

# SRCA School Report



The retirement card features the Shining Rock Classical Academy logo at the top, which consists of a stylized eagle with wings spread. Below the logo, the text reads "SHINING ROCK CLASSICAL ACADEMY". The main message is "Happy Retirement Jon Schleifer", with "Jon Schleifer" written in a large, elegant cursive font. To the right of the text is a photograph of Jon Schleifer, a man with glasses wearing a red and black plaid shirt, smiling and holding a wooden plaque. The plaque contains the following text: "27 YEARS OF TEACHING", "OVER 5,000 DAYS", "8 YEARS AT SRCA", "LOTS OF LESSON PLANS", "SO MANY PAPERS GRADED", "COUNTLESS LIVES IMPACTED", "UNFORGETTABLE FRIENDSHIPS", "EVERLASTING MEMORIES", "ONE HAPPY RETIREE", "HUSBAND, FATHER & POP-POP", "THE BEST IS YET TO COME!", "RETIRED 2023", and "JON SCHLEIFER". At the bottom left of the card, there is a small globe icon followed by the text "Visit Our Website" and the website address "www.shiningrock.org".

SHINING ROCK  
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Happy Retirement  
*Jon Schleifer*

Your dedication to students and to the profession of teaching is an example and an encouragement to us! Your SRCA family wishes you a happy and fulfilling retirement!

Visit Our Website  
[www.shiningrock.org](http://www.shiningrock.org)

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THE BEST IS YET TO COME!  
RETIRED 2023  
JON SCHLEIFER

**October 22, 2023**

**Shining Rock Classical Academy**  
**Joshua F. Morgan**  
**Head of School**



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# Testing and Accountability Report

During September, the North Carolina Department of Public instruction released the testing accountability data for the 2023 school year. As noted last month, proficiency outcomes improved overall at SRCA when compared to testing results from 2022. This month, the data review will focus on SRCA’s standing when compared to Haywood County Schools.

For reference, SRCA is compared to HCS for the purpose of charter renewal. HCS is also a top 10 performing LEA in the state.

## Performance Grade

Including SRCA, there are 16 public schools in Haywood County. For the purpose of comparisons, there will only be 15 schools considered because Central Haywood High follows an alternative testing grading scale making it impossible to include as a reasonable comparison with any other school. Included in the comparison is Haywood Early College, which is the only public school that can select who attends and deny admittance based on their application process.

With a School Performance Score of 61, SRCA ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of the 15 scored schools in the county. By letter grade, SRCA was one of 9 public schools to score a C (60% of all public schools in Haywood County), with 4 schools achieving a letter grade of a B (between 85 and 70), with only Riverbend and Haywood Early College scoring an A.

## Growth Results

In ranking the growth among the 15 Haywood County public schools, SRCA was 9<sup>th</sup>. SRCA was one of 8 schools that achieved the level of Met Growth. 3 Haywood County school achieved Exceeded Growth, while 4 earned Not Met scores for growth.

## Subgroup Outcomes

There are 3 subgroups that are present at SRCA for the purpose of EOG reporting. These groups are White, Economically Disadvantaged, and Exceptional Children. The table below outlines the letter grade for each subgroup along with the rank out of 15 that SRCA earned in performance score and growth score along with the growth status for each subgroup.

Subgroup	Letter Grade	Performance Score	Growth Score	Growth Status
White	C	63 (12 <sup>th</sup> )	82.5 (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Met
Economically Disadvantaged	D	50 (13 <sup>th</sup> )	80.0 (10 <sup>th</sup> )	Met
Students with Disabilities	F	23 (10 <sup>th</sup> )	72.9 (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Met

There are a couple of important data points that need to be shared here to allow for a better understanding of the context of how SRCA accurately compares within these subgroups.

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- Six different schools did not meet growth in at least one of these three subgroups. Two schools, North Canton and Waynesville Middle only met growth in the Students with Disabilities subgroup. Junaluska did not meet growth in any of these subgroups.
  - In the Students with Disabilities subgroup, Pisgah earned a C letter grade and Bethel Elementary earned a D letter grade. All other schools that qualified in this subgroup earned an F letter grade.
  - 3 schools did not have enough Students with Disabilities to qualify for score in this subgroup. These schools included Meadowbrook, Riverbend, and Haywood Early College.

## Final Conclusions

There are a few final conclusions that can be made regarding the comparison of SRCA to our county peers. First, it is impossible to make an apple to apples comparison because SRCA is the only school that includes assessments from elementary, middle and high school grades. Second, the context of what SRCA is being compared to matters. The state reviews our results and compares them to the district in which SRCA resides. SRCA's outcomes are favorable in comparison to the schools in our host district, and that district is a top performing district in the state. If the data pool is expanded to include all of the schools in the state, SRCA consistently lands in the top 35% in the state or higher.

# Legislative Report

## Pay Adjustments

With the approval of the state budget in September, new teacher pay scales were developed and distributed. The state budget incorporated step increases at all levels of the teacher scale. In addition, it recommended a 4% increase for all classified staff such as assistants and custodial. A further consideration for the change in pay scale is that these changes were retroactive to the start of the fiscal year in July. This is a great place to note that all of the changes indicated further have been facilitated successfully by Mrs. Gresham to go into effect with the October pay for all staff.

For teachers, this direct impact is that they will see an increase in their monthly pay that corresponds with the new pay scale. Additionally, there will be a one-time catch-up payment to reflect the monthly difference in their pay for August and September. For example, a first-year teacher will have an annual salary change from \$37,000 per year to \$39,000 per year resulting in an increase in their gross pay of \$166.67. For October, this teacher will also receive a one-time catch-up payment of \$333.33. This had to be completed for all teachers.

