



Our founder, M.O. Owens Jr., cut the ribbon to open our newest building, the M.O. Owens Jr. Worship and Fine Arts Center on October 9, 2018.

Dr. Owens went to be with The LORD on May 21, 2019 at the age of 105.

2018 | GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | 2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Contents

- 3** A Message from the Board
- 4** From the Head of the School
- 5** Academic Statistics
- 6** Chapel and Worship
- 7** Demographics and Summary
- 8** Standardized Testing
- 9** Honduras Mission Trips
- 10** Class of 2019 Graduates
- 11** Colleges Offering Admission

- 12** Early Childhood Education
- 13** Elementary Education
- 14** Middle School Education
- 15** High School Education
- 16** International Students Program
- 17** From the Academic Dean
- 18** Donors
- 21** Fine Arts
- 22** Year in Sports

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Front row: Pamela Mumford, Vernon Greene, Barbara Vaher, Steve Cochran, Timothy Roberts
 Back row: Keith Gunter, Steven Denton, Jason Marlowe, Jesse Bachman, Rhett Melton and Marc Stout
 Not pictured: Thomas Griffin, Sabrina Kulken, Reid McGraw, Kelli Walker

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, greetings from Gaston Christian School.

This past year has been one of watching God’s faithfulness surround our school community – observing newly conferred high school graduates launch into a world desperate for the light of the gospel, to watching the final details of the M.O.



Timothy Roberts
 Board Chairman

Owens, Jr. Worship & Fine Arts Center breathe new life into our campus, to hearing the Bible taught and shared in the classroom. Praise God from whom all these blessings flow!

As the Board of Trustees reflected over this school year, it has been impressed upon us the provision and blessing the Lord has provided. Please count them with me:

The Gaston Christian School community faithfully sharing its talents, time and treasures to support and sustain the school and its mission.

We are grateful for Dr. Marc Stout and his leadership over the

past nine years.

Our teachers, administrative team and faculty continue to lead the way as the engine that makes GCS a distinct Christian education experience.

Where does the Lord lead us from here?

The Board has spent considerable time looking toward the future and takes the “Trust” part of trustees of great importance. The primary relationship the board must establish, maintain, clarify, and protect is its relationship with its owners, keeping in contact with them and hearing their voice. We actively pray for the Lord’s guidance, wisdom, and voice as we ask this question.

I often use David’s prayer in Psalm 86:11-12 as my own.

“Teach me your way, O Lord
 That I may walk in Your truth;
 Unite my heart to fear your name.
 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God,
 With my whole heart,
 And I will glorify your name forever.”

It has been a privilege and honor to serve alongside you at Gaston Christian School.



Gaston Christian School campus

From the Head of School

The 2018-19 school year was very transformational for Gaston Christian School. After three and a half years of praying, planning, and constructing, our Owens Worship and Fine Arts Center was complete. With a very celebratory

ribbon cutting by Dr. Owens, we were officially in the building! As you may imagine, there was lots of prayer about the time frame of the construction. Our desire was that Dr. Owens would be able to officiate the ribbon cutting, but at 105 years old, we knew that time was of the essence. Dr. Owens went to be with the Lord in May of 2019. I would like to extend special thanks to Custom Building Superintendent Scott Pendley for his outstanding job.



Dr. Marc Stout
Head of School

Scott was passionate to make sure everything was done with quality and to our satisfaction; we have a wonderful facility to be used by the school and the community at large. Our Fine Arts team, led by Fine Arts Director, Maralie Medlin, has seen a profound increase in the excitement of the students in fine arts classes. One student remarked, "It is so nice to get to come over to the Owens Center and spend some time doing non-

academic activities." With our Christmas programs moving from the gymnasium, chapel services feeling much more like worship, 70 plus students now being able to have ballet and tap dance classes on campus, our Owens Center has been a smashing hit! I would like to thank the hundreds of families who sacrificially gave major gifts to make this dream a reality. We were able to raise over \$2,200,000 for this project. With income from outside groups and proceeds from our school programs, the Owens Center is almost revenue neutral, meaning that almost all expenses are recouped! To have a facility of this quality at little to no additional cost gives even greater value to the outstanding education offered at Gaston Christian School.

With the last major building completed, we began transitioning to more qualitative improvements through the year. We shifted our focus to developing a new Strategic Plan, implementing a curriculum mapping system, preparing for our five-year accreditation and giving attention to facility and program enrichments.

Furthermore, our Athletic Department saw the boys soccer and girls softball teams each reach their state championship games. Each fell just short of that title, but we are very proud of their efforts.

Reflecting on 2018-19, I can say that it was truly an outstanding year for Gaston Christian School. Thank you so very much for your prayers, love and support. May God be honored in all that we do at GCS.

Soli Deo Gloria!



53
Graduates
in Class of 2019

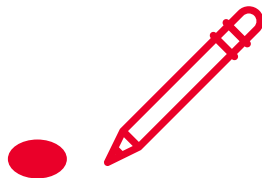


96%
Going to College
or Further Education



26%
Attended GCS
K-12th Grade

(A) (B) (C)



SAT / ACT Scores

1418 / 32

25th percentile

1316 / 30

50th percentile



\$2.70 Million

in scholarship offerings for the Class of 2019

THEME OF WORSHIP



Windy Gap



Middle School Spiritual Emphasis

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

I John 4:11



High School Faculty at Windy Gap



Elementary Chapel

STUDENT BODY PROFILE

85	Early Childhood/Preschool
52	Full-Day Kindergarten
21	Half-Day Kindergarten
54	1st Grade
71	2nd Grade
59	3rd Grade
50	4th Grade
53	5th Grade
445	Total EC/EM

Middle School Enrollment		High School Enrollment	
70	6th Grade	55	9th Grade
66	7th Grade	54	10th Grade
54	8th Grade	61	11th Grade
53		53	12th Grade
190	Total MS	223	Total HS

