



CABARRUS COUNTY SCHOOLS

RETROSPECTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



MESSAGE
FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT

MOST LIKELY TO
DREAM BIG

Engaging minds. Shaping futures. That's what we strive to do every day in Cabarrus County Schools—through our classroom instruction, the tools we have available for students to use, and the programs we offer. We are in the business of helping students achieve their dreams. It's our stock and trade.

For some, a dream is something unattainable. But I see it differently. I believe a dream is an achievable outcome. One that's as individual as the dreamer. Our teachers, administrators and staff are committed to helping our students realize their dreams. They are attentive, engaged, active listeners who are genuinely interested and invested in the vision each student has for his or her life.

During the 2015–2016 school year, I applied those same principles to hearing about the vision and dreams our constituencies have for our school system. I thoroughly enjoyed my Listening with Lowder Community Feedback sessions, which provided invaluable input as I took on the responsibility of interim superintendent and then ultimately as the district's 10th superintendent. Equally as important were my listening sessions with our student advisory groups. They allowed me to hear, compare and contrast what our students said they needed and wanted with the feedback I received from teachers, administrators, parents, staff, and the community.

I spent most of the year with my ear to the ground and my feet pounding the pavement—listening and learning, meeting and greeting, and planning and preparing. It was a whirlwind for sure. We had much to celebrate—the i3 INSPIRE grant, a basketball state championship, ground-breakings for two replacement schools, the expansion of our STEM program, and flourishing community partnerships, to name a few.

This edition of our retrospective annual report looks back at the 2015-2016 school year, recapping the numerous dreams that were achieved during the year—our accomplishments and successes, as well as our challenges.

When one's dream is realized, it lifts the spirits of an individual. When many dreams are realized, it can lift the spirits of a community, and when community dreams are realized, they can lift the spirit of a nation. In Cabarrus County Schools, we try each and every day to contribute to realizing all three.

Sincerely,

Chris

Chris Lowder, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Contents

6
Most Likely to Go Global

7
Making the Biggest
Lifelong Impact

10
Most Indelible Impact

11
Most Likely to Serve

12
Most Likely to
Make a Difference

Most Notable Headlines
of Success

13
Best Levels of Support

15
CCS Homegrown Talent

17
We are the Champions,
We Are the Champions...

Produced by Cabarrus County
Schools Communications and Public
Information Department

Ronnye Boone, Director
Aurelia Edwards
Michael Martin
Angie Ross

Contributors:

Ronnye Boone
Aurelia Edwards
Betsy Helgager Hughes, BLH Consulting, Inc.

Photography:

Michael Martin
Aurelia Edwards

Design:

Jenifer Cooper-Melia, Cooperworks, Inc.

The Cabarrus County Board of Education unanimously voted to adopt a new Strategic Plan in May 2016. The plan was developed with input from school personnel and community comments at Superintendent Lowder's feedback sessions. The new plan, as well as new mission and vision statements, will guide our district's work over the next several years.

Mission

Empowering students to build their futures.

Vision

Inspiring minds, engaging hearts, and shaping futures.

Beliefs

- educating the whole child
- personalized educational approaches for each child
- caring and respectful relationships
- safe, motivating, and inviting learning environments
- integrity and honesty
- parent and community partnerships
- fiscal responsibility and efficient operations
- data-driven decisions
- achieving success and educational excellence.

Cabarrus County Board of Education

Barry Shoemaker – Board Chair
Carolyn Carpenter – Vice Chair
Cindy Fertenbaugh – Member
Tim Furr – Member
David Harrison – Member
Vince Powell – Member
Rob Walter – Member

Cabarrus County Schools Cabinet

Chris Lowder, Ed.D. – Superintendent
Lynn Rhymer – Deputy Superintendent, Operations
Crystal Hill, Ed.D. – Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Glenda Jones – Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Kelly Kluttz, CPA – Chief Financial Officer
Kelly Propst, Ed.D. – Assistant Superintendent, Auxiliary Services

MOST

LIKELY TO GO GLOBAL

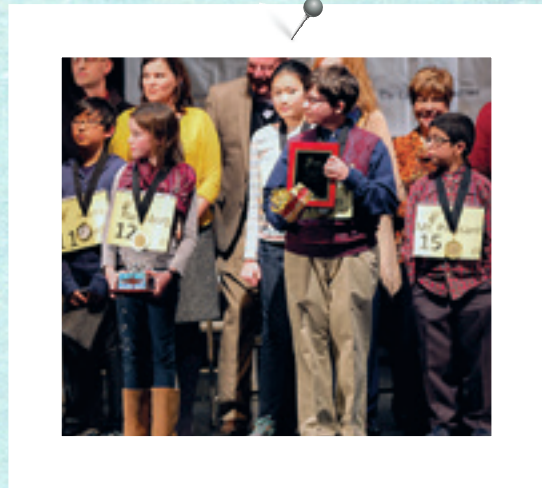
89.5%

Cabarrus County Schools continues to strive to achieve 100 percent graduation rate.



