



NORTH GASTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Wildcat Way

We Support, Educate, Challenge & Motivate to Succeed!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome back to another exciting school year in leadership at North Gaston High School! I am thrilled to join the North Gaston family and can already feel the warm, welcoming spirit that makes our school community so special. As we embark on this new journey together, I am filled with anticipation and excitement for what lies ahead.

This year promises to be an incredible one, filled with opportunities for academic growth and personal development. Our dedicated teachers and staff are committed to providing a supportive and challenging learning environment that will help each student reach their full potential. Whether it's through rigorous coursework, innovative projects, or collaborative learning experiences, we are here to inspire and guide our students every step of the way.

In addition to academic excellence, we are also focusing on student leadership and engagement in competitive athletics and a wide array of extracurricular activities. North Gaston High School has a proud tradition of excellence in sports, and we look forward to cheering on our Wildcats as they compete with determination and sportsmanship. Our extracurricular programs offer something for everyone, from clubs and organizations to performing arts and service opportunities. We encourage all students to get involved, explore their interests, and maximize their high school experience.

For the class of 2025, this year holds a special significance. As you enter your senior year, it's a time to reflect on your journey and look forward to the exciting future that awaits you. We are dedicated to making this year memorable, with events and activities celebrating your achievements and creating lasting memories. Your hard work, resilience, and leadership will set the tone for the entire school, and we are proud of all you have accomplished.

At North Gaston High School, we take immense pride in being Wildcats. Our school spirit, sense of community, and commitment to excellence are what set us apart. Let's continue to support each other, strive for greatness, and make this school year one for the record books.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant school community. Together, let's make this year at North Gaston High School truly exceptional.

Ms. Willis

"Go Wildcats!"

ADMINISTRATION

Page Willis
Principal

Angela Smith
9North Academy

Waheebah McCray
(10th-12th) Last Names A-K

Jennifer Bergerson
(10th-12th) Last Names L-Z

COUNSELOR STAFF

Katy Eckert | A-D

Sharae Powell | E-K

David Rice | R-Z

Rita Wilkinson | L-Q

SUPPORT STAFF

Emily Walters
Business Manager

Angela Olmsted
Guidance Receptionist

Abby Hawkins
Control Room

Candice Reynolds
Financial Secretary

Kristin Boone
Data Manager/Registrar

Chuck Harkey
Social Worker

Melissa Carver
School Nurse

Amanda Payne
Graduation Coach

WEBSITE

gaston.k12.nc.us/ngaston





Wildcat UPCOMING Events

- July 31 First official day of Fall Sports Tryouts (Contact: Jesse Martin-AD)
- Aug. 5 Senior schedule pick up 9am-12pm; Junior/Soph. pick up 1pm-3pm
- Aug. 7 Freshman Transition Camp 8:30am-11:30pm
- Aug. 12 Open House 4:00-7:00 drop-in *Special program for 9th parents in the auditorium 4:30 & 6:00
- Aug. 14 First Day of School (start time is 8:20; arrive by 8am)
- Aug. 17 Community Pep Rally at the Square 5:00 pm
- Aug. 23 First HOME Football @ 7:30
- Aug. 29 School Pictures (grades 9-11) / Senior MAKE UP pictures
- Oct. 4 Homecoming Football vs. Ashbrook
*Welcome Class of 2004
- Oct. 10 Parent Teacher Conferences 1pm-7pm / Early Dismissal 12:15
- Oct. 14 Underclass Picture MAKE UP day (grades 9-11 only)
- Oct. 16 Josten's Order Day (Senior Cap & Gown/ Jr. Rings) - @ Lunches
- Oct. 17 Report Cards Distributed
- Coming Soon - Senior EXPO - All you need to know & expect for Senior Year - 6pm**



BUILDING LEADERS OF TOMORROW

North Gaston Leadership Academy – We prepare you for life.




The Wildcat Way
August 2024

Published Four Times Per Year
Gaston County Schools
943 Osceola Street
Gastonia, NC 28054
Issue 3

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Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Make school attendance a priority.

