

School Profile 2025-2026



Contact Information

1600 N. Morris St.
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 810-8816
(704) 866-6105

CEEB School Code: 341-450
Accreditation: SACS

Hours: 8:30 am – 3:20 pm
Calendar: Traditional
Enrollment: 538
Seniors: 124
Juniors: 139
Sophomores: 144
Freshmen: 145

Principal: Susan Redmond / **Assistant Principal:** Jenny Carper / **Counselors:** Mathieu Chapman and Ashleigh Arceo
Websites: (School) <https://highland.gaston.k12.nc.us/>

Our Philosophy

The mission of Highland School of Technology is to prepare students for success in post-secondary education and the workplace by offering a rigorous, relevant, and experiential academic and technical curriculum.

School Description

Highland School of Technology (HST) is a career and technical magnet high school, grades 9-12, reflecting the 260,000 residents of Gaston County, North Carolina. The school opened in July of 2000 as Gaston County School's first total choice magnet program, and it draws its student body from the other nine public high schools in the district. Highland is a renovated and re-purposed public school with three academies and seven pathway options including Allied Health, Medical Science, Dental Science, Computer Science, Business and Legal Studies, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, and Graphic Design. Highland opened for the 2000-01 school year with freshman and sophomore students and had its first graduating class in 2003.

Entrance Criteria

Students apply to attend Highland during their eighth grade year. A lottery is held to select 145 students based on interest in a career pathway and feeder high school area. A percentage of students are accepted from each of the high school feeder areas in Gaston County, according to enrollment, which fairly distributes the Highland experience to all areas of our community.

The entrance criteria are:

- Level III, IV, or V on the 7th grade end-of-grade tests in reading and math
- Level III, IV, or V on the 8th grade end-of-grade tests in reading and math
- 94% attendance rate in grades 7 and 8
- Overall "C" or 70 minimum average in grades 7 and 8
- Be in good standing regarding conduct
- Be a Gaston County resident

Integrated Learning

The emphasis at Highland School of Technology is on integrating learning within the community. The faculty is active in planning integration of the curriculum so that students see relationships and therefore a purpose for learning and understand the curriculum's application in a real-world setting. Teachers observe lessons in classrooms of other disciplines, share curriculum plans during integration meetings, and communicate with each other as they develop interdisciplinary units of study. Our community provides a means for students to apply their learning in real-world situations through internship, job shadowing, and apprenticeship opportunities.

School Honors and Recognitions

- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 96 (A) Exceeds expected Growth 2014-15 – 93.5%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 98 (A+) Exceeds Expected Growth 2015-16 – 97%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A+NG) Exceeds Expected Growth 2016-17 – 99.8%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2017-18 – 99.8%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2018-19 – 99.6%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 99 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2021-22 – 98.9%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 100 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2022-23 – 99.6%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 100 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2023-24 – 100%
- ❑ NC School Performance Grade – 100 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2024-25 – 100%