858 Total GCS Enrollment for 2018-19

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Operating Revenue

- \$6,141,600..... Tuition and Fees
- \$259,412..... Contributions/Fundraising
- \$433,940..... Miscellaneous
- \$6,834,952.....Total Revenue**

Operating Expenses

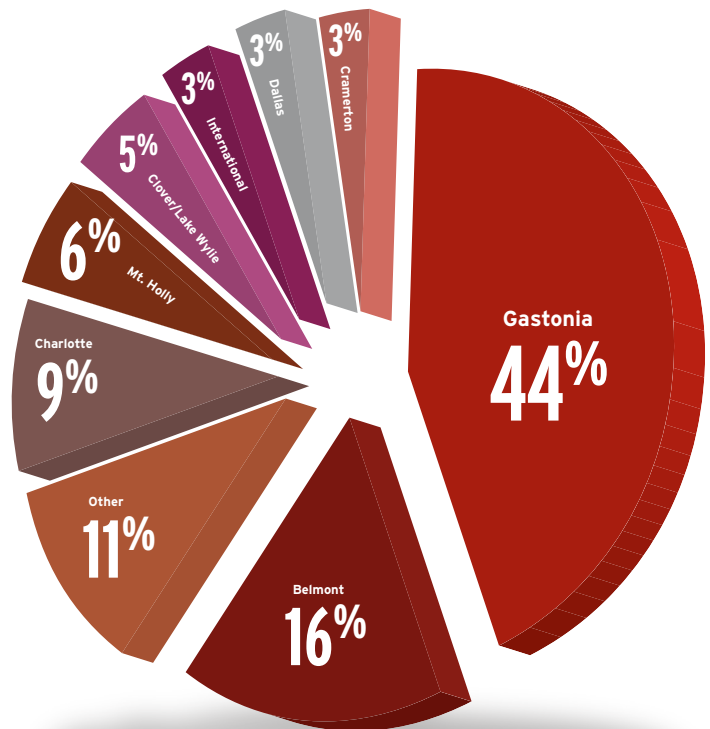
- \$4,637,113..... Salaries and Benefits
- \$1,059,696..... Operating Expenses
- \$492,370..... Program and Office Expenses
- \$319,928..... Interest Payments
- \$6,359..... Miscellaneous Expenses
- \$6,515,466.....Total Expenses**
- \$319,486..... Operating Profit**

Contributions/Fundraising

- \$103,796..... Annual Giving
- \$27,765..... Magazine Sale
- \$34,552..... Golf Tournament
- \$43,510..... Designated Gifts
- \$49,789..... Other



FAMILY DEMOGRAPHIC



Other includes: Alexis, Bessemer City, Denver, Grover, Huntersville, Iron Station, Lincolnton, Lowell, McAdenville, Shelby, Stanley, Vale and York.

STANDARDIZED TESTING SUMMARY REPORT



Spelling Bee 1st & 2nd place



School-wide Spelling Bee participants

Last year, Pearson announced that new norms would be used for scoring the spring 2019 Stanford Achievement Test. Whereas the pool of students used for scores in the past was based on a majority of public schools and a much smaller number of private/Christian schools, the new norms are based on a pool comprised primarily of private/Christian schools and a smaller number of public schools. New norms can significantly change test

results; percentile differences can differ from the preceding year as much as 20 points, thereby affecting stanines. Our scores reflect such a change. Typically, our scores carry above-average stanines of 7 and 8; this year, our scores reflect stanines of 7 and average stanines of 6. Our test scores may fluctuate over the next two years as teachers and students adjust to the new expectations these norms represent.

GRADE	K	1	2	3	4	5	AVG
READING	79	72	68	76	70	66	71.8
LANGUAGE	NA	61	64	74	79	65	68.6
MATH	83	73	64	72	53	53	66.3
SPELLING	NA	67	72	74	71	75	71.8
BASIC BATTERY	79	69	68	71	65	63	69.2

GRADE	6	7	8	AVG
READING	71	70	79	73.3
LANGUAGE	68	69	75	70.7
MATH	68	57	61	62.0
SPELLING	81	67	75	74.3
BASIC BATTERY	71	66	71	69.3

GRADE	9	10	11	AVG
READING	78	74	76	76.0
LANGUAGE	77	67	66	70.0
MATH	63	53	47	54.3
SPELLING	77	74	77	76.0
BASIC BATTERY	73	68	68	69.3

	2018-2019	2017-2018
Average Basic Battery Elementary School	69.2	83.8
Average Basic Battery Middle School	69.3	82.0
Average Basic Battery High School (9-11)	69.7	77.7
Average Basic Battery Grades K-11	69.3	
Average Reading Grades K-11	73.3	83.3
Average Language Grades 1-11	69.5	81.9
Average Math Grades K-11	62.3	82.4
Average Spelling 1-11	73.6	82.0

* International and IEP student scores not included.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIPS



Students from Gaston Christian School participated in two mission trips to Honduras during the 2018-2019 school year. During the week of March 8-15, high school teacher Mark Moore, 6 high school students, 1 alumna, and 1 parent joined with others from Louder than Words Ministries on a backpacking mission trip through the mountains of western Honduras. These students hiked to 5 different Lenca villages, sharing the Gospel and distributing Operation Christmas Child boxes to the children.

During spring break 35 high school students and 4 adults spent a week with Mark Moore ministering in the small mountain village of Las Mesas. The group conducted a daily VBS program, led worship services each night, provided a free dental clinic each day and participated in home building/repairs. High school students, staff, and parents donated over \$3400 for food and other needed supplies/equipment for the Faith, Hope, and Love Orphanage. What a wonderful opportunity this week provided for the students and adults to share the Gospel of Christ among the Honduran people.



