



GASTON DAY SCHOOL

ACADEMIC PROFILE 2025-2026

GASTON DAY BASICS

ABOUT

Founded in 1967, Gaston Day School is a non-sectarian, college preparatory institution for grades Pre-S through 12. Throughout our history, nearly 100% of Gaston Day School's graduating classes have entered four-year colleges and universities immediately upon graduation. Located in Gastonia, North Carolina, the school serves communities in a five-county area: Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland, Mecklenburg, and York counties.

MISSION

To educate our students and prepare them for academic success and responsible, productive lives.

FAST FACTS

PS-12 Enrollment #: 510

Class of 2026: 35

FT Faculty: 68

Student/Faculty Ratio: 8:1

Class of 2025

Attending Four-Year
Colleges: 95%

Tuition Assistance: 26% of
student body

ACCREDITATION & MEMBERSHIPS

- Cognia: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)
- North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS)
- Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- National Association for College Admissions Counselors (NACAC)
- Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS)

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Gaston Day School Spartans pursue scholarship and knowledge as a means to...create solutions, collaborate, and drive innovation within their world, discover their unique talents and ignite their passions, embrace their humanity and diversity, approach opportunities and challenges with self-motivation and resilience, achieve a life of curiosity, balance, and purpose.

REPORTING TO COLLEGES

We will send initial transcripts with grades through the end of the junior year and the courses for the senior year. For Early Decision applications, we will send transcripts with interim first semester grades in late November by request only. We will send a midyear transcript with year-to-date grades for all other applications in early January.

HONOR CODE

Student conduct at Gaston Day is governed by our Honor Code. When requested by a college, College Counseling will report any honor code violations, including suspension, dismissal or expulsion.

CONNECT WITH GASTON DAY

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Peter Gangemi

Director

pgangemi@gastonday.org

Kristy Smith

Assistant

ksmith@gastonday.org

ADMINISTRATION

Head of School | **Davidson R. Hobson**

Head of Upper School | **Carolyn Senter**

Director of Admissions | **Kevin Napp**

Director of Athletics | **Lulu Brase**

**CEEB:
340297**

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

GPA SYSTEM

GPA is Calculated on a four point scale based on courses taken at GDS. Coursework completed at other institutions is reflected on the GDS transcript but is not calculated into the GPA.

Honors courses receive a bonus of .50. Advanced Placement Courses receive a bonus of 1.0

GPA REQUIREMENTS

Upper school students in grades 10-12 must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA using only core academic courses in the GPA calculation.

COURSE LOAD

Students carry an academic course load of six courses. All classes are taught as full year courses on a semester basis.

AP LIMITS

Gaston Day School limits the number of AP courses a student may take to one AP class in tenth grade and three AP classes in each of eleventh and twelfth grade as the most rigorous course of study.

WORLD LANGUAGE EXCEPTION

International students for whom English is a second language are not required to take an additional world language.

CLASS RANK

Gaston Day School does not officially rank its students due to small class size and the academic quality of the student population.

DUAL ENROLLMENT & ONLINE COURSEWORK

Students may enroll in DE courses in fall of grade 11. Students may replace up to two elective credits with DE credits in both grade 11 and 12. DE coursework is not calculated into the GPA.

Online coursework from outside providers will not be listed on transcripts until course completion and a final grade is received.

CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS

Gaston Day offers College Preparatory, Honors and Advanced Placement courses. **H** indicates courses offered at the Honors Level, **DE** indicates dual enrollment courses taught by Gaston Day Faculty, and **AP** indicates courses offered at the Advanced Placement levels.

SUBJECT AND REQUIREMENT			
ENGLISH 4 Years	English 9 (H) English 10 (H) American Literature (H) British Literature(H)	English Literature & Composition (AP) English Language & Composition (AP)	
MATH 4 Years including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and one additional advanced math course	Algebra I (H) Geometry (H) Algebra II (H) PreCalculus (H)	Advanced Functions and Models Calculus (H) Statistics (H)	Calculus AB (AP) Calculus BC (AP)
SCIENCE 3 Years including Biology, Chemistry and one additional advanced science course	Biology (H)(AP) Chemistry (H)(AP)	Environmental Science (H) Physics (H) Physics II (AP)	
SOCIAL STUDIES 3 Years including World History, US History and Government and Economics	World History (H) US History (H)(AP)	Government and Economics (H)(AP)	
WORLD LANGUAGE Completion through Level III	Spanish I, II, III	Spanish IV (H)	
FINE ARTS 2 Years	Band Concert Choir Drama	Visual Art I, II, III Visual Art IV (H)	
PE/HEALTH 1 Year	Physical Education Health and Wellness		
GENERAL ELECTIVES	Engineering (H) Strength & Conditioning I, II, III Intro to Business (H)(DE) Psychology Music Appreciation Human Health and Medicine	Yearbook AP Computer Science (AP) Creative Writing (H) Speech & Debate Human Geography	World Views Robotics (H) Cinema Studies
COMMUNITY SERVICE	25 hours of volunteer service required each year. 40 hours required for NHS Members		
CAPSTONE PROJECT	All seniors must complete a special project or internship in their senior year.		