School Honors and Recognitions - Continued

- ❑ Governor's Entrepreneurial Award 2001 – *Highland was recognized for bold leadership and responsible risk-taking to advance teaching and improve learning in the State of NC.*
- ❑ Identified as one of the Top 30 Model Schools in the Nation for Bringing Best Practices to Scale by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Council of Chief State School Officers, and International Center for Leadership in Education. 2003
- ❑ Highland School of Technology was featured in the December 9, 2003, issue of Forbes magazine. *The article mentioned Highland when discussing the business of educational innovation in the Charlotte region.*
- ❑ Highland School of Technology was featured in the July 2003 issue of Greater Charlotte Biz, the magazine for the successful business executive. *The article featured the accomplishments of our school and highlighted the skills of our first graduating class.*
- ❑ Highland School of Technology was featured in the June 2004 issue of the Engineering Times by the National Society of Professional Engineers. *The article highlights our Manufacturing/Engineering Pathway and includes interviews from two of our students who plan to pursue a degree in engineering.*
- ❑ Selected as one of 23 model high schools nationwide to share its best practices at the 15th Annual Model Schools Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 30-July 3, 2007. *The Conference, sponsored by the International Center for Leadership in Education, is the nation's premier event for K-12 education reform.*
- ❑ Highland School of Technology was recognized by the State School Board and the Department of Public Instruction for our 100% graduation rate for the class of 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- ❑ The Future Business Leaders of America club at Highland School of Technology received the nationally recognized Hollis and Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit for nine years.
- ❑ The Technology Students Association club at Highland School of Technology is one of the largest chapters in the state, we have received Chapter of The Year nine consecutive years, and have students qualify for the National Competition every year.
- ❑ The Future Health Professionals (HOSA) club at Highland School of Technology has been recognized as the largest 1A chapter four consecutive years and the "Most Outstanding Chapter" in North Carolina for the past 10 years.
- ❑ Highland School of Technology was recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal in October, 2018, as the top public high school in the Charlotte area for "college and career readiness."
- ❑ Highland School of Technology was named a Lighthouse School by the NCASCD in February 2018. *This prestigious award is presented to one or more schools leading the way in North Carolina for excellence in student achievement and innovated programs.*
- ❑ U.S. News & World Reports – Ranked #1 in Charlotte Metro Area, #1 in Gaston County, #11 in NC, and #392 in the Nation in 2025.
- ❑ On the NC Report Card, Highland School of Technology ranked #1 in the state accountability model among all 2,714 elementary, middle, and high schools with a performance grade of 100.
- ❑ **Recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2017 and 2023.** A government program created in 1982 by the United States Department of Education to honor schools that have achieved high levels of student achievement or made significant improvements in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups. Only 343 total schools received recognition with 43 public high schools in the nation receiving this distinction in 2023.

Career Pathways

There are seven career and technical pathways at Highland School of Technology. All students begin their career and technical education during their freshman year. They continue to have specialized instruction during their sophomore, junior, and senior years taking a total of eight required CTE courses. Their advanced studies class during the senior year requires a senior project to demonstrate their skills and knowledge by working with professionals in our community.

Health Sciences: Academy Coordinator – Terri Cochrane

Allied Health Science - The Allied Health Science pathway introduces students to support positions in hospitals, clinics and other medical facilities. They focus on becoming multi-skilled health team members and rotate throughout the different hospital areas during their senior year, performing entry-level clinical skills. Students also have the opportunity to obtain a Nurse Aide Level 1 (CNA) certification upon completion of this pathway while still at Highland.

Medical Science - The Medical Science pathway prepares students to be healthcare workers in an advanced technical or professional health career. Students in this pathway spend 40+ hours in an internship with a healthcare professional during their senior year. The emphasis in the classroom is placed on research, communication, computer literacy, health team relations, problem solving, and decision making. Students can earn the following credentials or certifications: CPR, First Aid, OSHA, Stop the Bleed, and Vision Screening.

Dental Science - In the Dental Science pathway, students prepare for careers in the dental field. Students will learn skills that will prepare them to perform entry level skills through on and off campus experiences. This program is one of a kind, as we are the only high school in North Carolina with a dental program. Students can earn the following credentials: CPR, First Aid, and OSHA. Dental VI students will have the opportunity to complete the certificate for the State Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE).

Business, Legal and Information Sciences: Academy Coordinator – Heather Forbes

Computer Science - The Computer Science pathway prepares students for careers in the information science industry. Emphasis is placed on learning to code; skills needed to configure, upgrade and build computers; and network infrastructures including switching and routing. Curriculum follows industry standards to prepare students to seek certifications in Python Programming, CompTIA IT Fundamentals, and Cisco Certified Technician.

Business and Legal Studies – The Business and Legal Studies pathway introduces students to broad career opportunities in the business and legal industries. Students take industry-related courses emphasizing Principles of Business, Accounting, Financial Planning, Business and Personal Law. The pathway enables students to complete internships at leading business and legal services corporations as well as prepares them for future employment or higher education.

