

2023-2024

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION GUIDE

Curriculum and
course information to
help you prepare for
the school year



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Gaston County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and federal regulations to not discriminate in such a manner. This requirement extends to admission and employment. Discrimination on the basis of sex, including any form of sexual harassment as that term is defined under Title IX, in any program or activity of the school system will not be tolerated.

Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing federal regulations may be referred to the school district's Title IX coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.

Las Escuelas del Condado de Gaston no discriminan a base del género en sus programas o actividades de educación y el Título IX de la Ley de Enmiendas de Educación de 1972 y las regulaciones federales requieren que no discrimine de esa manera. Este requisito se extiende a la admisión y al empleo. No se tolerará la discriminación por motivos de sexo, incluida cualquier forma de acoso sexual según se define ese término en el Título IX, en cualquier programa o actividad del sistema escolar.

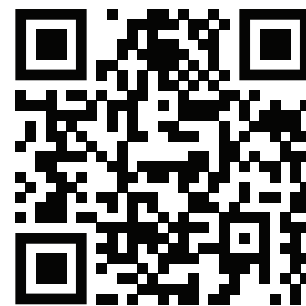
Las consultas sobre la aplicación del Título IX y sus regulaciones federales de implementación se pueden remitir al coordinador del Título IX del distrito escolar y / o al Subsecretario de Derechos Civiles en la Oficina de Derechos Civiles del Departamento de Educación de EE. UU.

CURRICULUM GUIDE

The high school curriculum guide can be found at:

<http://bit.ly/2023GCSCurriculumGuide>

Or scan
this code!



Students can find descriptions of all courses offered in Gaston County Schools. Along with the course catalog, information on all topics “*high school*” can be accessed.

Check it out today!

CREDITS FOR GRADUATION AND PROMOTION

The Gaston County Board of Education requires students to earn **28 credits** to receive a high school diploma.

To be a **sophomore** _____ **6 units**

To be a **junior** _____ **13 units**

To be a **senior** _____ **20 units**

To **graduate** _____ **28 units**

+ Completion of Course of Study and
End of Course (EOC) testing requirements

ACHIEVEMENT

HONOR GRADUATES

GCS seniors are eligible for graduation honors based on their final cumulative weighted GPA:

Summa cum laude	4.3 +
Magna cum laude	4.0 – 4.299
Cum laude	3.7 – 3.99

ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

Students who seek the Future Ready Course of Study may also earn a **NC Academic Scholars Distinction**. This distinction requires additional coursework and a final unweighted cumulative GPA of **3.5 or higher**. Students who qualify for this honor receive an honor sticker on their diploma.

QUALITY POINTS

Standard Level Courses	Honors, AP Prep, International Studies Courses	Advanced Placement, Transferable Career & College Promise Courses
A = 4	A = 4.5	A = 5
B = 3	B = 3.5	B = 4
C = 2	C = 2.5	C = 3
D = 1	D = 1.5	D = 2
F = 0	F = 0	F = 0

ATHLETICS

Gaston County Schools adheres to the rules and regulations of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) supplemented by state and county policies which create an environment that promotes sportsmanship and strong educational priorities.

CLASS RANK

Class Rank / Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated three times a year - once at the end of each semester and once at the end of summer - using the weighted 4.0 scale above. The valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined by the final rank based on cumulative weighted GPA at the end of their senior year. Students must earn 32 credits in order to be considered for valedictorian and/or salutatorian. Junior marshals will be selected on class rank using the cumulative weighted GPA calculated after the **3rd 9-week grading period** of their junior year.

ATTENDANCE

Students who attend school consistently are more likely to succeed academically. Also, students who attend school frequently feel more connected to their community and develop stronger social skills and friendships, which are important life skills.

Poor attendance not only can affect grades and relationships, but it can also affect:

- *a student's ability to earn high school credits and graduate on time*
- *a student's enrollment in driver education classes or maintaining a driver license*
- *a student's eligibility for sports.*

