



Gaston County Schools Leadership Academy

Leadership Academy at North Gaston High School Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Leadership Academy?

The purpose of the Leadership Academy and *The Leader in Me (LiM)* model is to serve as an introduction to personal leadership. All students have the capacity to lead in their own lives and positively affect those around them by making positive choices. *The Leader in Me* helps students learn practical character and life skills that will lead them in making positive life choices.

2. What is *The Leader in Me*?

The Leader in Me (LiM) is an evidence-based, comprehensive school improvement model—developed in partnership with educators—that empowers students with the leadership and life-skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. The process includes student participation in goal setting, data tracking, leadership roles, Student-Led Conferences, leadership environments, and Leadership Events.

Instead of focusing on academic measures alone, *The Leader in Me* embodies a holistic approach to education, redefining how schools measure success. This approach empowers educators with effective practices and tools to:

- teach LEADERSHIP to every student,
- create a CULTURE of student empowerment,
- and align systems to drive results in ACADEMICS.

3. What are the requirements for admissions to the Academy?

Students must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics. Parent/legal guardian must be residents of Gaston County.

4. Who can apply to the Leadership Academy and how are students selected?

Incoming ninth grade students may apply. Rising tenth graders may apply with limited seats available.



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5. What are the requirements for continued enrollment?

The parent/legal guardian must maintain residency in Gaston County. Students must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics.

6. What schools are implementing *The Leader in Me*?

Costner Elementary, W.C. Friday Middle and North Gaston will implement *The Leader in Me* framework.

7. What will my child gain from this program?

The Leader in Me helps students develop the skills and self-confidence they need to lead their lives and succeed in school and beyond. Specifically, *The Leader in Me* focuses on students learning the following 21st-century skills:

Student self-confidence	Teamwork	Initiative
Responsibility	Communication	Creativity
Self-direction	Leadership	Problem solving
Social etiquette		

8. What are The 7 Habits?

Based on Stephen Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, this framework incorporates these timeless habits into a K-12 framework for students to apply in their daily lives.

- Habits 1, 2, and 3 are focused on self-mastery and moving from dependence to independence.
- Habits 4, 5, and 6 are focused on developing teamwork, collaboration, and communication skills, and moving from independence to interdependence.
- Habit 7 is focused on continuous growth and improvement and embodies all the other habits.



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9. What credentials could I earn as part of the Leadership Academy?

Students may earn a Leadership Credential if they meet the program graduation requirements.

10. What opportunities will be available because of my participation in the Leadership Academy?

Students in the Leadership Academy will have yearly service projects, a portfolio project, guest speakers, and real-world experiences with community partners.

11. How will core classes be different in this academy?

Students in the Leadership Academy will follow a pathway in which they will take at least one leadership course per year. The Gaston County core classes are still a requirement for graduation.

12. What are some things that my child may come home talking about?

Sharpen your saw (create balance in your life)

Think win-win (rather than looking for one solution)

Begin with the end in mind (what is the goal)

13. What is the earliest I can drop my child off and the latest I can pick up my child?

7:00 am Drop Off and 4:00 pm Pick Up