

# SRCA School Report



## High School **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

NOV. 20, 2023  
THROUGH  
JAN. 3, 2024



828-476-5150



[shiningrock.org](https://shiningrock.org)



**November 29, 2023**

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



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# School Culture

As we enter into the holiday season, the culture and character of an organization begins to shine. During the month of November and heading into December, there are a number of in-reach and out-reach activities that have aided in shaping our history along with the current climate within our school community.

## Community Outreach

A summary of the activities that the SRCA students have participated in that have involved our larger community include:

- Veterans Day has always been treated as a major event at SRCA. We had two Veterans Day Programs, a Kindergarten through fourth grade and a fifth through eleventh program. Sheriff Wilke, who is also a retired military veteran, spoke at each program and adapted his presentation to incorporate our core values while addressing the different challenges each age group would face. The Tuscola JROTC presented the colors for each program. SRCA fourth graders sang the Star-Spangled Banner, middle school strings students played a patriotic song, and one of our high school students read a speech. We had a large number of Veterans in the building for each program which closed with our students showered them with Thank You's and student prepared cards!
- The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Canned Food Drive took place this month leading into Thanksgiving. Middle School Student Council organized the drive and were able to donate over 800 items to Feeding The Multitude out of Canton. Students collected cans each day and delivered them on the Monday before Thanksgiving. Mrs. Long's 4th grade class won the popcorn party for collecting the most cans.
- Kindergarten hosted their annual pie social for families on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Families were invited to come and have pie with their students. There were over 40 families that came out to enjoy this with their children. This was a great event loved by all!
- The Annual Penny War and Supply Drive for Haywood Lodge has begun. K-8 students will be participating in a penny war to raise money for Christmas Gifts for the Haywood Lodge Retirement Home. The SRCA High School Community Service Club will be in operating all aspects of the Penny Wars this year from advertising to distribution. Club members will be collecting and counting the money. At the High School level, instead of a Penny War, these students will participate in a supply drive. Students will collect various items that the Haywood Lodge has expressed a heightened need for within their population. Those items are then supplemented with the money collected from the Penny War to give the residents a Christmas gift and care package.
- SRCA 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the Haywood County Kiwanis Spelling Bee. Our students worked hard. SRCA tied for fourth place out of ten teams. Each elementary school in the Haywood County School system along with Haywood Christian Academy had a 5th grade team participating.

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- This November SRCA held the first ever Title I Math Olympics. Students from grades K-5 participated in various math events that corresponded with their grade level standards. NEST provided dinner and the teachers produced Olympic style events with a math competitive perspective. Positive feedback was provided for this event as fun was clearly had by all who participated.
  - Folk Dance and Art Show night took place just before Thanksgiving. Students in grades 2-4 showcased their artwork throughout the gym in a gallery style format. Parents were encouraged to take a gallery walk and admire all of the artwork created. Students also demonstrated dances learned in music class for their families. After the demonstrations, all families and students were invited onto the gym floor to participate in the performance.

## Community In Reach

In addition to all of the community outreach activities, there have been a number of activities that have taken place within our school for our students.

- Middle School Student Council held two dances at the end of October. The first was the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students had a fall dance immediately after school which allowed for maximum participation. Students brought a change of clothes while several staff members and parents assisted at the end of the day operate a flash beauty shop for our girls. The students dressed in their semiformal attire and danced through the afternoon.
- The second dance was for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who held a Halloween themed Costume Dance. Students came dressed in their costumes in everything from the Joker to cowgirls in the mix. Students had a great time getting dressed up for this special event. Students enjoyed food from Fuego while spending the evening dancing with their friends.
- The Kindergarten Pie Social was not only a great way to pull in our families, but it also proved to be a great way to involve older Falcons as well. Student Council came to participate and eat with kindergarten students whose families were unable to attend the Pie Social. This served as a great opportunity for mentorship by our older students for the youngest Falcons.
- Kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Falcons have partnered up! Once a month these students pair together in the building or across campus for book buddies. Students spend time reading together and begin fostering relationships that will continue throughout their years here at SRCA. In December, these pairs will collaborate to complete a gingerbread unit which will result in the production of gingerbread house being created.
- High School took a college exploration trip to Appalachian State University. Students participated in a tour of the school to see what ASU could offer them as they begin planning their future. This was just the first of several trips that will be coming in the Spring and a continuation of the annual college tours for high school students at SRCA.

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# Academic Report

## Testing and Accountability Update

There are several tests that have taken place during the last month. 10<sup>th</sup> grade students took the P-ACT as a practice for their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year when they take the ACT. The ACT is a required test from the state. High School students were also able to opt into taking the PSAT this year for the first time. Students will also be participating in the required EOC tests in December for courses that have them.

Students in grades 3-8 have taken their first NC Check-Ins. Teachers have these results and are using them to drive their instruction to meet the needs of students. This assessment has provided a dependable portrait of what students are demonstrating proficiency in addition to where improvement is needed. K-3 will be administering the second mClass assessment of the year at the start of the second semester.

## Items for Board Approval

### Policies for 2<sup>nd</sup> Read and Approval

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.

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.

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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.

## Policies Amended for Approval

*4000: Admissions and Approval.* This policy remains unchanged with the exception of the addition of one addition to the Open Enrollment definition that is required by the Office of Charter Schools. The addition does not change the established practice at SRCA and reads as follows:

*Per CHTR-003, the Open Enrollment period will be no fewer than thirty (30) consecutive days.*

## Financial Update

Please refer to the SRCA Financial Report 10.2023.

*Cover Photo:* SRCA Winter Open Enrollment for high school students only is now open. This lottery will take place in December and allow for students to enter the SRCA high school beginning in January.