

# Hall County School District Annual Report to the Community

2012-13

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**Character, Competency, Rigor ... *For ALL***

### A LOOK INSIDE

- An Era of Unprecedented Innovation
- Innovation (Charter School / Programs of Choice)
- Academic Updates
- Milestones
- Financial Update / ESPLOST
- The Future – Race to the Top
- Meet Your Board of Education
- System Facts

**Hall County Schools**  
711 Green Street  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
(770) 534-1080  
[www.hallco.org](http://www.hallco.org)

# An Era of Unprecedented Innovation

For generations, public schools have functioned much like the factories and businesses within our communities. Utilizing similar curriculums, chronological age grouping of children and progression based upon seat time, the current educational model has been the norm for millions of us. Since our country is the planet's only remaining superpower, it could be argued that those schools served us well. However, times have changed, dramatically.

Schools of the past focused on imparting knowledge. Knowing about the world around us is important. However, for the first time in human history, much of the information that was meted out in classrooms is free and almost universally available to the masses via Google and YouTube. Not only is knowledge free, it is expanding at an exponential rate. Some estimate that the world knowledge base is now doubling every six months. Therefore, while our schools must continue to teach facts and concepts, it is more important than ever that we teach children strategies to learn and to put knowledge to good use.

We peer into the future and cannot fully imagine exactly what skills the next generation will need. However, businesses, industries and governments around the world agree that people with the ability to innovate and create will consistently be in high demand. In every walk of life, we need individuals who can make our world a better place.

With the support and encouragement of your Hall County Board of Education, our district is in the midst of developing unprecedented innovative educational choices for families. Beginning five years ago with the World Language Academy, a dual language immersion charter school, the district now offers our parents and their children over 20 highly personalized education pathways that include both charter schools and programs of choice. We believe that engaging young people in rigorous programs that focus on their individual strengths and interests is the way to improve achievement and enthusiasm for life-long learning. I am proud of the courage and creativity of Hall County educators, students and their families as, together, we seek a better way to prepare citizens for the world of tomorrow.

In the words of Bob Seger, we have "felt the wind and set ourselves a bolder course..." Thank you for your support, encouragement and ideas as we continually seek ways to improve your local schools.

Will Schofield, Superintendent



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# Innovation in Hall County

The Hall County School District has been featured in both the Wall Street Journal and Forbes Magazine as an example of a school system where innovation in programming and technology is being used to emphasize students' individual strengths and interests, and, consequently, to increase the number of students scoring in the top tier of state tests.

Students are assigned to schools based on their residential addresses and all schools have a variety of excellent programming options to meet students' needs. However, it is our belief that students are most successful when they are involved in programs that engage and motivate them, that capitalize on their unique talents and interests. Currently, the system offers twenty-two (22) charter school and programs of choice in an effort to bring innovative curriculums to the students in a more concerted effort to meet their individual needs. Students may apply to a school with a certain focus or a school with a unique program that matches their individual interests, aptitudes and goals.

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## Charter Schools

Students living within the charter school's zoned district will be given first priority; those living outside the attendance zone may apply for admission. When applications exceed building capacity, a lottery process is used, and students are selected based on available space. Parents of students who live outside the charter school's attendance zone must provide transportation. For applications and details about the lottery process, please see the school's webpage.

## Elementary:

**Chestnut Mountain Creative School of Inquiry (CSI)** is for students in grade K-5 who enjoy discovery and creativity. The program is designed to engage students in 21st Century learning as they question, research, discover and create. Curriculum standards are taught through inquiry-based, thematic units. Teachers guide students to create questions based on their interest in the unit. Students research, discover answers to their questions, and present what they have learned to real audiences through creative products such as multi-media presentations, interactive displays, or through the use of Web 2.0 tools. Technology is integrated into instruction, research and student productivity.