Manufacturing, Engineering and Graphics: Academy Coordinator – Darryl Thompson

Graphic Design – The Graphic Design pathway offers students an overview of Graphic Design and Digital Media. Emphasis is placed on principles of graphic design, web communication, and video editing. Students have an opportunity to earn an industry standard credential in the following: Adobe Creative Cloud programs on a Mac platform in Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop and Premiere Pro.

Manufacturing and Engineering – The Manufacturing and Engineering pathway offers a series of classes in a special laboratory setting. Students can expect to learn basic design skills, engineering principles, programming logic, manufacturing processes and quality-control concepts through hands-on activities. Communication, teamwork and problem-solving are reinforced throughout all the classes. Students also take a Drafting/CAD class to further develop technical skills. Apprenticeship opportunities are available for those qualifying students during their senior year through the industry sponsored Apprenticeship 2000 program.

Graduation Requirements / Class Rank

Grading Scale	
2015-16 and beyond	
A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	Below 60

Highland School of Technology provides a class rank for students on the NC standardized transcript. Students pursue rigorous academic coursework, including Advanced Placement and Career and College Promise (CCP) courses; however, they are required to take a fourth math and demanding career and technical education (CTE) courses aligned with their career pathway each year. Because each pathway has unique course requirements, not all students have the same opportunity to take AP, CCP, foreign language, or fine arts courses. The CTE courses at Highland offer the rigor of college coursework, but are only weighted at the honors level.

Nearly 80% of our seniors graduate with a weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher. In such a competitive environment, very small differences in GPA can significantly impact rank. In an effort to increase GPA and rank some students pursue additional coursework outside of the school day by taking online high school and CCP courses. Access to these opportunities is not equal for all students, and therefore class rank at Highland does not always reflect the true scope of student achievement or potential. A student's rank in class may be influenced as much by opportunity to take extra courses as by academic ability. For this reason, class rank should not be considered a primary measure of academic success at Highland and should be interpreted with caution.

Weighted 4.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) Scale					
Regular Courses	A= 4.0	B= 3.0	C= 2.0	D= 1.0	F= 0
Honors & College Prep Courses	A= 4.5	B= 3.5	C= 2.5	D= 1.5	F= 0
AP & CCP Courses	A= 5.0	B= 4.0	C= 3.0	D= 2.0	F= 0

Advanced Placement (AP) / Career and College Promise (CCP) – Gaston College

Advanced Placement courses taught at Highland (12): Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science Principles, Environmental Science, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, European History, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, and US History. Career and College Promise courses taught on campus at Highland (4): General Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Corrections. Students may take online AP/CCP and off campus CCP courses if scheduling allows.

Athletics

Students compete at the varsity level in the Southern Piedmont 2A/3A/4A Conference. The following sports teams are active at Highland: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, and volleyball.

Extracurricular Activities and Clubs

Battle of the Books	Future Health Professionals (HOSA)	Quiz Bowl
Beta Club	Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)	Ram HOST (Highland Official Service Team)
dRAMa Club	International Cultures Club (ICC)	Student Council
Earth Club - Envirothon	International Thespian Society	Technology Student Association (TSA)
Esports Team	Photography Club	World Quest Competition
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)	Prom Committee	Young Women's Association

ACT Test Results					
	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
HST 2022-23	20.0	22.6	23.5	22.4	22.3
HST 2023-24	22.0	23.5	26.6	23.7	24.1
North Carolina	16.4	18.0	18.8	18.5	18.1
United States	19.4	19.1	20.2	19.7	19.4

SAT Test Results				
	ERW	Math	Total	% Tested
HST 2022-2023	571	574	1146	52%
HST 2023-2024	609	600	1210	30%
Gaston County	568	544	1112	15%
North Carolina	591	576	1166	24%
United States	507	488	995	