Going for the Global Championship – JMRHS Pulls 3-Peat in Robotics Competition

Jay M. Robinson High School's VEX Robotics Team A won their third consecutive year as state robotics champions, dominating the field by winning the VRC Tournament, Design Award and Programming skills challenge. This performance sent Team A to the VEX World Championships to compete against the top 450 high school teams from 32 different countries at the VEX World Championship event in Louisville, Kentucky.



All A Buzz

Bryce Biehle, an 8th grader at J.N. Fries Magnet School, was crowned the 2016 Cabarrus County Schools Spelling Bee Champion, his 2nd consecutive year of winning the district bee. Kendall Davidson, a 5th grader at Harrisburg Elementary School, was the runner-up.



More than 400 CCS middle school students visited Wayne Brothers Inc. as part of Construction Career Days. Wayne Brothers Inc. partnered with CCS to launch an educational campaign showcasing some of the major aspects of applied technology in construction, helping students understand the importance of non-traditional disciplines for construction, as well as all the rewards and benefits associated with a career in the industry.

Scholarships recieved by 2016 CCS graduates to help them achieve their dreams.

\$43,376,481

"Although students' academic success is our objective, our ultimate goal is to inspire our students to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more."

Emily Francis, CCS 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year

91%
of our teachers met or exceeded state goals.



GO GLOBAL!



Two CCS teachers spent a part of their summer in South Africa as part of the 2016 Go Global NC teachers program.

Kelly Bumgardner, 2015 CCS Teacher of the Year and an English-Language Arts teacher at Northwest Cabarrus Middle School, and Angie Martin, 2016 Teacher of the Year at J.N. Fries Magnet School, spent 10 days visiting schools, experiencing South Africa's cultural diversity and learning about apartheid, slavery, and human rights. They also had a life-changing visit to Robben Island, the site of Nelson Mandela's 18-year imprisonment.

Three Cabarrus County Schools educators, Laura Bryson, Northwest Cabarrus High School, Allison Hahn, Central Cabarrus High School, and Aimy Steele, Beverly Hills Elementary School, were selected to participate in the Center for International Understanding (CIU)'s 2015 Global Teachers program. The group, 36 in all, traveled to Singapore and Malaysia to gain a firsthand international experience that helps them bring a deeper global awareness and understanding to the classroom. The 2015 program for K-12 teachers from across North Carolina provided teachers the opportunity to learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and urban education through a global lens.

#1
What CCS Teachers Ranked in Effectiveness, 2 Years in a Row!



Emily Francis, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at W. M. Irvin Elementary School, was named Cabarrus County Schools Teacher of the Year for 2015-2016. Emily began her career with CCS in 2004 as a teacher assistant. This experience, combined with her personal experience of moving to the United States from Guatemala when she was 15, inspired her to become an ESL educator. Since 2004, Emily has earned bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as a graduate certificate in teaching ESL from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In 2012, she fulfilled her dream of becoming a teacher when she started her teaching career at W.M. Irvin Elementary.



1



2



3



4

MOMENTS

1. New Odell Elementary Construction 2. Mount Pleasant Middle School bonfire groundbreaking 3. District Spelling Bee 4. Cabarrus County Schools and Kannapolis City Schools were united for a few moments before the start of the annual Battle of the Bell Game, benefiting United Way 5. Students socialize during the groundbreaking dance party at Royal Oaks Elementary School 6. Charles E. Boger Elementary School and C.C. Griffin Middle School receive grants from the Jimmie Johnson Foundation Champions

Grant program totaling more than \$90,000. Boger received a grant for \$81,537, and C.C. Griffin received a grant for \$13,600 7. Each Cabarrus County elementary school library received \$100 to spend on new books thanks to a generous, anonymous donation presented by the Cabarrus County Education Foundation 8. Education Center employees participated in United Way's Season of Caring by volunteering at Cabarrus Victims Assistance Network (CVAN). Our volunteers cut back overgrown bushes, painted, trimmed trees, wacked weeds and

raked leaves at six houses. This marked the fourth consecutive year volunteering at CVAN; CCS Central Office employees have been participating in the United Way Season of Caring since 2010 9. During the first half of the year, Superintendent Chris Lowder hosted five *Listening with Lowder Community Feedback Sessions* to hear the ideas, concerns and interests of parents, students and community members. The 90-minute sessions gave Dr. Lowder a chance to hear ideas and concerns from stakeholders.



