

SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Press Release

From: Colleen Strickland, Specialist

Date: January 6, 2012

Subject: 2011 High School Grades

The Sumter school district has an 'A' rating for the fourth consecutive year and has been designated as an Academically High Performing District once again! Sumter's elementary and middle schools received school grades in the fall with Bushnell Elementary, Webster Elementary, Lake Panasoffkee Elementary, Wildwood Elementary, and South Sumter Middle recognized as 'A' schools. The Florida Department of Education released school grades based on the expanded high school grading system this week. South Sumter High School and Wildwood Middle High School have both been rated as 'B' schools for 2010-11 with the The Villages Charter School earning an 'A'. "Congratulations are in order for our students, staff and parents. While we always strive to get better, we have made significant progress over the years and continue to provide a quality education for our students. We continue to be one of the highest academically ranked districts in the entire state." said Superintendent Richard A. Shirley. The overall graduation rate at both schools surpasses the state's average of 80% with South Sumter High at 87% and Wildwood Middle High at 85%. The minimum cut score to be graded an 'A' is 1050 points. Wildwood Middle High School earned 1079 points and South Sumter High School earned 1059. Although Wildwood Middle High and South Sumter High earned enough points to be rated as an 'A', the school grades were dropped to a 'B' because the "At Risk" graduation rate did not meet the state cut score of 75%. The students included in the "At Risk" graduation rate are those who scored at Level 2 or below on both FCAT Reading and FCAT Mathematics in grade 8. Wildwood Middle High had an "At Risk" graduation rate of 72% and South Sumter High's rate was 70%.

The formula for computing high school grades changed beginning with the previous school year. Unlike elementary and middle schools, which are graded based

on their FCAT scores, the FCAT accounts for only 50 percent of a high school's letter grade. Other factors, such as the school's graduation rate and students' participation in accelerated course work, make up the other half of the grade. That means high school grades now come out later than elementary and middle school grades. More information on school accountability and grades can be found at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>.