Keeping students on track in high school starts with good attendance.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Content Area	Future-Ready Core Course of Study Requirements	Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Requirements
English	4 Credits , taken sequentially (I, II, III, IV) or a designated combination of 4 courses	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I, II, III, IV
Mathematics	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC Math 1, 2, 3 4th Math Course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans. <p><i>A student, in some circumstances, may have an alternative math course sequence as outlined under State Board of Education policy. Please see your school counselor for more details.</i></p>	<div> <div> Before 2021 3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Mathematics NC Math 1 Financial Management </div> <div> Starting 2021-22 4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Mathematics NC Math 1 Financial Management Employment Prep IV: Math </div> </div>
Science	3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A physical science course Biology Earth/Environmental Science 	<div> <div> Before 2021 2 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied Science Biology </div> <div> Starting 2021-22 3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied Science Biology Employment Prep I: Science </div> </div>
Social Studies	<p>Before 2020 — 4 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World History A founding principles course, <i>one of the following</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy American History courses, <i>one of the following</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American History I and II American History I or II and another Social Studies course American History and another Social Studies course <p>Starting 2021-22 — 4 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World History Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy American History Economics and Personal Finance 	<p>Before 2020 — 2 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American History: Founding Principles, Civics & Economics <u>OR</u> Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy American History I <u>OR</u> American History II <u>OR</u> American History <p>Starting 2021-22 — 4 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy Economics and Personal Finance Employment Prep II: Citizenship 1A Employment Prep II: Citizenship 1B
World Languages	<p>Not required for high school graduation.</p> <p>A 2-credit minimum is required for admission to a university in the UNC system</p>	Not required
Health and Physical Education	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health/Physical Education 	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health/Physical Education
Electives	6 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 elective credits of any combination from either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career and Technical Education (CTE) Arts Education World Languages 4 elective credits strongly recommended (<i>four course concentration</i>) from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career and Technical Education (CTE)**** JROTC Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theatre arts, visual arts) Any other subject area (e.g. social studies, science, mathematics, English) 	<p>Occupational Courses</p> <p>Before 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational Preparation I, II, III, IV Career Training I, II, III, and IV Elective credits <p>Starting 2021-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment Prep III: Citizenship IIA Employment Prep III: Citizenship IIB Career Training I, II, III, and IV Elective credits
Other Requirements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of work hours requirements A career portfolio Completion of student's IEP objectives
Total	28 credits (Includes state and local requirements.)	28 credits (Includes state and local requirements.)

HIGH SCHOOL TESTING

REQUIRED

End of Course (EOC)

All students enrolled in NC Math I, NC Math III, English 10 and /or Biology complete an End of Course (EOC) exam. The exam grade makes up 20% of the student's final grade in the course.

Proof of Learning (POL)

All students enrolled in CTE courses complete a NC Proof of Learning (POL). The POL grade makes up 20% of the student's final grade in the course.

ACT

All juniors take the ACT, typically in the spring. The ACT is used as an entrance criteria at most colleges. Many colleges will accept either the ACT or an SAT score.

Workkeys

Seniors who are identified as Career and Technical (CTE) concentrators are eligible to participate in the WorkKeys assessment. This assessment measures foundational skills required for success in the workplace and helps measure the workplace skills that can affect job performance.

Pre-ACT

This assessment is administered during a student's 10th grade year. This assessment gives students an indication of how they might score on each section of the ACT. It also includes a career interest inventory. Schools use this information to support preparing students for the ACT and for course selections so it is important for students to do their best.

ACCESS for ELLs

North Carolina mandates that all students who are identified as English Learners have their English proficiency assessed each year until they meet exit criteria. This assessment is administered in the spring, usually February.

RECOMMENDED

PSAT

The Preliminary SAT, also known as the PSAT, is a practice version of the SAT exam. The PSAT can only be taken once per year, and most students take the exam in the 10th grade. The PSAT is 2 hours and 45 minutes long and tests a student's skills in reading, writing, and math. Unlike the SAT, the highest score possible on the PSAT is 1520.

SAT

The SAT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The SAT is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test created and administered by the College Board. The purpose of the SAT is to measure a high school student's readiness for college and to provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. The SAT is 3 hours long (plus 50 minutes if taking the optional essay). It tests a student's skills in math, evidence-based reading, and writing. The exam has an optional essay section. The highest possible score on the SAT is 1600.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Students taking Advanced Placement courses have the option to sit for the AP exam in the spring. Colleges require a passing score on the Advanced Placement test in order to issue college credits.



STUDENT SUPPORT

COURSE FAILURE OPTIONS

When a student fails a course they have the option to participate in **Credit Recovery** or **Grade Suppression**. Grade Suppression can also be used when a student earns less than the desired grade which negatively impacts their GPA as described below.

Credit Recovery

Credit Recovery is defined as a block of instruction that is less than the entirety of the Standard Course of Study (SCoS) for that course. CR delivers a subset of the SCoS or blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student's mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion.

The length of CR courses shall be dictated by the skills and knowledge the student needs to recover and not be a fixed length of time. When CR is exercised, the original record of the course being completed and failed will remain on the transcript.

The student will be assigned a "P" for "pass" when the CR is completed. The CR will not impact the student's Grade Point Average (GPA).

Grade Suppression

Students that fail a course may repeat the course for credit and take advantage of grade suppression. Unlike Credit Recovery, this option will replace the previous failing grade and will impact the student's GPA.

Students that have already earned the credit but received a less-than-desirable grade may also repeat the entire course and take advantage of grade suppression, however, this option may only be used for up to four courses per student.