5



9



8



6

MOST

INDELIBLE IMPACT



Sheyenne Marshall's Memory Lives On

Governor Pat McCrory visited Cox Mill High School to sign Sheyenne's Law, a state law which toughens penalties for boat operators who cause death or injury

while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The law was named after Sheyenne Marshall, a Cox Mill High School student who was tragically killed by an impaired boater on Lake Norman in July 2015.



NASCAR Helps Give CCS Kids Smiles Students at Royal Oaks Elementary and Wolf Meadow Elementary Schools participated in a special high-speed oral health education event that left them with big smiles and new tips for improving their dental health—all thanks to NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jeff Gordon, NASCAR celebrities, 3M Oral Care, the ADA Foundation's Give Kids A Smile® program, CareCredit, Henry Schein Cares and Arm & Hammer.



Dream on for Ne'Quan: Students Helping Students

Dream On 3 (DO3), a non-profit organization with a vision of "a community united in making dreams come true", helped make Hickory Ridge High School student Ne'Quan Deas' dream come true after a team of eight high school students who worked with DO3 to help make their fellow classmate's wildest sports dream come true. After multiple fundraisers that collected more than \$8,000, DO3 and the Junior Dream Team helped send Ne'Quan and his family to Nashville to attend a Tennessee Titans NFL football game, turning Ne'Quan's dream into a reality.

MOST

LIKELY TO SERVE



Students Help "Feed the Hungry"

More than 570,000 meals were packaged during the two-day Feed the Hungry event and were sent on their way to Haiti where they were served at Haitian schools as the children's lunch and also passed out to families through the nutrition program at Lifeline Christian Mission in Grand Goave, Haiti. The event also benefited local families and produced more than 4,000 pounds of donated nonperishable food items for the food banks of Cabarrus County through Cooperative Christian Ministries.



Fundraising Reality Check Cabarrus County Schools' student leaders met a Carolinas HealthCare—Northeast to learn more about breast cancer. The location is also home to where some of the funding raised from the annual "King of the Court" event goes. They had a full, informative tour of the facilities, where students asked questions and saw what, on average, five people per week diagnosed with breast cancer go through while there. Students also saw firsthand areas that their fundraising helps.



A Boy's Life

Mason Koob, a 9th grader at Mount Pleasant High School, was selected to share his story in the August edition of *Boy's Life* magazine for Scouts in Action. Mason saved himself as well as his father from a flood and fire. He is a Life Scout currently working on his Eagle Scout requirements. Only 24 scouts are chosen each year for a spot in the publication.



MOST

LIKELY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



KIDS:PLUS

The Cabarrus County Schools before and after school childcare program, KIDS:PLUS, continues to provide five-star rated care in each of our elementary schools across the district. Each of our centers participates in the School-Age Care Environmental Rating Scale Assessment and has earned a five-star rated license. In September 2015 KIDS:PLUS reached a milestone when its enrollment increased to 1,100 and ended the year growing toward 1,200, a number they had not served since 2008.

KIDS:PLUS also operates a summer camp program that keeps students engaged and learning throughout their summer break, offering daily opportunities for students to participate in reading, math and science activities.

BEST IN STATE

CCS Wi-Fi network was named best in the state by the Friday Institute.



Mount Pleasant Middle School (MPMS)

held a Bonfire Bonanza to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new school. Students, staff, and community members enjoyed a night of food and fun around a bonfire located at the new MPMS site. School officials and local elected officials addressed the crowd and thanked the community for its patience and diligence in making this project a reality.

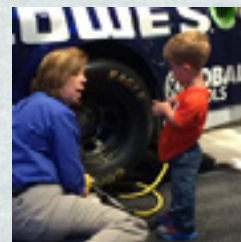


Breaking Ground: Royal Oaks Elementary School (ROES) held an outdoor celebration to commemorate the groundbreaking of the new school. Students, staff, and community members enjoyed an evening of food and fun at the ROES campus. The Central Cabarrus High School Color Guard, ROES alumna Lauren Harrison, and music from DJ Strick Dalton, former ROES principal, entertained the crowd as they enjoyed pizza and ice cream.

