

GCS *Monday* Morning

February 20-25

Weekly update for *Gaston County Schools* employees and parents

From the Superintendent

- **First annual College Expo successful** – I am extremely excited and proud to report that the first annual CGS College Expo held on Saturday at the new conference center in Gastonia was a huge success with close to 500 parents and students attending the event. The sessions and college exhibits were packed, and according to the positive comments from parents and students, they received a wealth of information and tips to help in planning for college. A special thank you to the staff members who spent countless hours working to make the event so successful. We realize it takes many behind-the-scenes hours for an event to run smoothly and be so professional, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped with the event. I also want to extend a warm GCS thank you to the local businesses and groups who sponsored the event and provided donations.
- **Congratulations, Math Elite and Math Masters team winners** – Our congratulations go to the Middle School Math Elite and Elementary School Math Masters competition winners and their advisors. I am astounded at the extent of the math knowledge many of our middle school students possess. Let's just say I am glad that I didn't have to compete.
- **Governor's School information** – I am excited that State Superintendent June Atkinson will announce the structure for the 2012 Governor's School program today. There was some concern as to whether the Governor's School program would operate this year after the General Assembly eliminated state funding in its 2011-13 budget. We are extremely happy that the N. C. Governor's School Foundation has since worked hard to raise the needed funds to continue the program. The Governor's School of North Carolina was founded in 1963 by former Gov. Terry Sanford and is the oldest statewide summer residential program for academically and intellectually gifted high school students in the nation.

Superintendent L. Reeves McGlohon

A reminder - Board of Education meeting canceled

The regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for Monday, February 20 is canceled. The next regular Board of Education meeting is Monday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. The February *Board Briefs* publication with Good News will be printed in March.

Early College information session planned

Gaston County Schools will sponsor an Early College High School information session for parents of eighth grade students on Monday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m., Gaston College Myers Center auditorium. The deadline for eighth grade students to submit an application for Early College to their guidance counselor is March 9. If you have questions about the Gaston Early College High School, please contact Sheila Wyont, principal, 704-629-2258, ext. 223.

Commissioners' School Of Excellence dates set

The 2012 Commissioners' School of Excellence two-week summer enrichment program for select high school freshmen will take place on the Belmont Abbey College campus, June 17-June 29. If you have questions concerning the Commissioners' School, please contact Amanda Choren at 704-861-2625.

Highland School of Technology Application, Lottery and Parent Information

- February 21 – Highland Open House, 5:30-7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to learn about Highland
- February 28 – Application to attend Highland must be postmarked by this date
- March 15 – Lottery held at Highland Auditorium, 4:00 p.m.

Belmont Middle captures Math Elite competition

The annual GCS Math Elite competition held last week at Hawks Nest Intermediate School featured the top academic teams from all 11 middle schools in the county. Belmont Middle won first place, Cramerton Middle took second place and Stanley Middle captured third place. Congratulations to our winners and all participants for an outstanding academic competition.

Elementary students shine in Math Masters competition

Congratulations to all 27 elementary schools that participated in the Math Masters competition conducted last week at Hawks Nest Intermediate School. East Division winners were W.A. Bess, first place honors; Belmont Central, second place; Rankin, third place; and Kiser, fourth place. In the Western Division, Catawba Heights won first place honors; Beam Intermediate, second; Bessemer City Central, third; and Chapel Grove, fourth.

RoboGASTON 2012

Gaston County Schools will sponsor a robotics competition featuring students from several of our elementary schools on Saturday, March 3, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at East Gaston High School.

State Department hosts American College Test (ACT) webinar

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction and ACT will host a webinar for principals, teachers, and local curriculum staff on Monday, Feb. 20, from 4-5:30 p.m. The purpose of this webinar is to provide general details about the structure, content, and scores related to the ACT. The following topics will be covered during the webinar:

- The structure of the ACT
- The content specifics of the ACT – what skills are measured and how
- What scores are provided
- The meaning of scores – both in terms of use in colleges/universities and scholarship agencies, and data use as a high school instructional improvement/student skills development component
- ACT's College and Career Readiness Standards and Benchmarks, including relationship to the Common Core State Standards
- What is reported to the student, high school and college; in what format; implications for data use in a statewide implementation
- Resources to assist implementation of ACT data
- Resources to assist students/parents

To participate in the webinar, please register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/142894417>. If you have questions, contact Jim Kroening (jim.kroening@dpi.nc.gov) or Kayla Siler (kayla.siler@dpi.nc.gov).

A reminder – Prism Awards Deadline

The Prism Award supports teachers in their efforts to promote excitement for science and mathematics in the classroom. The award:

- Is open to all public K-12 North Carolina teachers.
- Provides up to \$3000 to cover the cost of equipment, materials, and supplies to implement hands-on science and mathematics curriculum in the classroom.
- Provides up to an additional \$1500 for training and professional development related to the implementation of the new materials.

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is offering three rounds of funding with deadlines of March 5, 2012 and September 5, 2012. See details and requirements at [The PRISM Award](#).

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Just complete the online volunteer application on the GCS website. Once your volunteer application is approved, you will receive an e-mail requesting that you attend a Volunteer Orientation session. Volunteer Orientation sessions will be held at the Gaston County Schools Central Office, 943 Osceola St., Gastonia, on the following dates:

- February 27, 12:15 p.m.
- March 7, 8:30 a.m.

American College Testing (ACT) for high school juniors

On Tuesday, March 6, all eleventh grade students will take the ACT, a multiple-choice test developed by American College Testing (ACT) that measures a student's understanding of English, math, reading and science. The ACT is the only college admissions test that is based on the number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing. All students should do their best and mark an answer to every question. A make-up test will be given on Tuesday, March 20.

Middle School Battle of the Books Competition

The *Middle School Battle of the Books* competition is Friday, March 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on the Gaston College East Campus in Belmont.

School Events – For school events, check out the GCS website – click on *Weekly School Events, February 20-25* on the homepage.

Weekly Points of Pride:

- Ashbrook band director Ben Jones was named the Gaston County Band Directors' *2011-2012 Band Director of the Year* at the Gaston County All-County Band Concert held on February 11.
- Joseph Hopkins, a seventh grade student at Grier Middle School, was recognized in the *Gaston Gazette* "Do the Right Thing" program. Joseph demonstrated grace, compassion and courage with the death of a classmate's mother. He was nominated by Principal Torbin Ross.

Communication Tip of the Week: *Meeting Guidelines:* Meetings should be held only when they are needed. Meetings should begin and end on time. Always have a time limit. An agenda of topics should be given out in advance. Allot time for discussion or feedback on key topics. Include all school staff members. There may be times when "faculty" meetings have to be held, but including all staff members will ensure a more complete two-way flow of information. Source: *School Public Relations for Success*, Edward Moore, National School Public Relations Association

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Submit items to Bonnie Reidy, Chief Communications Officer

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