For assistants, custodial, office staff, bus drivers, Wings staff and Lower School Director, the 4% increase was applied to each of their salaries along with any corresponding catch-up payments. These wage increases have moved the starting rate for bus drivers past \$16 an hour with a guaranteed 2 hours per route and assistants starting pay above \$27,000 a year.

One final payroll activity for the October cycle was the inclusion of a one-time performance bonus the school principal. This bonus was in recognition of the school being a top performer in the state in demonstrating growth on EOG test scores for 2023.

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# Items for Board Approval

## Policies for 1<sup>st</sup> Read

The Academic Committee made a number of recommendations to revise two policies.

*4410: Attendance Policy.* The first revision adds an inclement weather exception to allow for an excused absence if SRCA is in session, yet it is unsafe for a student to travel safely to school. This eliminates the need for a teacher to create both an in-person and remote instruction for a student to potentially be counted as present by participating remotely. This language needed to be included in policy so that a proper code can be generated in Powerschool to recognize the absence as excused.

The second revision puts into policy the procedure that a student must be in attendance from the start of the day until 11:30 or from 11:30 until the end of the day to be counted present for the school day. This revision further puts into policy the procedure that 3 tardies will result in an absence from school or from a class in high school. To have legal standing in addressing truancy, these procedures need to be defined by school policy.

*8500: Responsible Use of Technology.* This revision adds a required paragraph for internet safety compliance of students. It additionally strikes the pointing to a second that is obsolete with the original pacing of policy 8500.

The Academic Committee is presenting the following new policy for consideration.

### *7600: Employee Use of Social Media*

The purpose of this policy is to establish a stronger firewall between the personal lives of staff and their students in an environment in which social media is blurring the lines of privacy. With the recent implementation of ParentSquare, the need to utilize 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources for parent communication such as Class Dojo, personal texting, or Remind has been essentially eliminated.

This policy also puts stronger expectations on staff to adhere to the same procedures that are already in place within the staff handbook. The implementation of this policy closes the loop of responsible technology by all internal stakeholders when considered as a complement to Policy 8500.

## Student Life

The fall sports season has either ended for certain sports, or will be ending within the next week to ten days.

### High School Volleyball

The girls' volleyball season ended on October 19<sup>th</sup> with the ladies winning the first set in program history. This was an exceptionally young team, with over half of the team playing the sport for the first time this fall. The progress demonstrated by the team throughout the season was impressive in

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their demonstrated increase in both skill and competitiveness within each game. This improvement was a direct reflection of the positive attitudes paired with an exceptional work ethic of each athlete and Coach Mikayla Chapman.

### High School Cross Country

The team results for high school cross country varied greatly due to the sizes of the girls and boys' teams. The girls had fewer athletes so their team results did not reflect the effort being contributed. However, at the conference championships two female runners were able to finish in the top 5.

On the boy's side, SRCA finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference meet (out of 9) missing the championship by 5 points. It is significant to note that SRCA was competing against full grade high schools, meaning that our athletes were in competition against seniors and high schools with larger numbers. The efforts of Head Coach Chase Shermer and Assistant Coach Phil Morgan have set a strong foundation for cross country moving forward.

### Middle School Soccer

Much like the high school volleyball team, this was a very young team with athletes new to the sport. Many lumps were taken, however the growth easy to notice both in the increase in individual skill and competitiveness of the team over course of the season. Coach Logan Chapman has begun the process of rebuilding this program with a solid year of fundamental building.

### Middle School Cross Country

Both the boys and girls' teams have had exceptional strong seasons, with individual athletes establishing new personal records on a weekly basis. Each team was able to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the conference championships (out of 9). Head Coach Tori Keuhn and Assistant Coach Haley Neal are each very proud of the results and excited about the potential in the future for these teams. Each team was heavier in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, providing optimism that these excellent results are a glimpse into future success.

### Middle School Volleyball

This team as also demonstrated an exceptional amount of growth over the course of the season. Coach Ashley Hill has helped the group become more consistent and stronger in fundamental play. This group begins conference tournament play this week as the 5-seed and have either beaten each team in the conference or lost to the team in 3 sets.

### Nest Bookfair

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SRCA Nest organized our fall bookfair. The bookfair was another solid success with sales exceeding \$15,000 for the second year in a row. Nest designates 80% of the profits back to the classrooms in the form of classroom libraries for teachers to obtain for their classrooms. The remaining profit is used by Nest as student outreach and celebrations.

### Student Council

High school student council organized a movie night on October 20<sup>th</sup> that took place in the gym. This was an opportunity for the high school students to engage in community building beyond their regularly scheduled morning meetings that they lead each week under the bell tower.

Middle school student council is hosting their first dances of the year on October 27<sup>th</sup>. These will be Halloween themed dances. Grade 5 and 6 will have their dance immediately after school, and the 7/8 dance will begin 30 minutes after the conclusion of the first.

## **Financial Update**

Please refer to the SRCA Financial Report 9.2023.

### SRJA Lease

In accordance with the most recent lease agreement, it has been expressed verbally during the semester that it is likely that lease will be allowed to expire in June 2024. This has now been conveyed in writing and shared via email attachment with the SRJA Director.

Please refer to SRJA Intent Letter 2023 in the board packet.

*Cover Photo:* SRCA had the pleasure of celebrating the work and efforts of Mr. Jon Schleifer as he retired during the month of October to spend more time with family, most especially his grandchildren. Mr. Schleifer has served SRCA since the inception of the school as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, PE teacher, Bus Driver, Beginning Teacher Coordinator, 504 Coordinator, School Improvement Team Facilitator, Teacher Licensure Facilitator, Student Mentor, Teacher Mentor, and Friend.