

## Parent Information Packet



**GASTON**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



*What* are your  
**BIGGEST**  
**PRIORITIES**  
as you consider school  
options in our area?

***Alignment with your family's  
values? Safety? Early drop-off  
or after-school care?***

I believe our core values have something to offer you won't find elsewhere, and I'm delighted you're considering Gaston Christian School.

Our mission statement is to Prepare People, Teach Truth, and Glorify God. This inspires everything we do in and around the classroom. Our approach enables us to educate the whole child — body, mind, and spirit — as we develop their academic foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Today we will tell you about our school — a connected, intimate, thriving community — with two convenient locations. At GCS, families do not have to choose between a strong academic program or an education that reinforces the Christian values you model in your home. By helping children develop an understanding of God's Word and how it guides their lives, we are able to nurture them as they grow spiritually and intellectually.

Friendships, faculty mentoring, a rigorous curriculum, and spiritual formation all foster the most important things you could give your child: a strong start in life, an excellent education, and a desire to lead and serve others. We hope to meet you and your child one day soon. After reading this overview of Gaston Christian School, [schedule a tour](#) of our campus at Gastonia (Preschool-12th grade) or East Cleveland (Pre-K - 7th grade) so you can see what we're about firsthand.

Sincerely,

*Julie Ryan*

Admissions Director

[admissions@gastonchristian.org](mailto:admissions@gastonchristian.org)





# Preschool and Pre-K *(Ages 3-4 years)*

*A loving, safe environment where creativity and playful learning meet*

Our primary goal at this age is to help children experience the fun and joy that leads to an early excitement about learning.

## At GCS, your child will:

- Have a solid grasp of early academic concepts, such as letters, numbers, shapes, days of the week, and more
- Grow in character through Bible instruction and opportunities to model kindness
- Develop friendships and be a part of a positive community
- Feel seen, heard, and recognized through our small class sizes

## As a parent, you can expect:

- Strong emphasis on safety, keeping your child secure inside the classroom and on campus grounds
- Open communication with our staff and a safe space to share your concerns
- Dedicated teachers who will enrich your child's learning through early concepts, arts, music, Bible lessons, and more

## Preschool and Pre-K Program

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|---|--|
| ■ <b>GASTONIA CAMPUS</b><br>Five Day Half Day:<br>8 a.m. - 11:35 a.m. (3s) and<br>8:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m. (4s) | ■ <b>EAST CLEVELAND CAMPUS</b><br>Five Day Half Day:<br>8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.<br><br>Five Full-Day Program<br>8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. |
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## Before and After Care Program

Before care and after care is available at both Gastonia and East Cleveland campuses. Before care begins at 7:15 a.m. and after care is available until 6 p.m. If you would like more information, please contact our admissions team at **(704) 824-4128** or [admissions@gastonchristian.org](mailto:admissions@gastonchristian.org).



**GASTONIA & EAST  
CLEVELAND CAMPUSES**

# Kindergarten

## *Exploring their natural curiosity*

Each child learns at their own pace, and knowing when your child is ready to start kindergarten can be a challenging decision. How will they perform academically? Will they thrive socially? And what type of learning environment will best meet their needs?

We designed our program to give students the space they need to explore and create. The full-day and half-day options keep kindergartners challenged while setting the right pace, whether they have gone to pre-K or are entering school for the first time.

## *Our kindergartners flourish through:*

### **Care and support.**

Our teachers give the right amount of attention to students and ensure each child feels seen and their concerns heard in our small class sizes.

### **Active learning approach.**

We provide a hands-on approach, giving students the chance to use all their senses to discover, learn, and create. Our curriculum focuses on intensive phonics for reading mastery, writing, math, and a variety of enrichments through music, art, library, STEAM, and computer. Students also explore social studies, science, and critical thinking with the Think & Learn curriculum.

### **Stimulating environment.**

Students develop fine and gross motor skills through our gym and playground spaces. In our learning centers for music, computer, and arts, young ones explore their hobbies and passions.

### **Biblical worldview.**

Children learn about the Bible and Christian values during chapel and in class. They are inspired to live out their faith through their words and actions by teachers who model positive character traits, like kindness and humility.

