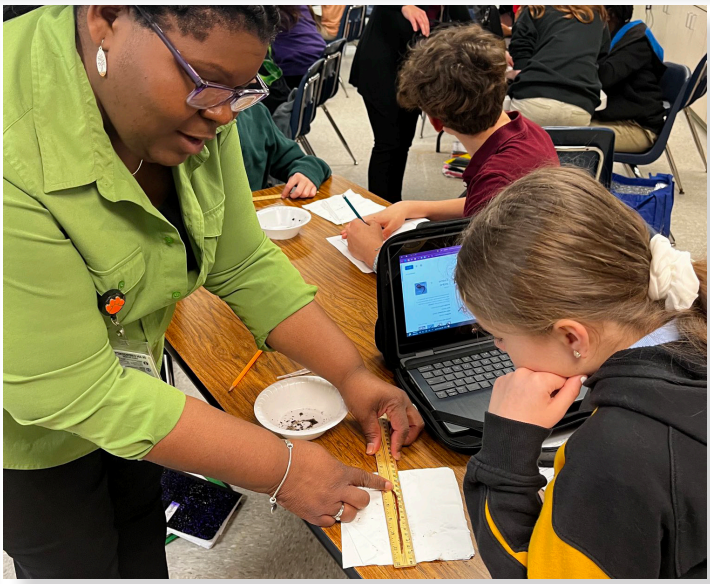




2022 - 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

ROCK HILL Schools

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## WANT TO STAY IN THE KNOW THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?

Sign up for our e-newsletter series **"The District Download"** to get a glimpse on current updates and events in Rock Hill Schools.

Scan the QR code or sign up at: https://bit.ly/districtenews

Scan me!

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Rock Hill Schools Supporters,



Throughout the 2022-2023 school year we renewed our commitment to teaching and learning for all students and professionals. The focus on our Three Big Rocks brought new energy and strength to every classroom and educators across our district.

Our Three Big Rocks include professional learning communities, multi-tiered systems of support, and trusted professionalism. When we authentically engage in all three areas, I firmly believe student achievement will positively be impacted at all grade levels.

**Professional Learning Communities** involve educators evaluating data and collaborating to ensure teaching is top-notch.

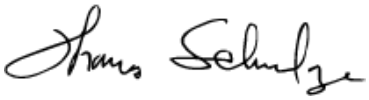
**Multi-Tiered Systems of Support** focus on great instructional practices for all students and provide additional learning support to those who need it.

**Trusted Professionalism** includes treating everyone with respect and kindness.

Collectively, if we continue to prioritize our children in each of these areas, we will create an environment where every student can recognize, and celebrate, their own unique strengths.

I'm incredibly grateful and proud of the work you will see highlighted throughout this report thanks to the dedication of our students, educators and community supporters. Together, we will continue to build a **#RockSolid** foundation of education for every child to experience success.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Tommy Schmolze, Ed.D.**
Superintendent

## 2022 - 2023 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Our school board recognizes that 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



Brent Faulkenberry



Helena Miller



Pete Nosal

# ABOUT ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

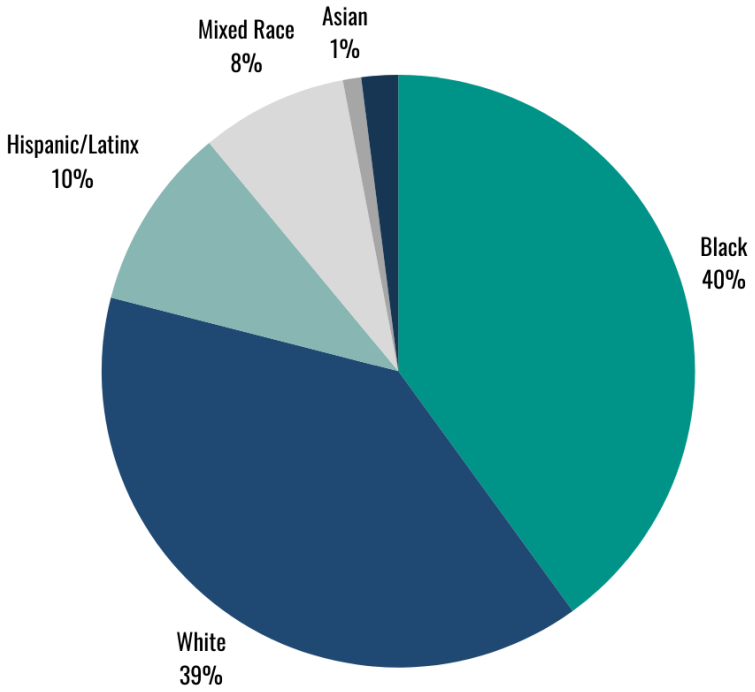


## STUDENT ENROLLMENT: 16,588

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, Alternative Programs, and the Virtual Academy. Additionally, our district offers a robust amount of choice programs including language immersion, arts integration, career 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 with special needs.