When the course is successfully completed, the new grade shall replace the previous grade and will impact the student's GPA.



MORE COURSE OPTIONS

ARTS EDUCATION

Gaston County Schools has a long and outstanding tradition of excellence in the Arts disciplines. Students have the opportunity to take classes in Visual Arts, Band, Chorus, Theatre Arts, and Dance. Programs across the county have participated in Regional, State, and National levels of competition in all disciplines.

Students participating in Proficient and Advanced levels of classes receive honors credit. Students learn valuable skills that will prepare them both for success at the college level and job-ready skills. These skills include creativity, teamwork, discipline, and critical thinking skills.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Gaston County high schools offer a number of **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses. These courses are designed for students who are ready for the rigors of college-level work and are willing to dedicate significant time outside of class to be academically successful at a high level. AP classes may require summer reading, after school or weekend labs and additional review sessions. Colleges require a passing score on the Advanced Placement test in order to issue college credits.

Check out the High School Curriculum Guide for a full list of AP courses. *(Link on p. 1)*



GO: GASTON ONLINE

GO: Gaston Online are online courses developed and taught by Gaston County School's teachers. This option offers students the advantage of support and assistance from teachers in their local school system. In addition to this, GCS maintains local control over course offerings, registration, and the online management system.



2023-2024 GASTON ONLINE COURSE OFFERINGS

- African American Studies Honors
- American Indian Studies
- Anatomy and Physiology Honors
- AP Principles of Computer Science *Fall Only*
- AP Computer Science A *Spring Only*
- AP Environmental Science
- AP European History *Spring Only*
- AP Human Geography
- AP Spanish Language & Culture
- AP United States Government and Politics *Fall Only*
- Creative Writing
- Latin I *Fall Only*
- Latin II *Spring Only*
- Latino American Studies
- Psychology Honors
- SAT/ACT Prep Honors
- Spanish II
- Spanish III Honors *Fall Only*
- Spanish IV Honors *Spring Only*
- Success 101



For more information please visit:
www.tinyurl.com/gastonvirtual



College Now (formerly CCP) is an exciting program that offers North Carolina high school students *"a clear path to success in college or in a career."*

The program is designed to prepare students for life after high school by giving them access to an affordable college education and instilling the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a competitive workforce.

Eligible high school students may participate in the College Now program to earn:

- Course credit from Gaston College that transfers to all institutions in the University of North Carolina system and to many of the state's independent colleges and universities;
- A credential, certificate or diploma from Gaston College in a technical career field; *or*
- A high school diploma and two years of college credit through the Gaston Early College High School, which is housed on the Gaston College campus.

College Now is available at no cost to all eligible students who maintain a B grade average.




The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a non-profit corporation that offers help to students and parents during the college planning process. CFNC promotes access to North Carolina higher education and assists students with education planning, career planning, and applying and paying for college. CFNC hosts a free college application week typically during the 3rd week of October.

For more information, please visit:

www.cfnc.org

SCHOOL CHOICE



For the 2023-2024 academic year, Gaston County Schools is pleased to offer 10 High School **school choice / magnet school** programs. Students may apply for choice options during the application window.

For more information, visit

gaston.k12.nc.us/schoolchoice

or enroll directly at

gastonncc.scribborder.com

Career Academy

@ Hunter Huss High School

Collegiate Prep Academy

@ Forestview High School

Gaston Early College High School

Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences

Gaston Virtual Academy

Health Sciences Academy

@ East Gaston High School

Highland School of Technology

iAccelerate Academy

@ Ashbrook High School

Leadership Academy

@ North Gaston High School

Public Service Academy

@ Cherryville High School

Technology and Industrial Engineering Academy

@ Bessemer City High School



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OF NORTH CAROLINA



The Governor's School of North Carolina is the oldest statewide summer residential program for gifted and talented high school students in the nation. The program is open to rising seniors only, with exceptions made for rising juniors in selected performing/visual arts areas.

Each summer, selected students are invited to Governor's School to help build a learning community. Students are encouraged to explore and ask questions, with the purpose of learning for its own sake and discovering new possibilities that complement their high school instruction, without the regular pressures of tests, scores and grade point averages. While individual achievement and growth are always addressed, Governor's School emphasizes corporate and collective efforts, ranging from orchestral and choral music to partnered experiments and whole-class projects.

The academic disciplines include:

- English
- World Languages
- Mathematics
- Natural Science
- Social Science

The performing/visual arts disciplines include:

- Art
- Choral Music
- Instrumental Music
- Dance
- Theater

Gaston County schools are allotted a certain number of nominations based on its tenth and eleventh grade student population.

