

School Profile 2020-2021



Contact Information

1600 N. Morris St.
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 810-8816
(704) 866-6105

CEEB School Code: 341-450
Accreditation: SACS

Hours: 8:40 am – 3:30 pm
Calendar: Traditional
Enrollment: 555
Seniors: 134
Juniors: 137
Sophomores: 139
Freshmen: 145

Principal: James Montgomery / **Assistant Principal:** Elizabeth Leonard / **Counselors:** Dr. Kevin Pressley and Mathieu Chapman
Websites: (School) <http://highlandtech.us> (Counseling) <http://bit.ly/hstcounseling>

Our Philosophy

The mission of Highland School of Technology is to prepare students for success in post-secondary education and the workplace by offering a rigorous, relevant, and experiential academic and technical curriculum.

School Description

Highland School of Technology is located in a working-class neighborhood in Gastonia, North Carolina. The school opened in July of 2000 as the district's first total choice magnet program, and it draws its student body from the other nine high schools in the county. Dr. Ray Medford chaired the committee that researched vocational and technical programs across the nation. They developed a plan for a full-day comprehensive high school program with emphasis on three career and technical academies: Business, Legal & Information Sciences, Health Sciences, and Manufacturing/Engineering and Graphics. Highland opened for the 2000-01 school year with freshmen and sophomore students and had its first graduating class in 2003.

Entrance Criteria

Students apply to attend Highland during their eighth grade year. A lottery is held to select 145 students based on interest in a career pathway and feeder high school area. A percentage of students are accepted from each of the high school feeder areas in Gaston County, according to enrollment, which fairly distributes the Highland experience to all areas of our community.

The entrance criteria are:

- Level III, IV, or V on the 7th grade end-of-grade tests in reading and math
- Level III, IV, or V on the 8th grade end-of-grade tests in reading and math
- 94% attendance rate in grades 7 and 8
- Overall "C" or 70 minimum average in grades 7 and 8
- Be in good standing regarding conduct
- Be a Gaston County resident

Integrated Learning

The emphasis at Highland School of Technology is on integrating learning within the community. The faculty is active in planning integration of the curriculum so that students see relationships and therefore a purpose for learning and understand the curriculum's application in a real-world setting. Teachers observe lessons in classrooms of other disciplines, experience industry field trips, share curriculum plans during integration meetings, and communicate with each other as they develop interdisciplinary units of study. Our community provides a means for students to apply their learning in real-world situations through internship, job shadowing, and apprenticeship opportunities.

School Honors and Recognitions

- ❑ NC School of Distinction 2000-01 – 84.1%
- ❑ NC School of Excellence 2001-02 – 90.6%
- ❑ NC School of Distinction 2002-03 – 88.5%
- ❑ NC School of Distinction 2003-04 – 89.1%
- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence 2004-05 – 92.1%
- ❑ EOC Proficiency Rate 2005-06 – 91.1%
- ❑ NC School of Distinction 2006-07 – 86.1%
- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence, High Growth 2007-08 – 91%
- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence, High Growth 2008-09 – 94.922%



School Honors and Recognitions – Cont.

- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence, High Growth 2009-10 – 98.79%
- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence, High Growth 2010-11 – 99.3% – Highest test scores of any public high school in NC.
- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence, High Growth 2011-12 – 99.8% – Highest test scores of any public high school in NC.
- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence, Exceeds Expected Growth 2012-13 – 78.9% (State average 46%)
- ❑ NC Honor School of Excellence, Exceeds Expected Growth 2013-14 – 92% (State average 58.5%)
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 96 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2014-15 – 93.5%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 98 (A+) Exceeds Expected Growth 2015-16 – 97%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A+NG) Exceeds Expected Growth 2016-17 – 99.8%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2017-18 – 99.8%
- ❑ **NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2018-19 – 99.6%**
- ❑ Governor’s Entrepreneurial Award 2001 – *Highland was recognized for bold leadership and responsible risk-taking to advance teaching and improve learning in the State of NC.*
- ❑ Teacher Working Conditions Initiative 2002 - *The Highland School of Technology was the high school with the highest score on the TWC survey and was included in the report.*
- ❑ Identified as one of the Top 30 Model Schools in the Nation for Bringing Best Practices to Scale by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Council of Chief State School Officers, and International Center for Leadership in Education. 2003
- ❑ The Highland School of Technology was featured in the December 9, 2003, issue of Forbes magazine. *The article mentioned Highland when discussing the business of educational innovation in the Charlotte region.*
- ❑ The Highland School of Technology was featured in the July 2003 issue of Greater Charlotte Biz, the magazine for the successful business executive. *The article featured the accomplishments of our school and highlighted the skills of our first graduating class.*
- ❑ The Highland School of Technology was featured in the June 2004 issue of the Engineering Times by the National Society of Professional Engineers. *The article highlights our Manufacturing/Engineering Pathway and includes interviews from two of our students who plan to pursue a degree in engineering.*
- ❑ Selected as one of 23 model high schools nationwide to share its best practices at the 15th Annual Model Schools Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 30-July 3, 2007. *The Conference, sponsored by the International Center for Leadership in Education, is the nation’s premier event for K-12 education reform.*
- ❑ The Highland School of Technology was recognized by the State School Board and the Department of Public Instruction for our 100% graduation rate for the class of 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2020.
- ❑ The Future Business Leaders of America club at Highland School of Technology received the nationally recognized Hollis and Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit for seven years in a row starting in 2012-13 through 2018-19.
- ❑ The Technology Students Association club at Highland School of Technology is one of the largest chapters in the state, we have received Chapter of The Year nine consecutive years, and have students qualify for the National Competition every year.
- ❑ The Future Health Professionals (HOSA) club at Highland School of Technology has been recognized as the largest 1A chapter four consecutive years and the "Most Outstanding Chapter" in North Carolina for the past 10 years.
- ❑ The Highland School of Technology administers the ACT WorkKeys assessment to all seniors. Seniors earning bronze level or higher on the Career Readiness Certificate: 2013-99.3%, 2014-99.2%, 2015-100%, 2016-99.2%, 2017-100%, 2018-100%, 2019-99.2%
- ❑ **Recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2017.** A government program created in 1982 by the United States Department of Education to honor schools that have achieved high levels of student achievement or made significant improvements in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups. Only 43 public high schools in the nation received this distinction in 2017.
- ❑ The Highland School of Technology was recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal in October, 2018, as the top public high school in the Charlotte area for “college and career readiness.”
- ❑ The Highland School of Technology was named a Lighthouse School by the NCASCD in February 2018. *This prestigious award is presented to one or more schools leading the way in North Carolina for excellence in student achievement and innovated programs.*

Career Pathways

There are seven career and technical pathways at Highland School of Technology. All students begin their career and technical education during their freshman year. They continue to have specialized instruction during their sophomore, junior, and senior years taking a total of eight required CTE courses. Their advanced studies class during the senior year requires a senior project to demonstrate their skills and knowledge by working with professionals in our community.

Business, Legal and Information Sciences: Academy Coordinator – Rachel Martin

Computer Engineering Technology - The Computer Engineering Technology pathway emphasizes the skills needed to build, upgrade, configure, and troubleshoot computers, peripherals, and operating systems. Areas of study include printers, portable systems, networks, Internet, and customer interaction. The program focuses on routing and switching, as well as WAN switching solutions across the disciplines of network and network support. Curriculum content follows industry guidelines to prepare students to seek A+ Certification, Network+ Certification, and Cisco Certified Entry Network Technician (CCENT) certification.

Business and Legal Studies The Business and Legal Studies pathway introduces students to the broad career opportunities in the business and legal industries. It provides students with industry-related courses of study emphasizing Principals of Business, Accounting, Wealth Building, Marketing, and Business Law. The pathway enables the students to complete internships at leading business and legal services corporations as well as prepares them for future employment or higher education.

Health Sciences: Academy Coordinator – Waheebah al-Uqdah McCray

Allied Health Science - Students who choose the Allied Health Science pathway will be introduced to the many jobs available in support positions in hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities. These students will focus on becoming multi-skilled health team members, and they will spend time rotating throughout the different areas of a hospital during their senior year. They will actually be performing entry-level clinical skills. These students will be given the opportunity to acquire Nurse Aide Level I (CNA) certification upon completion of this pathway.