ATTENDANCE RATE




DROP - OUT RATE




QUALIFIED FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH




GRADUATION RATE




STUDENTS CLASSIFIED AS SPECIAL EDUCATION

# 2022-2023 FINANCIALS

## TOTAL REVENUE

**$ 280,806,246**

- FEDERAL SOURCES **$ 33,351,647**
- STATE SOURCES **$ 128,949,167**
- LOCAL SOURCES **$ 117,106,330**
- INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE **$ 1,399,102**

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**$ 257,342,426**

- INSTRUCTION **$ 123,287,699**
- SUPPORT SERVICES **$ 108,113,967**
- COMMUNITY SERVICES **$ 153,250**
- INTERGOVERNMENTAL **$ 745,501**
- CAPITAL OUTLAY **$ 8,629,384**
- DEBT SERVICE **$ 16,412,688**

## BUDGET PROCESS

The 2022-2023 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 **$197.7 million** for the year ending June 30, 2023.

# **CONNECTING** TO OUR COMMUNITY



## INCREASING COMMUNICATION

In Fall of 2022, we connected with more than 114 Rock Hill community members with Dr. Schmolze through the new “Super Connections” event series. Attendees actively shared ideas and insights, fostering a collaborative approach to shape the future direction of the district and strengthen community-school relationships.

## SOUTHERN LIVING FEATURE

In February 2023, Southern Living featured Phoebe, a calf who served as a unique teaching tool for students to nurture through the semester. We are so proud our Career and Technical Education program and Future Farmers of America were highlighted nationally in the media.

Read more about caring for Phoebe here!






## MENTORING MATTERS

In February 2023 the district launched Mentoring Matters, an initiative to strengthen and encourage student mentoring. Five school-based programs were supported throughout the school year. Eight new mentoring partnerships were formed. A peer mentoring model was also created to help high school students as mentors who will serve elementary peers during the 2023-2024 school year.

# EXCELLENT EMPLOYEES

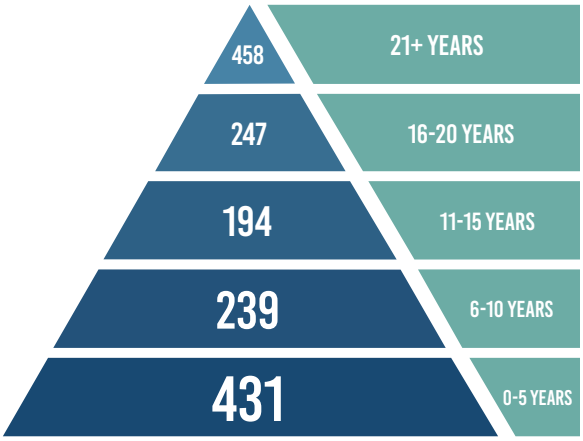
## TEACHER PROFILE




ATTENDANCE RATE

MASTER'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

NATIONAL BOARDCERTIFIED




EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE

## ROCK HILL SOARS

The HR Department launched the Rock Hill SOARS Recruitment and Retention initiative, attracting aspiring professionals to make Rock Hill Schools their home. Between January and March of 2023, Rock Hill SOARS took flight with our district's first statewide Call Me MiSTER Meet Up during our annual recruitment fair. At these events, participants gained valuable connections and learned about career opportunities within the district.





## ROCK HILL SCHOOLS BUS TOUR

In Fall of 2022, the Experience Rock Hill Schools Bus Tour launched as an initiative for recruitment. Participants made valuable connections and learned about career opportunities while taking a guided tour of the school district.

To learn more about careers, visit: http://bit.ly/3uLhYOQ

## CONGRATS, RETIREES!

Every year we celebrate our retirees for their service to our school district. This year we honored 68 retirees with a retirement banquet sponsored by Comporium.