Photos courtesy of Mark Moore/Louder Than Words Ministries



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2019

First row (from left): Meredith McCraw, Hannah Bonisa, Sedonia Tringali, Adriana Tharp, Rennie Pearson, Dillon Yeager, Jacqueline Purtell, Favour Spear, Hannah Spear, Kristina Vaheer, O'Neil Goforth, Anna Crenshaw

Second row: Caleb Bowens, Alexandra Grant, Colten Brewer, Patricia Williams, Marianne Pumneo, Bethany Jones, Madison Lambert, Kendal Withers, Hannah Hebdon, Bethany Tugwell, Julia DiBella, Hannah Fisher

Third row: Anthony Spear, Kevin Xu, Jacob Neely, Davis McBee, Frank Lopez, Shane McNiff, Quint Crowder, Steven Gao, Alexander Dai, Harry Jiang, Ethan Revels, Frank Wang, Perry Diamaduros, Kevin Riley

Fourth row: Hank Long, Haddon Barrett, Austin Helms, Carson Bonds, Ben Brandon, Will Farris, Caleb Venn, Nicholas Steward, Lucas Whitesides, Alex Duncan, Ethan Puno, Nathan Ledford, Aaron Radford, Noah Froneberger, Shawn Shi

Number of graduates: **53**

Valedictorian: **Rennie Epps Pearson**

Valedictorian: **James Dillon Yeager**

Salutatorian: **Jacqueline Rudi Purtell**

Recipient of Opal Parks Award: **Sedonia Fae Tringali**

Recipient of M.O. Owens Award: **James Edward Crowder V**

Recipient of the Servant's Heart Award: **Aaron Donovan Radford**

Scholarship offerings for the Class of 2018: **\$2,700,000**

SENIOR CLASS AT WINDY GAP



COLLEGES OFFERING ADMISSION

Agnes Scott College • American University • Anderson University • Appalachian State University • Arizona State University • Armstrong Atlantic State University • Auburn University • Aveda Cosmetology • AZUSA Pacific College • Barton College • Belmont Abbey College • Belmont University of Nashville • Bluefield College • Boyce College at Southern Seminary • Brenau University • Brevard College • Brown University • Bryan College • Caldwell Community College • Campbell University • Cape Fear Community College • Carol Davila University-Romania • Carolinas College of Health Sciences • Catawba Valley College • Cedarville College • Central Piedmont Community College • Charleston Southern University • Clemson University • Cleveland Community College • Coastal Carolina University • Coker College • College at Southeastern • College of Charleston • Columbia International University • Covenant College • David Lipscomb University • Davidson College • DePaul University • Drexel University • Duke University • East Carolina University • East Tennessee State University • Eastern College • Elon University • Embry Riddle Aeronautical University • Emmanuel College • Emory University • Erskine College • Flagler College • Furman University • Gardner-Webb University • Gaston College • Harvard College • High Point University • Hillsong College in Australia • Houghton College • Jacksonville University • James Madison University • Johnson and Wales University • Korean University • Lancaster Bible College • LaSalle University • Lee University • Lenoir-Rhyne University • Liberty University • Lipscomb University • Maine Maritime Academy • Mars Hill College • Marshall University • Massachusetts Institute of Technology • McGill University-Canada • Meredith College • Messiah College • Michigan State University • Midway College • Milligan College • Mississippi College • MIT • Montreat College • New York State University • Newberry College • North Carolina A & T State University • North Carolina State University • North Greenville University • Ohio State University • Ohio Wesleyan • Old Dominion • Oral Roberts University • Palm Beach Atlantic • Peace College • Pennsylvania State University • Pfeiffer University • Philadelphia Biblical University • Polytechnic Institute • Purdue University • Queens University • Regent University • Rensselaer University • Rhodes College • Rollins College • Samford University • Savannah College of Art and Design • Singapore Institute of Management • Southern Wesleyan University • St. Andrews Presbyterian College • The American Hair Design Academy • The Citadel • Toccoa Falls College • Trevecca Nazarene University • UNC-Asheville • University of Auburn at Montgomery • University of California at Santa Barbara • University of Connecticut • UNC-Chapel Hill • UNC-Charlotte • UNC-Greensboro • UNC-Pembroke • UNC-Wilmington • University of Alabama • University of California at Davis • University of California at Irvine • University of California at San Diego • University of Chicago • University of Georgia • University of Illinois • University of Louisville • University of Mississippi • University of Rochester • University of South Carolina • University of South Carolina at Beaufort • University of Tennessee • University of the Cumberlands • University of the South • University of Virginia • University of Washington at Bothell • University of Washington at Seattle • Vanderbilt University • Virginia Military Institute • Virginia Tech • Wake Forest University • Washington and Lee University • Washington State University at Seattle • Western Carolina University • Wheaton College • William Woods University • Wingate University • Winthrop University • Wofford College • Yale University • York Saint Jones University-England • York Technical College • Young Harris College • YWAM's University of the Nations at Monroe



Blessed and Thankful

The Early Childhood Department at Gaston Christian School is blessed with an exceptional teaching staff and support personnel. The combined teaching years of the 3's teachers is twenty-nine years, and the total for Pre-K teachers is forty-two years. The total of experience for Kindergarten teachers is sixty-two years! These totals represent only years of service at Gaston Christian; some of the teachers had experience at other schools before they came to us! Charlotte Adams, the secretary in our office, began attending GCS as a student when she was five, graduated in 2010, began working in the after-school care program



Susan Jennings
Principal

before she graduated, and then became the Early Childhood aide. She is now doing an exceptional job as the secretary, and we are so thankful to have her in this position. Micki Petit is now the aide for us, and she is a great help to us all. How thankful we are for the folks with whom God has blessed us here.

The refinement of security at GCS continues to keep us safe on our campus. This year we added "Nightlock" devices to every classroom and office door which can be utilized in the event of an unspeakable emergency situation to prevent unauthorized entrance into classrooms. We are grateful for



the priority which is given to keeping us all safe.

