



## **Gaston Early College High School 2021-2022 School Profile**

### **Contact Information**

210 Highway 321 South  
Campus Box L  
Dallas, NC 28034

Hours: 9:00am - 3:45pm  
(704) 922-2405 (phone)  
(704) 923-0205 (fax)

### **General Information**

**Principal:** Josh Allen

**Enrollment:** 241

**13th Year:** 44 (3 graduated early in 2021)

**Seniors:** 39

**Juniors:** 53

**Sophomores:** 51

**Freshmen:** 54

**Website:** [www.gaston.k12.nc.us/gastonearlycollege](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/gastonearlycollege)

**School Counselor:** Rita Wilkinson

**CEEB Code:** 340-962

**Accreditation:** SACS

**School Colors:** Panther Blue & Silver

**School Mascot:** Spartan

### **Our Mission**

Gaston Early College will prepare students to learn for college and career, lead by example, and live a successful life in today's society.

### **Our Vision**

Gaston Early College will provide students with dynamic learning experiences in a college setting, a staff who cares for and supports each student, rigorous academic expectations, and opportunities for personal and community growth.

### **School Description**

Gaston Early College High School (GECHS) is an exciting innovative high school located on the Gaston College campus in Dallas, N.C. The Early College High School is operated by Gaston County Schools and Gaston College through a joint partnership. This exclusive, non-traditional high school offers Gaston County students a unique opportunity to receive a high school diploma while earning an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, or Associate in Engineering degree from Gaston College. Started in 2008 at Bessemer City High School, GECHS moved to its current location in August of 2012.

31.97% of students attending Gaston Early College High School qualify for free and reduced lunch (This percentage is from the 2019-2020 school year).

Around 70% of students attending Gaston Early College High School are considered first-generation college students (parent has not graduated with a bachelor's degree)

### **School Honors and Recognitions**

- Grade A School (2015-2019) five years in a row.
- Ranked the #2 school in the Charlotte-Metro Area by the Charlotte Business Journal (2018)
- Rated a Bronze Medal School by US News' Best High Schools Report (2018)
- 100% graduation rate for 2020-2021 school year

### **Entrance Criteria**

Students apply to attend Gaston Early College during their eighth-grade year. A lottery is held to select 54 students based on first-generation status and feeder high school area. Around 70% of students chosen in the lottery self-report they are first-generation college students. A percentage of students are accepted from each of the high school feeder areas in Gaston County, according to enrollment, which fairly distributes the GECHS experience to all areas of our community. Following entrance criteria in effect for students entering through 2019-2020 school year.

The Entrance Criteria are: Level III, IV or V on the 7th & 8th grade end-of-grade test in reading.  
Level II, III, IV or V on the 7th and 8th grade end-of-grade test in math.  
94% attendance rate in grades 7 and 8.  
Be in good standing regarding conduct.  
Be a Gaston County resident.

### **Curriculum**

The academic program is organized on a block schedule. The majority of our students are enrolled in 8-10 classes per year. Students must earn 28 credits in order to graduate from high school.

Gaston Early College offers 16 Honors courses: English I, English II, Math II, Math III, Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, Forensic Science, World History, Civics and Economics, American History I/II, and Spanish III.

Gaston Early College does not offer Advanced Placement classes due to the nature of the program. Students take 21 or more courses at Gaston College in order to meet the requirements for an Associate degree. Due to the nature of the program, the curriculum is spread out over five years. In the 2019-2020 school year GECHS graduated the first group of students to complete the program in four years.

**College Courses Substituted for High School Courses**  
**\*meet high school credit requirements for graduation**  
ENG 111/ENG 112/ENG 231 for English III  
ENG 111/ENG 112/ENG 242 for English IV  
MAT 171 for 4th math  
PED 110/HEA 110 for Health/PE

### **Graduation Requirements/Class Rank**

Class Rank is based on the weighted 4.0 scale. Class rank is computed at the end of each semester. Rank is exact and is cumulative beginning with the freshman year. All courses are given credit and all students are ranked. The class rank is shown on the transcript.