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Results		
	2023	2024
Number of AP Test Takers	172	232
Number of Exams Taken	306	470
Exams with Scores 3+	178	347
Percent of Exams with Scores 3+	58.1%	73.8%
Percent of Test Takers Scoring 3+	84.3%	76.7%

Post Graduate Plans	2022	2023	2024	2025
Class Size	131	116	127	125
Total Continuing Education	93%	94%	93%	96%
Four Year College	70%	72%	72%	82%
Community College, Junior College, Nursing School	23%	23%	21%	14%
Trade/Business School	0%	2%	2%	1%
Military	0%	0%	2%	0%
Employment	7%	4%	3%	3%

Scholarships and Awards
The Class of 2025 received over 9 million dollars in scholarship money last year. Scholarships received by past graduates include full scholarships to Princeton, Yale, Duke, UNC Morehead-Cain, NCSU Park, Robertson Scholars, EC Scholars, National Merit Scholarships, Military Academy appointments, Quest Bridge Scholars, and Alumni, Chancellor, Dean, and Presidential scholarships to many colleges and universities.

Colleges and Universities Accepting Highland School of Technology Graduates				
Air Force Academy	East Carolina University	Lander University	Oregon State University	UNC Wilmington
Anderson College	East Tennessee State University	Lee University	Pace University	University of Alabama Huntsville
Appalachian State University	Elizabeth City State University	Lees-McRae College	Penn State University	University of Alabama
Art Institute	Elon University	Lenoir-Rhyne University	Pfeiffer College	University of Georgia
Auburn University	Embry Riddle Aeronautical	Liberty University	Princeton University	University of Florida
Belmont Abbey College	Emory and Henry College	Limestone College	Presbyterian College	University of Kentucky
Bennett College	Emory University	Livingston College	Presbyterian Nursing	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Bluefield College	Erskine College	Loyola Marymount University	Purdue University	University of Notre Dame
Boston University	Fayetteville State University	Lynchburg College	Queens University	University of Pittsburg
Boston College University	Ferrum College	Marquette University	Randolph-Macon College	University of South Carolina
Brevard College	Florida A & M University	Mars Hill College	Rensselaer	University of Tennessee
Brown University	Full Sail University	Mary Baldwin College	Rice University	University of Utah
Campbell University	Furman University	Massachusetts College of Art	Roanoke College	University of Virginia
Carnegie Mellon University	Gardner-Webb University	Mercer University	Rochester Institute of Tech	University of Wyoming
Catawba College	Gaston College	Meredith College	Salem College	Vanderbilt University
Central Piedmont CC	George Mason University	Methodist University	SCAD	Virginia Military Institute
Charleston Southern University	Georgetown University	Montreat College	Siena College	Virginia Tech University
Chowan University	Georgia Tech	Mount Olive College	Southern Wesleyan	Virginia State University
The Citadel	Georgia Southern University	Michigan State University	Spelman College	Wake Forest University
Clark Atlanta University	Guilford College	Morehouse College	St. Andrews College	Washington and Lee University
Clemson University	Hampden Sydney	Mt. Holyoke University	Swarthmore College	Washington University
Coastal Carolina University	Hampton University	NC A&T University	Sweet Briar	Wellesley College
College of Charleston	High Point University	NC Central University	Syracuse University	West Point Academy
Columbia University	Howard College	NC State University	Temple University	Western Carolina University
Cooper Union	Indiana University	NC Wesleyan College	Texas Southern University	William Peace University
Cornell University	Johns Hopkins University	Newberry College	Tusculum College	Wingate University
Davidson College	Johnson and Wales University	New York University	UNC Asheville	Winston Salem State University
DeVry University	Johnson C. Smith University	North Greenville University	UNC Chapel Hill	Winthrop University
Drexel University	Kent State University	Ohio State University	UNC Charlotte	Wofford College
Duke University	Kettering University	Old Dominion University	UNC Greensboro	Yale University
Eastern Kentucky University	King College	Oglethorpe University	UNC Pembroke	Young Harris College