AIKEN SCHOLARS ACADEMY

471 University Parkway, Box 12 – Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: 803-306-1400 – Fax: 803-641-3807
www.acpsd.net/AikenScholarsAcademy
CEEB Code: 410083
Martha Messick, Principal

Vision

Our vision is to create a nurturing, supportive, and collaborative learning environment that focuses on growing each student as an individual through a unique, high-quality, and rigorous educational experience immersed in the college atmosphere, preparing Scholars for entrance into an ever-changing and advanced society.

Community

The Consolidated School District of Aiken County is the sixth largest school district in South Carolina. Here, students achieve high levels in every realm of education. Educating nearly 25,000 students enrolled in its 42 schools, Career & Technology Center, Freedman Early Learning Center, Aiken Innovate Online, and SOAR, the district has continued its path of excellence to include prestigious honors and noteworthy accomplishments.

School and Accreditation

Housed on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus, ASA is a public high school developed to serve academically gifted students within Aiken County. Annually, the school accepts 50 students through a rigorous application process. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of College and Schools and holds membership with College Board.

ASA consistently ranks among the top high schools in South Carolina, In 2025**, US News & World Report's Best High School** ranked ASA #10 Nationally, #1 in South Carolina, and #1 in the CSRA! Additionally, the school was also named a **South Carolina Blue Ribbon School for Academic Excellence** and is an **AP Honors Platinum School.**

Curriculum

The ASA academic program is organized into two experiences. In 9th and 10th grade, students are enrolled in all Honors and Advanced Placement level courses, which meet in a semester, block schedule. Honors classes are offered in English, Math, and Science. AP courses are offered in Capstone Seminar and Human Geography in 9th grade, and Calculus AB, Capstone Research, Statistics, English Language & Composition, and U.S. History, in 10th grade. All students enrolled take all the AP courses offered, apart from AP Calculus and AP Statistics where students take one or the other based on their mathematical aptitude and career pathway.

During 11th and 12th grade, students are dually enrolled at USC Aiken. Juniors take up to four college courses each semester and Seniors may take up to five college courses each semester. Upon graduation, Scholars will have the opportunity to earn a minimum of 48 hours of college credit, along with the AP course work where qualifying scores are earned.

Class of 2026 Highlights	
Graduation Rate (n=46)	100%
College & Career Readiness	100%
Scholarship Awards	$5,238,351
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	50%
LIFE Scholarship	50%
Honor Graduates	97%
GPA Range (weighted)	3.762 - 5.474
Average Graduating GPA (weighted)	4.844
Post-Secondary Plans 4-Year	96%
Post-Secondary Plans 2-Year	2%
Post Secondary Plans Military	2%
Seal of Biliteracy	15%
SC State Honors Diploma	41%
AP Capstone Diploma	89%
AP Seminar & Research Certificate	4%
AP Scholars	11%
AP Scholars with Distinction	80%
AP Scholars with Honors	9%
National Merit Scholarship Recipients	1
National Merit Commended Students	5
# Community Service Hours Earned	2691

Matriculated Schools

- Aiken Technical College
- Augusta Technical College
- Augusta University
- Anderson University
- Brevard College
- Brigham Young University
- Claflin University
- Clemson University
- College of Charleston
- Columbia College
- Duke University
- Embry Riddle
- Emory University
- Furman University
- George Mason University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Lander University
- Michigan Technological University
- North Carolina A&T State
- North Carolina State University
- Penn State University
- Presbyterian College
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- The Citadel
- Trevecca Nazarene University
- Tulane University
- U.S. Merchant Marines
- U.S. Westpoint Academy
- University of Alabama, Burmingham
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of South Carolina
- University of South Carolina Honors College
- University of South Carolina Aiken
- University of South Carolina Upstate
- University of Virginia
- University of Utah
- Winston-Salem State University
- Wingate College
- Winthrop University