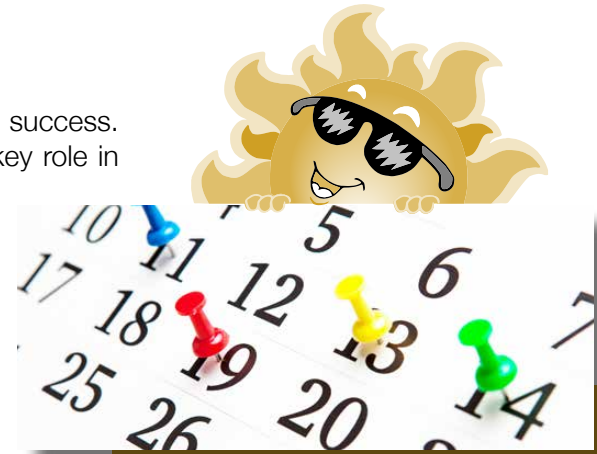
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

Help your teen stay engaged.

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

Communicate with the school.

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.





Greg Holland
Broker, ABR

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Five “Must Do’s” For Parents To Assure Success In High School

- 1. GET AND STAY CONNECTED.** Register and access our online parent access software, *monitor your child's progress on a weekly basis and communicate with your child's teachers if you have questions, concerns, or if you'd like to request additional information regarding resources that may help your child master course standards.* Be aware of what's happening in your student's school life and TALK ABOUT IT. Your interest and involvement has a tremendous effect on your student's performance and attitude at school.
- 2. ESTABLISH A SOLID HOME STUDY ROUTINE.** Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime. SET A SCHEDULE. Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study. Encourage this discipline. CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT. Students can be easily distracted. Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day. OBSERVE AND ENGAGE. Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. Commit three weeks to assisting with your student's daily routine. Make good homework practices a habit for both of you.
- 3. MAKE DAILY ATTENDANCE THE EXPECTATION.** Very few things have as much negative effect on academic performance as poor attendance. Be clear in your attitude towards attending school every day. In the working world, attendance is equated with dependability.
- 4. ENCOURAGE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY.** Involvement in any of our many clubs, sports, and arts programs improves academic performance, attendance, and discipline issues. We have something for everyone. Participation in these activities enhances school life and looks good on career and college applications. Also, help your child plan and execute community service, which is a requirement for earning Bright Futures scholarship money.
- 5. HELP YOUR STUDENT PLAN FOR POST-GRADUATION.** Talk to your student about career interests and passions. Several online career questionnaires are available such as <http://www.careeroutlook.us/assessment/short.shtml> that may help. Assist with a search for colleges or technical training programs that will prepare them for a career that interests them. Learn the entrance requirements and costs associated with attending those colleges or programs. Help your child establish a career goal then plan backward for how to achieve that goal. Share what your hopes and dreams were when you were in high school and suggest family members and friends that they can talk to for insight and guidance. They should be asking questions about career opportunities but may not know the right questions to ask. Our guidance counselors can help. No matter what they dream of doing after graduation, planning for the next step is a wise choice. Post high school education contributes to a better quality of life. But whether or not they go on to a college, university, career or technical school, the information and skills they learn in high school will always be important in the working world. Everyone, in every kind of job, needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively.

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Facilities Updates for NoGa

Exciting Campus Improvements at North Gaston High School

We are delighted to share some exciting updates about the ongoing construction improvements that are enhancing the beauty and functionality of our campus. As part of our commitment to providing a top-notch educational environment, several projects are currently underway, and we can't wait for you to see the results.

One of the most noticeable additions is our new digital sign, now operational and prominently located along Ratchford Road. This dynamic sign will provide important updates and announcements, keeping you informed as you travel to and from school. Be sure to keep an eye on it for the latest news and events.

In the coming weeks, our school will also be adorned with new light signs on the front of the building. These signs are part of the beautiful renovations aimed at enhancing the visual appeal of our campus and ensuring that our school's presence is both welcoming and modern.

Additionally, the front entrance of North Gaston High School is undergoing significant updates, including the construction

of a new control room. Once completed, this control room will serve as a secure entry point for parents and students arriving after 8:30 AM. This enhancement is designed to improve the safety and security of our school while providing a streamlined process for entering the building during school hours.