There are two main eligibility requirements: **residency and enrollment.**

RESIDENCY Students must be a North Carolina resident; exchange students are not eligible. Any student attending a North Carolina federal high school, regardless of residency, is eligible.

ENROLLMENT Students must be:

1. Attending a North Carolina public or non-public school, *and*
2. Enrolled in the eleventh grade at the time of nomination (exceptions are made to allow for students in tenth and eleventh grades in Dance, Choral Music and Instrumental Music).

Students are only nominated by their local school district; they cannot be nominated by their families or themselves.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Gaston County Schools has a scholarships page to reference as the starting point for scholarship searches for students attending Gaston County Schools.

This site has streamlined the process for scholarship applications for students. Students are encouraged to visit the site often. Our program will match you with national, state, and local scholarship opportunities based on your profile. You can complete many scholarship applications directly on the website. There are some scholarships that may link you to the scholarship application on a separate website.



**Browse Lists of
Available Scholarships**



**Get Personalized
Scholarship Matches**



**Apply for Scholarships
Directly Through the Website**

For details, please visit

GastonCountyScholarships.com





CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Gaston County Schools offers a comprehensive Career and Technical Education (CTE) program for students in all high schools. CTE is a program area that takes theories learned in other areas and implements them into project-based learning that can ultimately lead to future career opportunities. A variety of courses are offered in fourteen career clusters and five program areas. Students can also earn a wide variety of industry-recognized credentials free-of-charge.

#1

GCS CTE is number one in the state of North Carolina for student earned certifications.

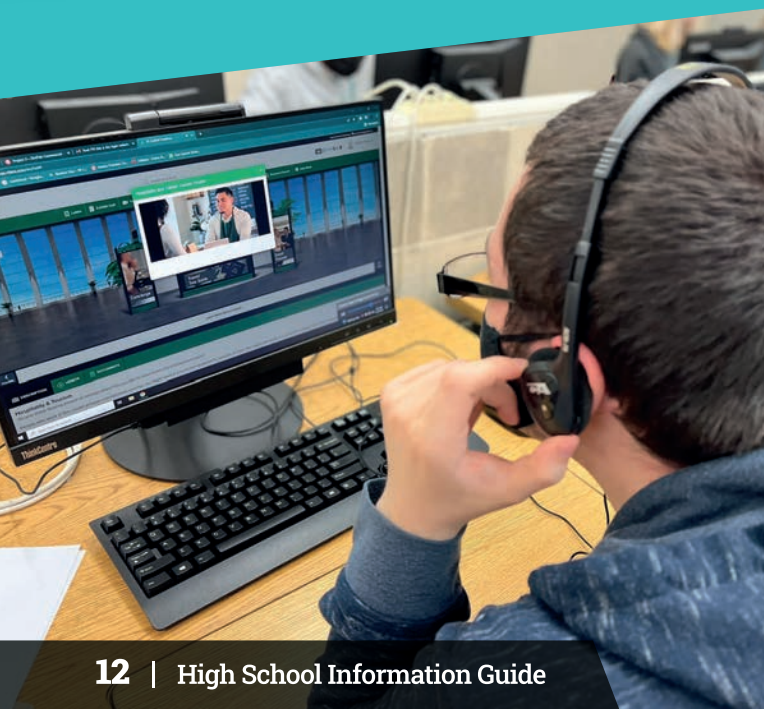
BUSINESS, FINANCE, AND MARKETING EDUCATION

Business, Finance, and Marketing Education is designed to prepare students to be viable competitors in the global marketplace and for advanced educational opportunities. A credential in this area may include Venture Entrepreneurial Expedition.



COMPUTER SCIENCE AND I.T. EDUCATION

Computer Science and Information Technology Education includes programming and coding, designing complex systems, and exploring high-level mathematical theories that relate to technology development. Credentials in this area may include Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Premiere Pro, CompTIA A+ 1001, 1002.



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION

Family and Consumer Sciences Education empowers students across the life span to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse society. Credentials in this area may include Certified Food Protection Manager (ANSI-Accredited), American Culinary Federation Culinary Arts Pre-PAC, CPR, and First Aid.



HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION

Health Science Education plays a pivotal role in meeting present and predicted needs in health care professionals within a health care delivery system characterized by diversity and changing technologies. Credentials in this area may include Stop the Bleed, First Aid, CPR, OSHA 10-Hour General Industry (Healthcare) Certification, and North Carolina Nurse Aide I.



TRADE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Trade, Technology, Engineering, and Industrial Education is designed to prepare students for careers in a variety of industries through a combination of learning and hands-on experiences. Credentials in this area may include MSSC: Certified Production Technician - Safety, Quality, Process, Maintenance, OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Certification, NCOSFM Credential - Firefighter I, II, and III, NC NCCER, ASE Entry-Level Certification, and AWS SENSE.





shaping our future

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