
RIDGE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

School Improvement Council Annual Report

April, 2008

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

“Personalization” continues to be our guiding principle to promote student achievement and staff development. Recent South Carolina legislation (Education and Economic Development Act – EEDA), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools plan, requirements to implement Smaller Learning Communities, and other Richland School District 2 directed expectations all are intended to help us accomplish an increase in the academic success of all of our students.

This year we successfully transitioned to a one-lunch system. The results have been even greater than expected. Lunch-time tutoring has increased, the majority of students now participate in some form of club and/or student organization and the quantity of meaningful student activities has increased. The focus on literacy that has centered around reading in the content areas has expanded to include a writing focus. This effort has led to a new approach to the summer reading requirement which you will hear about later. It has also enabled Ridge View to be a finalist for the State Exemplary Writing Award. Our concentration on literacy will continue.

We will continue our very successful credit recovery and retrieval computer programs for qualified students using the NovaNET and ALEKS systems.

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

Added to the Ridge View offerings are the new Richland School District 2 magnet programs. The Institute for BioHealth Sciences and the Institute for Allied Health Sciences will begin with the opening of next school year.

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

- Goal #1: Ensure academic success for all students.
Objectives:
 - A. Reduce retention rate 10% by 2010.
 - B. Increase Graduation rate 4% by 2010.
 - C. Increase enrollment in higher level courses 5% by 2010.
 - D. Increase ACT scores 8% by 2010.
 - E. Reduce the achievement gaps between subgroups of students 10% by 2010, as measured by ACT, PLAN, and EXPLORE scores.
- Goal #2: Ensure all students have a sense of belonging to the school and community.
Objectives:
 - A. Reduce dropout rate 3% by 2010.
 - B. Reduce recommendations for expulsions 10% by 2010.
 - C. Require entire student population to be involved in Smaller Learning Communities by 2010.
 - D. Increase individual student involvement in co-curricular and extracurricular activities 10% by 2010.

Awards and Recognitions

• Six Palmetto Gold Awards in recognition of our “excellent” rating on the state report card • 2006 National Art Award winners • 2008 Student Council named at the State and National levels as Honor Council • 2008 SC Association of Student Councils Administrator of the Year • 2008 Exemplary Writing Award finalist • 2006 Highest HSAP results in RSD2 • 2006 Smallest achievement gap scores in RSD2 • 36 National Board Certified Teachers • Received 1.5 Million Dollar Smaller Learning Communities Grant • 2003 South Carolina Red Carpet Award • 2002 Resource Officer of the Year • 2001 State Dance Teacher of the Year • 2001 Student Council Advisor of the Year • 2000 State Science Teacher of the Year • 2000 John Philip Sousa Director of Excellence Award • Top 100 Wired Schools in the country by PC magazine

**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 learners.

**R.V.H.S. South Carolina State
Report Card**

	ABSOLUTE RATING	IMPROVEMENT RATING
2005	Excellent	Good
2006	Excellent	Excellent
2007	Good	Below Average

