



NORTH GASTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Wildcat Way

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear North Gaston Families,

As we reach the end of our first 9 weeks, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the many highlights and successes we've had so far this school year. Our students, staff, and community have all played a huge role in making this a fantastic start!

Here are some of the key moments we've celebrated:

- **Homecoming 2024:** What a week! Our homecoming festivities were a tremendous success, featuring our brand-new parade, a fun-filled homecoming dance, and incredible participation in all of the spirit events. The school pride was truly inspiring!
- **Academic Focus:** I'm proud to report that our students are staying committed to their academics. They continue to show dedication in the classroom, and their focus is setting them up for a strong semester.
- **Construction Update:** We are excited to announce that our front entrance security upgrades are now complete, and the new visitor entrance is officially open. This is a significant step in enhancing the safety and security of our campus.
- **Exciting Events:** We've hosted a variety of successful events, including our fall chorus concert, the annual Trunk or Treat event, and engaging parent-teacher conferences. Each of these events strengthens the bond between our school and the community.

As we look ahead to the next 9 weeks, we are preparing to finalize the semester.

Exams will be held from December 12th through December 19th.

There is still much work to be done. We are continuing to build relationships between advisory teachers and students to help keep everyone on track for success throughout high school. Additionally, we are working on raising funds to build a **Student Success Center** upstairs, where students will have access to academic tutoring, support with college applications, job interview preparation, and more. If you're interested in contributing to this project, please contact Ms. Willis.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's keep the momentum going!

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
Business Manager

Angela Olmsted
Guidance Receptionist

Abby Hawkins
Control Room

Candice Reynolds
Financial Secretary

TBD
Business Manager

Chuck Harkey
Social Worker

Melissa Carver
School Nurse

Amanda Payne
Graduation Coach

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Test Taking Tips for Parents

Tip #1: Make attendance a priority, especially on days that you know standardized testing will be administered. Though it's important for your student to be in school every day, making sure he's there when the test is taken helps to ensure he won't lose more learning time because he has to make up a test during school. Make a note of test days on the calendar. That way both you and your student know what's coming and will be prepared.

Tip #2: Monitor your student's progress and check for understanding. Subjects like science, social studies and math often have cumulative exams at the end of learning units. If your student is struggling with something now, it won't be easy for her to have time to try again to learn it just before the test.

Tip #3: Set a reasonable bedtime and stick to it. Eight hours of sleep is preferable. Many parents underestimate the importance of a rested mind and body. Tired children have difficulty focusing and are easily flustered by challenges.

Tip #4: Make sure your child has enough time to wake up fully before he has to go to school. Just as rest is important, so is having enough time to get his brain engaged and in gear. If his test is first thing in the morning, he can't afford to spend the first hour of school groggy and unfocused.

Tip #5: Provide a high-protein, healthy, low-sugar breakfast for your student. Kids learn better on full stomachs, but if their stomachs are full of sugary, heavy foods that will make them sleepy or slightly queasy, it's not much better than an empty stomach.

Tip #6: Talk to your student about how the test went, what he did well and what he would have done differently. Think of it as a mini-debriefing or brainstorming session. You can talk about test-taking strategies after the fact as easily as beforehand and these discussions will improve performance on future tests.



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Is Your Student Going to College? - An Admissions Counselor's Guide for College Applicants

1. Build a strong foundation in high school. To get ahead, begin establishing a strong grade point average (GPA) in ninth grade.
2. Participate in at least one extracurricular activity and one community service activity. What you do in your free time reveals a lot about you, particularly your passions and values. Involvement in outside activities, particularly STEM-related clubs and organizations, may give you an edge over another applicant with equal academic qualifications.
3. Take standardized testing seriously. Test scores play a big role in landing an acceptance letter, so take plenty of time to prepare. Sign up for prep courses and practice tests like the PSAT. There are also free study guides and materials available online. Make the effort to take both the SAT and ACT and take at least one of them twice to get a better score. When taking advanced placement (AP) exams, keep in mind top colleges accept scores of only five or higher.
4. Prioritize your college applications. It takes time to compile a thoughtful, thorough college application. Keep that in mind as you decide which universities to apply to. Keep in mind, you'll still need time to manage your high school course load and enjoy your free time with friends and family.
5. Incorporate your personality in the personal essay. While you don't want to be too casual in your application, neither should you overuse jargon. A good practice is to give specific examples. So, for instance, instead of writing that you "value community service," tell a brief story from your volunteer work.
6. Show why you're special. Schools are looking for students who demonstrate noteworthy ideas and accomplishments. Sharing how you have triumphed in the face of difficulty like a challenging semester, family issue or other life circumstance demonstrates your best qualities.
7. Stay organized. Mark your calendar and stay on top of application deadlines, as well as cut-off dates for submitting deposits, transcript requests and immunization records. A missed deadline could delay registration, prompt additional fees or lead to a lack of admittance into the university altogether.
8. Do not let finances deter you. Don't automatically discount a school you're interested in just because of cost. Reach out to the Financial Aid office for more information and research your options. Dig deep enough and you'll find there are more scholarships available than you might think. Check out the Scholarship Search tool on www.STEMStudy.com, a great resource for students interested in applying to a STEM-focused college.
9. Contact the colleges. College fairs and university tours are a great way to not only collect firsthand information about the school, but also to meet one-on-one with an admissions counselor.
10. Be careful about your social media posts. Admissions Counselors may access your social media accounts, so be sure what they find is appropriate. Something negative or unfavorable can lead to a denial letter or withdrawal of acceptance.




