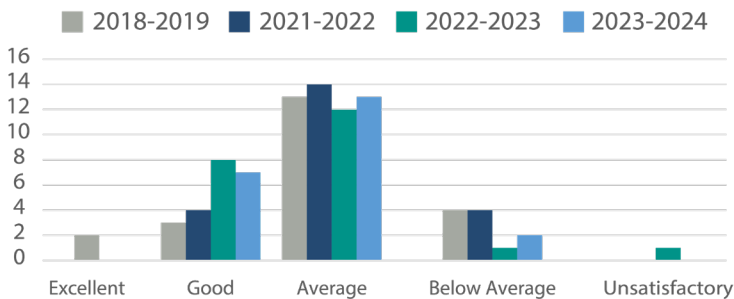
MORE THAN **\$36 MILLION** AWARDED
IN COMBINED SCHOLARSHIPS



STATE & NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

STATEWIDE TESTING REFLECTS A STRATEGIC FOCUS ON STUDENT GROWTH

Rock Hill Schools
SC School Report Card Overall Ratings



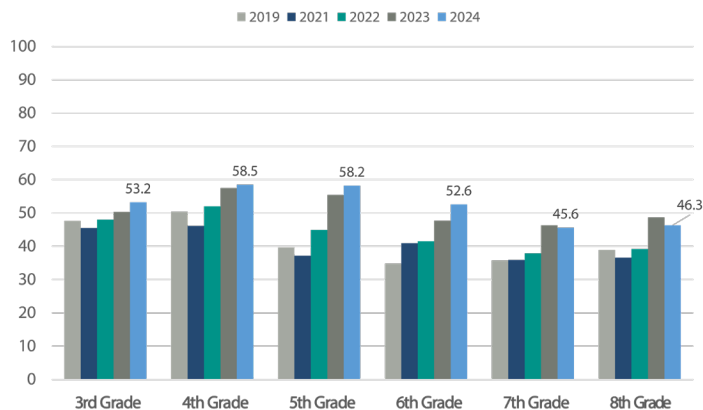
961

AVERAGE SAT SCORE

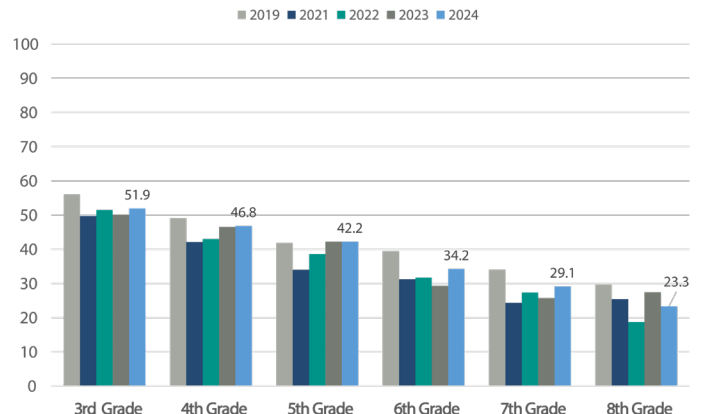
18.1

AVERAGE ACT
COMPOSITE SCORE

SC Ready ELA
Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeds Expectations
Rock Hill Schools - Grades 3 through 8



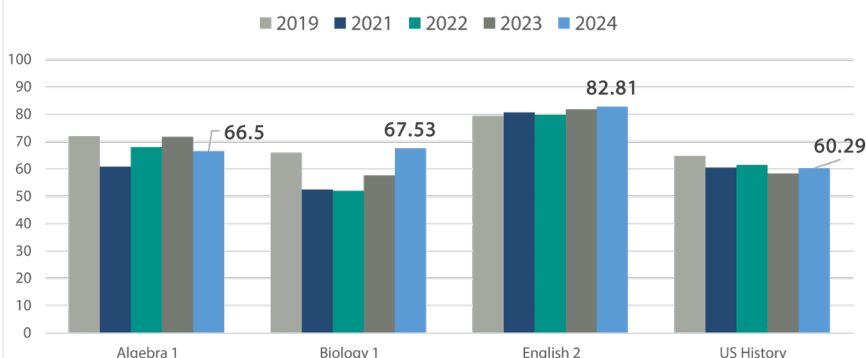
SC Ready Math
Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeds Expectations
Rock Hill Schools - Grades 3 through 8



SC READY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND SC READY MATH

The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in English Language Arts (ELA) shows promise with an increase of over **five percent** in grades three through seven. The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in grades four, six, and seven in math improved at, or above, **three percent** from Spring 2022 to Spring 2024.