ACADEMIC PROFILE

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS

Students Awarded		Total Amount
2022	23	\$2.6 million
2023	25	\$2.75 million
2024	20	\$3.87 million
2025	21	\$3.76 million

GRADING SCALE

GRADE RANGE	GRADE POINT VALUE
100 - 97	4.330
96 - 93	4.000
92 - 90	3.670
89 - 87	3.330
86 - 83	3.000
82 - 80	2.670
79 - 77	2.330
76 - 73	2.000
72 - 70	1.670
69 - 67	1.330
66 - 63	1.000
62 - 60	0.670

CUMULATIVE GPA DISTRIBUTION CLASS OF 2026: END OF JR YEAR

Quintile Groupings	Range
1st Quintile	4.3 - 4.74
2nd Quintile	4.0 - 4.27
3rd Quintile	3.61 - 3.95
4th Quintile	3.09 - 3.57
5th Quintile	2.5 - 3.05

STANDARDIZED TESTING	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ACT SCORES mid 50% composite	24-32	21-28	22-28	24-31	22-28
SAT SCORES mid 50% SAT ranges	EBRW610-690 M540-690 - T1120-1390	EBRW560-670 M540-640 - T1110-1310	EBRW530-660 M510-630 - T1060-1290	EBRW600-680 M590-700 - T1210-1370	EBRW630-690 M580-670 - T1190-1330
ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCORES All Gaston Day students enrolled in AP Courses are required to take the AP Exam. % of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	72%	76%	86%	89%	95%

GRADE DISTRIBUTION BY DEPARTMENT | ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
ENGLISH	3%	20%	16%	9%	17%	12%	9%	7%	3%	3%	0%
ARTS	72%	22%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
HISTORY	0%	14%	13%	13%	19%	18%	11%	8%	4%	2%	0%
MATH	4%	22%	16%	11%	16%	7%	9%	8%	3%	1%	0.74%
SCIENCE	4%	29%	13%	12%	16%	8%	10%	4%	3%	0%	0%
LANGUAGES	7%	27%	18%	15%	13%	7%	5%	7%	0%	0%	0%

SIGNATURE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

BLUTOPIA

Blutopia is Gaston Day School's literary and art magazine entirely developed, created, and published by the students themselves. It includes diverse literary works and artistic expressions, ranging from gripping short stories, thought-provoking essays, and profound poetry to intriguing illustrations, captivating paintings, and engaging photographs. Blutopia has been recognized repeatedly on the state and national levels. Its brilliance has led to a multitude of accolades, including numerous Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Moreover, it consistently excels in the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association's Literary Magazine Contest, further cementing its status as an outstanding embodiment of student creativity, effort, and collaboration.

SUNSHIP EARTH AND PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

The Gaston Day School Peer Mentoring Program begins with the Sunship Earth Experience. During several days in the fall semester, selected juniors and seniors accompany the fourth-grade class to the mountains. The Upper School students lead the fourth graders in activities that encourage each student to contemplate the relationship between the environment and the human race. During this time, our Upper School students forge relationships with the Lower School students. This relationship develops into a mentoring program when the Sunship Earth Experience ends. Each eleventh and twelfth-grade student continues to meet and work with their fourth-grade mentee throughout the school year.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

All Gaston Day Students complete an approved internship, research, or community service project of no less than 40 hours. The focus of each project is on either personal development in preparation for a future professional career or advancing one of Gaston Day's core values. This project begins in the second semester of junior year and is completed in the first semester of senior year. Students are required to document and report on their project throughout the year.