Only those folks who have been with GCS for years can know how thrilled and thankful we are to have the luxury to go to the Owens Worship and Fine Arts Center for meetings and programs. It is a beautiful facility and we have waited a L-O-N-G time for this addition to our campus. Dr. Stout and many others worked hard to help bring this dream to reality, and we thank them for all their efforts.

Thanks be to God for providing us this beautiful campus—we will continue to use it to educate minds and touch hearts for His glory.

Early Childhood Secretary
Charlotte Adams

Early Childhood Staff
Amanda Chapman
Angel Freeman
Beverly Gale
Jackie Hardin
Teresa Hoyle
Geny Melton
Alicia Mullis
Kim Patterson
Maureen Patton
Vicki Peach
Micki Petit
Annette Simmons
Emily Trakas
Teresa Winter

School Nurses
Sharon Spear
Abby Leonard
Sara Tugwell



Reflecting on 1 John 4:11

Elementary Secretary
Teri Stacy

Elementary Staff

Kathy Byarlay
Karen Chew
Melinda Cleveland
Tammy Gordon
Lisa Grubbs
Johnathan Gunter
Amy Hawxwell
Rebecca Hinson
Susie Howard
Teresa Hoyle
Benita Huffstetler
Joan Jones
Lindsey Kelly
Donna Lyman
Geny Melton
Lyndsey Miller
Sarah Parker
Jayda Renfroe
Trina Robinson
Paul Struwe
Avlon Taylor
Pam Thornburg
Jennifer Whitlow

Academic Dean
Shirley Huelsman

School Nurses
Sharon Spear
Abby Leonard
Sara Tugwell

God was very gracious to us during the 2018-2019 school year! We spent time reflecting on 1 John 4:11 in chapel and as a school program. The staff also did a study through the book of Exodus on Tuesday afternoons focusing on the role of Moses in redemptive history. Our desire is to continue to see ourselves, our students, and our families in light of God’s Word.

Academics

Langston Kettelhut, Dare Blake, Analise Allen, Dillon Joy, Nathaly Angulo, Carter Hoersch, and Mackenize McKoy all represented the Elementary program in the 2019 GCS Spelling Bee on February 6. Congratulations to all!

Enrichment

High School student Kristina Vaher led an Elementary book club for our 1st-2nd graders. We are always excited to have our high school students connecting with the younger students.

The First Lego League Robotics competed in the FLL State Competition in Greensboro on February 2. The Elementary students involved were Eli Bachman, Olivia Totherow, and Adeleigh Hutechson.

Our GCS Girls on the Run had a strong season. In addition to the Girls on the Run 5K, they also took part in a 5K Color Run on our GCS Campus. The High

School Cross-Country team volunteered to help and we are grateful to Coach Moore and his team for their support.

The Elementary students took part in a Booster Fundraiser from February 26-March 6 and raised \$40,000! The students gathered sponsors who pledged based on the number of laps the students completed in a “glow run” on March 6.

The Elementary program had Field Day on Monday, April 29. I am thankful to Geny Melton for all her prep work in making it a fun day for students and families.



Adam Mehaffey
Principal

Student Service

Our Elementary classes are packing backpacks to go to public school students who are in need of food. The students sort food in our building and it is then distributed to students at Tryon Elementary.

The Elementary students collected 800 items for the Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive for Second Harvest Food Bank sponsored by the Middle School.



Living out their faith

It has been an amazing year in our middle school as we saw I John 4:11 demonstrated often by our students: holding doors for others, leading students in prayer during chapel, helping with dropped books, participating in Bible studies before school, contributing food to a local food pantry, and participating in local and global outreach opportunities. We have truly been blessed to see our students living out their faith among their friends and teachers.

STUDENT SERVANT HIGHLIGHTS



Virginia Conover
Principal

The Junior Beta Club provided leadership for Operation Christmas Child with the collection of shoeboxes in November. At Christmas, students encouraged the residents of Meadow Wood Nursing Home by creating cards and candy gifts. Under the direction of Miss Freeman, Middle School Guidance Counselor, GCS contributed 3,538 pounds of food items through the Souper Bowl of Caring to be used in local communities.

This surpassed our school-wide record set in 2012. Our Student Government Association continued to serve our school community by helping with morning announcements, school cleaning projects, the Christmas Door contest, and paper recycling. They also led students in contributing \$268.00 for Hurricane Florence victims in North Carolina. Middle school students also sponsored a bake sale, raising \$300.55, as a contribution to Max's Kitchen, in honor of Mrs. Jones' son, Max.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS DAY

On September 28, 2018, middle school students gathered in the gym for an afternoon of praise and worship. Our speaker was Rev. Kevin Loveland who challenged students to remember how deeply they are loved by God.

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP): Thirty-eight seventh grade students qualified for TIP recognition in the fall of 2018. Two students qualified for State Recognition.

National Geographic Bee: After many rounds of competition Delaney Kaylor was selected as the winner of the middle school Geography Bee. Over forty middle school students participated in the competition.

Science Fair: All middle school students participated in the Science Fair this year by submitting class projects. Projects from each grade level were then chosen to compete in the final round held in the gym on March 20, 2019. Ribbons and medals were awarded to the following students: Sixth Grade – Bode Jones 1st Place, Catherine Key and Katelin Vaheer 2nd Place, Adelai Hardin 3rd Place; Seventh Grade – Gordon Dubisky 1st Place, Katie Walker 2nd Place, Carson Hill and Riley Rouse 3rd Place; Eighth Grade – Olivia Reed 1st Place, Maddy McKinley 2nd Place, Samantha Hosmer and Evan Reid 3rd Place.

The Junior Beta Club inducted forty-five seventh and eighth grade students qualifying for this honor during chapel on Thursday, March 14, 2019.

GCS Spelling Bee: Luke Kelly was the GCS school-wide Spelling Bee champion this year. He represented GCS well in the Gaston County Spelling Bee and placed third in the competition.

