



NORTH GASTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Wildcat Way

We Support, Educate, Challenge & Motivate to Succeed!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear North Gaston Families,

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2025! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for an exciting second semester. As we reflect on a fantastic first half of the school year, we are thrilled about the opportunities and events that lie ahead.

We're starting the new year with a bang! Our seniors are gearing up for graduation in May 2025 with activities like a senior picnic and baccalaureate services, and we're thrilled to announce plans for a spectacular outdoor ceremony. This new setup will allow more family members to join in celebrating this milestone with our graduates.

There's so much more to look forward to this spring:

- **Spring Musical:** Mark your calendars for March 14th and 15th as our talented students take the stage to present *Mean Girls*. It promises to be an unforgettable performance!
- **Junior/Senior Prom:** Students can dance the night away at our prom on Friday, April 11th.
- **2025-2026 Registration:** Course registration begins this month, and we are excited to offer expanded opportunities through the Leadership Academy.
- **Curriculum Night & Open House:** Join us on January 30th for an evening of exploration and connection. Get a glimpse into the Leadership Academy's growth, learn about curriculum changes.
- **School BBQ:** Help us go BIG with the PIG to continue to support our school's financial needs by supporting our school wide bbq.

It's shaping up to be an incredible semester, and we're so glad you're part of the North Gaston family. Thank you for your continued support in making our school community a special place.

Wishing you a wonderful start to 2025!

Go Wildcats!

Ms. Willis

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
Data Manager/Registrar

Angela Olmsted
Guidance Receptionist

Abby Hawkins
Control Room

Candise Reynolds
Financial Secretary

Sonja Rodden
Business Manager

Chuck Harkey
Social Worker

Melissa Carver
School Nurse

Amanda Payne
Graduation Coach

Athletic Director
Jesse Martin

WEBSITE

gaston.k12.nc.us/ngaston





Home-Study Discipline

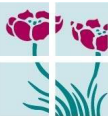
PARENTS, ESTABLISH A SOLID HOME-STUDY DISCIPLINE with your student. Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime.

- 1. 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. In many ways, it's his/her job and should be an important part of the daily routine. Your support and involvement in your student's home-study effort makes a huge difference in the high school experience.
- 2. 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. If you notice distractions or deterrents, suggest possible remedies. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day.
- 3. OBSERVE AND ENGAGE:** Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. When school resumes this month, commit three weeks to observing your students daily routine. Make good homework practices a habit for both of you. Your daily assistance and attitude toward school have a huge impact on your child's success.



The Wildcat Way
January 2025

Published Four Times Per Year
Gaston County Schools
943 Osceola Street
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Issue 1



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Exciting Changes to North Gaston's Leadership Academy



At North Gaston High School, we are committed to preparing students for success in an ever-changing world. As part of this commitment, we are thrilled to announce exciting new changes to our Leadership Academy beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

The Leadership Academy will now offer expanded pathways to include:

- **Leadership in the Arts**
- **Leadership in Academics**
- **Leadership in Athletics**
- **Leadership in ROTC**
- **Leadership in Career and Technical Education (CTE)**

Students participating in these pathways will complete four rigorous courses tailored to their chosen focus area. Additionally, they will document their active participation and service to both North Gaston and the greater Dallas community. Through this program, students will gain not only the academic background needed to thrive in today's evolving employment landscape but also the soft skills and life experiences essential for personal and professional growth. As a capstone to their journey, seniors in the Leadership Academy will present a senior project, sharing their experiences and achievements with fellow students, parents, and the community. This showcase will highlight their leadership growth and the impact of their contributions.

Want to learn more? Join us for our **Open House & Curriculum Fair** on **January 30th**. You'll have the chance to meet with department representatives, explore the Leadership Academy pathways, and plan an exciting future for your child.

We are eager to see the incredible things our Wildcats will accomplish through these new opportunities. Thank you for your support as we continue to grow and innovate at North Gaston High School!

Go Wildcats!

Wildcat Athletics

Purchase your game tickets through our online site.





North Gaston Athletic Booster Club



Welcome 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 monthly to support all athletic 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 menidykanupp@gmail.com.

