

Andrew Jackson High

Bruins

Our demographics

School principal: Alex Dabney **Began at school:** 2005 **In district:** 1999 **In education:** 1993

Grades served: 9 – 12 **Enrollment:** 621 **Economic status:** 39.95% free & reduced lunch

Diversity: 78.4% White, 20.1% African-American, 0.5% Hispanic, 1% Other

Number of teachers: 42 **Classified:** 8 **Administrators:** 3 **Counselors:** 3 **Media specialist:** 1

Other: Full-time Resource Officer

Teachers with advanced degrees: 63% **Teacher attendance:** 96.2% **Student attendance:** 94.2%

Our mission

The mission of Andrew Jackson High School is to develop competent, responsible, productive life-long learners by providing resources and experiences in a safe and secure environment.

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 1969 **Date of renovations:** 2011

Square feet: 126,371 **Number of computers:** 325 **Number of classrooms:** 48

Specialty areas: 3 computer labs for business and computer applications and a computer lab for drafting; a model lab, an iPad lab, a Dell notebook lab in auto mechanics; a computer lab for virtual schooling and USCL Distance Education classes; a vocational building that includes a large auto mechanics shop, a drafting room, an agriculture shop and a weight room for athletics. The school was renovated in 2011 to include new wiring, new lighting, new windows and new heating and air conditioning. The 800-seat auditorium was also renovated.

Our school programs

- **Arts Focus School** – AJHS is the arts focus high school for the district. Our school offers an expanded arts curriculum including focus programs in visual arts, dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music and creative writing. In addition, school theatrical productions are held throughout the year, also held are a visual art show, and fall and spring band concerts, choral performances and dance productions. Visiting artists provide many opportunities for students throughout the school year. The district will start construction on a 58,800 square foot multi-purpose/fine arts building in the summer of 2017.

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Student Council**
- **Beta Club**
- **National Honor Society**

- **Thespian Society**
- **Future Farmers of America**
- **Teacher Cadets**
- **Art Honor Society**
- **National Technical Honor Society**
- **Ladies of Elegance**
- **FCA**
- **All sports** (except tennis)

Football, basketball, softball, baseball, golf, wrestling and soccer teams often participate in playoffs. We also have students who compete in swimming with Lancaster High. We will be adding cross country for the 2018-19 school year.

Our parents/parent support programs

- **SIC** – Active school improvement council which meets monthly
- **Athletic booster club** – Raises a minimum \$20,000 a year
- **Band booster club** –Includes all band parents
- **Community Support** – Strong support from civic, business & faith communities

Our school strengths

- A diverse student body that respects the strengths and talents of individuals and works to improve the school and community.
- Strong committed staff that works double time to enable as many opportunities as possible in a small school. Teachers sponsor clubs, serve as coaches and volunteer to help each other with special events.
- Student academic performance and the graduation rate are high.
- Student participation in the arts, athletics, JROTC, agriculture programs, auto mechanics and future teachers programs is excellent. Our JROTC volunteer unit has earned recognition as “Honor Unit of Distinction” by the U.S. Army for two of the past three years.

Our honors & awards

ATHLETICS

Region Championships:

Volleyball – 2013

Girls Basketball – 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Boys Basketball – 2016

Softball – 2013, 2017

Golf – 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
Girls Track – 2015, 2016
Wrestling – 2017
Girls Soccer – 2017
Boys Soccer – 2017

Upper State Champions:

Volleyball – 2013
Girls Basketball – 2014
Softball – 2015

State Champions:

Girls Individual Golf – Emily Cox – 2016
Wrestling Individuals – Kaleb Haven – 160-lbs. weight class - 2017
Dalton Mackey – 112 lbs. weight class - 2016
Hunter Haven – 138 lbs. weight class - 2016
Tex Haven – 195 lbs. weight class - 2016

JROTC

Honor unit with Distinction

FFA

3 students have earned their American degree
15 students have earned their State degree
1 National Proficiency Award
1 State Proficiency Award

Arts

Marching Band

Olde English Competition: first in class, best percussion and finalist
River Bluff Classic: first in class, best color guard, best percussion, best wins & silver division grand champions
SCBDA Upper State – third place
SCBDA State – sixth place

Concert Band

SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment – Superior with Distinction
Solo & Ensemble – 21 Superior and 12 excellent ratings
Region Band – Morgan Eason & Alexis Rivera

Chorus

16 students accepted into the 2017 SC ACDA Honor Choir
Solo & Ensemble Festival: Eight superior solos, one superior small ensemble, four excellent solos, one excellent solo, scholarship runner-up
Eight students accepted into the 2018 Southern Region ACDA Honor Choir (held in Kentucky)
Ten students accepted into the 2018 SC All-State Chorus
22 students accepted into the 2018 SC ACDA Honor Choir
Lander Choral Festival: Best Alto Section, Best Soprano Section, First Place Overall
Music in the Parks Festival (Tennessee): First place AA Women's Choir, First Place AA Concert Choir, First place overall choir for all divisions

Palmetto State Choral Festival: Superior rating in performance and sight reading; Level 4 second place

Drama

South Carolina Speech & Theatre Association

2 superior ratings for monologues

1 superior rating for duet acting

1 superior solo rating

Palmetto Dramatic Association

1 excellent rating for monologue

Haile Gold Mine – Volunteers for Gold Rush Day

Visual Arts

Veteran's Day – We held our annual school-wide poster competition.

Syrian Portraits – Art 4/AP and Art 3 students in first semester participated in the Memory Project. This project allows art students from around the world draw and paint portraits of children in extreme poverty and delivers the portraits to these children who have very little. In our case, we did portraits of children in refugee camps fleeing from the conflict in Syria. We sent 15 portraits, each sponsored by a member of the faculty.

Celebrating Art – This is a nationally published art book. Students from around the country submit their artwork and the top 25 percent get published. In first semester, 11 students accepted for publication. In second semester, we had six students accepted for publication.

District Youth Art Month Competition – The annual Lancaster County Youth Art Month Competition allows each art teacher in the district to submit one 2-D artwork and one 3-D artwork for every grade they teach. First, second and third places are awarded by grade level for middle and high school work. Best of 2-D and Best of 3-D are also awarded, along with People's Choice and an Art League award. This year, AJ took the following places: 3-D – second place for ninth grade; third place for tenth grade; second place for eleventh grade; first place for twelfth grade and Best of Show; 2-D – first place for twelfth grade and the Art League Award.

Dianne Mahaffee Artist-in-Residence: A DAP grant allowed the school to bring in local artist and art teacher Dianne Mahaffee who worked with our students on wood burned gourds and three different pottery units including raku.

Collaboration – Students worked with drama, chorus, dance and band students to produce the play *Anansi* as well as the annual Focus Showcase in the Spring. We also partnered with Drama and Science students to create public service announcements with help from a local grant.

Haile Gold Mine Show – Students displayed their work and ceramics AP student Danielle Parker offered her work for sale at the community show and festival.

AP Portfolios – In 2017-18, seven students submitted AP Portfolios – one 3-D design, two 2-D designs and 4 drawing portfolios. These students created 24 original works (many created far more in an effort to have the best possible portfolio) that were submitted physically and digitally. We will learn of their scores this summer.

Grants Received – DAP (Distinguished Arts Programs), J. Marion Sims Foundation Horizon Grants, Partners for Youth Grants.