

Southwest Middle School Career Academy

Home of the Roadrunners

1 Roadrunner Drive
Gastonia, NC 28052
Phone: (704) 866-6290
Fax: (704) 866-6293

<https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/southwest>

**Ms. Melissa Knick,
Principal**

Assistant Principals

**Mr. Erik Barton,
6th Grade**

**Mrs. Tiffany Gardner,
7th Grade**

**Mrs. Deon Kennedy,
8th Grade**



MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL

- Multiple winners at the Gaston County Through An Artist Eyes Art Show. (2-1st Place Winners; 2-2nd Place Winners; 3-3rd Place Winners and 2 Honorable Mentions)
 - Middle schools can only submit 18 pieces of art. Southwest had 15 winners out of the 18 pieces submitted. GOOOOO ROADRUNNERS!
- A 7th-grade Roadrunner won the prestigious James C Biggers Art Award, a top award for Art students.
- **3rd Place:** Southwest Math Elite team won 3rd place in the County Championship.
- **1st Place and 3rd Place Awards:** Our Technology Students Association (TSA) won 1st place in Coding, and 3rd place in Biotechnology; 3rd place in Gaming Design and 3rd place in Medical Technology in the State competition.
- Only School in the County with an active TSA Club (NC Technology Student Association).
- SWMS is home to the county's ONLY Exploring Family and Consumer Sciences pathway. No other middle school offers the full range of family and consumer sciences mini-courses.
- **National Beta School of Merit-** Southwest is a National Beta School of Merit. 46 students were inducted into the National Beta Club for the 2022-2023 School year.
- **SUPERIOR Ratings:** Southwest Band AND Chorus received EXCELLENT and **SUPERIOR** ratings at **State Festivals and the Carowinds Festival of Music**. Participation in Gaston All-County Honors Band & Limestone University Tri-State Honors Band Clinic. Chorus students selected for All County Honor Choir, Wingate Festival and Solo & Small Ensemble.
- **Football County Champions:** 4 Peat County Champions 2018-2022
- **Basketball County Champions:** Boy's Basketball for the 22/23 School Year
- **Wrestling Champions:** 2 County Champions 22/23 School Year & 1 **County Track** Champion 22/23 School Year



Gaston County Schools
Career
Academy

It's never too early for students to begin thinking about the future. At the middle school level, the Career Academy makes it possible for students to explore a variety of career fields so they can get an idea of the job opportunities that await once they graduate from high school and college.

At Southwest, students focus on career exploration in the areas of family and human services (foods, health, and public service) and business and information technology. Through the Career Academy, students learn that their future (regardless of which career they select) will be influenced by technology and involve service to others.

This program provides a pathway for students to participate in the Career Academy at Hunter Huss High School.

School Leadership

Principal: Melissa Knick
mdknick@gaston.k12.nc.us

Assistant Principal (6th Grade): Erik Barton
etbarton@gaston.k12.nc.us

Assistant Principal (7th Grade): Tiffany Gardner
tgardner@gaston.k12.nc.us

Assistant Principal (8th Grade): Deon Kennedy
dkkenedy@gaston.k12.nc.us

Bell

Schedule

8:30-10:05

1st core and homeroom

10:08-12:14

2nd core
(6th grade electives)

12:17-1:52

3rd core
(7th grade electives)

1:55-3:30

4th core
(8th grade electives).

Student Services

Counselors:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6th Grade - Logan Dean | ladean@gaston.k12.nc.us |
| 7th Grade - Andrea Little | allittle@gaston.k12.nc.us |
| 8th Grade - Lisa Brooks | lhbrooks@gaston.k12.nc.us |

School Nurse:

Beverly McCarter bgmccarter@gaston.k12.nc.us

Students are not allowed to carry medicine with them. Students must give medication and a note from a parent with instructions **directly** to the school nurse upon arrival at school. All medications should be in the original container. Please contact Nurse McCarter with any questions.

Social Worker:

LaTonya Burgess lpburgess@gaston.k12.nc.us

Our SW Community is fortunate to have a Support Team of individuals with a heart for the SW students and families. We are here to support our students, never hesitate to reach out.

Academics

GRADING SCALE

The Gaston County Schools Grading Scale is:

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

Report Card Distribution Dates

First 9 weeks - October 19, 2024

Second 9 weeks - January 11, 2024

Third 9 weeks - March 14, 2024

Fourth 9 weeks- May 31, 2024

PowerSchool- Students and parents have access to PowerSchool to check students' grades and attendance. Parents can stay up to date on grades through PowerSchool. Parents can request access to PowerSchool through their student's teacher or by calling the front office.