As a Leader in Me School, we have 5 Core Paradigms that drive our decisions, behaviors, and results. A paradigm is simply the way we "see" things. These 5 Core Paradigms include:

- Everyone can be a leader.
- Everyone has genius.
- Change starts with me.
- Empower students to lead their own learning.
- Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

These paradigms or "the way we see things" at our school drive our everyday interaction with not only your student, but ourselves too. A partnership with families supports our ability for students to lead their own educational journey—empowering them to be responsible, reflective, and active in their learning experiences. The great news about paradigms is that they are also powerful at home!

When you operate through these five paradigms in your own life, you are communicating your own value as well as encouraging greatness in your student. Ways to engage your family in these paradigms can include:

PARADIGM ACTIVITY

Everyone can be a leader.	Recognize that you are a leader. Reflect on your strengths and the strengths of your family members.
Everyone has genius.	Ask your student what their unique genius is.
Change starts with me.	Discuss how each member of the family has shown personal responsibility for their actions and choices.
Empower students to lead their own learning.	Empower your student at home to be "in charge" of their learning experience by asking questions rather than just always giving them the answer.
Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.	Reflect on how you take care of your mind, body, heart, and spirit and share that with other members of your family



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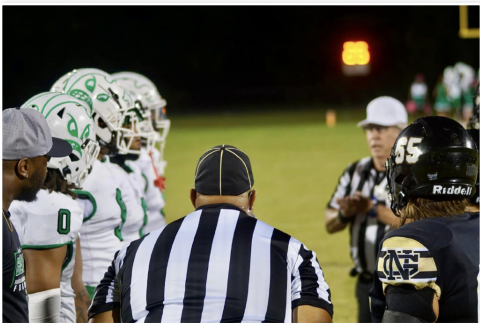
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**2024-2025
School Calendar**



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
- Teacher Annual Leave
- Parent-Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal for Students
- Mandated Teacher Workday
- Optional Teacher Workday
- 9-Week Report Cards Distributed

Gaston County Schools

P. O. Box 1397 Gastonia, NC 28053 (704) 866-6100
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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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JUNE

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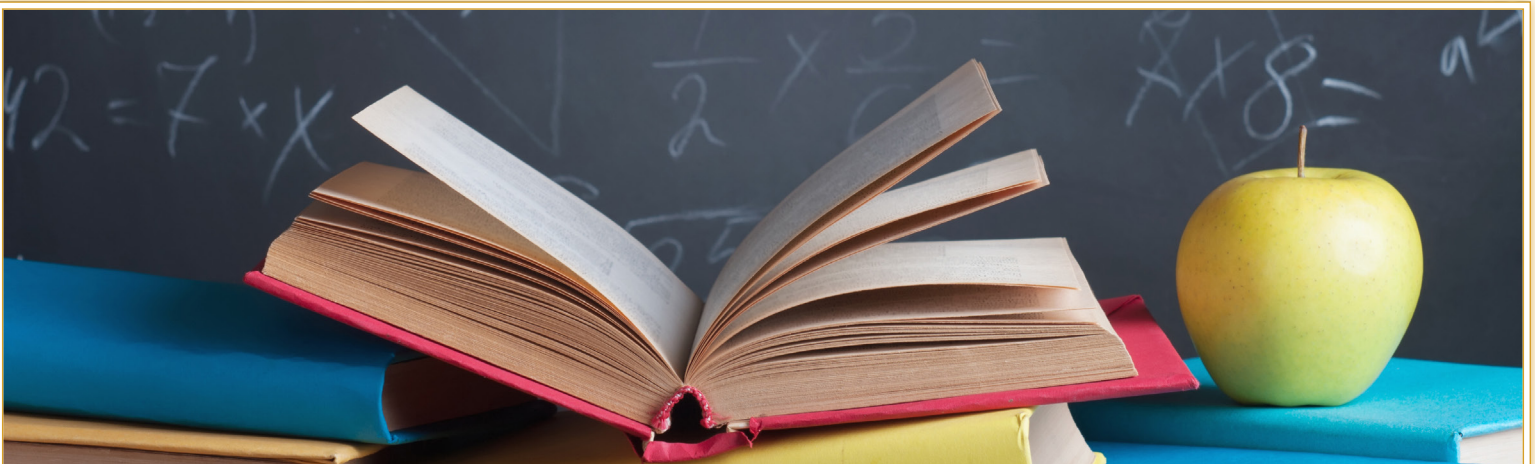
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North Gaston High School



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