

Gaston County Schools **College Expo** Sessions

First Concurrent Session – 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Topic 1 – Room 101 – *College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* – Presenter - Mathieu Chapman, Highland School of Technology

This session covers two important tools for the college planning process. College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a free service that provides comprehensive career and college planning resources for elementary, middle and high school students. Find out how CFNC can help you plan, apply, and pay for college. Learn about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that must be completed by seniors who want to be considered for federal and state need-based aid. The session also includes how to complete the FAFSA and what financial aid resources are available to students.

Topic 2 – Room 201 – *First-Generation College Applicants* – Presenter – Jessica Daniels, Bessemer City Early College

Learn best practices for first-generation college-bound students as they progress through high school and transition into the university environment. This session includes how to plan and pay for your college education.

Topic 3 – Room 202 – *Get Ready to Win a College Scholarship!* – Presenter – Grant Sparks, director of counseling and media services

Learn what it takes to win scholarships - especially the BIG ones! This presentation will help students and parents understand how to prepare and be competitive to win scholarships, how to find scholarships, and how to avoid common mistakes in the scholarship process.

Topic 4 – Room 205 – *College 101: What's it all about?* – Presenter – Ami Parker, Ed.D., Highland School of Technology

College 101 covers the important tasks that help students and parents prepare for the college planning process. Topics include researching colleges, the application process, testing requirements, and financing college. Participants are encouraged to ask questions.

Second Concurrent Session – 12:00-1:00 p.m

Topic 1 – Room 101 – *Historically Black Colleges & Universities* – Presenter – Anthony Ervin, North Carolina Central University – assistant director of undergraduate admissions

This session provides information about historically black colleges and universities' history, current status, and future. Everything you ever needed to know and much more.

Topic 2 – Room 201 – *First-Generation College Applicants* – Presenter – Jessica Daniels, Bessemer City Early College

Learn best practices for first-generation college-bound students as they progress through high school and transition into the university environment. This session includes how to plan and pay for your college education.

Topic 3 – Room 202 – How to Market Yourself to Colleges – Presenter – Kevin Plonk, Ph.D.,
Hunter Huss High School

How do you "toot your horn" without blowing it when writing college or scholarship essays? Or perhaps you've been asked to interview, but you're worried you will sound arrogant. Or are you the shy student who sells herself short? The presenter will share expertise in academic coaching and proofreading essays. Tips and strategies from Peggy Klaus' book, *Brag! The Art of Tooting Your Own Horn Without Blowing It* will be used to help students learn how to market themselves to colleges and to scholarship panels.

Topic 4 – Room 205 – NCAA Athletic Eligibility Rules - Presenters - Larry Carpenter and Panel,
Ashbrook High School – **12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

Come and hear discussion about the NCAA eligibility requirements for each school division - Division I, II, and III. Mr. Carpenter will discuss how to determine your core GPA and the scores needed on the SAT to be eligible, as well as the application process for the Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. Former NCAA college athletes will provide information about NCAA expectations once you are on campus. There will be a question and answer period.

Third Concurrent Session – 1:30-2:30 p.m

Topic 1 – Room 101 – College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – Presenter - Mathieu Chapman, Highland School of Technology

This session covers two important tools for the college planning process. College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a free service that provides comprehensive career and college planning resources for elementary, middle and high school students. Find out how CFNC can help you plan, apply, and pay for college. Learn about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that must be completed by seniors who want to be considered for federal and state need-based aid. The session also includes how to complete the FAFSA and what financial aid resources are available to students.

Topic 2 – Room 202 – Get Ready to Win a College Scholarship! – Presenter – Grant Sparks,
director of counseling and media services

Learn what it takes to win scholarships - especially the BIG ones! This presentation will help students and parents understand how to prepare and be competitive to win scholarships, how to find scholarships, and how to avoid common mistakes in the scholarship process.

Topic 3 – Room 205 – College 101: What's it all about? – Presenter – Ami Parker, Ed.D.,
Highland School of Technology

College 101 covers the important tasks that help students and parents prepare for the college planning process. Topics include researching colleges, the application process, testing requirements, and financing college. Participants are encouraged to ask questions.

Prizes and Drawings

College Expo will be educational, fun and exciting. Students and parents will have an opportunity to engage in seminars, meet with college representatives from the southeastern states, mingle with special guests, and you'll have a chance to win great door prizes.

Prizes include: Dinner gift cards to local restaurants, prom/tuxedo gift certificates, tanning and gym memberships, discounts to local businesses, and much more! Drawings held throughout the day and you must be present to win.