***Discover how your child can thrive in our kindergarten classroom.***

Schedule a time to tour our Gastonia or East Cleveland campus by emailing our admissions team at [admissions@gastonchristian.org](mailto:admissions@gastonchristian.org).



# Elementary *(Grades 1-5)*

## Building a strong foundation for lifelong learners

Elementary students are engaged in hands-on exploration in a socially and emotionally supportive space. It's a time when deep and lasting friendships are formed, and students are challenged in an atmosphere that is collaborative and nurturing. Our small class sizes allow for differentiated instruction, which honors children as individuals who learn and develop at their own pace.



### Academic Development:

Students will find a fun and challenging curriculum that includes Bible, language arts, math, science, social studies, and handwriting. Lessons are taught in ways that encourage mastery, all while keeping children engaged.



### Biblical Worldview:

Using a Christ-centric approach to learning, children pursue academic excellence through a strong curriculum while also growing their faith. Our teachers model our core values of honoring God and showing compassion to others. Through attending chapel and Bible lessons, elementary students have a deeper understanding of what it is like to be a disciple of Christ.



### Enriched Learning:

Our students explore unique interests in special weekly classes in art, music, STEAM, library, and physical education. These enrichments provide an avenue for children to hone their creativity and to build their character through teamwork.



*"The quality Christian education that our children have received has been one of the greatest blessings of our lives. I believe it will make stronger families, stronger churches, and a stronger community by having this school in Cleveland County!"*

*~ S. Allen, GCS Elementary Parent*





# Middle School *(Grades 6-8\*)*



## ***Cultivating emerging gifts and academic interests***

Middle school is when our students really start to come into their own. They're busy discovering new passions and talents while also starting to better understand who they are and what they stand for. We prepare them for what's ahead by challenging them with a more rigorous curriculum and encouraging them to be more involved in our learning community.

## **At Gaston Christian School, we introduce middle schoolers to what's possible and instill in them the confidence and character they need to achieve it. Your child will:**

- Master core subjects and explore courses that interest them personally and professionally, including three years of personal finance for all students
- Benefit from an engaging, age-appropriate curriculum, with a cellphone-free policy and educators who love teaching middle school
- Take part in our House System, exclusive to middle school, allowing students to serve as mentors to lower grade levels and emphasizing collaboration through service projects
- Build healthy relationships with peers through involvement in clubs, student organizations, and team sports
- Develop skills in fine arts, with options in band, chorus, theatre, praise team, and woodworking
- Strengthen important life skills needed for success in high school, college, and careers, including self-discipline, initiative, empathy, and discipleship

*\*East Cleveland campus offers 6th-7th grade with plans to add 8th grade*

*"GCS Middle School has provided my child with a sense of belonging while challenging him and providing him with an immense amount of support. The middle school transition is a difficult one, and the teachers at GCS, especially Mrs. Grahl, have been such blessings. They have shown Jesus to my child in every facet of his educational experience and I will be forever grateful."*

**~ Amanda Bartlett, GCS Parent**



**GASTONIA  
CAMPUS**

# High School *(Grades 9-12)*

## Preparing students to be confident young adults

By the time our students reach high school, they are well on their way to being independent thinkers, organized time managers, and problem-solvers. Our academic program is enriched with stimulating extracurriculars, inspiring experiences, and leadership opportunities. We see high school as a time of bringing together all the threads of student development for academic, physical, and spiritual formation.

### At GCS, high schoolers benefit from:

- Robust college-prep curriculum and college and career counseling, with guidance from freshman to senior year and opportunities to meet with college representatives on campus
- Focus on intentional experiences outside of the classroom, with students learning on location in Honduras, Paris, Boston, Charleston, and Washington, D.C., and more
- Culture where they feel safe, loved, and encouraged to learn what's going on in the world around them as they practice discernment and address ideas head-on
- STEAM projects and lab work that encourage creativity and innovation as well as 10+ AP opportunities, 20+ Honors, and Dual Enrollment college courses

### Opportunities for growth outside the classroom:

- Service days
- Missions trips
- Canned food drives
- Study abroad programs
- Immersive study experiences
- Operation Christmas Child
- 30+ clubs, fine arts, and athletic programs

*Our family is so grateful that GCS provides a strong academic education with a Christ-centered worldview. The students and staff have made adjusting to a new school a truly wonderful experience for each of our children! As we prepare to launch our oldest child into college, we know that GCS has prepared him with a firm spiritual and academic foundation."*

~ Brannon Weisman, GCS Parent



# GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LOCATIONS



## Gastonia Campus

*Preschool-12th Grade*

Our main campus sits on 66 acres and has been serving local Christian families since 1980.