End of Course Examination Program (EOCEP)
Percent of Students with Passing Scores - Letter Grades A-D
Rock Hill Schools



END OF COURSE EXAMS HIGHLIGHTS

From Spring 2023 to Spring 2024, the percentage of students passing Biology 1 increased nearly **10 percent**.

Students demonstrating proficiency in U.S. History **exceed** the state average.

For the past two years, the passing rate in English 2 has **exceeded 80 percent**.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

SPACES RE-IMAGINED

In an effort to improve and modernize school facilities, several updates were made to both office spaces and key areas throughout the district. One significant project involved the construction of new office space on the second floor of the district office to accommodate the Human Resources department, with a total project cost of **\$17,000**.



Additionally, durable and aesthetically pleasing LVT (luxury vinyl tile) flooring was installed in various locations, including the District 3 Stadium press box, Ebenezer Art Room, Independence office, Sullivan Auditorium, and throughout the entire transportation building.

OPTIMIZING AIR & WATER FLOW

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the health and comfort of students and staff, several key upgrades were made to enhance air and water quality in our schools. At Saluda Trail Middle School, aging HVAC units in the front office area were replaced with more efficient models to ensure better air circulation and temperature control.



In addition, old water heaters in the kitchens at Sullivan Middle and Northwestern High were replaced with state-of-the-art, tank-less Rinnai water heaters. These new units offer improved water and heating efficiency, contributing to a more sustainable and reliable system.

CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining safe and accessible school environments, several concrete repair and upgrade projects were completed across the district. Including:

- An ADA-compliant ramp at Northwestern High
- Walkway updates in front of Old Pointe Elementary
- An updated main driveway at Rawlinson Road Middle
- A concrete ramp at Rock Hill High's baseball field

These updates contribute to a safer, more functional environment for students, staff, and the community.

TRANSPORTATION: OUR FLEET

10,228
TOTAL MILES
TRAVELED PER DAY

6,574
BUS STOPS
PER DAY

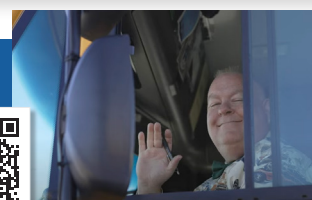
45 MPH
MAX SPEED LIMIT
FOR SCHOOL BUSES

9,423
NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ASSIGNED TO BUSES

110
NUMBER OF DRIVERS

98
STATE-OWNED SCHOOL BUSES
54
DISTRICT-OWNED SCHOOL BUSES

We have some amazing bus drivers! Scan the QR code to meet one of them, Mr. Sam. Our students love Mr. Sam so much and they show it by gifting him things they've created. Find out what one of his best gifts is and why he thinks it's important to shape our future.



HEALTH *AND* SAFETY

FOOD SERVICES

All 24 schools offered a nutritious breakfast and lunch daily during the 2023-2024 school year free of charge. All meals served met nutritional standards established by federal (United States Department of Agriculture) and state (South Carolina Department of Education) regulations.

785,000
Breakfasts Served

1,700,000
Lunch Meals Served

All 24

schools offered free meals for all students in the 2023-2024 school year

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The purpose of the Safety and Security Department is to provide a safe and secure environment for students, staff, district property, and other key stakeholders.

Rock Hill Schools prioritizes safety for students, staff, and visitors through employee training and partnerships with local first responders. Our key safety measures include:

- Over 2,100 cameras throughout the district
- Single-point entrance systems in schools
- Access controlled doors
- Random safety screenings with K9
- School Safety Audits by South Carolina School Board Insurance Trust (SCSBIT)

3

Campus Security Associates

Each high school has a Campus Security Associate (CSA) whose primary role is to act as a buffer between students, staff, and law enforcement.

19

Safety Security Officers

Full-time private armed security officers patrol elementary schools, ensuring safety and collaborating with staff.