# 2022 - 2023 POINTS OF PRIDE



## GRADUATION BY THE NUMBERS




**124** HIGHEST HONOR

**105** HONOR GRADUATES

**418** GOLD SEAL

**13** INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA CANDIDATES

**14** ACADEMIC HONOR CERTIFICATES FOR SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

**20** ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLAR CANDIDATES

**26** ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

**$36 MILLION**

COMBINED MONETARY VALUE OF ALL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

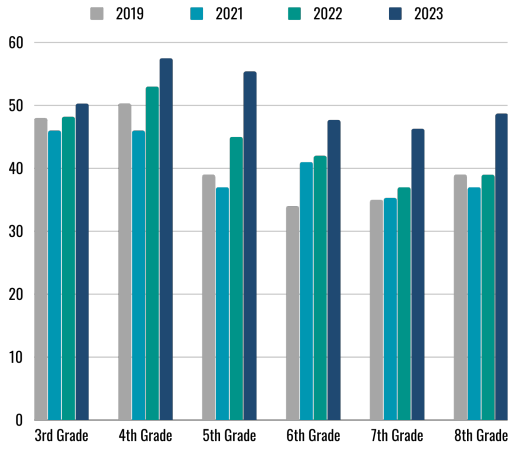
- Rock Hill High School graduate, Olivia Greene, is selected among 4,000 singers to participate in a national honors choir
- South Pointe High School graduate, Channing Robinson, set the record for high-jumper at the 2023 4 AAAA State Track & Field Championship
- Northwestern High School graduate, Darby Grigg, ranked first in Region 3 AAAA in points per game, steals per game, and free throws made in women's basketball
- Rock Hill High School graduate, Parth Davis, wins first place in "Medical Terminology" in Health Occupations Students of America
- South Pointe High School marching band, Band of Thunder, won first place in percussion at the 2A upper state competition
- Northwestern High jazz band won superior at the Jazz Performance Assessment
- Rock Hill High Theater cast won first place with its performance of "Parallel Lives" in the South Carolina Theater Association competition
- Rock Hill High graduate, Laura Grace Dhillon, won Best Actress at the South Carolina Theatre Association competition
- 124 highest honor graduates that established a 4.5 GPA or above
- 65 Seal of Biliteracy award recipients from 17 different world languages which recognizes students' advanced proficiency in both English and one additional world language
- 93 Dual Credit Students - Seniors who have earned 12 or more college credits in high school
- 37+ student-athletes across Rock Hill Schools signed letters of intent committing to further their education
- We celebrated **943** graduates in 2023





# STATE & NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

## STATEWIDE TESTING REFELCTS A STRATEGIC FOCUS ON STUDENT GROWTH



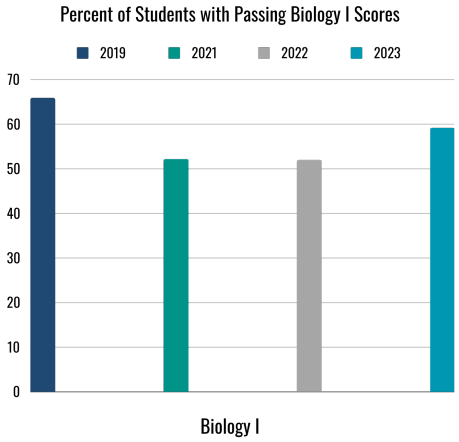

## SC READY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

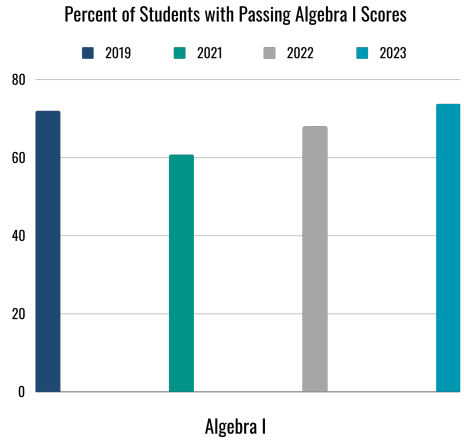
Overall student achievement improved in grades three through eight for the SC Ready ELA assessments. Cohort data indicates all students demonstrated sustained growth. Spring 2023 scores exceed pre-pandemic performance in all grade levels.