We understand that construction projects can sometimes cause temporary inconveniences, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve our facilities. Please stay tuned to all parent messages through email, Facebook, and the GCS mobile app for up-to-date information about accessing our campus, especially as we approach the beginning of the school year.

These improvements are part of our ongoing efforts to create a safe, modern, and welcoming environment for our students, staff, and visitors. We are excited about the positive impact these changes will have on our school community and look forward to sharing the finished results with you soon.



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Are You Ready?

- ✓ Arrive by 8am (school starts at 8:20am)
- ✓ Clear bookbags & clear gym bags only (no tinted bags)
- ✓ Bus & Car drop offs (back entry)
- ✓ Student Drivers (front entry)

Students Leading the Way



Our students earned over 900 industry-recognized credentials and certifications through CTE course and pathway offerings. Our Career and Technical Education offerings include many opportunities on the campus of Gaston College. If you are interested in HVAC, Electrical Trades, Plumbing or Welding pathways, see our Career Development Coordinator Terri Cochrane today!



Wildcat Athletics

Purchase your game tickets through our online site.



Booster Club

Welcome Back Students, Parents, and Staff! We are the North Gaston Booster Club, and we are a 501c3 Non-Profit organization that helps to support ALL athletic programs here at NOGA. **We would love for you to join us and be a part of our group!** There are many ways to help - but one of the most important ways is to **VOLUNTEER!** We will have a **meeting at the beginning of the school year to discuss fall sports, so be on the lookout for a message very soon!** If you haven't already, like us or contact us on our Facebook page, or by email at mendykanupp@gmail.com.



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2024-2025 School Calendar



CALENDAR DATES

July 4 Holiday (Independence Day)
 August 5 Optional Teacher Workday
 August 6-9 Mandated Teacher Workdays
 August 12-13 Mandated Teacher Workdays
 August 14 Students' First Day
 September 2 Holiday (Labor Day)
 October 10 End of First 9-Week Grading Period
 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grade Levels)
 Early Dismissal for Students
 October 11 Optional Teacher Workday
 October 17 9-Week Report Cards Distributed
 November 5 Mandated Teacher Workday
 Presidential Election Day
 November 11 Holiday (Veterans Day)
 November 27 Student Holiday
 Teacher Annual Leave
 November 28-29 Holidays (Thanksgiving)
 December 19 End of Second 9-Week Grading Period
 December 20 Student Holiday
 Teacher Annual Leave
 December 23-25 Holidays (Winter)
 December 26-27 Student Holidays
 Teacher Annual Leave
 December 30-31 Student Holidays
 Teacher Annual Leave
 January 1 Holiday (New Year's Day)
 January 2-3 Mandated Teacher Workdays
 January 9 9-Week Report Cards Distributed
 January 20 Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
 February 17 Optional Teacher Workday
 March 11 End of Third 9-Week Grading Period
 March 13 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grade Levels)
 Early Dismissal for Students
 March 14 Optional Teacher Workday
 March 20 9-Week Report Cards Distributed
 April 18 Holiday (Spring)
 April 21-24 Student Holidays
 Teacher Annual Leave
 April 25 Optional Teacher Workday
 May 21 Students' Last Day
 May 22-23 Mandated Teacher Workdays
 May 23 Graduation Day
 May 26 Holiday (Memorial Day)
 May 27-28 Mandated Teacher Workdays
 May 29-30 Optional Teacher Workdays

Inclement Weather Makeup Days

January 3 February 17 March 14
 April 25 April 24 April 23 April 22

The Board of Education reserves the right to use early release days and Saturdays as makeup days for inclement weather. The Board may add days of employment to end of the school year.

Testing dates will be available on the district website after they are determined by the state.

Calendar Key

- Holiday
- First/Last Day of School
- Mandated Teacher Workday
- Optional Teacher Workday
- 9-Week Report Cards Distributed
- Parent-Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students

Gaston County Schools

P. O. Box 1397 Gastonia, NC 28053 (704) 866-6100
 www.gaston.k12.nc.us Channel 21 Education Station

The Board of Education approved the 2024-2025 school calendar on December 18, 2023.

Calendar design produced by the Communications Department

JANUARY

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North Gaston High School

