

## BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Communications/Public  
Information Department

**TOPIC: GOOD NEWS**

**FOR THE MONTH OF:** November 2019

---

1. For the fourth consecutive year, the **Gaston County Board of Education** received the Gold Bell Award from the North Carolina School Boards Association. The award is given to Boards of Education across the state that have all members to complete training through the Association's Academy of School Boardsmanship.
2. Six schools received the Green Ribbon School state-level honor for their outstanding efforts with the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports or PBIS program. The schools are **Belmont Central Elementary, Belmont Middle, Bessemer City Primary, Gardner Park Elementary, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy, and Tryon Elementary**. The recognition, which is given by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, is the result of successful positive behavior support strategies implemented across all grade levels.
3. **Gaston County Schools** held its annual Marching Band Fanfare on November 2 at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**. The event featured performances by all high school marching bands.
4. Students from **Gaston County Schools** participated in the annual Veterans Day parade in downtown Gastonia. Among the parade entries were high school JROTC units and band students from all high schools.
5. The following students earned awards in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful recycled art contest: **Kenedi Armstrong, York Chester Middle School**, first place; **Sophia Kennedy, Ashbrook High School**, first place; **Cohen Campbell, Belmont Middle School**, second place; **Michael Grevey, Ashbrook High School**, second place; **Seth Rimmer and Tyler Gosnell, Highland School of Technology**, third place; **Vanessa Easler, Pleasant Ridge Elementary**, honorable mention; **Isaac Snyder, Grier Middle School**, honorable mention; **Heaven Krahenbill, John Chavis Middle School**, honorable mention; **Carissa Potter, East Gaston High School**, honorable mention; **Dalla Saysombath, Ashbrook High School**, honorable mention; **Maria Casanova, North Gaston High School**, honorable mention; and **Danielle Ledford, North Gaston High School**, honorable mention.
6. **Highland School of Technology** student **Lauren Tolbert** placed second in the state 1-A cross country meet, and **South Point High School's Makenna Pallozzi** placed seventh in the state 2-A cross country meet.

7. **Ashbrook High School** students **Kendall Massey** and **Kaela Kranzler** and **South Point High School** student **Collins Owensby** were selected for the Carolina Panthers “Community Captain” program. Only 10 students in North and South Carolina are chosen for the program, which honors individuals who exemplify excellence on the field, in the classroom, and in the community.
8. The following students were chosen as the “Do the Right Thing” award winners for October: **Brandon Martinez, Sherwood Elementary; Frankie Holbrook, Belmont Middle;** and **Samuel Smith, Stuart W. Cramer High School.** The students were honored during a luncheon at the Gastonia Conference Center.
9. Students from **Cherryville Elementary, Cramerton Middle, East Gaston High, Forestview High, Lowell Elementary, Kiser Elementary, Mount Holly Middle, Pinewood Elementary, Pleasant Ridge Elementary, Rankin Elementary, Springfield Elementary,** and **Stanley Middle** participated in the Mount Holly Lantern Parade. Students carried their own handmade lanterns alongside other lanterns that complemented the “Myths, Fables, and Fairy Tales” theme. Stanton Enterprise donated \$3,000 toward supplies for teachers and students to create the lanterns.
10. **Deb Elmore’s** advisory class at **Belmont Middle School** learned about American Sign Language. The class chose to do this because the school has students who are hearing impaired and use sign language as their only way of communication. The effort also is a way for students to help foster an inclusive school community.
11. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** PTO treated eight students and their parents to a behind-the-scenes tour of Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte as a reward for their participation in the recent BBQ fundraiser.
12. **Carr Elementary** held its first Student Recognition Days on November 1 and November 8. The activities were coordinated by the Student Leadership Club. In addition, **Superintendent W. Jeffrey Booker** attended the PTO/third grade student performance on November 5. The program, led by music teacher **Heather McKoy**, focused on The Leader in Me program. Nearly 400 people attended the event.
13. **Carr Elementary** has partnered with the Town of Dallas to recognize a Student of the Month for each grade level during the Dallas Board of Aldermen meetings. One student from each grade level is recognized and receives a Carr Student of the Month yard sign to display.
14. For the past five years, **Carr Elementary** has continued a partnership with the **Gaston Early College High School.** This year, 34 students from the **Gaston Early College High School** have been trained by the Gaston Literacy Council to serve as Reading Soul Mates for 68 second grade students. In addition, ninth grade students in the Leadership Academy at **North Gaston High School** have partnered with the Student Leadership Club at Carr to guide the elementary students in team building and leadership activities as part of The Leader in Me program.