The Einstein Project: Our annual Einstein Contest provided another opportunity for eighth grade students to test their knowledge of all middle school science content. Using a "Jeopardy" format, Cole Dickerson, Connor Joyce, Savion Taylor, and Nick Welfare competed in the Worship Center before the middle school student body. Connor Joyce earned the Einstein Award, a lab coat signed by eighth grade students.

Drama Classes Offered: With the opening of the new Worship Center, middle school students were able to select a Drama elective offered during 8th period. Under the direction of Mrs. Medlin, forty-three students were able to participate in these new courses. Several middle school drama students also participated in the spring drama production.



Love and serve those around us

Throughout the year staff and students have focused on I John 4:11 as the 2018-2019 theme verse, a verse that challenged us to consider how we can better love and serve those around us; we were daily reminded of His love, faithfulness and goodness to us.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Spiritual growth and worship are a vital part of the school's purpose as we encourage our students to live to the glory of God and to "let the word of Christ richly dwell within you"; weekly chapel services focused on this verse from Colossians 3. The annual Windy Gap Retreat in September and the Spiritual Emphasis Day in March were spiritual highlights of the year. In addition, the SGA sponsored a "Night of Worship: The Journey" in April. GCHS participated in two mission trips to Honduras: a backpacking trip and spring break trip in March; both trips were led by faculty member Mark Moore. Students, parents, and staff donated over \$3400.00 to provide food and equipment for the Faith, Hope, and Love Orphanage in Honduras. Three students participated in the Summit Ministries Summer Conference in Manitou Springs, CO in July.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

New curricular adoptions were implemented for Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and Honors Physics. The high school offered 7 in-house Advanced Placement classes this year with additional students enrolled in 5 online AP courses; there were more than 20 honors courses across the disciplines. In addition, a partnership with SevenStar Academy and participation in the N.C. Career and College Promise Program allowed Gaston Christian to offer courses beyond the traditional classroom; 36 students were enrolled in these online programs. GCHS also participated in the concurrent enrollment program at the College of Southeastern, allowing students to earn both high school and college credits. A rising senior has been selected to attend Governor's School in the area of English. The School Counselor organized Information Nights for each grade level and also a Christian College Fair. In the spring the Class of 2021 visited 4 college campuses (Erskine College, North Greenville, NC State, and North Carolina at Chapel Hill) on the Sophomore College Tour.

TECHNOLOGY FOCUS

Integration of technology into classroom instruction continued to enhance learning; e-texts were in these courses: Government/Economics, World History, US History, AP US History, Psychology, AP Biology, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Hon. Physics, Environmental Science, Spanish I, Spanish II, and Honors Spanish III.

FINE ARTS FOCUS

With the completion of the Owens Center in the fall, high school fine arts classes moved into the new facility with much excitement. Honors Ensemble, Band, and Theatre Arts classes performed at Fine Arts Evenings in December and May; the Visual Arts classes also showcased their work at these programs. The Gaston Christian Players produced *Still Life with Iris* in March. What a difference the Center is already making in program offerings.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The high school students and staff were busy this year serving within the community; opportunities included participation in the Crisis Pregnancy Center's Walk for Life and Baby Bundles project, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project, a winter clothing drive, a food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank, and participation in the campus fundraising activities for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

The Mock Trial teams participated at regional competitions in Hendersonville and Salisbury, with the White team advancing to the state competition in Raleigh in March.

QUIZ BOWL

The Gaston Christian Quiz Bowl team placed 3rd in the Gaston County Quiz Bowl.



Nancy McDaniel
Principal



Hello from China, Vietnam & Germany

Gaston Christian School was host to 19 International students from China, Vietnam, and Germany in 2018-19. We had three 9th graders, four 10th graders, six 11th graders, and six seniors.

The heart of our program is our host families. They are vital to the mission of this ministry. The students can read about Jesus in the Bible or hear stories about Him in Bible class, but it is the host family who shows the love of Christ to our students in a very tangible way. We are blessed with 18 host families; the only double placement of students is for our set of siblings, Suwen (Frank) and Qin (Kasey.) Our host family program includes families with small children, families with teenagers, empty nesters, and grandparents. The host family not only provides for the physical needs of our students, but the social and emotional support as well. They are called to be on mission for Christ as they serve in their very own homes. They plant seeds of faith that, hopefully, one day will take root in the hearts of our students.



Karen Brooks
Coordinator for
International Students
and Online Education

We participated in many activities this year. Our fall break trip this year took us to Myrtle Beach, SC. It was a great time for the students to see the ocean and swim. From the pirate show to Hard Rock Café, they had a good time enjoying the food and the entertainment. Over spring break, Mr. Grahl (Chemistry teacher) and his wife served as chaperones for 13 of our International students on a trip to San Francisco. What an exciting time for so many of these students! In the Muir Woods, they saw trees as tall as buildings; they visited the infamous Alcatraz federal prison; they rode bicycles across the San Francisco Bridge

and toured the Bay area; they visited the Golden Gate Park; rode trolley cars, and, probably their favorite part—they visited Chinatown and ate food that reminded them of home. A well-rounded education includes experiences, not just books. These students come for an education but it is important that they also have cultural experiences so that when it is time to apply for colleges, they have something to write about. Most of their summers are spent in a classroom in China, continuing to study English and prepare for SAT and the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) for college. They often do not get to experience a vacation with family or have a time of rest.

2018-19 brought a significant opportunity for the international students to tour 2 top 100 colleges/universities in the U.S. We toured the University of South Carolina over fall break and Stanford University over spring break, while experiencing a little Americana in the beautiful city of San Francisco. In March, Allen—one of our international students went with Mr. Moore, our mission's coordinator and Director of Louder Than Words Ministries, on a backpacking trip to Honduras. Also over spring break, 3 students (Alex, Allen, and Eric) went to Honduras with the GCS mission team to minister to the Lenca people group.