Attendance

ABSENCES

Great student attendance goes hand-in-hand with great academics; attending school is critical to your child's success. To be considered for an excused absence, within 3 days of your return from an absence, bring a note for the homeroom teacher stating the following: your name, date, days of absence, reason for absence, and parent/guardian signature.

Students accumulating **more than 12 absences** during the school year will be referred to the retention/promotion committee to make a determination regarding promotion or retention.

Make-up work- Students will have 3 days to make arrangements regarding their assignments when returning from an absence. **Work scheduled prior to absences is due the day the student returns. Any absence believed to be an educational opportunity must be approved in advance by the principal.**

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Students may begin entering the school at 8:00. Students are able to eat breakfast until 8:15 am. Students will grab breakfast and take it directly to class.

Tardy Bell = 8:30 am. Students are late to class if they are not in the classroom when class begins. Always aim to be at school 10-15 minutes early for traffic. Students who accumulate excessive unexcused tardies and/or are excessively late to class are subject to disciplinary consequences.

Early check-out ends at **2:45 pm**. Parent photo identification is required for early checkout.

CAFETERIA

The School Nutrition Program operated by Gaston County Schools will provide ALL students enrolled at Southwest Middle School free breakfast and lunch for the 2023-2024 school year.

Cash is accepted in the school cafeteria for snacks. Parents/Guardians may utilize **www.mypaymentsplus.com** to pay with their credit or debit card.

ELECTRONICS

CELL PHONES

Off AND Away

Only a parent/guardian can pick up a confiscated cell phone. Other electronic devices are to be left at home.

RESPONSIBLE USE AGREEMENT FOR COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE- All students will be required to sign a Responsible Use Policy

BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to follow the rules, expectations, and procedures of Southwest Middle School and Gaston County Schools. Students who choose to follow these expectations and policies will be rewarded for making good behavior choices. Rewards may include special acknowledgments, classroom privileges, or invitations to special events. Students who choose not to follow these expectations and policies will receive consequences, such as loss of classroom or school privileges, confiscation of an item, restitution, or suspension.

DRESS CODE

As stated in the Gaston County Schools Code of Conduct:

The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. Each student is expected to maintain an appearance that is neither distracting to other students nor disruptive to the educational environment or the safe and healthy climate of schools.

Students shall not wear:

Headwear - Hats, bandanas, hair picks, combs, bonnets or other types of headgear or sunglasses in the building.

Clothing- Clothing that displays sexually explicit words or drawings, profanity, alcohol or drug gang symbols. Spaghetti straps, halter tops, strapless tops, and sleeveless shirts with extended arm holes are not allowed in school.

Shorts/Skirts/Dresses: Must be minimally mid-thigh; holes in clothes must be below mid-thigh unless shorts or leggings are worn underneath; must be worn at the natural waistline. Leggings are not the same as pants or shorts. Therefore, students who wear leggings must wear a shirt that covers all of their backside.

Sleepwear: Pajama pants and bedroom slippers are not appropriate school attire. Blankets are not permitted

Students who choose not to follow the dress code will be allowed to call home for appropriate clothing. Students will be assigned to the Redirect Room until appropriate clothing is brought to school.

Clear water bottles only-No Yetis, Stanley Cups etc.. Drink cups from restaurants that are not clear.

ATHLETICS:

Athletic Director: Keith Rhodes

bkrhodes@gaston.k12.nc.us

All students may try out for the following teams: softball, cheerleading, golf, basketball (girls and boys), soccer (girls and boys), track (girls and boys), volleyball, football, wrestling, and baseball, **with the exception of** sixth-grade students, who are not permitted to try out for football.

Sports Physicals and other important information must be uploaded into Dragonfly to participate.

<https://max.dragonflyathletics.com/maxweb/max-cover/login>

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Be a resident/GCS approved transfer student for SWMS AND cannot be 15 years old on or before October 16 of the current school year.
- Pass 3 of 4 core classes (including math/language arts for both the semester AND the school year for fall eligibility), 3 of 4 core classes at semester for spring.
- Meet attendance requirements.
- Pass current physical exam (within 12 months).
- **Meet behavioral and academic expectations of the athletic department and individual teams. Speak to your coach for specific requirements of your team.**