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

109 of Ridge View's 2007 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

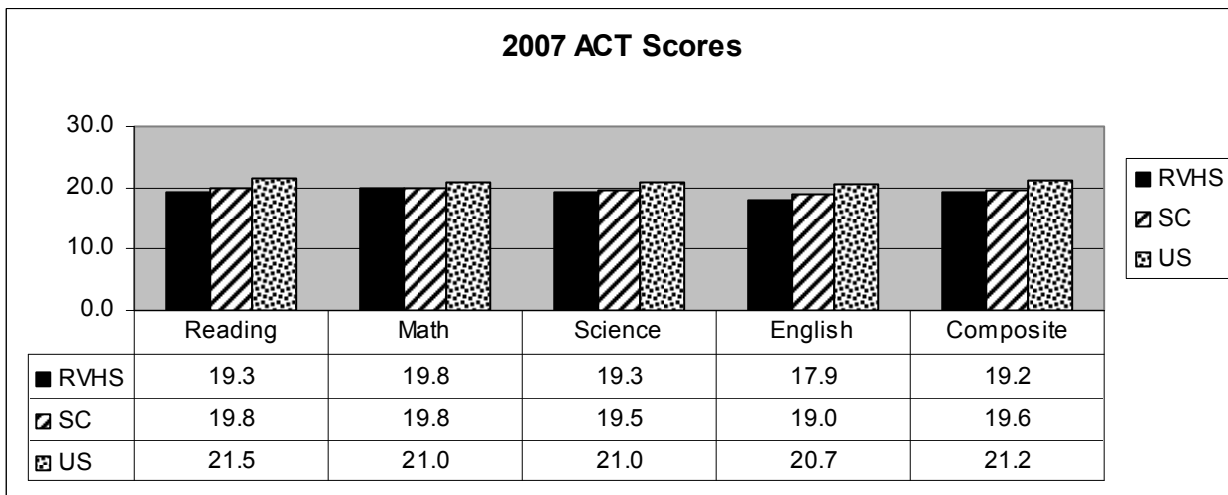
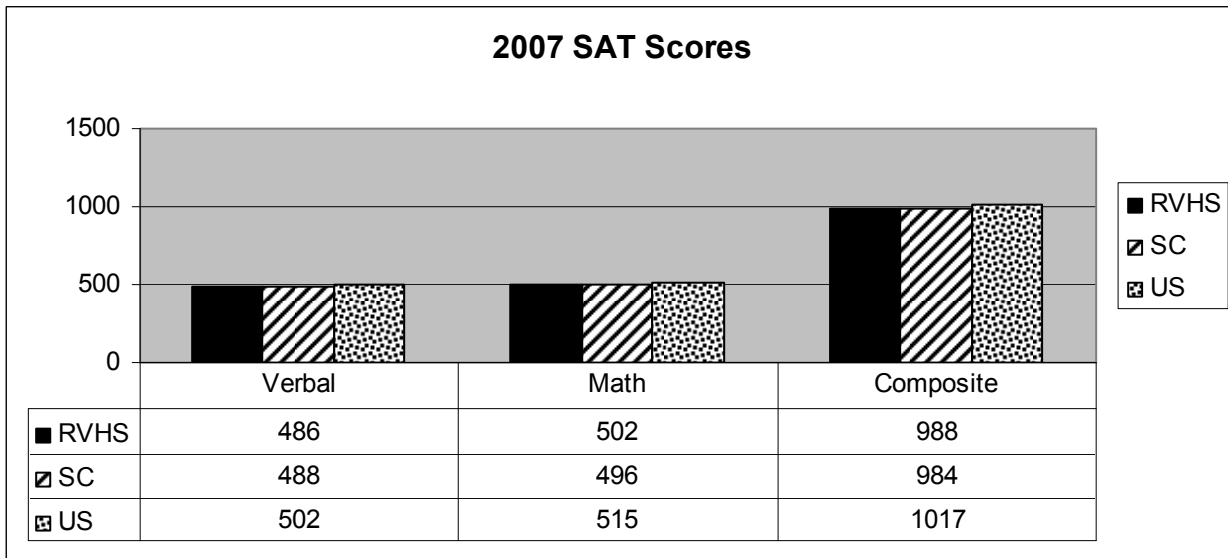
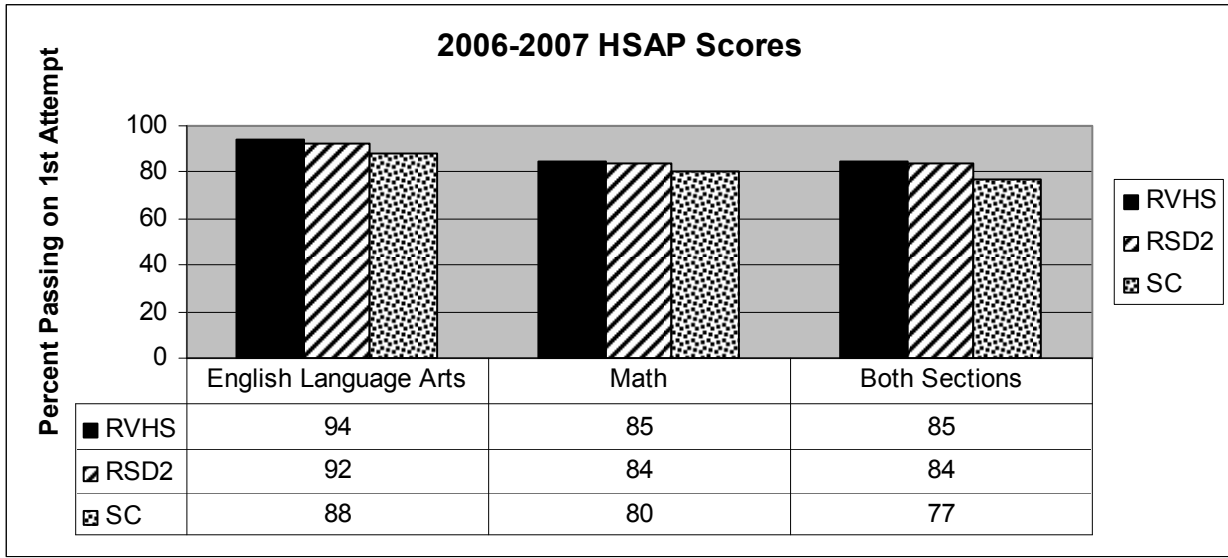
Ridge View opened its doors in 1995. The explosive growth of the Northeast area led to the opening of Blythewood High School in 2005. Dr. Marty Martin became principal in 2004. Since that time, Ridge View has continued to excel and to focus on student personalization. The highly successful Freshman Academy 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 one-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



Personalization at Ridge View

Numerous initiatives planned for and already in place are designed to more effectively address the needs of each student who enters Ridge View. Schools-within-a-School programs; the Blazer Academy designed for ninth and tenth grade students; projects growing from the 1.6 million dollar Smaller Learning Communities grant; the implementation of High Schools That Work practices; Literacy across the curriculum; expansion of tutorials and the 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; and the inauguration of the Advisory program are all 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 BioHealth Sciences and Allied Health Sciences:*** New Richland 2 magnets focusing on students interested in pursuing a career in this high-need profession.
- ***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.