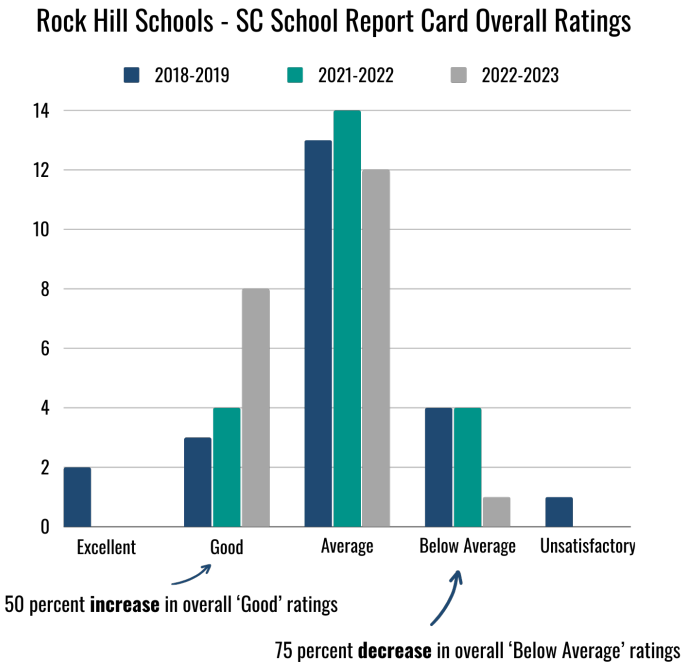
## END OF COURSE EXAMS

Algebra 1 scores increased approximately six percentage points from the 2022 to 2023 school year.

Biology scores also reflect improvement with gains of seven percentage points in 2023.




**986**

AVERAGE SAT SCORE

**17**

AVERAGE ACT COMPOSITE SCORE

# OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT



## INSPIRING SPACES

In 2022 we launched the Inspiring Spaces: Classroom Makeover program where we worked to give three inspiring educators the classrooms of their dreams. All three classroom makeovers were made possible through the support of our community partners who donated more than $170,000 in renovations.

**Watch our YouTube video on the 2023 Inspiring Spaces final project reveal!**

**THANK YOU TO:** VS AMERICA, NU-IDEA SCHOOL SUPPLY, WB MANUFACTURING, FOMCORE, ALLIED USA, WOOD DESIGN, EARLY LEARNING, BRITTON FLOORING



*Leitner Construction/Instagram*

## HVAC UPGRADES

In the 2022-2023 academic year, our Operations Management Department focused on enhancing learning environments across five schools through strategic HVAC upgrades. Saluda Trail Middle School underwent a $5.75 million HVAC equipment replacement. Lesslie Elementary saw the replacement of aging systems, while Oakdale Elementary upgraded five HVAC units. These initiatives reflect our commitment to creating comfortable, sustainable, and efficient spaces for students and staff.

## LIGHTING THE WAY

In February 2023, operations installed new mat lights for the wrestling team at Northwestern High School gymnasium.



## TRANSPORTATION: OUR FLEET

**5,630**
TOTAL MILES TRAVELED PER DAY

**6,565**
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ASSIGNED TO BUSES

**98**
STATE-OWNED SCHOOL BUSES

**54**
DISTRICT OWNED SCHOOL BUSES

**110**
NUMBER OF DRIVERS

**45 MPH**
MAX SPEED LIMIT FOR SCHOOL BUSES

**7,290**
BUS STOPS PER DAY

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## FOOD SERVICES

All schools offered a nutritious breakfast and lunch daily during the 2022-2023 school year. All meals served met nutritional standards established by federal (United States Department of Agriculture) and state (South Carolina Department of Education) regulations.

**700,000**
Breakfasts Served

**1,500,000+**
Lunch Meals Served

**6**
Schools offered free meals for all students in the 2022-2023 school year



## CUSTODIAL SERVICES

The Custodial Services Department takes great pride in assisting students and faculty with providing a clean and safe learning environment every day.

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

## 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.

Through a proactive approach including staff training and partnerships with local first responders, Rock Hill Schools works to ensure students, employees, and visitors to our campuses are safe. Some safety measures include: 2,110 cameras throughout the district, single-point entrance system in schools, access controlled doors, random K-9 safety screenings, and school safety audits by SCSBIT (SC School Board Insurance Trust).