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Report Cards have come home Now What?



The first nine weeks of the semester has passed, and report cards have made their way home. Whether your student is satisfied with their grades or feels they could improve, the good news is that there is still plenty of time to make progress before the end of the semester. Here are some strategies to help your student stay on track for success in the second nine weeks:

1) Get Organized:

Help your student go through their binders and folders, sorting out papers they no longer need for daily use. While it's important to keep past assignments for reference, tidying up can create a fresh start and a more organized approach to schoolwork.

2) Reflect on the First Nine Weeks:

Encourage your student to review their assessments from the first quarter and look for patterns. Did certain types of assignments or subjects bring their grade down? Identifying these areas can help them focus on improvement moving forward. This self-reflection is an important step in making meaningful progress.

3) Communicate with Teachers:

Teachers are there to help! If your student has concerns about their grades or struggles with understanding class material, encourage them to reach out. Setting up a meeting with a teacher can provide personalized feedback, study tips, and clarification on challenging topics.

4) Avoid Procrastination:

Procrastination can lead to late nights and rushed work. Help your student build good time management habits by encouraging them to complete homework and study early. They'll feel more relaxed and confident when they don't leave everything until the last minute.

5) Limit Distractions with Tools:

If distractions like social media are an issue, consider using apps like "Self Control" (available for Apple devices) that block distracting sites for a set period of time. This helps students stay focused on their studies without the temptation of scrolling through social media.

6) Put the Phone Away:

Frequent phone notifications can disrupt focus during study sessions. Encourage your student to set their phone aside or put it in "Do Not Disturb" mode to keep interruptions to a minimum, allowing for more efficient studying.

7) Share Study Strategies:

Working with friends can be beneficial when it comes to sharing study techniques. If your student is able to explain the material to a friend, it means they have a strong grasp on the subject themselves. Collaborative study sessions can offer new perspectives and reinforce learning.

8) Talk to You:

Your experience and advice can be a valuable resource for your student. Share any study strategies that worked for you and offer guidance on how to manage time and balance schoolwork. Even if your methods seem "old school," your input can make a big difference.

9) Use Free Periods Wisely:

Free periods can be a great time for your student to catch up on homework or review class material. Suggest that they visit the library or a quiet space to get work done during these breaks, freeing up more time in the evenings for relaxation or extracurricular activities.

10) Plan Weekends Strategically:

Before diving into weekend plans, encourage your student to assess their workload and upcoming deadlines. Weekends can be a great time to catch up on studies, get ahead, and make sure they're fully prepared for the week ahead. Balancing social time with academics is key to staying on track.

By following these tips, students can build strong habits and finish the semester on a positive note. As parents, your support and encouragement can help them stay motivated and focused. Let's work together to make the second nine weeks just as successful as the first!

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

Gaston County Schools

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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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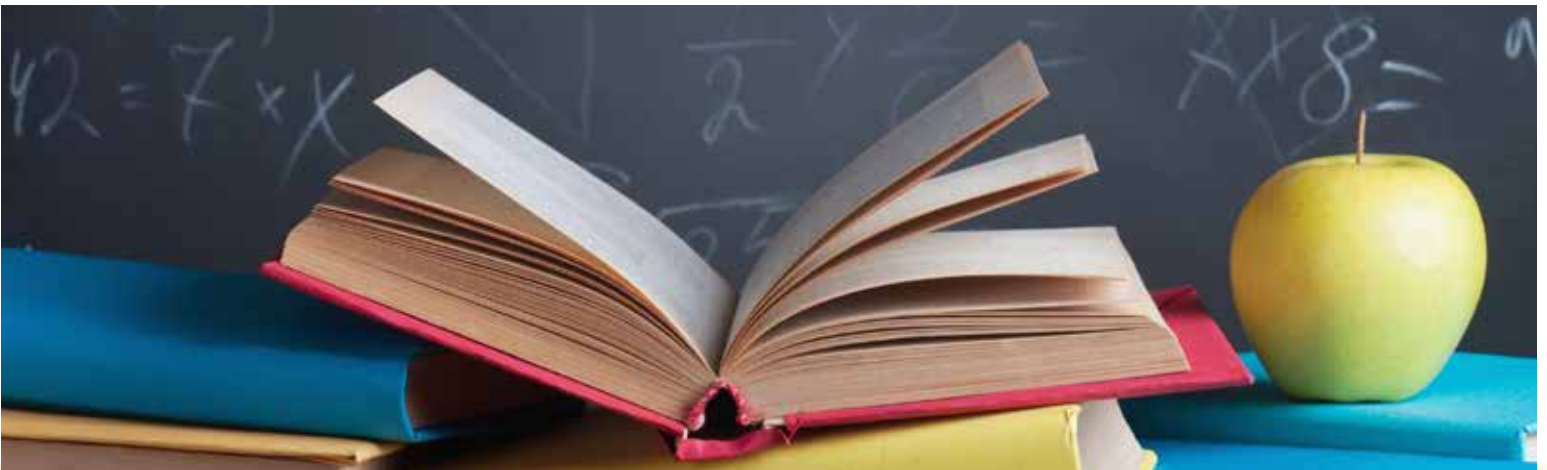
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