



## Paul Duke STEM High School

5850 Peachtree Industrial Blvd  
Norcross, GA Zip 30071  
470-323-3600 (Phone)  
770-263-7392 (Fax)  
<http://www.pauldukestem.org/>

*"Dedicated to excellence in education."*

### Principal:

Dr. Jonathan Wetherington

### Counseling Staff:

Donyale Turner  
Ashley Morris  
Leslie Patel  
Ashley Percy  
Sofia Cevallos

### Counseling Office

#### Contact Information:

470-323-3606 (Phone)  
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**CEEB/ACT Code:** 110338

### School Type:

Public, 4-Year, comprehensive  
STEM-focused high school



A Unit of

### Gwinnett County Public Schools

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-6000 (Phone)  
[www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

# 2024-2025 School Profile

*Gwinnett County Public Schools holds system accreditation through AdvancED.*

## About Gwinnett County Public Schools

*Envisioning a system of world-class schools...* The largest school system in the state and the 12th largest in the nation, Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) is a diverse and growing district in metro Atlanta, serving nearly 180,000 students. GCPS is a three-time finalist (2009, 2010, and 2014) and two-time winner (2010 and 2014) of The Broad Prize for Urban Education. The district has 23 high schools, including 19 cluster high schools, two STEM-focused schools, an online school, and an open campus high school. Aligned to state-adopted Georgia Standards of Excellence and Georgia Performance Standards, GCPS' rigorous custom curriculum (known as the Academic Knowledge and Skills or AKS) is combined with exceptional teaching and meaningful testing to form a comprehensive instructional program.

### Graduation and Testing Requirements for the Class of 2025

In order to earn a regular Gwinnett County high school diploma, students in the Class of 2025 must:

- Learn the AKS curriculum in order to pass classes and earn the required course credits/units (*see below*);
- Participate in state-mandated End of Course (EOC) assessments for designated courses in core areas.

To graduate, Georgia students must earn a minimum of 23 credits (also called units) in required areas of study. Students earn .5 units per class each semester. ([Students on block schedule earn a full credit per class each semester.](#))

<u>Areas of Study</u>	<u>Required Units</u>
English/Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science (3 required and 1 approved elective)	4
Social Studies	3
Modern/Classical Language and/or Career and Technical Education and/or Fine Arts	3
Health and Physical Education	1
Electives	4
<b>Total Units (minimum)</b>	<b>23</b>

## About Paul Duke STEM High School

Paul Duke STEM High School, which opened in 2018, is the first choice themed high school in our school district (Gwinnett County Public Schools). Students are able to attend our school if they reside within our geographic attendance zone. The school's focus is on rigorous and relevant applications of technology in science, engineering, and math in the following areas: Applied Engineering, Communications, Art and Design, and Digital and Innovative Technology. All students are encouraged to take either a dual enrollment or Advanced Placement courses before graduating.

## Paul Duke STEM High School – STEM Certification

In Spring 2022, Paul Duke STEM was recognized by the Georgia Department of Education with Whole-School STEM certification. This recognition is due to our innovative schedule, exceptional STEM instructional design, equitable approach to STEM for all students, and high levels of student achievement. Paul Duke STEM is the first Title I, non-magnet, and majority Hispanic/Latino high school in the state of Georgia to receive the Whole-School Certification. We are also the largest STEM certified high school in Georgia with over 1225 students. The Whole-School STEM Certification is a prestigious honor for our students, faculty, staff, and community.

## Instructional Hours

Two semesters of 18 weeks each for a total of 180 instructional days. Students have 7 classes and meet four times a week. Friday is a digital learning day in which students complete digital assignments and participate in learning experiences both at Paul Duke STEM and remotely. School calendar runs August to May.

- School Enrollment and Demographics**
- **Current total enrollment:** 1532, including 320 seniors.
  - **Demographics:** 15% White, 21% Black, 50% Hispanic, 11% Asian. Sixty seven percent of our students receive free or reduced lunch.

**Class Rank/Numeric Average**

Grade Point Average (GPA) is computed at the end of each semester, including all attempted high school courses. This GPA is calculated on a 100-point scale. All students are ranked within grade levels at the end of each semester, based on numerical cumulative averages.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses reflect an additional 10 points, which is included in the final numerical grade for the semester. No additional weight is given to gifted or honors coursework. Honor graduates have earned a 90% or higher cumulative average that includes all attempted high school courses.

<b>GCPS' Grading Scale</b> (adopted 7/22)	
	<i>Cumulative GPA value</i>
A = 101%-110%	5.0
A = 90% - 100%	4.0
B = 80%-89%	3.0
C = 70%-79%	2.0
F = Below 70%	0.0

**Curriculum Offerings**

Advanced Placement (AP), Gifted, Honors, and College Preparatory classes are available in each academic area—language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and modern/classical languages. The school also offers a full complement of classes in health and PE, the fine arts, and career and technical education. AP classes are college-level courses. Gifted classes are rigorous, exceeding grade-level norms. Honors classes are demanding, often exceeding grade-level norms. College prep classes reflect the grade-level norm. Technology permeates a GCPS education, and students develop key 21st century skills as critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and effective communicators.

**Unique Elements of Paul Duke STEM Curriculum**

Our traditional math sequence has students complete Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra 2 and an elective Math course, and our most advanced students follow an accelerated math curriculum. As a STEM school, we provide rigorous experiences across the curriculum for eligible students. In Language Arts, our most advanced students take 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts, AP Seminar, AP English Language, and AP Research, in conjunction with the AP Capstone program. In Science, our most advanced students earn both a Biology and

Chemistry in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which allows them to begin AP Science course work in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition, all students take an entry-level technology course called Intro to Hardware/Software in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, and most students continue to develop the technology proficiency in upper-level Computer Science classes.

**Senior Experience and Exhibition (SEE)**

Seniors complete a Senior Internship or Senior Experience during their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year to help prepare them for life after high school. The Internship course requires 300 hours/semester of time on-site/on-campus for the internship. Students are evaluated through reflections, supervisor feedback forms, and a culminating presentation at the Senior Exhibition. The Senior Experience is completed through Dual Enrollment or Work-Based Learning, and these students participate in a culminating presentation at the Senior Exhibition in the spring.

**Advanced Placement Courses**

Available college-level AP courses: Studio Art (2-D, 3-D, and Drawing), English Language, English Literature, Macroeconomics, U.S. Government and Politics, Psychology, U.S. History, World History, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Differential Equations, Computer Science, Computer Science Principles, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1, French, Spanish (Language and Literature), AP Research, and AP Seminar.

Due to the rigorous level of our AP courses, we encourage students to follow this sequence: we discourage students from taking AP courses in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, a maximum of 4 AP courses in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, a maximum of 5 AP courses in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and a maximum of 6 AP courses as a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student.

**AP Capstone Program**

Our most advanced students complete the AP Capstone Diploma Program here at Paul Duke STEM High School, which prepares them for STEM-focused college majors. Our AP Capstone experience provides unique rigor and assignments to help prepare them for the rigor at top-level universities.

- Class of 2024 Statistics (self-reported)**
- **Number of Graduates:** 310 students
  - **Honor Graduates:** 35%
  - **Dual Enrollment:** 29% of students
  - **Postsecondary Plans:**
    - 84%, 4-year college
    - 15%, 2-year college/technical