Medical Science - The Medical Science pathway will prepare students to be health care workers in an advanced technical or professional health career. Emphasis in the classroom is placed on research, communication, computer literacy, health team relations, problem solving, and decision making. Students in this pathway will spend 45+ hours in a mentorship with a health care professional during their senior year.

Dental Science - In the Dental Science pathway, students will prepare for careers in the dental field. Students will perform entry level skills through on and/or off campus experiences. Highland has the only Dental Science program in a North Carolina public high school. In the Dental V course taken in the junior year students have the opportunity to earn the NC Dental X-Ray Certification at age 18.

Manufacturing, Engineering and Graphics: Academy Coordinator – Darryl Thompson

Graphics - This pathway offers students an overview of Graphic Design and Digital Media. Emphasis is placed on principles of graphic design, web communication, and video editing. Students have the opportunity to learn the following software programs within the Adobe Creative Cloud: Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Edge Animate, Muse, Premier Pro, After Effects and Audition. The Graphics lab is equipped with 27 inch display iMac computers running the latest Apple operating system. During their senior year, students produce videos in a Video Production class. Video Production skills necessary for this class are gained in their Adobe Video Design class and include storyboard creation, videography, production, editing, visual effects, motion graphics, and audio recording.

Manufacturing and Engineering - All students in Manufacturing and Engineering pathway take a series of classes in a special laboratory setting. Emphasis is placed on learning basic design skills, engineering principles, programming logic, manufacturing processes, and quality-control concepts through hands-on activities. Communication, teamwork and problem-solving are reinforced throughout all the classes. Students also take a Drafting/CAD class to further develop technical skills. Apprenticeship opportunities are available for those qualifying students during their senior year through the industry sponsored Apprenticeship 2000 program.

Graduation Requirements / Class Rank

Grading Scale	
2015-16 and beyond	
A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	Below 60

Highland School of Technology provides a class rank for students on the NC standardized transcript. Students have the opportunity to take rigorous academic courses including Advanced Placement and CCP courses; however, they are required to take a fourth math and demanding career and technical education (CTE) courses associated with their career pathway each year. Each pathway has different required courses that students must take and not all pathways have the same number of honors courses or elective options. Thus, students in different pathways may not have the same opportunity to take AP, CCP, foreign language, or fine arts courses. The CTE courses at Highland offer the rigor of college coursework, but most are only weighted at the standard level. A class rank comparison within career pathway is available for college and scholarship competitions upon request.

Advanced Placement (AP) / Career and College Promise (CCP)

Advanced Placement courses taught at Highland (12): Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science Principles, Environmental Science, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, European History, US Government and Politics, Statistics, and US History. Career and College Promise courses taught on campus at Highland (4): General Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Corrections. Students may take online AP/CCP and off campus CCP courses if scheduling allows.

Athletics

Students compete at the varsity level in the Southern Piedmont 1A Division. The following sports teams are active at Highland: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, and volleyball.

Extracurricular Activities and Clubs

Battle of the Books
Beta Club
Bible Club
Computer Engineering Exploration Club (CEE)
dRAMa Club
Earth Club
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
Future Health Professionals (HOSA)
Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
Interact
Investment Club

International Cultures Club (ICC)
Math Club
Moot Court
Photography Club
Quiz Bowl
Ram Club – Based on grades, behavior, attendance, and service
Ram HOST (Highland's Official Service Team)
Student Council
Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
Technology Student Association (TSA)
World Quest

ACT & WorkKeys Testing					
ACT	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
HST 2015-16	21.2	22.7	22.8	21.9	22.3
HST 2016-17	22.5	23.5	24.6	22.9	23.5
HST 2017-18	22.5	24.9	24.0	23.4	23.8
HST 2018-19	20.9	23.3	24.0	22.5	22.8
North Carolina	16.7	18.6	19.0	18.6	18.4
United States	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
WorkKeys	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	Certified
HST 2015-16	4	59	63	2	99.2%
HST 2016-17	2	52	73	3	100%
HST 2017-18	1	37	36	62	100%
HST 2018-19	2	21	39	58	99.2%

