



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Highland School of Technology?

Highland School of Technology opened in July of 2000 as the district's first total choice magnet program, and it draws its student body from the other nine high schools in the county. It is a full-day comprehensive high school program with emphasis on three Career and Technical Academies: Business, Legal & Information Sciences, Health Sciences, and Manufacturing/Engineering and Graphics.

2. How is Highland School of Technology Different From Other Choice High Schools?

Highland School of Technology is a full-school magnet school, instead of offering a select program within the school. Students are fully immersed in the comprehensive academic, extra-curricular, and total school education offered at Highland. All students are required to complete a career pathway in their chosen area that culminates in work-based learning opportunities in their senior year.

3. What are the benefits of attending Highland School of Technology?

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 understanding the curriculum's application in a real-world setting. Unique to Highland, the education is built around the idea of not only the best academic education per class, but ensuring students see the connection between subjects and skills. Students graduate from Highland fully prepared for their post-graduation plans. They lead the way through AP and college credit courses. Student's academic performance places them, and the school, at the top of all high schools in North Carolina.

4. Who Can Apply to Highland School of Technology?

Current 8th grade students residing in Gaston County that meet the entrance criteria are eligible to apply for admission.



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5. How are students chosen to attend Highland School of Technology?

A lottery is held to select 145 students based on interest in a career pathway and feeder high school area. A percentage of students are accepted from each of the high school feeder area, according to enrollment, which fairly distributes the Highland experience to all areas of our community.

6. What are the requirements for continued enrollment at Highland School of Technology?

In accordance with the expectations of being enrolled at Highland School of Technology, all students are required to maintain the following criteria for continued enrollment as outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook:

- Maintain residency in Gaston County
- 2.0 GPA
- 94% attendance rate
- Satisfactory progress in academic areas
- Satisfactory behavior
- Receive semi-annual review from staff to determine eligibility for the following semester

7. What is the typical school day like at Highland School of Technology?

What time does school begin and end at Highland School of Technology? The school day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:20 p.m. Students participate in four, 90-minutes classes per semester each day.

8. Can students ride the school bus?

Yes. Highland students are offered bus transportation each day.

9. Can students participate in Sports?

Highland is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Southern

Piedmont Conference. Student-Athletes participate in the full range of athletics including football, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's golf, men's and women's track and field, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, swimming, and cheerleading.

10. Can students participate in band, chorus and other fine arts?

Highland offers a comprehensive fine arts program that includes visual arts, band, chorus, and theater. Students participate in various showcases including art shows, band and choral competitions, and parades. We are proud that our fine arts programs are recognized for their outstanding performances.

11. Can students participate in Clubs and other extracurricular activities?

One of the stronger aspects of Highland is the variety of clubs and organizations available to students. Highlights of our organizations include Future Business Leaders of America, HOSA-Future Health Professionals, Technology Student Association, Beta club, Bible Club, Book Club, Computer Engineering Exploration Club, Drama Club, Earth Club, Gaming Club, Gay-Straight Alliance, International Culture Club, Investment Club, Math Club, Moot Court, Photography Club, Quiz Bowl, SAVE/Interact Club, Student Council, and World Quest.

12. If one of my children attend Highland School of Technology does that mean my other children automatically get in if we apply?

Highland does not have a sibling policy. Each student will need to qualify, submit an application, and be selected by the lottery process.

13. If I apply to Highland School of Technology does that mean I cannot apply for other Choice Schools in Gaston County?

No, you can apply for multiple choice schools.