

## **A Message from Lance Radford, Principal**

Welcome to the Wade Hampton High School website. We hope that you will view this site often and keep abreast of the most recent school activities and achievements. Our students, faculty, staff, parents, and community have been very successful in creating a high level of success in academics, fine arts, and athletics, making Wade Hampton a school of choice for students seeking an outstanding program in these areas.

After being named the Carolina First Palmetto's Finest High School in 2010-2011, Wade Hampton continues to garner accolades in a variety of highly competitive arenas while maintaining its focus on the achievements of individual students. This remarkable journey of our school was recognized in May 2011, when Wade Hampton became the sole high school in the nation to receive the prestigious Panasonic National School Change award. In addition, we were able to obtain a School Report Card absolute rating of Excellent for the second year in a row. We also received both the Palmetto Gold award and the Palmetto Gold Closing the Gap award, each for the third time in the last three years. Wade Hampton's four-year graduation rate continued to improve to 86.4% (the highest in the district) which is ultimately the best measure of our efforts to focus on the success of each individual student.

Our students are led and inspired by a remarkable team of faculty and staff, who added new honors to an already impressive trophy case. Among this group is the South Carolina Association of Student Councils (SCASC) Administrator of the Year, as well as a finalist for Greenville County Teacher of the Year. Athletics also had a banner year: our coaching staffs include the SC Coaches Association Boys Basketball Coach of the Year, the SC Track and CC Coaches Association AAA Coach of the Year and the Assistant Coach for the 2011 North South All-Star football game.

Our students lead like Generals as well, typified by our outstanding Student Council which was once again named best in the state. They united our student body in raising over \$205,000 for the Frazee Center in a single week, and one student was elected SCASC president for 2011-2012. Our Air Force JROTC received the Outstanding Unit Award, and individual students received top state distinctions in chorus, band, art and theatre. Our boy's basketball team ended their undefeated season by winning the AAA State Championship game, and seven of our teams also won Region Championships, with numerous athletes collecting regional and All-State honors. Academically, the GPA in the athletic program rose to an impressive 3.81, with four teams earning a GPA over 4.0. More than a fourth of the student body was enrolled in AP courses (427 students took 584 AP exams this year). Our graduating seniors received college scholarship offers totaling over \$11,000,000; among these were 115 Life Scholarship recipients, 17 Palmetto Fellows, and one National Merit winner.

It becomes obvious that there is a long history of community and school groups working together to provide the highest quality education for our students. It is this cooperative relationship that has built success for generations. Our students are given the opportunity to learn in a safe and caring environment that promotes high academic standards and encourages each student to achieve to their highest potential. We are proud of the accomplishments of the past years and are committed to continually enhancing the academic, fine arts, and athletic programs.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit our school at any time. Please come to the front office to sign in and we will be glad to assist you.

Lance Radford  
Principal  
"Leading Like Generals"