BEST LEVELS OF SUPPORT

"Excellent public education is a major quality of life factor that attracts businesses, families and individuals to a community, and we know that Cabarrus County Schools makes our community an attractive and smart choice for many. By offering traditional education and continually expanding school choice through magnet programs, IB and STEM options and Career Technical Education academies, CCS offers a broad range of opportunities and interests that prepares students for future careers and higher education."

— Barbi Jones, Executive Director
Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce



KIDS:PLUS celebrated its first Special Day of the 2015-2016 school year with a field trip. Two-hundred and sixty children were able to visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte thanks to a donation from the **Kasey Kahne Foundation**.



CCS and Hilbish Ford Honors 50th Teacher of the Month

Christine Jansen, a 5th grade teacher at W.R. Odell Elementary School, was named the CCS Hilbish Ford Teacher of the Month, the 50th award given. Since the award's inception, Hilbish Ford has honored a CCS teacher for his or her outstanding work in the classroom each month. Teachers are nominated by parents or students. Hilbish presents the teacher with a trophy and a cash prize. Superintendent Chris Lowder, Hilbish Ford General Manager Tim Vaughn and W.R. Odell Elementary Principal Jim Helf honor Mrs. Jansen as her husband and daughter join her for the celebration.



Uwharrie Bank's Regional President for Retail Banking Pat Horton and Concord Branch Manager Cheryl Dearmon presented the supplies to Superintendent Lowder, that included paper, binders, notebooks, book bags, glue sticks and lots more.



Subaru Concord customers and employees donated 100 prize-winning books to CCS schools with the goal of engaging young learners in the world of science and inspiring them to want to learn more.

OUR SUPPORTERS



MOMENTS

1. Thirty students from A.T. Allen Elementary School received a special surprise—a \$200 holiday shopping spree with members of the Carolina Panthers! This special day was made possible by a partnership with the Carolina Panthers, Academy Sports and United Way Central Carolinas 2. Logan Patterson, a 1st grade student at Winecoff Elementary School, had his artwork selected as the official design for the 2016 Special Olympics Cabarrus County Spring Games 3. Students at the Opportunity School built a food pantry to assist peers in need, with more than 30 students gathering over 200 items during a dedicated food drive 4. Central Cabarrus High School transforms into a Florida high school for the movie Paper Towns 5. CCS launched its Instagram site which visually highlights special moments in time within CCS