For more information: [www.hallco.org/cmcs](http://www.hallco.org/cmcs) or 770-967-3121

**Martin Technology Academy of Math and Science** provides a challenging academic learning environment for students in grades K-5. Instruction is inquiry based, and TNT (Talent & Thinking) classes reinforce the hands-on approach with interest-based activities that focus on state and national standards in math and science. Martin teachers and students utilize cutting edge technology, e.g., tablets and cloud computing for instruction in all content areas.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/martines> or 770-965-1578

**McEver Arts Academy** is an arts integration model charter school that uses dance, music, movement, drama and visual arts to engage students in authentic learning of the state curriculum standards and the National Standards for the Arts. Arts-based instructional strategies, integrated units of study and specialty classes in individual areas of interest develop students' capacities for creativity, inquiry, reflective thinking, self-esteem and love of learning. For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/mceveres> or 770-534-7473

**The Mount Vernon Exploratory School** offers students extensive opportunities to build authentic learning experiences through project-based learning, best practice instruction and cutting-edge technology tools. Academic subjects are presented in an interdisciplinary manner to promote continuity and to allow students to see how ideas are connected. Curriculum standards are taught using a hands-on project approach that engages students and promotes deep understanding. Projects have either a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) or Humanities focus. For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/mves> or 770-983-1759

**Sardis Enrichment School** uses the Schoolwide Enrichment Model to develop students' talents, provide a broad range of advanced-level enrichment experiences and advanced learning in children's areas of interest. Students participate in general exploratory activities that are authentic and interest-based, enrichment activities and in-depth learning opportunities to pursue self-directed projects. For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/SardisES> or 770-532-0104

**Spout Spring Elementary School** uses the Schoolwide Enrichment Model to develop students' talents, provide a broad range of advanced-level enrichment experiences and advanced learning in children's areas of interest. Students participate in general exploratory activities that are authentic and interest-based, enrichment activities and in-depth learning opportunities to pursue self-directed projects. For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/sses> or 770-967-4860

**Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Academy** bases its unique programming options on Howard Gardner's research on multiple intelligences. Students gain a deeper understanding of the state curriculum through instructional strategies that relate to their dominant ways of thinking and learning and choice classes based on individual interests. For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/wmes> or 770-983-3221

**World Language Academy** is a PreK- Grade 7 dual-language immersion school in which students receive half their instruction in English and half in Spanish. Additionally, WLA students take classes in Mandarin Chinese as part of their rigorous coursework and inquiry-based learning experience. The WLA curriculum emphasizes the study of language, culture and respect for an international community. (Eighth grade will be added in the 2013-14 school year , which will make WLA a 6-8th grade middle school) For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/wla> or 770-967-5856

**Middle School:**

**Chestatee Academy of Inquiry and Talent Development** builds on the Renzulli Triad Model of instruction, structuring experiences around interest clusters in which the regular curriculum comes alive for students through authentic engagement. Project SOAR (Seeking Out Authentic Relationships) clusters students into multi-age groups to pursue a common area of interest. Learning academies are formed around these clusters and students produce evidence of curricular learning via projects.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/cms> or 770-297-6270

**World Language Academy** is a PreK- Grade 7 dual-language immersion school. (See above)

**High School:**

**Flowery Branch High School Global Studies and Leadership Academy** students enjoy a variety of innovative scheduling and instructional approaches, both traditional and technology based, as they study global concepts through the lens of leadership. The Autonomous Learner Model is used guide investigations in self-selected academic areas. Students choose their own career pathways, which include Honors-level CTAE courses. Technology-rich classes provide opportunities to participate in virtual classroom teleconferencing with high school classes from across the globe. Instruction in each content includes a focus on global issues, service and leadership skills. Optional travel abroad opportunities will afford students further in-depth self directed study. Senior portfolios showcase students' growth and accomplishments over their high school careers.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/flowerybranch/> or 770-967-8000

**Lanier Charter Career Academy (LCCA) at The Oaks** is an innovative school that provides career pathways and post-secondary education opportunities to students from all the high schools in Hall County who are interested in careers in the hospitality, culinary arts, and marketing industries. LCCA provides students the opportunity to learn in a real work environment, helping to manage and run one of five businesses: Corner Cafe coffee shop, Get Gifted gift shop, Bistro at the Oaks fine dining restaurant, Meeting & Events conference center, and Design 360 personalized promotions lab.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/theoaks> or 770-532-3161

## Programs of Choice

Any Hall County School District student may apply to a Program of Choice in his or her area of interest, regardless of home school assignment. Students are selected to participate in Programs of Choice through a competitive application process during which they are evaluated for the match between strengths and interests and the program goals, specialized content and instructional approaches. Parents of selected students who live outside the charter school's attendance zone must provide transportation. For applications and information about the selection process, please see the school's webpage.