**3**

### Campus Security Associates

Each high school currently has a Campus Security Associate. Their main objective is to be the buffer between the students, staff, and law enforcement.

**19**

### Safety Security Officers

Full-time private armed security officers patrol each elementary school campus, provide a visible security presence, and work closely with school staff to provide a safe and secure environment.

**16**

### School Resource Officers

In addition to the formal training required of all police officers, SROs receive specialized training to aid their interactions with students, staff, and administration in Rock Hill Schools.

## ENERGY

Our total cost for all energy and public utilities was 8.5 percent.

That's **$379K** **less** than 2021-2022.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The average age of our facilities is **45** years old. Our oldest buildings, Ebinport, Oakdale, and Richmond Drive, were constructed in 1949. Our newest building, Cherry Park Elementary, was built in 2019.




# SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services department worked to respond to and anticipate the needs of our students in specific capacities. Support services strives to ensure our students are present and in a healthy state physically, mentally, and socially. This student development work comes together to support our students as they experience opportunities, challenges, and success in our educational system.







## NURSING SERVICES

Nursing Services provided daily support for student health needs in our schools to best ensure these needs minimally impact access to uninterrupted academic and social opportunities.

To help keep our schools and community safe, Rock Hill Schools implemented turnkey vendor testing through a partnership with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and Wellness Coaches USA in 2022. The testing site offered students, staff, and their family members free flu and COVID-19 testing at the on site clinic at Belleview.

Throughout the entire 2022-2023 school year there were over 150,000 students served via nurse visits.

## MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Department worked to bring mental health resources together to serve our students, staff, and community.

In Fall 2022, the BIMAS-2 Universal Screener was implemented in all elementary and middle schools. BIMAS-2 is a measure of behavioral functioning and social, emotional skills in children and adolescents ages pre-k to 18 years.

In Spring 2023, the Photo Voice project launched and provided each middle school Day Treatment student a chance to learn photography to make their voices heard.

**Learn more about the Photo Voice project here!**

## STUDENT SERVICES

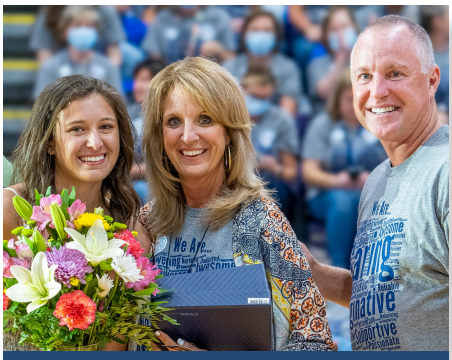
Student Services worked directly with students and their families to remove barriers to access, participate and thrive in an unencumbered educational experience.

Family Outreach Coordinators serve as a vital link between schools, home, and the community by providing a variety of support services for students and families as well as referrals to local community agencies.

Family Outreach Coordinators assist in the areas of:

- Community Referral Assistance
- Foster Care Support Services
- Home Visits
- McKinney Vento Support Services
- No Show Student Follow Up
- Social History Assessments
- Residency Verifications

# WHAT MAKES ROCK HILL SCHOOLS #ROCKSOLID?



**SUZANNE MOORE**
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

- Rock Hill High School Academic Challenge Team placed first in state academic competition
- Castle Heights Middle School re-designated as a National School to Watch
- Wardell Massey, bus driver, was recognized by the Rock Hill Police Department for helping police find a missing woman
- Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies becomes one of the newest 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Beacon Schools in the country
- Sullivan Middle School re-certified as an International Baccalaureate (IB) school
- Suzanne Moore of Oakdale Elementary was named Rock Hill Schools District Teacher of the Year



- ATC Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter was awarded a Superior National Chapter award
- Jill Williams was awarded the South Carolina Associations of School Librarians' 2023 Outstanding School Library Program of the Year Award
- Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School Principal Sheleea Leonard was awarded Distinguished Literacy Administrator
- South Pointe High School Creative Writing and Journalism Teacher Carlo Dawson was awarded Palmetto Reading Council's Distinguished Teacher of Literacy 2022-2023 at the Secondary Level
- Melisa Smith was awarded the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award by the Palmetto Council of the Boy Scouts of America

