

1/24/25

**Dear Gaston Christian staff, faculty, parents, and community,**

I hope all of you and your family members are doing well. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that we, as a board, have formally received and accepted Dr. Stout's plan for his upcoming retirement after the 2025-26 school year. It is with a mix of admiration and bittersweet emotions that we acknowledge Dr. Stout's retirement from Gaston Christian School. His dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to the mission of Christian education have left an indelible mark on our school community. As we reflect on his years of service, we are reminded of the profound impact Dr. Stout has had on countless students, families, and colleagues.

Throughout his 15-year tenure, Dr. Stout has exemplified leadership that is both visionary and compassionate. His ability to inspire those around him to strive for excellence—academically, spiritually, and personally—has been nothing short of remarkable. Under his guidance, Gaston Christian School has not only grown but flourished, becoming a place where Christ-centered values and academic achievement go hand in hand.

Dr. Stout's heart for students has always been evident. Whether in the classroom, at events, or simply walking through the halls, his genuine care and encouragement have uplifted so many. He has sown seeds of faith and knowledge that will continue to bear fruit for generations to come. His legacy is not only in the accomplishments of the school but also in the lives of the students who have been blessed by his influence.

As Dr. Stout steps into this new season of life, we celebrate the many achievements and milestones of his career at Gaston Christian. We also pray that this next chapter will be filled with joy, rest, and new opportunities to serve and grow. Though Dr. Stout will be deeply missed, we are confident that the values and vision he has instilled will continue to guide Gaston Christian School for years to come.

We thank Dr. Stout for his tireless devotion and faithful service. His leadership has been a gift, and his legacy will endure as a testament to his faith and dedication.

We are so thankful that God, in His providence, has provided our next Head of School from within our organization. Over the past several months we have been in conversation with Dr. Stout and Dr. Huitt about their plans and desires for the future.

It is with great excitement that I can affirm that Dr. Jon Huitt will be our next Head of School upon the retirement of Dr. Stout.

Dr. Huitt is a natural leader. His love for the Lord, our students, and their families is evident every day. His focus and attention to making Gaston Christian School the best we can be is a driving force in his ministry here at GCS.



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Over the next year and a half, Dr. Huitt and Dr. Stout will continue to work closely to provide a smooth transition of leadership. Please continue to pray for our board, Dr. Stout and Dr. Huitt as we all seek to honor the Lord in everything we do at Gaston Christian School.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family as you seek to honor Him in your lives.

In His love,

Steven Denton  
Board Chair  
Gaston Christian School