

# Walhalla High School

## School Improvement Council

Educators, parents, community members and students  
Working together to support student success

### Your School Improvement Council

The SIC is mandated by law and serves as an advisory committee to the school's principal and faculty. The SIC brings parents, educators, students and community stakeholders together to work collectively to improve the school. The SIC is responsible for working with administration and faculty to develop a five-year school improvement plan and evaluate the school's success in reaching the plan's goals and objectives.

### Message from WHS SIC Co-Chairs

We are dedicated to promoting a positive culture where all students and families feel welcome and involved in the educational experience at Walhalla High School. Toward meeting this goal, we are working on ways to help families become more informed about opportunities for student engagement and parental involvement. Our hope is for students and parents to feel valued and know that their voice matters. We invite and encourage your input and involvement on SIC.

*Lorilei Swanson and Tricia Burgess*

WHS SIC Co-Chairs



Student SIC Members

### SIC Members 2016 – 2017

- Katherine Allen, kallen@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Parent/Secretary**
- Garvin Barker, garvin.barker@schneider-electric.com-**Community**
- Tricia Burgess, 3kidsenough@gmail.com-**Parent/Co-Chair**
- Raul Chavez, rchavez@swu.edu-**Community**
- Michelle Deem, mdeem@clemson.edu-**Community/Parent**
- Jessica Duke, jessica.duke@wellsfargo.com-**Parent**
- Laura Estes, estes005@bellsouth.net-**Parent**
- Amanda Harris, abharris@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Teacher**
- Paul Holleran, pholleran@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Teacher**
- JoAnn Heaton, heatmom4@gmail.com-**Parent**
- Alicia Keys, aliciakeyswh@gmail.com-**Parent**
- Christie Lee, clee601@gmail.com-**Parent**
- Carmen Lee, clee@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Teacher**
- Dora Leonard, dorahl@aol.com-**Parent**
- Bruce MacLachlan, bruce.d.maclachlan@jci.com-**Parent**
- Lori MacLachlan, schlossmac@me.com-**Parent**
- Tonya Massey, tmassey@oconeelaw.com-**Community/Parent**
- Patricia Riser, priser@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Teacher**
- Julie-Ann Shannon, d\_shannon01@hotmail.com-**Community**
- Lorilei Swanson, lswanson@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Parent/Co-Chair**
- Olivia Timms, otimms@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Parent**
- Walter Torres, walter.torres@wotprintingsolutions.com-**Community**
- John Twitty, jtwitty@hmrvti.com-**Parent**
- Steve Garrett, Principal, sgarrett@g.oconee.k12.sc.us-**Ex-officio**
- Erin Phillips, Asst. Principal, emphillips@g.oconee.k12.sc.us -**Ex-officio**

### Student Members

- Meredith Cobb, 9macobb@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- MaClaine Hanvey, 7emhanvey@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Alex Hernandez, 8adhernandez@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Trey Keys, 8rrkeys@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Adam Lowery, 0aglowery@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Madison MacLachlan, 9mkmaclachlan@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Morgan Massey, 7mamasse@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Vanessa McCall, 9vamccall@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Brij Patel, 9bnpatel@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Emma Sauer, 9egsauer@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Zoe Smith, 9zasmith@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Cooper Timms, 0cbtimms@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Rachel Twitty, 9rctwitty@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Hugo Vela, 7hvelamendoza@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
- Elliot Wechter, 9elwechter@g.oconee.k12.sc.us



# Walhalla High School

## Annual School Improvement Council REPORT TO THE PARENTS 2016-17

### WHS Mission

Together, we are empowering students to become life-long learners by building rapport and providing relevant, rigorous instruction.

### WHS Vision

To become a school that:

- provides the foundation and desire for lifelong learning,
- fosters civic responsibility, and
- promotes global understanding and compassion.



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Walhalla, SC 29691  
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<https://sites.google.com/a/g.oconee.k12.sc.us/walhalla-high-school/>

## SIC Annual Goals and Progress

Collect data in a variety of ways to find out what parents and students want and to monitor progress toward SIC goals

- Parent survey distributed during IGP meetings
- Latino parent focus group
- Student focus group

Include Tamassee-Salem High School (TSHS) SIC members equally on WHS SIC

- TSHS Chair is Co-Chair of WHS SIC
- TSHS parent member is Secretary
- TSHS student serves as representative
- TSHS teacher serves as a teacher representative

Increase community and student representation/involvement

- Added five new active community members
- Added 15 active student members
- Changed meeting times to better accommodate students

Improve communication with parents and increase awareness of opportunities to be involved

- Added SIC social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
- Hosted Family Focus Night and open house
- Added block scheduling FAQ to WHS website and incorporated Q&A with the principal at open house event
- Created opportunity for parent volunteer sign-ups for athletic events

