

# School Profile 2026-2027



## Contact Information

1600 N. Morris St.  
Gastonia, NC 28052  
(704) 810-8816  
(704) 866-6105  
<https://highland.gaston.k12.nc.us/>  
CEEBS School Code: 341-450  
Accreditation: SACS

Hours: 8:30 am – 3:20 pm  
Calendar: Traditional – 4x4 Block Schedule  
Enrollment: 565  
Seniors: 136  
Juniors: 139  
Sophomores: 145  
Freshmen: 145

**Principal:** Susan Redmond [saredmond@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:saredmond@gaston.k12.nc.us) **Dean:** Lindsay Dickerson Beverly [lldickersonbeverley@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:lldickersonbeverley@gaston.k12.nc.us)  
**Counselors:** Mathieu Chapman [mlchapman@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:mlchapman@gaston.k12.nc.us) / Erica Hawes [elhawes@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:elhawes@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 rigorous, career and technical education public magnet high school serving students from across Gaston County, North Carolina. A two-time National Blue Ribbon School and nationally recognized Model High School, Highland is consistently recognized among the top-performing high schools in North Carolina and the nation. Students combine a challenging college-preparatory academic curriculum with four years of specialized study in one of seven career pathways: Allied Health, Medical Science, Dental Science, Computer Science, Business and Legal Studies, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, or Graphic Design. As Gaston County Schools' first total choice magnet program, Highland draws its student body from high school attendance areas throughout the district. Highland opened in 2000 and graduated its first class in 2003.

## Entrance Criteria

Students apply to Highland during their eighth-grade year and must meet academic, attendance, and conduct eligibility requirements to participate in the admissions lottery. Each year, 145 students are selected based on career pathway interest and high school feeder area, with seats allocated proportionally among Gaston County's high school attendance areas.

The entrance criteria are:

- Level III, IV, or V on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade end-of-grade tests in reading and math
- Level III, IV, or V on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 – 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%
- ❑ **NC School Performance Grade – 100 (A) Exceeds Expected Growth 2025-26 – 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 Board of Education 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, 2025, 2026.
- ❑ 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 in North Carolina, has received Chapter of the Year honors nine consecutive years, and has students qualify for the National Competition each 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 innovative programs.*
- ❑ Recognized by the College Board with the AP School Honor Roll Platinum distinction and AP Access Award for excellence in AP participation and achievement.
- ❑ **US News & World Report – Ranked #1 in Charlotte Metro Area, #1 in Gaston County, #9 in NC, #344 in the Nation in 2026.**
- ❑ 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.*
- ❑ **Recognized as a 2026 Model High School by the Center for Model Schools.** *Highland School of Technology was one of only 12 high schools nationwide selected for this distinction and was invited to share its successful practices at the 2026 Model Schools Conference in Orlando, Florida. The recognition celebrates schools demonstrating excellence, innovation, and practices that positively impact student growth and achievement.*

## 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 [thcochrane@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:thcochrane@gaston.k12.nc.us)

**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 [hkforbes@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:hkforbes@gaston.k12.nc.us)

**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 [dbthompson@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:dbthompson@gaston.k12.nc.us)

**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.

**Academic Rigor / Class Rank**

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 two to three rigorous 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, world language, or fine arts courses. World language study is recommended; however, on-campus availability is limited, and Highland does not offer coursework beyond the second level. Highland's CTE courses offer the rigor of college-level coursework but are weighted only 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 through online high school and CCP courses. Access to these opportunities is not equal for all students; 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 additional 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 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 |

**Grading Scale**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| A | 90 – 100 |
| B | 80 – 89  |
| C | 70 – 79  |
| D | 60 – 69  |
| F | Below 60 |

**Advanced Placement (AP) / Career and College Promise (CCP) [Dual Enrollment]– 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)     | Ram HOST (Highland Official Service Team) |
| Beta Club                                 | Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) | Student Council                           |
| dRAMa Club                                | International Cultures Club (ICC)      | Technology Student Association (TSA)      |
| Earth Club - Envirothon                   | Photography Club                       | World Quest Competition                   |
| Esports Team                              | Prom Committee                         | Young Women's Association                 |
| Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) | Quiz Bowl                              |                                           |

| ACT Test Results   |             |             |             |             |             |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                    | English     | Math        | Reading     | Science     | Composite   |
| HST 2023-24        | 22.0        | 23.5        | 26.6        | 23.7        | 24.1        |
| <b>HST 2024-25</b> | <b>21.8</b> | <b>25.0</b> | <b>24.9</b> | <b>23.9</b> | <b>24.0</b> |
| North Carolina     | 16.5        | 18.3        | 18.8        | 18.5        | 18.2        |
| United States      | 19.4        | 19.1        | 20.2        | 19.7        | 19.4        |

| Advanced Placement (AP) Test Results |       |              |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
|                                      | 2024  | 2025         |
| Number of AP Test Takers             | 232   | <b>259</b>   |
| Number of Exams Taken                | 470   | <b>552</b>   |
| Exams with Scores 3+                 | 347   | <b>448</b>   |
| Percent of Exams with Scores 3+      | 73.8% | <b>81.2%</b> |
| Percent of Test Takers Scoring 3+    | 76.7% | <b>81.1%</b> |

| Scholarships and Awards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Class of 2026 received over 9 million dollars in scholarship awards. 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, QuestBridge Scholars, and Alumni, Chancellor, Dean, and Presidential scholarships to many colleges and universities. |

| SAT Test Results     |            |            |             |            |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|                      | ERW        | Math       | Total       | % Tested   |
| HST 2024-2025        | 636        | 633        | 1269        | 37%        |
| <b>HST 2025-2026</b> | <b>602</b> | <b>624</b> | <b>1226</b> | <b>59%</b> |
| Gaston County        | 568        | 544        | 1112        |            |
| North Carolina       | 590        | 575        | 1165        | 22%        |
| United States        | 521        | 508        | 1029        |            |



| Post Graduate Plans                               | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026       |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------------|
| Class Size                                        | 116  | 127  | 125  | <b>125</b> |
| Total Continuing Education                        | 94%  | 93%  | 96%  | <b>95%</b> |
| Four Year College                                 | 72%  | 72%  | 82%  | <b>77%</b> |
| Community College, Junior College, Nursing School | 23%  | 21%  | 14%  | <b>18%</b> |
| Trade School                                      | 2%   | 2%   | 1%   | <b>1%</b>  |
| Military                                          | 0%   | 2%   | 0%   | <b>2%</b>  |
| Employment                                        | 4%   | 3%   | 3%   | <b>2%</b>  |

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