We are also proud of Hetong (Alex) Ma (11th grade) who was selected to attend a summer session open to high school students at Yale University. Alex will join other students from around the world as they participate in the Biological & Biomedical Science session of the Yale Young Global Scholars Program.

Lastly, out of the International Student Program has come the International Club here at GCS. American and International students work together to help our students become aware of other cultures and participate in mission opportunities around the world. Our primary mission focus is to sponsor and serve Samaritan's Purse. We also sponsor a mission project for the Honduras mission trip. This past year, our theme was "Let's Comb Together for Missions!" We collected combs, brushes, hats, and hair accessories for Lenca children in Honduras.



2018-19 in Academic Review

May the Lord be praised for blessing Gaston Christian with several notable advancements this school year:

Seven new faculty members attended the New Teacher Orientation Day on Friday, August 10, 2018. New faculty spent the day in activities that clarified the GCS mission and teaching-learning objectives. Monthly seminars throughout the year explored a range of critical education topics.

The CESA Institutional Review visit to GCS was confirmed for October 27, 28, and 29, 2019. This process with CESA offers dual Accreditation with AdvancED, now called Cognia.

Because CESA requires students to complete surveys of their courses and teachers in high school, GCS administered its first Student Course Survey in October 2018. Obtained from Dr. Barry Shealy, Curriculum & Faculty Development Director of First Presbyterian Day School in Macon, Georgia, this survey was developed over a period of more than 15 years by several Christian schools and taps into academics, methodology, and biblical integration.

GCS administered its first **Best Christian Workplaces Institute Survey** for Faculty, in October 2018, in partial fulfillment of CESA requirements. This survey is the most widely used Christian survey that provides a wealth of feedback for building a flourishing work environment. BCWI staff assisted us in every step of the process; the debriefing of the interpretation of survey results by online video-conference was phenomenal. Survey results earned GCS certification as a **Best Christian Workplace!**

The Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems 3rd Edition, a data-based running records system that supports teacher formative assessment of student reading progress, was purchased for the Elementary School. Having trained Grade 1 teachers this year, Learning Support Specialist Gina Stiwalt will continue to expand the program yearly until all grade-level teachers are trained to use the system.

Middle School adopted new grammar and Algebra I textbooks while the High School purchased new physical science, geometry, Algebra I, health, and AP Government textbooks. The Dean prepared academic profiles reflecting a three-year history for all eighth-grade students who will enter the high school program in fall 2019 for the purpose of supporting students in their course-selection process. The Professional Development Library for faculty gained 7 new resources.

Professional development activities for 2018-2019 highlights:

August 6-7: 2018 Teaching & Learning Conference sponsored by the Gaston County Public Schools – 22 GCS teachers attended research-based professional development sessions for a total of 168.75 hours of credits.

Opening In-Service Day, August 13: Dr. Stout announced the new accreditation direction with CESA (Council on Educational Standards & Accountability) that carries dual accreditation AdvancED; the Dean briefed the faculty on details. Officer Robinson provided security updates.

January 2 In-Service Day: Given the completion of the Owens Center, Dr. Stout briefed the faculty on “Looking Forward,” giving details of how GCS would concentrate on advancement and innovation in educational offerings, spiritual growth opportunities, professional development, leadership training, and investment in advanced degrees.

March 8 In-Service Day: “Continuous Improvement” – Dr. Stout updated faculty on enrollment, Boosterthon fund-raising results and next school year initiatives. He announced plans for departmental/grade-level faculty luncheons to discuss the BCWI Faculty Survey results.



Dr. Shirley Huelsman
Academic Dean

2018-19 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

115 Main Gifts & Provisions
 Albemarle Foundation
 Brian Hamilton Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. James Armstrong
 Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bachman
 Bank of America Matching Gifts Program
 Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Beasley
 Mrs. Kelly Black
 Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Britton
 Mr. and Mrs. Don Brown
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Burgess
 Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Campbell
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Clay
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Conder
 Mrs. Virginia Conover
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cox
 Mr. and Mrs. James Crawford
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim Daniels
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Davis
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Denton

Duke Energy Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan Dunkin
 G & L Building Services, Inc.
 Mr. Andrew Horsley
 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Hovis
 Dr. and Mrs. Doug Huitt
 Mrs. Sheyla Intriago
 Mr. and Mrs. David Jennings
 Mr. and Mrs. Zac Kennedy
 Mr. and Mrs. Danny Lawrence
 Mr. and Mrs. Woods Martin
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mason
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill McKinley
 Mr. and Mrs. Clint Myers
 Mr. and Mrs. Ken Parks
 Mr. and Mrs. Rich Pasqualone
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pearson
 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Peoples
 Mr. and Mrs. John Peoples
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Ramsey

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Reinhardt
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reynolds
 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Roach
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Roberts
 Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Rollins
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernat Rosner
 Rev. and Mrs. Rick Slate
 Mr. and Mrs. David Smith, III
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Spear
 Mr. and Mrs. Craig Thornburg
 TSI Filtration Technologies
 Dr. and Dr. Harald Vaher
 Wachovia-Wells Fargo Matching Gift
 Mr. and Mrs. Trent Walker
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Walters
 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Watson
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Welfare
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Zickler

2019 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RUN DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Beasley
 Community Foundation Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Grah
 Mr. and Mrs. William Kelly

Mr. and Mrs. J. Reid McGraw
 Mr. and Mrs. Plato Pearson
 Dr. and Dr. Harald Vaher



2018-19 BASEBALL DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Zac Kennedy



2018-19 SOCCER DONORS

Mr. Daniel Rooney and Dr. Allison Evanoff
 TSI Filtration Technologies



2018-19 SOFTBALL DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. John Crenshaw
 Duke Energy Foundation
 Mr. Brian Weaver



2018-19 TRACK AND FIELD DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Van Pelt

2018-19 NIGHT LOCK DONORS

2018 Magazine Sale
 Wachovia-Wells Fargo Matching Gift Program

2018-19 FINE ARTS BUILDING DONORS



Albemarle Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Alexander

Ms. Roberta Altman

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Anderson

Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bachman

Mr. and Mrs. James Beebe

Ms. Elaine Benjamin

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blake Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Boykin

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Brown

Calibre

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Campbell

Carothers Family Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Bo Chriscoe

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Clemmer

Dr. Stephen Cochran, Jr.