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/>

Spotlight on The Magnets

The Institute for Health Sciences is for students interested in pursuing a profession in health sciences. The institute offers two magnet programs: the Institute for BioHealth Sciences (Honors/AP courses) and the Institute for Allied Health Sciences (CP/Honors courses). Both magnet programs provide a focused education emphasizing the health sciences, critical thinking, communication and problem solving skills.

The principles of experiential learning integrated with reflective processes will be used to immerse the students in the health sciences environment. Students will participate in field studies, conferences, internships, group presentations, and other activities to broaden their academic knowledge in health sciences.

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.

2007-2008 Accomplishments



- *Implementation of the Advisor/Advisee program*
- *Finalist for the SC Exemplary Writing Award*
- *Implementation of the Sustained Silent Reading initiative*
- *Increased involvement in student activities*
- *Selected to introduce the Richland 2 magnets for BioHealth Sciences and Allied Health Sciences*
- *Implementation of the one-lunch system*
- *Implemented professional development for Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum*
- *Dr. Martin named South Carolina Association of Student Councils' Administrator of the Year*
- *Improved the quality of the senior year expectations*

2008-2009 Priorities

- *Implement the new magnet programs*
- *Expand internship opportunities for seniors*
- *Improve the achievement of students on state and national measures*
- *Expand professional development to address student achievement*
- *Work on programs to ensure repeaters get back on track to graduate*
- *Reduce discipline referrals, suspensions, and expulsions*
- *Upgrade instructional technology in each classroom*
- *Provide professional development that enables teachers to integrate increased technology use in the learning process*

A Message From Karren Hill Gordon, Chair, RVHS School Improvement Council

Dear Ridge View Family,

The Ridge View High School SIC exists because of the involvement of parents, students, faculty and community members, all part of an extended "Blazer Family." As a result of this involvement, RVHS continues to be the best high school in Richland School District 2. This is evidenced by the large numbers of families who have and are moving into the Ridge View zone from outside the district. While a challenge, this growth increases the strong diversity that exists within the school. Adjustments in the organization of the school day and schedule is providing every student the opportunity to receive needed academic assistance and to participate in any student activity they desire.. Our recent designation as a Palmetto Gold Award winner, and the over \$ 29,000 award that comes with the honor, is tangible proof that our state administrators and legislators think so as well.

With this in mind I would like to encourage you to consider becoming a part of the School Improvement Council and make a stronger commitment to your child's school. SIC is a venue in which parents have a voice to raise concerns and identify strategies to continue to improve the learning environment for all students. It is an excellent opportunity to become more knowledgeable and informed about the various elements that impact our school.

SIC meetings are open to the public and I encourage everyone to attend and get involved. The meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Media Center. Visit the RVHS Web Site or contact the school if you would like additional information about SIC.

As we continue to work to meet the challenges of growth, diversity and higher learning standards, SIC is a wonderful opportunity to identify and implement solutions to ensure that Ridge View High School continues to be an exemplary institution of learning in Columbia.

Kindest regards,
Karren Hill Gordon, SIC Chair

Ridge View High School
 Richland School District 2
 6831 Brookfield Road
 Columbia, South Carolina 29206

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 1323 Columbia, SC
--

2007-2008 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairperson: *Karren Hill Gordon*

Vice Chairperson: *Bernard Johnson*

Secretary: *Beverly Ferguson*

Student Representatives	Parent Representatives	At-Large Representatives	Faculty/Staff Representatives
<i>Caryn Berry Chelsea Clay Zach Wood Amanda Woodard</i>	<i>Sonja Adkins Derrick Braddock Ella Calvert Sharon Dublin Ernest Dupree Beverly Ferguson Susan Garris Teresa Goodman Nancy Griffin Anita Heyward Bernard Johnson Beth Kriemeyer Kent Lesesne Charles Randall Cathy Scott Evelyn Ware Jana White Carolyn Wilson</i>	<i>Theresa Baker (MTC) Felicia Blake (Prov.Hosp/Sisters of Charity) Lisa Call (MEBA) Rebecca Chavous (Maggie's Market) Joel Johnson, DMD Donna Plunkett (Prov.Hosp/Sisters of Charity) Val Richardson (Palmetto Health) Veronica Watkins (Boys and Girls @ KE) Mark Wickham (Beef O'Bradys) Gayel Wigfall (BCBS) Erika Wright (Palmetto Health)</i>	<i>Carolyn Anderson-Flite Linda DeSpain Lisa Ellis Mary Harmon Rob Herron Henry Lovett Brenda Mack-Foxworth Gordon Maynes Chris Nostrant Erin Valentie</i>