A Safety Response Team (SRT) of four to five officers conducts safety assessments & weekly random safety screenings at each middle and high school.

20

School Resource Officers (SRO)

In addition to standard police training, SROs in Rock Hill Schools receive specialized training for effective interactions with students, staff, and administration.



CUSTODIAL SOLUTIONS

Custodial services play a crucial role in maintaining the health, safety, and overall learning environment within our school buildings. These services encompass a wide range of responsibilities aimed at keeping the educational facilities clean, organized, and conducive to student and staff well-being.

Our custodians keep 2.7M square feet of district facilities shining each and every day. That's **1,190** total classrooms!

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

Our total cost for all energy and public utilities was 14.5 percent (\$69,3467) **UNDER** budget during the 2023-2024 school year.

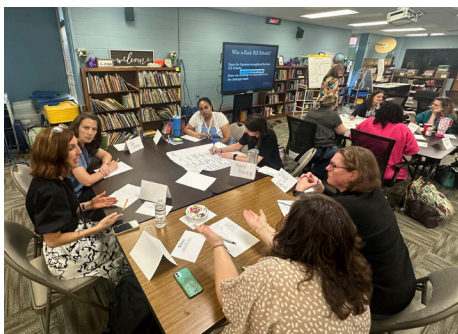


STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services department ensures equitable access to education by addressing learning barriers.

Key responsibilities include managing attendance, discipline, enrollment, and compliance with FERPA.

The department also tackles truancy, supports students under the McKinney-Vento Act and in foster care, and provides mental health services. It collaborates with families and community agencies to promote academic success, inclusivity, and positive student engagement.



COGNIA ACCREDITATION

In the 2023-2024 school year, Rock Hill Schools pursued Cognia Accreditation, a comprehensive district assessment aimed at identifying both strengths and growth areas to drive continuous improvement.

Aiming to earn this prestigious accreditation will signal if the district meets or exceeds high standards of educational quality and effectiveness, boosting both the credibility of the school and the academic success of its students.

This process underscores Rock Hill Schools' commitment to fostering student achievement and long-term excellence.

FAMILY OUTREACH

Rock Hill Schools Family Outreach Associates serve as a vital link between schools, homes, and the community by providing a range of wrap-around support services for students and families, as well as referrals to local community agencies.

During the 2023-2024 school year, our associates collaborated with 33 community partners to assist our most vulnerable families with services such as rental payments, utility bill payments, furniture support, hotel stays, apparel donations, school supplies, holiday assistance, and more.

We are proud to say the generosity of our stakeholders has positively impacted over **300** families during the 2023-2024 school year.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Students missing school can have a significant impact on their academic success. Even missing just 10 percent of school days can dramatically affect a student's progress, making it harder to stay on track and meet learning goals.

That's why Rock Hill Schools launched its **Attendance Matters** campaign—an initiative designed to emphasize the critical link between daily attendance and academic achievement. This campaign encouraged students, parents, and the community to prioritize being in school ready to learn every day, all day.

Whether it was through fun incentives, awareness programs, or community partnerships, the Attendance Matters campaign aimed to reduce absenteeism and foster a culture of consistent attendance.



WHAT MAKES ROCK HILL SCHOOLS **#ROCKSOLID?**



STACY ENGLISH
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

- Stacy English of Castle Heights Middle was named Rock Hill Schools District Teacher of the Year.
- ATC Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter was recognized as a Bronze Emblem National Chapter that actively implements the organization's mission and strategies.
- Students at several schools received a maximum score on SC READY test in ELA, Math, and/or Science.
- SC State Fair Art Blue Ribbon Winner - Juleia White, a fifth-grader at Oakdale, won first place in photography at the SC State Fair.
- Bianca Chivers-White was named the 2023 Inez Tenenbaum Leadership Award recipient for Cohort 50.
- Students from Northwestern,

South Pointe, and Rock Hill High made the South Carolina American Choral Directors Honors Choir, South Carolina Music Educators Association All-State Chorus, and American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Honor Choir.