SAT – Mean Test Score	EBRW	Math	Writing	Total	Percent Tested
HST 2015-2016	538	553	495	1091	82%
HST 2016-2017	572	570		1142	80%
HST 2017-2018	600	591		1192	91%
HST 2018-2019	610	606		1216	85%
Gaston County	536	527		1063	
North Carolina	549	542		1091	
United States	524	515		1039	

Scholarships and Awards

The Class of 2020 received over 14 million dollars in scholarship money last year. Scholarships received by past graduates include full scholarships to Princeton, Yale, Duke, the Morehead-Cain, Park, Robertson Scholars, EC Scholars, National Merit Scholarships, Air Force Academy appointment, Quest Bridge Scholars, and Alumni, Chancellor, Dean, and Presidential scholarships to many colleges and universities.

Post Graduate Plans	2017	2018	2019	2020
Class Size	130	135	125	128
Total Continuing Education	94%	97%	93%	94%
Four Year College	68%	82%	76%	68%
Community College, Junior College, Nursing School	25%	15%	17%	26%
Trade/Business School	0%	0%	1%	0%
Military	1%	0%	3%	2%
Employment	5%	3%	3%	4%

Colleges and Universities Accepting Highland School of Technology Graduates				
Air Force Academy	Eastern Kentucky University	Kettering University	Ohio State University	UNC Greensboro*
Anderson College*	East Carolina University*	King College	Old Dominion University	UNC Pembroke
Appalachian State University*	East Tennessee State University	Lander University	Oglethorpe University	UNC Wilmington*
Art Institute	Elizabeth City State University	Lee University	Pace University	University of Alabama Huntsville
Auburn University	Elon University	Lees-McRae College	Penn State University	University of Alabama
Belmont Abbey College	Embry Riddle Aeronautical	Lenoir-Rhyne University*	Pfeiffer College	University of Georgia
Beloit College	Emmanuel College	Liberty University*	Princeton University	University of Florida
Bennett College	Emory and Henry College	Limestone College	Presbyterian College	University of Kentucky
Bluefield College	Emory University	Livingston College	Presbyterian Nursing	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Boston University	Erskine College	Loyola Marymount University	Purdue University	University of South Carolina*
Boston College University	Fayetteville State University	Lynchburg College	Queens University	University of Pittsburg
Brevard College*	Ferrum College	Marquette University	Randolph-Macon College	University of Tennessee
Brown University	Florida A & M University	Mars Hill College	Regis University	University of Utah
Campbell University*	Full Sail University	Mary Baldwin College	Rensselaer	University of Virginia
Carnegie Mellon University	Furman University	Massachusetts College of Art	Rice University	University of Wyoming
Catawba College	Gardner-Webb University*	Mercer University	Roanoke College	Vanderbilt University
Central Piedmont CC*	Gaston College*	Meredith College	Rochester Tech	Virginia Military Institute
Charleston Southern University*	George Mason University	Methodist University*	Salem College	Virginia Tech University*
Chowan University	Georgetown University	Montreat College*	SCAD	Virginia State University
The Citadel	Georgia Tech	Mount Olive College	Siena College	Wake Forest University
Clark Atlanta University	Georgia Southern University	Michigan State University	Southern Wesleyan	Washington and Lee University
Clemson University	Guilford College	Morehouse College	Spelman College	Washington University
Coastal Carolina University*	Hampden Sydney	Mt. Holyoke University	St. Andrews College	Wellesley College
College of Charleston	Hampton University	NC A&T University*	Sweet Briar	Western Carolina University*
Columbia University	High Point University	NC Central University	Syracuse University	William Peace University
Cooper Union	Howard College	NC State University*	Temple University	Wingate University*
Cornell University	Indiana University	NC Wesleyan College	Texas Southern University	Winston Salem State University
Davidson College	Johns Hopkins University	Newberry College	Tusculum College	Winthrop University
DeVry University	Johnson and Wales University*	New York University	UNC Asheville*	Wofford College
Drexel University	Johnson C. Smith University	North Greenville University	UNC Chapel Hill*	Yale University
Duke University	Kent State University		UNC Charlotte*	Young Harris College

* Indicates schools enrolling one or more members of the Class of 2020