Improve communication and outreach to Latino families

- Added One Call Now in Spanish
- Increased representation of bilingual community members, teachers, parents and staff on SIC
- Sponsored professional development session for teachers on how to better engage Latino families

Support school programs to meet the needs of students at risk

- Facilitated mentoring program for Latino youth with Southern Wesleyan University
- Supported Grace's Closet to provide clothing, food and hygiene products for students



Increase school recognition of student achievements

- Established end-of-year award ceremony for undergraduates; parents invited to attend
- Recognized NOW and RAZOR of month recipients and their families at SIC meetings

## WHS Strategic Plan Alignment

The goals and activities of the WHS SIC promote a positive school climate and a welcoming environment for all families and community members in the Walhalla area. They are aligned with the WHS Strategic Plan and specifically address the following tactics:

- Raising the "agree" and "strongly agree" score on school climate to 80% using the state parent and student survey tools
- Blending two schools successfully with the merging of TSHS and WHS
- Expanding partnerships between school and community organizations to promote the Walhalla United Program.

For more details on the WHS Strategic Plan visit the WHS SIC website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/q.oconee.k12.sc.us/walhalla-high-school/resources/sic>



Left: Family Focus Night Guest Speaker Kathy Whitmire  
Right: Guest Speaker Myriam Torres presents at Teacher Professional Development Day

## How to Get Involved

We welcome your participation in the SIC. You can communicate your comments, concerns and ideas by contacting an SIC member or attending a meeting. Everyone is welcome! For meeting dates and times, as well as contact information, minutes and reports, visit the WHS SIC Website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/q.oconee.k12.sc.us/walhalla-high-school/resources/sic>

## WHS SIC - Connect and Follow Us



<https://m.facebook.com/WHSSIC/>



<https://www.instagram.com/walhallahighschoolsic/>



@walhallahigh <https://twitter.com/walhallahigh>



[WHSSIC@oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:WHSSIC@oconee.k12.sc.us)



SWU Mentoring Partnership

## WHS Razorback Recognition & Awards

- Ranked #33 out of 215 Best Public High Schools in South Carolina by NICHE Opinion Poll 2017
- Ranked 61 out of 225 SC High Schools based on ACT and EOC 2016 test scores
- Graduation Success Program hosted student incentive luncheon with Clemson University football players
- Every senior applied for college during College Application Days
- Grace's Closet hosted Prom Days to supply prom attire for students
- WHS and Southern Wesleyan University began mentoring partnership
- 1<sup>st</sup> annual *Walhalla United* Family Night Razorback Football game held
- JROTC Rifle team set school record, finishing 15<sup>th</sup> at Army JROTC National Championships
- JROTC Drill Team wins county drill championship for 6<sup>th</sup> straight year
- JROTC Leadership Team advanced to the semi-finals of the National Leadership Competition
- JROTC Academic Team advanced to the semi-finals of the National Academic Challenge
- 6 choral students selected to perform with 2017 SC All State Chorus
- 2 WHS Choral Ensembles received Excellent ratings at SC Choral Assessment
- 3 WHS Choral Ensembles and 9 soloists received Superior awards at SC Solo and Ensemble Festival, Choral student Mallie Lewis - runner up for SC Choral Division Vocal scholarship
- Razor Robotics Team qualified for SC State Championship Tournament
- WHS hosted VEX Golden Corner Starstruck Robotics Competition
- Razor Robotics Team won The Electric City Starstruck VEX Tournament
- Shotgun Team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place-SCDNR Youth Skeet Championship 50 Target Event
- Marching Band finished 14<sup>th</sup> in the Upper State Championship
- The WHS Concert Band and Symphonic Band each received an Excellent rating at Concert Performance Assessment
- WHS Band received Outstanding Performance Award
- WHS Band placed 11 students in Region Band, 2 students in All-State Band
- Boys Cross Country placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the State; Girls Cross Country placed 8<sup>th</sup>  
3 Cross Country members made All State
- Boys Cross Country Team was the Region 1 AAA Champion
- All varsity team sports advanced to the AAA State Playoffs for 2016-2017
- Boys Soccer Team was the Region 1 AAA Champion
- WHS wrestler Cody Gibson qualified for the 3A State Wrestling Championship
- WHS Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble received Excellent ratings in combined performance at the Region II 2017 Concert Performance Assessment.
- WHS Orchestra - 48 Superior ratings and 14 Excellent ratings at 2016 Solo & Ensemble Festival
- 1 student chosen for 2016 Region Orchestra and All-State Orchestra, 1 student chosen for 2017 Region Orchestra, 15 WHS students chosen for 2017 County Orchestra, 10 WHS students participated in Mark Wood's Electrify Your Strings rock orchestra workshop
- WHS SIC Member, Dora Leonard, selected to serve on the SC SIC Board