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**Pickens school ranks among best, magazine says**

**By Liz Carey  
Independent Mail**

CENTRAL -- An Upstate high school has been named one of the top schools in the country, according to Newsweek magazine.

D.W. Daniel High School in the School District of Pickens County was ranked 1,294 out of 1,500 schools, according to the magazine.

Twenty-two schools in South Carolina are on the 2009 Newsweek magazine "Challenge Index," an annual ranking of the top 1,500 public high schools in the nation based on rigorous course offerings and how all students perform in those courses.

Newsweek's formula for ranking more than 27,000 schools nationwide looks at the number of advanced placement, international baccalaureate and similar college-credit tests taken by all students at a school and then divides that by the number of graduating seniors from the previous year.