Ms. Ginger Coffey

Community Foundation

Mr. Kenneth Connell

Mrs. Virginia Conover

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Daniels

Dr. and Dr. Kevin DiBella

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Dunkin

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ellis

Mrs. Mary Frances Forrester

Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Foxx

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald France

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Franklin

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Friday

Gaston Christian Middle School SGA

Gastonia Sheet Metal Works Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Grahl

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Gunter

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Guy, III

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hager

Mrs. Tish Hamilton

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Hancock

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hanson

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Henry

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hoersch

Ms. Yvonne Hopkins

Mr. and Dr. Glenn Huelsman

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Joyce

Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Keistler

Mr. and Mrs. William Kelly

Mr. and Mrs. Robert King

Drs. Laurence and Inga Kish

Ms. Courtney Lancaster

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Lanier

Dr. and Mrs. David Layne

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Lineberger

Mr. and Mrs. John Long

Mr. and Mrs. Sam McDaniel

Mr. and Mrs. John McGill

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGinnis

Mr. and Mrs. Edward McGranahan

Mr. and Mrs. John Morisey

Mr. Robert Nash

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nicholson

Dr. and Dr. Travis Nixon

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Parks

Mr. and Mrs. Plato Pearson

Mrs. Norma B Price

Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Pursley

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Roberts

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Russ

Mrs. Bethsy San Millan

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Scarborough

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Schmitke

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Setzer

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smith

Mrs. Miriam A. Stiling

Dr. and Mrs. Marc Stout

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Stricklin

The Howe Foundation Inc

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Thornburg

Mr. and Mrs. William Thrower, Jr.

TIAA-CREF

Mrs. Terry Van Zant

Mr. and Mrs. Danny Walker

Mrs. Judy Walker

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Walters

Wells Fargo Community Support Programs

Mrs. Judy White

Mr. Bradley Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Wilson

Mrs. Debbie R. Windley

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Winter

Ms. Fran Woody

MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL AND ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal

Virginia Conover

Dean of Students

Jonathan Huitt

Secretary

Karen Parker

Faculty

Melissa Brandon

Tina Cook

Julie Denham

Rebekah Engle

Patty Grahl

Johnathan Gunter

Joan Jones

Stephanie Lynn

Maralie Medlin

Jason Moore

Joel Peckman

Karla Pursley

Pattiann Rabb

Trina Robinson

Terry VanZant

Elizabeth Williams

Teresa Williams

Athletic Director

Paul Struwe

Athletic Dept. Assistant

Leigh Van Pelt

Counselor

Katie Freeman

After School Care

Kay Currence

Academic Dean

Dr. Shirley Huelsman

Learning Specialist

Gina Stiwalt

Nurses

Sharon Spear

Abby Leonard

Sara Tugwell

HIGH SCHOOL

Principal

Nancy McDaniel

Dean of Students

Kevin Hartley

Secretary

Barbara Smith

Faculty

Becky Abromaitis

Melissa Brandon

Ken Connell

Eric Engle

Joshua Grahl

Johnathan Gunter

Ashley Hartley

Brenda Hensley

Justin Huitt

Karen Lands

Adam Lynn

Mark Moore

Jill Overton

David Parker

Christa Pratt

Karla Pursley

Ingrid Purtell

Susan Ramsey

Bethsy San Millan

Les Schofield

Mark Tankersley

Christy Watson

Cathy Whitley

Academic Dean

Dr. Shirley Huelsman

Athletic Director

Tom Hawxwell

Athletic Dept. Assistant

Leigh Van Pelt

Chaplain

Tim Barrett

Counselor

Chelsea Turpin

Nurses

Sharon Spear

Abby Leonard

Sara Tugwell

ADMINISTRATION

Head of School

Dr. Marc Stout

Administrative Assistant

Ronda Freeman

Admissions Director

Rachel Johnston

International Student

Coordinator

Karen Brooks

IT Director

David Jordan

Academic Dean

Dr. Shirley Huelsman

Media Specialist

Debra Barton

Business Office

Kristen Lowe

Nancy Roach

Karin Slate

Director of Fine Arts

Maralie Medlin

Operations Director

Steve Matolka

Maintenance

John Faulkner

Benjy Hunsucker

Desiree Adams

Communications Director

Randy Erwin

Safety & Security Director

Officer Mike Robinson

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT



Still Life of Iris cast and crew



High & Middle School Fine Arts Night



'Crowned' first Gaston Christian Dance recital



Band at High & Middle School Fine Arts Night



Chorus and Band students at High & Middle School Fine Arts Night



First Summer Arts Camp



Artwork display for Fine Arts Night



Boosterthon Fundraiser added a New Bus

GCS Booster Club update

The Booster Club is committed to the continued development of the athletic program and its facilities. This is achieved through fundraising, marketing, and promotions. During this past year the Booster Club has raised over \$100,000.00 through gate receipts, concessions, corporate advertising, spirit apparel sales, private donations and special events like the fall festival, golf tournament and Boosterthon. Funds raised through the Booster Club go directly to support GCS athletics. Some specific areas the Booster Club was involved in this year included the purchase of a new activity bus, field drag, and as a thank you to all the students for their part in the Boosterthon fundraiser last year, we added to the playground with the addition of a Ga-Ga Pit.