- Students from Dutchman Creek Middle Jr. Beta Club competed and advanced to nationals in three categories at the National Jr. Beta State Convention.
- Two students from Northwestern and Rock Hill High succeeded in making All-State Orchestra.
- Students from Dutchman Creek, Rawlinson Road, and Sullivan Middle received superior ratings at the S.C. Jr. Thespians Festival.
- Students from Northwestern and Rock Hill High made the All-State Band, All-State Orchestra, and All-State Jazz Band.



- Northwestern played in the inaugural Carolina Panthers Keep Pounding Classic inside Bank of America Stadium, the first high school football game ever held at the stadium.
- The Rock Hill High athletic training department was awarded the National Athletic Trainers Association Safe Sports School Award.
- Dutchman Creek Middle's seventh grade football team won the 2023 Football Conference Championship.
- Sullivan Middle's eighth grade volleyball team won the 2023 Volleyball Conference Championship.
- South Pointe's Jack McCrae was the 2023 Swimming State Champion.
- Dutchman Creek Middle's eighth grade girls basketball team won the Girls Basketball Conference Championship.
- Sullivan Middle's wrestling team won the Boys Wrestling Championship.
- Saluda Trail Middle's seventh and eighth grade basketball teams won the Boys Basketball Conference Championships.
- Rock Hill High's girls wrestling team won the Girls Wrestling Championship.
- Saluda Trail Middle's track teams won the championship for both the girls' and boys' conferences.
- Rock Hill High's Lady Bearcats went to state for the Girls Basketball Championship.



Watch us send off the Lady Bearcats
to the State Championship! →



Students aboard the SC Farm Bureau mobile Ag Learning Lab



4K Summer Camp students playing educational games



Duke Lift Lab teaching our CHMS girls how to code. Watch to learn more!



NWHs students stepping during the Black History Month showcase



Battle of the Books winners at Richmond Drive Elementary



Rock Hill High Girls Basketball team read to our elementary students and spent time with them during recess



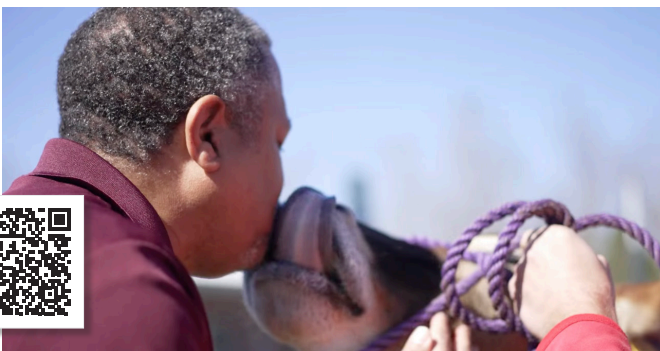
Dr. Schmolze aimed to inspire confident leaders in the 2023-2024 school year



Students participated in activities highlighting Asian American Heritage Month



Rain kept our Special Olympics olympians inside, but our teachers put together a great indoor field day so the fun could continue



Mount Holly Elementary students raised money for 4H by choosing an administrator to kiss a cow. Watch Principal Kevin Hood kiss the cow!



NWHS Football team participated in the inaugural Keep Pounding Classic at Bank of America stadium



Our high school students learned what it was like to operate machinery inside the Be Pro, Be Proud trailer



Winthrop Women's Basketball team read to our second graders as a part of our Slam Dunk for Second Grade initiative. Watch our readers enjoy the game!



Dr. Schmolze visited students from the RHHS Chess Club and challenged them to an intense game

ROCK HILL Schools

386 E. BLACK STREET, ROCK HILL, SC 29730
803.981.1000 | WWW.ROCKHILLSCHOOLS.COM

THANK YOU DONORS FOR SUPPORTING ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

- 100% RHS
- A & K Paint Company
- Community Partnership Foundation
- Dollar General Foundation
- Elevation Church
- The Foundation for Rock Hill Schools
- Heart 2 Heart Foundation
- Jadeveon Clowney's Help In Time Foundation
- Pak's Taekwondo
- Publix
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Sterling Lodge #344 Elks Club



THE FOUNDATION
ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

\$391,763

TOTAL DONATED FROM THE
FOUNDATION IN 2023-2024

The Foundation For Rock Hill Schools engages the community in collaborative efforts that strengthen, support, and advance public education in Rock Hill Schools.