- Rock Hill High Women's Wrestling Team wins first ever 2023 SCHSL Women's State Tournament Championship
- Northwestern High School Football Team 2022 Upper State Champions
- Northwestern High School Volleyball won Regional Championship
- Northwestern High School junior, Corey Dye, won 4A State Wrestling Championship
- South Pointe High School Swimming State Champion, Jack McCrae
- Castle Heights Eighth-Grade Girls Basketball Champions
- Dutchman Creek Middle School Eighth-Grade Volleyball Team Conference Tournament Champions
- Dutchman Creek Seventh-Grade Girls Basketball Champions
- Saluda Trail Middle School Seventh-Grade Football Team Conference Tournament Champions
- Saluda Trail Middle School Seventh-Grade Boys Basketball Champions
- Sullivan Middle School Eighth-Grade Football Team Conference Tournament Champions
- Sullivan Middle School Wrestling Conference Tournament Champions



Cherry Park Elementary School students win the Battle of the Books competition




Celebrating the 100th Day of School



Sullivan Middle School students collecting cans for the Junior Civitan Canned Food Drive



Kolton, of Mount Gallant Elementary, takes pride in his community by cleaning up his school campus during winter break

Read more about Kolton's efforts here!



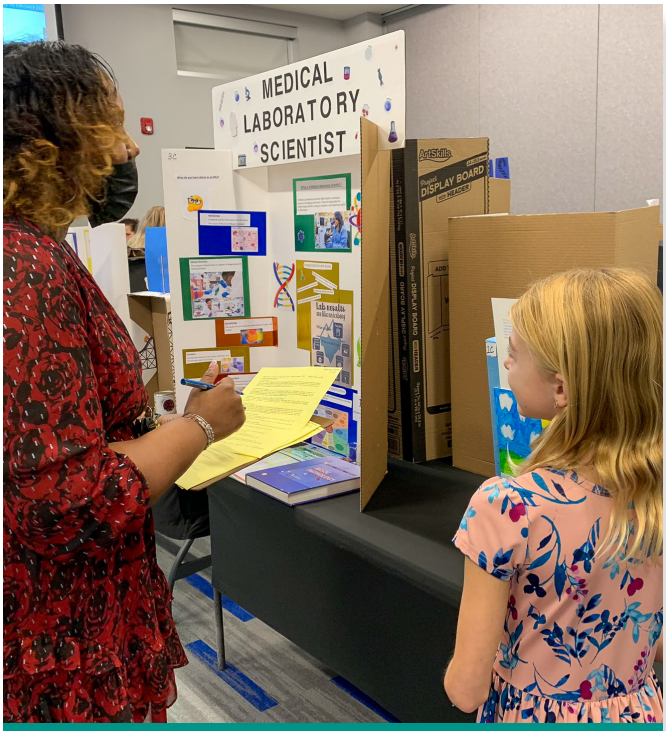
Students celebrate as Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies is named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



Students love showcasing their creativity and artistic skills



Abii the Robot joined classes across the district as a new friend who encourages students in math and reading




Rock Hill Schools hosts its first elementary STEAM fair




Fashion, fabric, and design students at
Northwestern High School enjoyed a trip to the Mint Museum




Students at Mt. Gallant Elementary
show off their hard work to Dr. Schmolze



District officials, coaches, NFL players, alumni, staff,
and students were invited to the South Carolina
Statehouse as Rock Hill was recognized as Football City, USA




Hugo the Hornet had
students excited to read



Our amazing students
are always eager to learn



Wardell Massey, bus driver, was recognized by the
Rock Hill Police Department for helping police find a missing woman

ROCK HILL Schools

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# THANK YOU DONORS

## FOR SUPPORTING ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

- Heart 2 Heart Foundation
- Publix Tools for School
- Sterling Lodge #344 Elks Club
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Rock Hill Police Department
- Jadeveon Clowney's HIT Foundation
- Ross Dress For Less
- Kiwanis Club of Rock Hill
- Community Partnership Foundation
- Tommy's Express Car Wash
- Comporium

ROCK HILL SCHOOLS
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

The Rock Hill Schools Education Foundation promotes a collaborative alliance between the community and the Rock Hill School District to provide funding and other resources to support educational initiatives.

To learn more or to donate visit:
www.rhsfoundation.org

*The Rock Hill Schools Education Foundation is an independent 501 c3 non-profit organization, not under direction of Rock Hill Schools.*