ROBOTICS

After years of operating a joint-school robotics team competing in FIRST Robotics where they placed 4th in state level competition, Gaston Day launched its own VEX Robotics Club and qualified for Technology Student Association VEX Nationals in 2023, the first year of joining the competition.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES 2019 - 2025 **BOLD** INDICATES INSTITUTIONS TO WHICH MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2025 ENROLLED

American Musical and Dramatic Academy
 American University
 Anderson University
Appalachian State University
 Arizona State University
Auburn University
 Augusta University
 Ave Maria University
 Babson College
 Baylor University
 Belmont Abbey College
 Belmont University
 Berry College
 Boston University
 Bowling Green State University (Main Campus)*
 Bradley University
 Brandeis University
 Brevard College
 Bridgewater College
 Bryn Mawr College
 Bucknell University
 Butler University
 Campbell University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Catawba College
 Centre College
 Charleston Southern University
 Chowan University
 Citadel Military College of South Carolina
Clemson University
 Coastal Carolina University
 Coker University
 Colby College
College of Charleston
 Colorado College
 Colorado School of Mines
 Concordia University (Nebraska)
 Dartmouth College
Davidson College
 Delta State University
 Denison University
 DePauw University
 Dickinson College
 Drake University
 Drexel University
 Duke University
 East Carolina University
 East Tennessee State University
 Eckerd College
 Elon University
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
 (Daytona Beach)
 Emerson College
 Emory & Henry College
 Emory University
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Florida State University
 Franklin & Marshall College
 Furman University
 Gardner-Webb University
 George Washington University
 Georgetown University
 Greensboro College
 Grinnell College
 Guilford College
Hampden-Sydney College
 Hampton University
 Hawaii Pacific University
 High Point University
 Hollins University
 Indiana University (Bloomington)
James Madison University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
 Kenyon College
 King's College London
 Lee University
 Lees-McRae College
 Lehigh University

Lenoir-Rhyne University
 Liberty University
 Lincoln Memorial University
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola University Chicago
 Lynn University
 Marion Military Institute
 Marquette University
 Mary Baldwin University
 Maryland Institute College of Art
 Mercer University
 Meredith College
 Michigan State University
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Middlebury College
 Minneapolis College of Art and Design
 Missouri University of Science and Technology
 Montreat College
 Morehead State University
 Mount Ida Campus of UMass Amherst
 New York University
 Newberry College
 North Carolina A & T State University
 North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
 Northeastern University
 Pace University (New York City)
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 Penn State University (University Park)
 Pepperdine University
 Presbyterian College
 Purdue University (Main Campus)
 Queens University of Charlotte
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rhode Island School of Design
 Rhodes College
 Rice University
 Roanoke College
 Rollins College
 Saint Louis University
 Salem College
 Samford University
 Santa Clara University
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 School of Visual Arts
 Seton Hall University
 Sewanee: The University of the South
 Skidmore College
 Soka University of America
 Southern Methodist University
 St. Andrews University
 St. Bonaventure University
 St. Lawrence University
 Stanford University
 Stony Brook University
 SUNY at Binghamton
 Swarthmore College
 Sweet Briar College
Syracuse University
 Temple University
 Texas A&M University
 The College of William and Mary
 The New School
 The Ohio State University (Main Campus)
The University of Alabama
 The University of Montana
 The University of Texas at Dallas
 Tougaloo College
 Towson University
 Transylvania University
 Tufts University
 Tulane University of Louisiana
 Underwood International College, Yonsei University
 United States Military Academy at West Point
 University College London
University of California (Berkeley)
 University of California (Davis)
 University of California (Irvine)
 University of California (Los Angeles)
 University of California (Merced)

University of California (Riverside)
 University of California (San Diego)
 University of California (Santa Barbara)
 University of California (Santa Cruz)
 University of Central Florida
University of Colorado Boulder
 University of Connecticut
 University of Denver
 University of Dubuque
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Hawaii at Manoa
 University of Houston
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 University of Kentucky
 University of Lynchburg
University of Maryland
 University of Maryland (Baltimore County)
 University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
 University of Massachusetts (Boston)
 University of Melbourne
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan
 University of Mississippi
 University of Nebraska (Lincoln)
 University of Nevada (Las Vegas)
 University of North Carolina at Asheville
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of North Carolina Wilmington
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Pittsburgh (Main Campus)
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Richmond
 University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
 University of South Carolina (Beaufort)
 University of South Florida (Main Campus)
 University of Southern California
 University of Sydney
University of Tennessee (Knoxville)
 University of Toronto
 University of Tulsa
 University of Virginia (Main Campus)
 University of Washington (Seattle Campus)
 University of Wisconsin (Madison)
 University of Wisconsin (Superior)
 Utah State University
 Vanderbilt University
 Villanova University
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Wake Forest University
 Warren Wilson College
 Washington and Lee University
 Wesleyan College
 West Virginia University
 West Virginia Wesleyan College
Western Carolina University
 Western Michigan University
 Whitman College
 Wingate University
 Winston-Salem State University
 Winthrop University
 Wofford College
 Xavier University
 Yale University
 Young Harris College