

# School Profile 2022-2023



## Contact Information

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

CEEB School Code: 341-450  
Accreditation: SACS

Hours: 8:30 am – 3:20 pm  
Calendar: Traditional  
Enrollment: 520  
Seniors: 118  
Juniors: 131  
Sophomores: 134  
Freshmen: 137

**Principal:** James Montgomery / **Assistant Principal:** Jenny Carper / **Counselors:** Mathieu Chapman and Ashleigh Range  
**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 7<sup>th</sup> grade end-of-grade tests in reading and math
- Level III, IV, or V on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 – Continued

- ❑ 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%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2021-22 – 98.9%
- ❑ 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, 2020 and 2021.
- ❑ 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 nine years.
- ❑ 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: 2015-100%, 2016-99.2%, 2017-100%, 2018-100%, 2019-99.2%, 2021-100% 2022-98.5
- ❑ **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 pathway prepares students for careers in the information science industry. Emphasis is placed on learning to code; skills needed to configure, upgrade and build computers; and network infrastructures including switching and routing. Curriculum follows industry standards to prepare students to seek certifications in Python Programming, CompTIA IT Fundamentals, and Cisco Certified Technician.

**Business and Legal Studies** – The Business and Legal Studies pathway introduces students to broad career opportunities in the business and legal industries. Students take industry-related courses emphasizing Principles of Business, Accounting, Financial Planning, Business and Personal Law. The pathway enables 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** - The Allied Health Science pathway introduces students to the variety of support positions in hospitals, clinics and other medical facilities. They focus on becoming multi-skilled health team members and spend time rotating throughout the different areas of a hospital during their senior year, performing entry-level clinical skills. Students also have the opportunity to obtain a Nurse Aide Level I (CNA) certification upon completion of this pathway.

**Medical Science** - The Medical Science pathway prepares 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 spend 45+ hours in an internship with a healthcare 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** – The Graphics 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 an opportunity to earn an industry standard credential in the following: Adobe Creative Cloud programs on a Mac platform in Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop and Premiere Pro.

**Manufacturing and Engineering** – The Manufacturing and Engineering pathway offers a series of classes in a special laboratory setting. Students can expect to learn 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**

| <b>Grading Scale</b>      |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <b>2015-16 and beyond</b> |          |
| 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/2A Conference. 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)  
Investment Club

International Cultures Club (ICC)  
Math Club  
Moot Court  
Photography Club  
Quiz Bowl  
Ram HOST (Highland's Official Service Team)  
Student Council  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
World Quest

| ACT & WorkKeys Testing |             |             |             |             |              |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ACT                    | English     | Math        | Reading     | Science     | Composite    |
| 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         |
| <b>HST 2020-21</b>     | <b>21.8</b> | <b>23.6</b> | <b>24.1</b> | <b>23.3</b> | <b>23.4</b>  |
| North Carolina         | 16.7        | 18.3        | 18.9        | 18.6        | 18.2         |
| United States          | 19.6        | 19.9        | 20.9        | 20.4        | 20.3         |
|                        |             |             |             |             |              |
| WorkKeys               | Bronze      | Silver      | Gold        | Platinum    | Certified    |
| HST 2017-18            | 1           | 37          | 36          | 62          | 100%         |
| HST 2018-19            | 2           | 21          | 39          | 58          | 99.2%        |
| HST 2020-21            | 1           | 18          | 42          | 64          | 100%         |
| <b>HST 2021-22</b>     | <b>3</b>    | <b>18</b>   | <b>37</b>   | <b>71</b>   | <b>98.5%</b> |

| SAT – Mean Test Score | ERW        | Math       | Total       | Percent Tested |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| HST 2017-2018         | 600        | 591        | 1192        | 91%            |
| HST 2018-2019         | 610        | 606        | 1216        | 85%            |
| HST 2019-2020         | 594        | 583        | 1177        | 81%            |
| <b>HST 2020-2021</b>  | <b>615</b> | <b>603</b> | <b>1218</b> | <b>45%</b>     |
| Gaston County         | 543        | 539        | 1081        | <b>21%</b>     |
| North Carolina        | 575        | 572        | 1147        | 21%            |
| United States         | 524        | 514        | 1037        |                |

**Scholarships and Awards**

The Class of 2022 received over 7.2 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, Military Academy appointments, Quest Bridge Scholars, and Alumni, Chancellor, Dean, and Presidential scholarships to many colleges and universities.

| Post Graduate Plans                                     | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022       |
|---|------|------|------|------------|
| Class Size  | 125  | 128  | 131  | <b>131</b> |
| Total Continuing Education                              | 93%  | 94%  | 95%  | <b>93%</b> |
| Four Year College                                       | 76%  | 68%  | 73%  | <b>70%</b> |
| Community College,<br>Junior College,<br>Nursing School | 17%  | 26%  | 22%  | <b>23%</b> |
| Trade/Business School                                   | 1%   | 0%   | 0%   | <b>0%</b>  |
| Military  | 3%   | 2%   | 2%   | <b>0%</b>  |
| Employment  | 3%   | 4%   | 2%   | <b>7%</b>  |

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

\* Indicates schools enrolling one or more members of the Class of 2022