

Highland School of Technology



Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is the Highland School of Technology?

Highland School of Technology is a world-class school whose academic performance has earned it recognition as a **National Blue Ribbon School**, the **#1 high school in North Carolina**, and ranked **#555 in the nation by US News and World Reports**. Part of the Gaston County Public School System, Highland School of Technology opened in July of 2000 as the district's first total choice magnet program. It is 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.

2. How is Highland School of Technology Different From Other Choice High Schools?

Highland School of Technology is a full-school magnet school. Students are fully immersed in the comprehensive academic, extra-curricular, and total-school education offered at Highland. All students complete a career pathway in their chosen area that culminates in work-based internships their senior year.

3. What are the benefits of attending Highland School of Technology?

Graduates of Highland receive an amazing education including:

- Career Pathway Concentrations in Business and Legal Studies, Computer Science, Allied Health, Dental Science, Medical Science, Graphic Design, and Manufacturing Engineering
- All seniors complete an on-site internship with local businesses
- Hands on experience in state-of-the-art labs
- Industry credentials in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere Pro, CompTIA IT Fundamentals, Python Programming, Cisco Networking, AutoCad, Revit, Inventor, OSHA, Certified Nursing Assistant, Stop The Bleed, X-Ray-(Dental), CPR
- Smaller class sizes
- Participation in the full-range of High School Athletics. Every sport at Highland has had athletes go on to play collegiate sports with over 45 student athletes playing at the NCAA Division I,II, or III levels. Highland graduates have received scholarships to play at over 30 different colleges.
- The full-range of College Now (CCP) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Highland students routinely score at the top level in North Carolina and beyond for AP courses.

4. Who Can Apply to Highland School of Technology?

Current 8th grade students residing in Gaston County that meet the entrance criteria are eligible to apply for admission. Visit the Highland Website for entrance criteria.

5. How are students chosen to attend Highland School of Technology?

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.

6. What is the typical school day like at Highland School of Technology?

The school day begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:20. Students participate in four, 90-minute classes per semester each day.

7. Can students ride the school bus?

Yes. Highland students are offered bus transportation each day.

8. What Sports does Highland offer?

Highland is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Southern Piedmont 1A-2A Conference. Student-Athletes participate in the full range of athletics:

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| ➤ football | ➤ baseball |
| ➤ men's and women's tennis | ➤ softball |
| ➤ men's and women's soccer | ➤ men's and women's basketball |
| ➤ volleyball | ➤ men's and women's cross country |
| ➤ men's and women's golf | ➤ swimming |
| ➤ men's and women's track and field | ➤ cheerleading |

9. Can students participate in band, chorus and other fine arts?

Yes. Highland offers a comprehensive fine arts program that includes visual arts, band, chorus, and theater. Students participate in various showcases including art shows, band and choral competitions, and parades. We are proud that our fine arts programs are recognized for their outstanding performances.

10. Can students participate in Clubs and other extracurricular activities?

Yes. One of the stronger aspects of Highland is the variety of clubs and organizations available to students. Highland's clubs are recognized across North Carolina and the nation for their educational excellence.

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| ➤ FBLA- Future Business Leaders of America | ➤ International Culture Club |
| ➤ HOSA-Future Health Professionals | ➤ Investment Club |
| ➤ TSA- Technology Student Association | ➤ Math Club |
| ➤ Beta club | ➤ Moot Court |
| ➤ Bible Club | ➤ Photography Club |
| ➤ Book Club | ➤ Quiz Bowl |
| ➤ Drama Club | ➤ SAVE/Interact Club |
| ➤ Earth Club | ➤ Student Council |
| ➤ Gay-Straight Alliance | ➤ World Quest. |

11. If one of my children attends Highland School of Technology does that mean my other children automatically get in if we apply?

No. Highland does not have a sibling policy. Each student will need to qualify, submit an application, and be selected by the lottery process.

12. If I apply to Highland School of Technology does that mean I cannot apply for other Choice Schools in Gaston County?

No. You can apply for multiple choice schools.