[gastonchristian.org](http://gastonchristian.org)  
[\(704\) 824-4128](tel:7048244128)

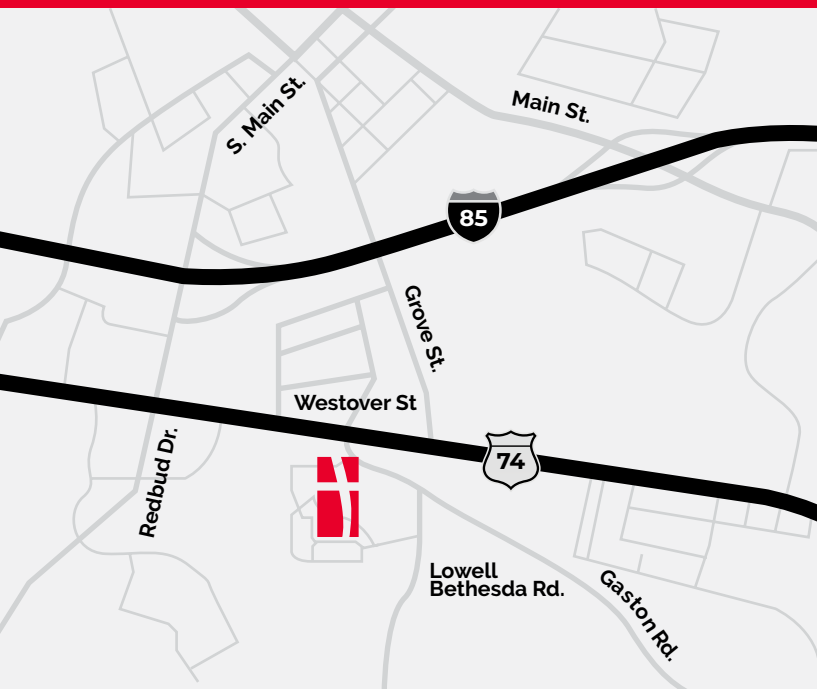


## East Cleveland Campus

*Pre-K - 7th Grade*

Our newly renovated campus is located in the former Kings Mountain historic building known as the Central School.

[gastonchristian.org](http://gastonchristian.org)  
[\(704\) 824-4128](tel:7048244128)







# *We can't wait to meet you.*

*When it comes to choosing a school for your child, nothing compares to experiencing the learning environment firsthand! Our year-round campus tours and open houses hosted in January and February can give you the best sense of what we have to offer and provide you with the opportunity to connect with someone who can answer your specific questions.*

## **What to Expect On Your Tour**

Explore our beautiful Gastonia or East Cleveland campus by planning a visit with our admissions team. On your tour, you'll be able to observe a typical school day for your child, tailored to their specific grade-level experience. You'll have the chance to walk through these areas and more:

- STEAM labs and facilities that promote interactive learning
- Chapel, where your child will attend weekly services and learn God's Word
- Playground, gym, and dining hall areas, where your child will enjoy recreation, physical activities, and socializing with friends



## **Ready to visit?**

Please contact our admissions team at  
**(704) 824-4128** or [admissions@gastonchristian.org](mailto:admissions@gastonchristian.org).



### **Gastonia Campus**

(Preschool - 12th grade)  
1625 Lowell Bethesda Road  
Gastonia, NC 28056

### **East Cleveland Campus**

(Pre-K - 7th Grade)  
105 E. Ridge Street  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

[gastonchristian.org](http://gastonchristian.org) | **(704) 824-4128** |