Each course is worth one credit if passed with a 60 or higher. 28 credits are required to graduate from high school.

#### **Grading Scale**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

#### **Quality Points Used to Calculate GPA**

<b>College Courses</b>	<b>Honors Courses</b>	<b>Regular Courses</b>
A - 5.0 points	A - 4.5 points	A - 4 points
B - 4.0 points	B - 3.5 points	B - 3 points
C - 3.0 points	C - 2.5 points	C - 2 points
D - 2.0 points	D - 1.5 points	D - 1 point
F - 0 points	F - 0 points	F - 0 points

**Clubs (can change on a yearly basis)**

Spartan Publications (2018-2019 school year)  
 Fitness Club  
 Sports Club  
 Multicultural Club (club ended after 2019-2020 school year)  
 Moot Court (club ended after 2018-2019 school year)  
 Prom Club  
 Imagineering Club  
 National Beta Club (Based on grades and service)  
 Adulting 101

Art Club (club ended after 2018-2019 school year)  
 Student Council/Student Government Assoc.  
 Coding Club  
 Singing Spartans Club  
 Robotics (club ended after 2018-2019 school year)  
 Quiz Bowl Club  
 Performing Arts Club  
 Lorax Club

**Testing Results**

<b>ACT</b>	<b>Composite</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>% met all four benchmarks</b>
2015-2016	21.9	22.9	22.9	21.8	24.7	31%
2016-2017	23.7	23.6	23.2	23	24.3	44.4%
2017-2018	23.1	23.2	22	24.1	22.7	44.4%
2018-2019	22.7	22	21.5	24.3	22.3	30.2%
2019-2020	23.5	23	22.8	24.3	23.3	30.2%
2020-2021	22.8	23.1	21.9	23.9	21.9	29.3%
Gaston (19-20)	17.4	15.6	18.1	17.9	17.6	12%
NC (19-20)	18.6	17	18.8	19.2	18.7	17%

<b>SAT</b>	<b>EBRW</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent Tested</b>
2016-2017	589	553	1142	34.2%
2017-2018	613	588	1201	21.8%
2018-2019	625	591	1215	13.1%
2019-2020	587	571	1159	based on 7 test takers
2020-2021 ***	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 tested
Gaston (18-19)	536	527	1063	39.7%
NC (18-19)	549	542	1091	45.7%
***number of students tested not large enough number for mean scores to be reported				

**Completion of Associate Degree**

In 2021, 72% of our graduating students graduated with either an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, or Associate in Engineering.

## Post Graduation Plans

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Class Size	33	44	44	52	39	51
Early Graduates Included in Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	3	7
Total Continuing Education	87%	80%	88%	81%	82%	96%
Four Year College	75%	56%	71%	69%	69%	93%
Community College, Nursing School	12%	24%	17%	8%	10%	3%
Trade/Business School	3%	0%	0%	4%	3%	0%
Military	3%	0%	0%	8%	0%	2%
Employment	4%	20%	12%	12%	18%	2%

Colleges and Universities Gaston Early College Graduates Attended Since 2016		
Appalachian State University*	Fayetteville State University	Tufts University
Arizona State University	Gardner-Webb University*	UNC Asheville*
Averett University	Gaston College CC*	UNC Chapel Hill*
Belmont Abbey College*	Lenoir-Rhyne University*	UNC Charlotte*
Bennett College	Limestone College	UNC Greensboro*
Campbell University	Meredith College	UNC Wilmington
Central Piedmont CC	Nascar Institute	University of Alabama Huntsville
Cleveland Community College	NC Central University	University of Georgia
College of Charleston	NC State University*	University of Kentucky*
Drexel University	NC A&T	University of South Carolina
East Carolina University*	Southern Wesleyan University	Western Carolina University*
Elizabeth City State University	Pace University	Winston-Salem State University

\*More than one student attended this institution after graduation