While there are many awards given to GCS athletes at the close of each season, the following conference and state recognitions were given to GCS athletes or teams:

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

MAC Conference Champions
 NCISAA State Runner-up
 All Conference - Frank Lopez, Davis McBee, Jacob Neely, Lucas Whitesides, Justin Farris, Nathan Hoover, Brendan Rooney, Colten Brewer
 All State - Colten Brewer, Frank Lopez, Jacob Neely and Davis McBee

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

All Conference - Sedonia Tringali and Bethany Tugwell

CROSS COUNTRY

Girls finished 3rd in the MAC Conference
 Boys finished 2nd in the MAC Conference

All Conference - Noah Oliver, Connor Nanney, Ryan Thornburg, Katie Walker

VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

MAC Conference Tournament Champions
 All Conference - Giulia Chitu, Meredith McCraw, Lily Grace McCullough

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

All Conference - Hannah Bonisa

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

MAC Conference Tournament Champions
 All Conference - Favour Spear,
 All State - Favour Spear

VARSITY BASEBALL

MAC Conference finished 2nd
 6th seed in the State Tournament
 All Conference - Ethan Revels, Nate Ledford, Kevin Riley and Grayson Guy
 All State - Nate Ledford

VARSITY BOYS GOLF

10th place in All State
 All Conference - Jacob Hinson, Ethan Thrower

VARSITY BOYS TENNIS

MAC Conference finished 2nd place
 Selected to participate in State Tourney
 All Conference - Chase Chriscoe, Will Farris, Walker Shields, Justin Farris

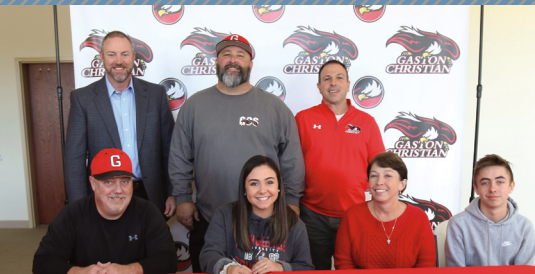
VARSITY SOFTBALL

MAC Conference Tournament Champions
 Finished 2nd seed in the State Tourney
 All Conference - Emma Ghorley, Mia Holmes, Anna Crenshaw, Kendal Withers and Kylie Hill
 All-State - Emma Ghorley, Mia Holmes and Anna Crenshaw

VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

Finished 4th in MAC Conference
 All Conference - Maylin Crisp

2018-19 ATHLETIC SEASON RECORDS



Anna Crenshaw - North Greenville University - Softball



Davis McBee - Belmont Abbey College - Soccer



Nate Ledford - Anderson University - Baseball



Nick Steward - Catawba Valley College - Basketball



Hannah Bonisa - Auburn @ Montgomery - Basketball



Favour Spear - Liberty University - Soccer

VARSITY SPORTS

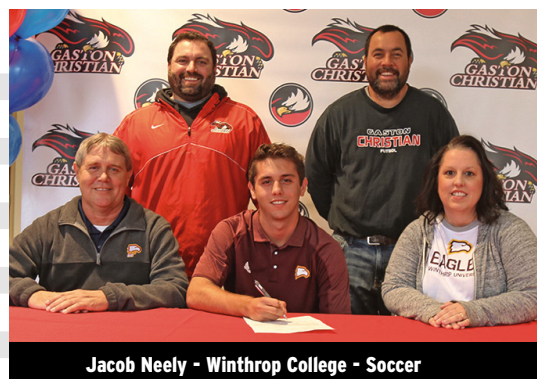
TEAM	RECORD	COACH
Baseball	11-9	Tim Brown, John Mullis, Matthew Morgan
Basketball - Girls	10-9	Kevin Harrington
Basketball - Boys	12-11	Josh Gross, Kevin Harrington, Andrew Lanier
Cheerleading	N/A	Hannah Broome
Cross Country	Girls 3rd, Boys 2nd in MAC	Jason Moore, Leigh Van Pelt
Golf - Boys	6-5	Derec Smyre, Tim Barrett
Soccer - Boys	21-2	Justin Huitt, Johnny Hoover
Soccer - Girls	11-3	Johnny Hoover
Softball	13-4	Danny Craig, Johnny Crenshaw, Chad Ghorley
Swim Team - Girls	Finished 5th in MAC	Sarah Smith
Swim Team - Boys	Finished 5th in MAC	Sarah Smith
Tennis - Girls	11-1	Dhiren Rathad, Tony McCraw
Tennis - Boys	2-4	Dhiren Rathad, Tony McCraw
Track / Field	4th in MAC	Jason Moore, Shameka Gordon, William Anthony
Volleyball	12-10	Olivia Loeffler, Bria Main

JUNIOR VARSITY SPORTS

TEAM	RECORD	COACH
Boy's Basketball	2-13	Vaki Karampourniotis
Volleyball	4-11	Bria Main

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

TEAM	RECORD	COACH
Volleyball	1-11	Rebecca Hinson
Soccer - Boys	11-3	Jonathan Huitt
Tennis - Girls	2-3	Paul Struwe
Cheerleading	N/A	Lisa Grubbs
Basketball - Girls	0-9	Shameka Gordon
Basketball - Boys	11-7	Andre Howell
Softball	12-0	Brian Weaver
Baseball	9-2	Allen Stewart
Soccer - Girls	5-4-2	Jonathan Huitt
Tennis - Boys	1-4-1	Eric Engle



Jacob Neely - Winthrop College - Soccer



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Gaston Christian School is to help students mature spiritually and excel academically by offering a Biblically integrated, college-preparatory program that will enable them to impact the kingdom of God by living productive Christian lives.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Soaring to Excellence in Christ

GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

1625 LOWELL BETHESDA ROAD, GASTONIA, NC 28056 | WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG

EARLY CHILDHOOD
(PS3-Kindergarten)

Phone: (704) 824-9893
FAX: (704) 824-9895

ELEMENTARY
(1st-5th Grade)

Phone: (704) 824-9011
FAX: (704) 824-9013

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
(6th -12th Grade)

Phone: (704) 349-5020 (HS)
Phone: (704) 349-5030 (MS)
FAX: (704) 349-5027