1



2



3



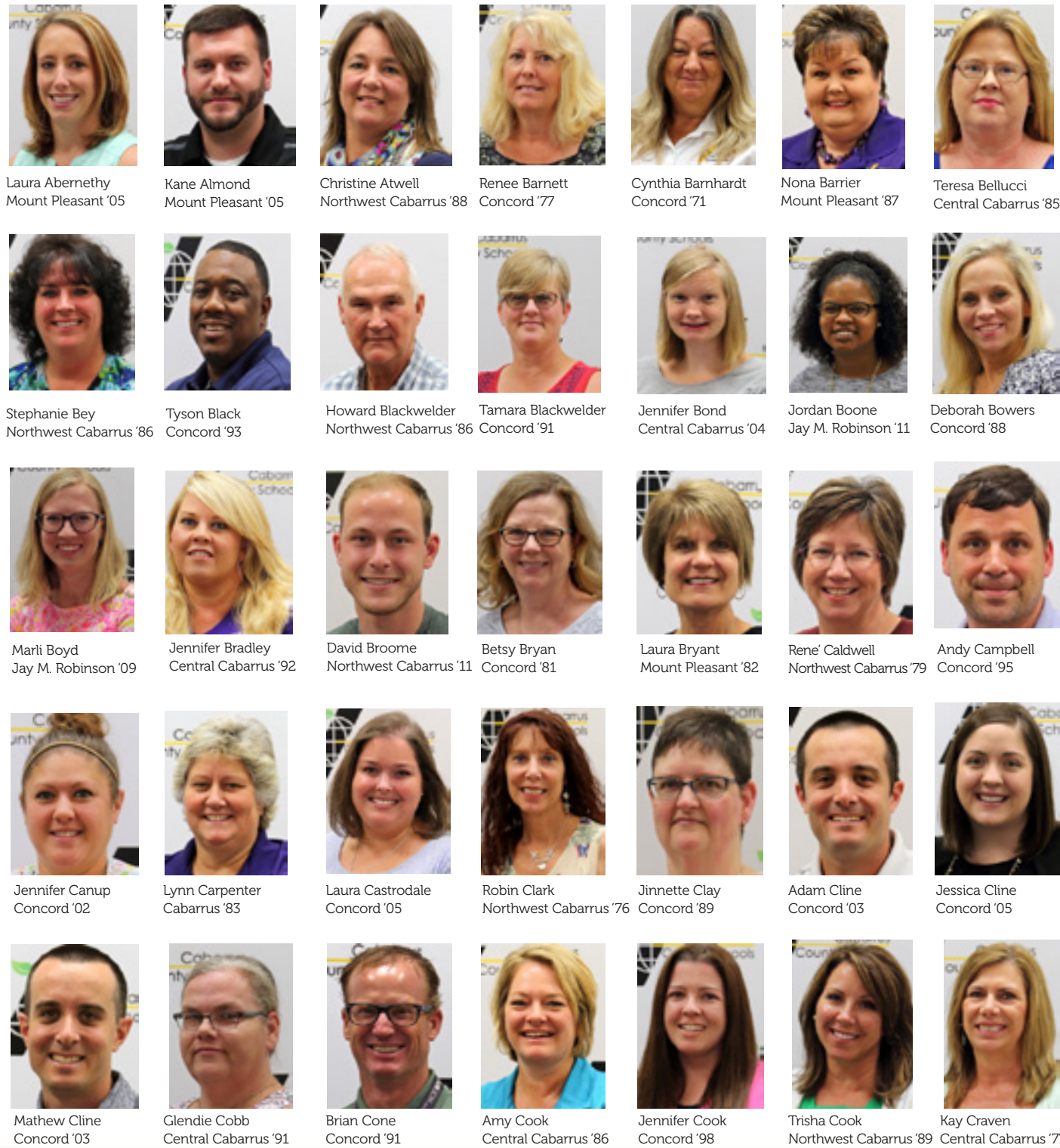
4



5

CCS Homegrown Talent / CCS Alumni

A selection of employees who graduated from a CCS high school. To see more alumni photos, visit www.cabarrusschools.info.



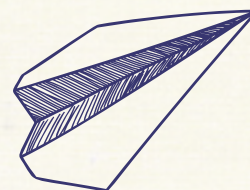
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS, We Are the Champions...

In its first state championship appearance, the Jay M. Robinson men's basketball team coached by Lavar Batts, Sr., clinched the 3A state title.

The matchup between Jay M. Robinson High School and Terry Sanford High School was a tight game all the way, but Robinson came out on top with 59 points over Terry Sanford's 55. Senior Daniel Spencer was named the game's MVP and led all scorers with 24 points. A little more than one week later, the team paraded past friends, family, and fans through Downtown Concord and was recognized during a special ceremony for its state championship win. The 2015-2016 men's basketball team's season was entered into the Congressional Record by Congressman Richard Hudson, and March 21st was proclaimed Bulldog Day in the City of Concord and Cabarrus County.



NOTABLE HEADLINES OF SUCCESS



Mount Pleasant High School's Academy of Energy & Sustainability

was selected to receive an NC GreenPower Grant to install solar panels on campus. The program provides a matching grant for the installation of a solar PV array providing clean, green renewable energy.

The Cabarrus County Board of Education voted to allow Wolf Meadow Elementary School to operate on a balanced calendar (also known as year-round school) beginning during the 2016-2017 school year.

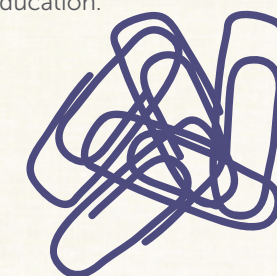
Cox Mill High School's Academy of Information Technology was selected to join the Lenovo Scholar Network. The Lenovo Scholar Network is designed to encourage greater interest among high school students in STEM subjects while providing them with the high-tech skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

The Cabarrus County Board of Education approved adding Beverly Hills Elementary School and R. Brown McAllister Elementary School as STEM schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

Cabarrus-Kannapolis Early College High School was named as a School of Innovation and Excellence by NC New Schools/Breakthrough Learning for leadership in academic excellence and innovative practice.

