



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2014!

AND GCS
IS PROUD.



Guilford County Schools is proud of each of our more than 5,380 graduates, crossing the stage prepared for success in college or the career of their choice.

GCS is a shining example of public education, offering each of our students – from gifted students to those with special needs – the opportunity to personalize their educational experience.

We're GCS, and proud.

**THE CLASS OF 2014
WILL REPRESENT GCS
AT TOP COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE
COUNTRY, INCLUDING:**



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



Cornell University



GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS – A PROUD STATE AND NATIONAL LEADER:

DISTRICT HONORS:

- 2013 **National District of Character**
- 2013 North Carolina **District of Character**
- 2013 and 2014 **United Way Spirit of North Carolina Award-Winner** for outstanding commitment and support to North Carolina communities through local United Way involvement.
- Since 2010-11, **state championships** in football, basketball, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track, tennis, golf, wrestling, lacrosse and swimming

STANDOUT SCHOOLS:

- In 2013, GCS' graduation rate reached an **all-time high** of 86.2%
- Eight high schools achieved **100% graduation rates**. An additional eight schools, including six traditional schools, had graduation rates over 90%
- **15** high schools on the 2014 Washington Post's America's **Most Challenging High Schools** list. GCS schools also took 4 of the top 10 spots in the state
- Two high schools on the U.S. News and World Report 2014 **Best High Schools** list
- Since 2011, four schools named **National Blue Ribbon Schools** by the U.S. Department of Education
- Three schools named 2014 **National Schools of Character**

- The state's only **Advanced Placement Capstone program** (opening in 2014-15 as part of Western High's new AP Academy)
- GCS schools took first place in the state in the elementary, middle and high school categories of the 2014 **NEED Youth Awards** for energy conservation. One of those schools was also a national finalist.

TOP EDUCATORS:

- 2013 North Carolina **Teacher of the Year**
- 2012 North Carolina **Principal of the Year**
- 757 National Board Certified Teachers – ranking **tenth in the country**
- Three teachers named 2013-14 **Kenan Fellows**

SUPERIOR STUDENTS:

- **22** 2013-14 **National Merit Scholarship** semi-finalists; at least seven winners
- **4** 2013-14 National Achievement Scholarship winners
- 2013 North Carolina High School **Athlete of the Year**
- **36** students selected for 2014 **Governor's School** of North Carolina, the nation's oldest statewide summer residential program for academically gifted students

GET IN TOUCH: TEL (336) 370-8358 | WWW.GCSNC.COM

STRIVING. ACHIEVING. EXCELLING.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS.

GCS is known across North Carolina and across the United States as an example of what's working in public education. We are proud of our staff, our students, our families and our community. From the first day of kindergarten through graduation day, we are focused on our mission: **Guilford County students will graduate as responsible citizens prepared to succeed in higher education, or in the career of their choice.**

GCS
AND PROUD.

GCS STUDENTS ARE...

Attending high school full-time while taking college courses at Bennett College, Greensboro College, Guilford College, North Carolina A&T, UNC Greensboro or three Guilford Technical Community College campuses

Reading more than 222,670,354 minutes in less than a year

Putting four experiments in space as part of the prestigious Student Spaceflight Experiments Program

Winning more than \$126.5 million in scholarships (Class of 2013)

Serving in two of the 14 spots on the National Youth Leadership Council's Youth Advisory Board

Being honored by the American Red Cross for saving a life

Representing GCS on Capitol Hill at a briefing about service learning

Celebrating public school bus drivers with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Winning tens of thousands of dollars for programs promoting safe driving

Testing and providing feedback on Google Glass

...GCS AND PROUD.

PERSONALIZING LEARNING

GCS is a national leader in personalizing programs to meet the needs of our diverse student body:



- 47 magnet and choice schools with 54 programs
Students can study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), aviation, Spanish immersion, health sciences, Montessori and more
- 192 Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in 50 schools
CTE programs include culinary arts, business, nursing, computers and automotive technology, among others
- Two visual and performing-arts high schools
- Nationally recognized programs for students with autism, developmental, physical or intellectual disabilities, and other needs

- **POINT OF PRIDE:** A \$35.2 million federal grant will put tablet computers in the hands of nearly 19,000 middle school students and staff. The PACE project allows students to personalize learning.

ADVANCED ACADEMICS

GCS students are achieving educational excellence. Each is prepared to succeed in a globally competitive world, benefiting from a district that offers challenging and exciting programs and courses:



- Nine early/middle colleges where students can earn up to two years of college credit while attending high school
- More challenging courses for academically gifted students and a separate school for very advanced learners
- 28 different Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered districtwide
- Challenging International Baccalaureate (IB) programs at four GCS high schools
- In 2012-13, 5,280 students from 23 high schools took 10,283 AP exams
- In 2012-13, 1,455 students passed at least one AP or IB exam or earned a B or better in a qualifying college course

- **POINT OF PRIDE:** More than 530 members of the Class of 2013 qualified for Cool To Be Smart, passing a combination of at least five AP or IB exams or five qualifying college courses with a B or above.

CHARACTER AND SERVICE

GCS knows today's young people must be citizens of the world, as well as leaders in their own community. We focus on educating the whole child, linking learning with meaningful action.



- In just four years, high school students have completed more than 638,000 hours of service to the community
- GCS was named a 2013 National District of Character and the 2013 North Carolina District of Character
- All 126 schools focus on a monthly character trait, from courage to perseverance to self-respect
- In 2013, five GCS schools received the Promising Practices Award, showcasing innovative character-education programs
- Three GCS schools were named 2014 National Schools of Character

- **POINT OF PRIDE:** Approximately 1,056 members of the Class of 2014 qualified for Cool to Serve; 618 seniors earned a service-learning diploma for completing more than 250 hours of service during high school and 438 graduates earned an exemplary award for completing at least 100 hours.