15. **Carr Elementary** third grade students participated in the school gardening program that is presented by the N.C. Cooperative Extension Center and master gardener David Thornburg.
16. The following middle schools won championships during the fall sports season: Golf, **Cramerton**; Softball, **Chavis**; and Football, **Southwest**.
17. **Cherryville Elementary** held a Veterans Day program that featured 50 veterans, who are family members of students at the school. The veterans paraded through the building to loud cheers from students lined up in the hallways.
18. **Cherryville High School** teacher **Ray McMillan** arranged to have a medevac helicopter visit the school. The helicopter came from Novant Health and landed on the football field. Students from the EMT (emergency medical technician) class were given tours from the flight crew and were able to learn about careers involving medevac (medical evacuation). The activity was part of the school's new Public Service Academy.
19. Students in the Principles of Business and Finance course at **Highland School of Technology** participated in the W!se financial literacy program. All 47 students passed the post assessment, and their average score earned Highland recognition as a W!se Blue Star School.
20. The following **East Gaston High School** students were selected for the Mars Hill University Choral Choir: **Caroline Mesimer, Holly Mullen, Rebecca Watts, and Levi Summey**.
21. **East Gaston High School** senior and soccer team member **Carter Beck** scored the 100th goal of his career during the final game.
22. During the Academic Leadership Celebration on November 7, **W.C. Friday Middle School** recognized 108 students who were named to the A honor roll. Parents and family members attended the program to celebrate the students' academic achievements.
23. The fifth grade and arts teachers at **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** received a grant to attend the NCTIES technology in education conference. **Stephanie Witten**, media center specialist, and **Kasey Barnes**, technology assistant, were chosen to present at the conference.
24. **Hunter Huss High School** principal **Bryan Denton** received the "Friend of the Arts" award from the North Carolina Art Education Association during the Association's annual conference in Raleigh.
25. Two **North Gaston High School** students earned awards at the North Carolina Theatre Conference High School Play Festival for the school's production of "Stressed." **Kayleigh Guffey** received the Barbizon Design and Production Award for Scenic Design and **Nevaeh Meadows** received Excellence in Acting Award. **Shannon Stout** is the school's theater teacher.

26. A group of **North Gaston High School** students participated in a Junior Achievement program at **Costner Elementary**. The activities were part of the two schools' Leadership Academy programs.
27. **York Chester Middle School** seventh grade students are participating in the Global Read Aloud program with students in Denmark.
28. Students at **Page Primary** enjoyed a visit by the Belmont Fire Department as part of the school's fire safety program. The students got an up-close look at a fire truck and enjoyed talking to the firefighters about their work. In addition, students enjoyed a book character parade that involved them dressing up as characters from their favorite books.
29. **Page Primary** and **Sadler Elementary** conducted school beautification day programs. Volunteers planted flowers and cleaned up the school grounds.
30. Through participation in the Operation Warmth program, First Presbyterian Church provided a new coat for each student at **Sherwood Elementary**.
31. **Sherwood Elementary** honored veterans in the community during a musical performance and assembly on November 8. All grade levels performed songs for the veterans, and veterans representing all branches of the military spoke to the students. The musical program was a collaborative effort between music teacher **Amber Robertson** and art teacher **Emily Kendall**, who created the visual effects.
32. **Stanley Middle School** students collected candy to make 448 bags for the Guardian ad Litem program in Gaston County. The candy was distributed to children who are served by a Guardian ad Litem and children who attended the November adoption ceremony. In addition, bags were made for the senior citizens group with the Town of Stanley to take on their fall trip.
33. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** earned a superior rating at the North Carolina Theatre Conference High School Play Festival for the school's production of "Strike 1929." In addition, the school won an award for Excellence in Overall Production Design, which includes set, costume, lighting, and sound. Sophomore **Amy Harris** received the Barbizon Design and Production Award for fight captain. She was responsible for assisting the fight choreographer in creating the stage combat sequences, ensuring the cast kept their movements consistent and safe and properly maintained the prop weapons. **Chuck Stowe** is the school's theater teacher.
34. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** Stagestruck Players presented "A Cemetery Walk Through Time" at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Gastonia. Students gave tours through the cemetery and introduced tour participants to people from the past. The event served as a fundraiser for the school's theater arts program.