Coltrane-Webb Elementary, Patriots Elementary and Central Cabarrus High STEM were deemed Distinguished STEM Schools on the Model Level, the state's highest rating for STEM schools.

Weddington Hills Elementary School successfully completed the authorization process and is an official International Baccalaureate World School. The IB program offers a high-quality continuum of international education. By adding the Primary Years Programme for elementary students, Cabarrus County Schools now has a K-12 continuum in place for an IB education.





4401 Old Airport Road
 Concord, NC 28025
 704.786.6191

Disclaimer: Cabarrus County Schools is committed to equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, or handicapping condition. (Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Elementary Schools

A.T. Allen
 3939 Abilene Road
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 788-2182

Bethel
 2425 Midland Road
 Midland, NC 28107
 (704) 888-5811

Beverly Hills
 87 Palaside Drive NE
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 782-0115

Carl A. Furr
 2725 Clover Road
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-4300

Charles E. Boger
 5150 Dove Field Lane
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-1600

Coltrane-Webb
 61 Spring Street NW
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 782-5912

Cox Mill
 1450 Cox Mill Road
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 795-6519

Harrisburg
 3900 Stallings Road
 Harrisburg, NC 28075
 (704) 455-5118

Mary Frances Wall Center
 3801 Highway 601 South
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 782-5712

Mount Pleasant Middle
 466 Walker Road,
 Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124

Patriots
 1510 Holden Avenue
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 455-1882

Pitts School Road
 720 Pitts School Road SW
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-3430

R. Brown McAllister
 541 Sunnyside Drive SE
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 788-3165

Rocky River
 5454 Rocky River Road
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 795-4505

Royal Oaks Elementary
 5150 Dove Field Lane
 Kannapolis NC 28081
 704-788-1600

W.M. Irvin
 1400 Gold Rush Drive
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 782-8864

W.R. Odell Elementary
 1885 Odell School Road
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 260-6030

W.R. Odell Primary
 1215 Moss Farm Road
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 782-0601

Weddington Hills
 4401 Weddington Road
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 795-9385

Winecoff
 375 Winecoff School Road
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 782-4322

Wolf Meadow
 150 Wolf Meadow Drive SW
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 786-9173

Middle Schools

C.C. Griffin
 7650 Griffin's Gate Drive
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 455-4700

Cabarrus Opportunity
 120 Marsh Avenue NW
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 793-1736

Concord
 1500 Gold Rush Drive
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 786-4121

Harold E. Winkler
 4111 Weddington Road NW
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 786-2000

Harris Road
 1251 Patriot Plantation Blvd.
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 782-2002

Hickory Ridge
 7336 Raging Ridge Road
 Harrisburg, NC 28075
 (704) 455-1331

J.N. Fries
 133 Stonecrest Circle SW
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-4140

Mount Pleasant
 8325 Highway 49 North
 Mount Pleasant, NC 28124
 (704) 436-9302

Northwest Cabarrus
 5140 Northwest Cabarrus Dr.
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-4135

High Schools

Cabarrus Early College
 of Technology
 670 Concord Parkway North
 Concord, NC 28027
 704-260-6750

Cabarrus - Kannapolis Early College
 1531 Trinity Church Road
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 260-0229

Cabarrus Opportunity
 120 Marsh Avenue NW
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 793-1736

Central Cabarrus
 505 Highway 49 South
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 786-0125

Concord
 481 Burrage Road NE
 Concord, NC 28025
 (704) 786-4161

Cox Mill
 1355 Cox Mill Road
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-6700

Hickory Ridge
 7321 Raging Ridge Road
 Harrisburg, NC 28075
 (704) 454-7300

Jay M. Robinson
 300 Pitts School Road SW
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-4500

Mount Pleasant
 700 Walker Road
 Mount Pleasant, NC 28124
 (704) 436-9321

Northwest Cabarrus
 5130 Northwest Cabarrus Drive
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 788-4111

Performance Learning Center
 133 Stonecrest Circle SW
 Concord, NC 28027
 (704) 795-7074

www.Cabarrus.k12.nc.us
www.CabarrusSchools.info



Disclaimer: The school system retains control over what links will be placed on system-related websites; however, the linked sites themselves are not under the control of the school system, its agents or its employees. The school system is not responsible for the contents of any linked site, any link contained in a linked site, or any changes or updates to such sites. The school system provides links as a convenience, and the inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement of the site by the school system. The school system reserves the right to remove or restrict any links.