Daniel, Seneca High among SC top 20

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

Daniel and Seneca high schools have been known for their excellence in athletics for many years. On Thursday, a national magazine recognized the two schools as among the tops in the state for their work in the classroom.

U.S. News and World Report, in its annual ranking of best high schools nationally, ranked Daniel 15th and Seneca 19th among the best high schools in South Carolina. Nationally, Daniel was ranked No. 1,698, while Seneca was ranked No. 2,360. Both schools were awarded a silver medal.

The magazine uses the South Carolina Assessment Placement results as well as Advanced Placement Test results to determine the best high schools in the nation. Only high schools ranked in the top 30 percent of all public high schools in the U.S. earned the right to a U.S. News Best High School 2016 medal.

In its overview, the magazine stated Daniel's AP rate is 38 percent. Principal Josh Young said he was "incredibly proud" to see the school once again be highly ranked in the national magazine's annual report.

"It is a great testament to the hard work of our students and teachers on receiving this acknowledgment," Young said. "These rankings place a heavy emphasis on the performance of students at all ability levels and looks at the school's graduation rate, and its number of students taking part and being successful in rigorous college-level AP courses.

"I think it says a lot about the success level and opportunities that all students have at Daniel High School, and I think as we continue to expand these offerings that our success rate will continue to climb as well."

According to its overview, Seneca had an AP participation rate of 32 percent. Principal Cliff Roberts, a University of South Carolina graduate, used a quote from Clemson head football coach Dabo Swinney by saying, "The best is yet to come."

"This recognition comes at a great time so we should use this as motivation to finish strong," Roberts said. "We should be proud of what has been accomplished, but stay hungry for more. Our kids deserve the best, and our faculty and staff are doing an excellent job of giving it to them."

The latest award marks another in what has been a very successful academic year at Seneca. The school was named a Palmetto's Finest finalist earlier in the spring after making the semifinal list last year.

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