School Assessment Performance 2025-2026

PSAT/NMSQT October 2025

	Total Mean	EBRW Mean	Math Mean
9th Grade	1173	593	580
10th Grade	1238	624	613
11th Grade	1244	639	605
Whole School	1219	619	600

SAT School Day 2026

	Total Mean	EBRW Mean	Math Mean
Students (n=16)	1253	608	646
Score Range	1000-1540	480-750	520-790

ACT School Day 2026

Mean Scores	Composite	English	Math	Science	Reading
Students	28.4	28	27.5	25	29.75
Score Range	22-35	20-35	18-36	23-36	23-36

Advanced Placement Performance 2026

% Total AP Students with Qualifying Scores	99
% Students w/Qualifying Scores ALL Exams Taken	95
9th	*96*
10th	*94*
% Total Exams with Qualifying Scores	97
% AP Calculus	*100*
% AP English Language & Composition	*98*
% AP Human Geography	*100*
% AP Research	*94*
% AP Seminar	*96*
% AP Statistics	*96*
% AP US History	*97*
# AP Capstone Diploma	43
# AP Scholar	5
# AP Scholar with Distinction	42

State End of Course Exams:

	% Overall Passage	Mean Score	% Score > 70
Algebra 1 (n=23)	100	97	100
Biology (n=50)	100	97	100
English 2 (n=50)	100	99	100
U.S. History (n=47)	100	99	100

School Activities

As a school serving a maximum enrollment of 200, ASA has been able to offer students a variety of activities for students to engage in and build their skills in leadership, which include Academic Team, Beta Club, Book Club, Cyber Patriots, Fine Arts Club, Gaming Club, Gardening Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Scholar Ambassadors, Science Team, Student Government- active member of SCASC, and Yearbook. There are also opportunities for students to participate in clubs at USC Aiken.

ASA students can participate in Athletics and Marching Band at their zoned high school, and approximately one-third of the student body are student-athletes. They may also play intramural sports at USC Aiken.

All students are required to complete 25 hours of community service annually, where many students exceed expectations.

Graduation Requirements-

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 credits by the state of South Carolina. To qualify for a South Carolina High School diploma, students will complete:

English- 4 Units	Math- 4 Units
Science- 3 Units	US History-1 Unit
Economics- ½ Unit	US Government- ½ Unit
Social Studies- 1 Unit	Unit PE/ROTC- 1 Unit
Comp. Science- 1 Unit	World Lang/CATE- 1 Unit
Personal Finance- ½ Unit	Electives- 6.5 Units

SC Uniform Grading Scale (weighted)

Average (On Transcript)	College Prep (C)	Honors (H)	AP/Dual Enrollment (A/E)
A 90-100	4.0-5.0	4.5-5.5	5.0-6.0
B 80-89	3.0-3.9	3.5-4.4	4.0-4.9
C 70-79	2.0-2.9	2.5-3.4	3.0-3.9
D 60-69	1.0-1.9	1.5-2.4	2.0-2.9
F 59 and below	0.0-0.9	0.0-1.4	0.0-1.9

GPA and Rank

To calculate GPA, the sum of the weights of each grade is divided by the number of units attempted using the SCUGP above. The school does not rank.

Faculty & Staff

All faculty at Aiken Scholars Academy are experienced in working with gifted students and all hold advanced degrees in their field, as well as Advanced Placement endorsements for the coursework they teach. Multiple teachers are AP Readers.

Faculty/Staff List:

Martha Messick, Principal ~ mmessick@acpsd.net

Jane Sargeant, School Counselor ~ jsargeant@acpsd.net

Sharonda Hanna, Assistant Principal ~ sjacobs@acpsd.net

Wendy McDaniel, Registrar ~ wmcdaniel@acpsd.net

SCHOLAR Profile

Service – **C**uriosity & Life-Long Learning – **H**onor – **O**wnership – **L**eadership – **A**dvocacy – **R**esilience