

Andrew Jackson High

Volunteers

Our demographics

School principal: Shuntay Miller **Began at school:** 2012 **In district:** 2009 **In education:** 2006
Grades served: 9 – 12 **Enrollment:** 615 **Economic status:** 39% free & reduced lunch
Diversity: 72.96% White, 20.52% African-American, 2.28% Hispanic, 4.24% Other
Number of teachers: 44 **Classified:** 12 **Administrators:** 3 **Counselors:** 3 **Media specialist:** 1
Other: Full-time Resource Officer, Instructional Coach
Teachers with advanced degrees: 67% **Teacher attendance:** 99% **Student attendance:** 98.5%

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.

The mission of Andrew Jackson Visual & Performing Arts High School is to create a distinguished arts program that facilitates student achievement in and through the visual and performing arts.

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. A 58,000 square foot performing arts center was opened during the 2019-2020 school year.

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, and vocal and instrumental music. In addition, school theatrical productions are held throughout the year. Also held are a visual art show, fall and spring band concerts, choral performances, piano recitals, and dance productions. Visiting artists provide many opportunities for students throughout the school year. We are excited to offer these programs in classrooms housed in our 58,800-square foot multi-purpose building.

- Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Site

- All highly qualified arts teachers
- Distinguished Arts Program (DAP) Grant recipients

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Student Council**
- **Beta Club**
- **National Honor Society**
- **International Thespian Society**
- **Future Farmers of America**
- **Teacher Cadets**
- **National Art Honor Society**
- **National Technical Honor Society**
- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)**
- **Tri-M National Music Honor Society**
- **Relay for Life**
- **National Honor Society for Dance Arts**
- **All sports** (except tennis)

Football, basketball, softball, baseball, golf, wrestling, competition cheer, track, cross country and soccer teams often participate in playoffs. We also have students who compete in swimming with Lancaster High.

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
- **ABC Steering Committee** – Consists of parents, students, community members, teachers and administrators to set and accomplish goals for students, the school and community for the advancement of the arts at AJHS.

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 every year for the past 18 years.

Our honors & awards

ATHLETICS

Region Championships:

Volleyball – 2010, 2012, 2013
Girls Basketball – 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021
Boys Basketball – 2016, 2020
Softball – 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018
Golf – 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
Girls Track – 2015, 2016
Wrestling – 2018
Girls Soccer – 2018
Boys Soccer – 2018, 2019
Boys Baseball – 2012, 2019, 2022
Girls Cross Country – 2021

Upper State Champions:

Volleyball – 2013
Girls Basketball – 2014
Softball – 2013, 2015
Boys Basketball – 2019, Upper Sate Runners-up 2020
Baseball – Upper State runners-up – 2019

Lower State Champions:

Volleyball – 2019, 2021
Boys Soccer – 2021
Boys Baseball – 2022

State Champions:

Girls Individual Golf – Emily Cox – 2018
Wrestling Individuals – Tyleik Elder – 2018, 2019
 Luke Phillips - 2018
 Gavin Barfield – 2018
Boys Baseball – 2022

JROTC

Honor unit with Distinction for the past 19 years

FFA

Five students have earned their American Degrees
Twenty students have earned their State Degrees
100% Plus Membership Award
Bronze, Silver, and Superior Chapter Awards
Second place State Tractor Driving – 2010
Region Champions Tool Identification – 2010
State Champion Individual Tractor Driving – 2012
Second place State Ag Mechanics – 2021

Arts

Band

Third place in AA State Championships
Twelve students qualified for Region Band
Four students qualified to audition for All-State Band
One student qualified for All-State Band
Earned rating of Excellent at Concert Performance Assessment
Eleven Superior Ratings and 2 Excellent Ratings at Solo and Ensemble Festival
Earned Outstanding Performance Award for the 2021-2022 school year

Chorus (for 2020-21)

Six students accepted into the SC American Choral Directors Association Honor Choir
Six students accepted into the SC All State Chorus
Nine students participated in Solo and Ensemble
One student representative at the National ACDA Conference Student Leadership Academy
Women's Chamber Ensemble selected to perform at 2021 Piccolo Sploeto Festival
Will participate in State Concert Festival and Palmetto Choral Festival this spring

Dance

Attended numerous workshops where students could audition for college dance scholarships; Winthrop University Dance and Theatre Workshop; Coker College Day of Dance
Attended SCAHPERD Conference
Attended Dance Makers Convention
One student earned a scholarship to attend National Convention
Boogie Fever Dance Competition: Solo Ruby Rating; Duet Emerald Rating
Students performed in "The Nutcracker" with the Columbia City Ballet: 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020
Attended South Carolina Dance Festival at Charleston County School of the Arts: February 2020

Drama

- At the Palmetto Dramatic Association & International Thespian Society's state high school festival, students received a Superior (with two perfect scores) in play production for their performance of the play Anonymous as well as being named alternate (second place) to compete at Nationals in 2019-20. Also, from their performance, the ensemble received an Excellence in Acting and an Excellence in Transitions. Individually, from the performance, one student received an Excellence in Acting and two students received a Superior in Acting.

- SC Speech & Theatre Association State High School Competition: a student earned a superior and won third place in the state (28 high schools from across the state) for Improvisational Speaking; two pair received a superior for Comedic Duet Acting; one earned excellent for Impromptu Speaking; one earned an excellent from Dramatic Musical Theater Solo; one earned a superior for Audition Monologues; two earned superior for Musical Duet; and one earned a superior for Dramatic Musical Theatre Solo.

- District Poetry Out Loud Competition – AJHS Drama took first, second, and third place this year, and have done so for the past three years. In 2020, Taylor Wade won the state level Poetry Out Loud Competition.

Visual Arts

Advanced Visual Art Students created portraits for impoverished children in Cameroon through Memory Project. Six students accepted for publishing in a national art book.

Memorial mural was discussed, planned, designed, and painted by the Visual Arts Department with help from the Theatre Department, administration, and science faculty.

Four students participated in the Youth Art Month showcase at the district.

Held an Annual Veteran's Day art competition and recognized eight students for exceptional work.

Publications

Annual AJHS Arts Journal Publication featuring student created visual art and literature.