### Elementary School:

**The Advanced Scholars Academy (ASA) at Riverbend Elementary** is an innovative program of choice, appropriate for self-motivated, passionate students who are ready for rigorous, personalized learning experiences. Offering fluidity within and between grade levels, ASA provides instruction that challenges advanced students. ASA teachers design customized schedules and instruction to meet the unique needs of each student, including flexible part-time enrollment for a limited number of home-schooled students. Character development is practiced daily, and all students take part in community service. Participants are selected based on evidence of their achievement, motivation to excel, creativity, curiosity and maturity to work well independently and in small group settings.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/RiverbendES> or 770-534-4141

**The Family Wellness Program at Friendship Elementary School** offers a comprehensive wellness program and activities that are researched based and considered to be best practices in the areas of health and wellness. Goals of the program are to fight childhood obesity, improve academic performance and develop a fitness educated community. The Friendship family enjoys fitness activities before, during and after school, as well as explores activities to improve the overall health of the community. The Friendship Wellness Program is open to all Hall County students in grades K-5 who have a desire to adopt and value a positive active lifestyle throughout their lives.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/FriendshipES> or 770-932-1223

**Middle School:**

**The Da Vinci Academy at South Hall Middle School (DVA)** is a program of choice that uses student interest in the arts, sciences and/or technology as the foundation for advanced learning in all content areas. Creative teachers guide selected students in developing deep understanding of subject matter through direct instruction, collaborative exploration and discovery. Additionally, adjunct professional scientists and artists periodically join the DVA learning community to work with individual students and small groups in their areas of interest. DVA is for curious, creative students who love to learn, particularly those with strong interests in the arts, sciences and/or technology. Selection is based on evidence from students' applications, teacher recommendations, and school transcripts of (a) intrinsic motivation to excel; (b) interest and advanced ability in the arts, sciences and/or technology; (c) creativity; and (d) ability to work well independently and in small group settings.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/dva> or 770-533-4004

**High School:**

**The Innovation Institute (i-squared) at West Hall High School** is a program that uses an integrated, project-based curriculum to deliver high school curriculum to students in creative ways. In the 9th grade, students can choose to participate in 3 of 5 i2 classes: AP World History; Honors Biology; Accelerated Math; Honors American Literature; and Honors Spanish I, II or III. Customized programs of study emphasize in-depth learning in areas of interest, preparing participants for success in WHHS's IB Diploma Program, AP courses and/or Honors Mentorship Program. In the Innovation Research Facility, i2 students use some of the most advanced technology available to students in Hall County to extend their educational experience. While i2 is an intentional extension of the Da Vinci Academy learning environment, students from any middle school in Hall County may apply to this 4-year program.

For an application and additional information: <http://www.hallco.org/whhs> or 770-967-9826

**Johnson International Scholars Academy (JISA)** is a Program of Choice that operates as a school-within-a-school at Johnson High School. JISA curriculum includes International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and IB prep, along with world language and global studies strands of study. The academy begins with 9th graders, offering a program of study that ensures completion of state-required courses early in the student's career. As upperclassmen, students can choose the IB Diploma path, the world language path, or the global studies path, which may include AP and dual enrollment courses. JISA is for students who are interested in rigorous academic curriculum that prepares them for success in competitive universities and the challenges of our global economy. Any rising Hall County ninth grader may apply. Eighty students are admitted annually. For additional information: <http://teacherpages.hallco.org/webpages/jinternationals> or 770-536-2394.

**The Navy Junior ROTC Program at East Hall High School** provides students with an outstanding means to develop their leadership skills and become active and productive citizens. NJROTC is a hands-on leadership laboratory, where cadets learn the fundamentals of leadership and management by running the cadet company. Other objectives include: promoting patriotism; developing informed and responsible citizens; promoting habits of orderliness and precision; and developing personal honor, responsibility and self-discipline. Cadets incur no military obligation, but there are benefits for those who enlist in the military after high school graduation, and qualified students are eligible for special college scholarship opportunities. NJROTC is open to all Hall County students in grades 9-12 who want to be active participants in a multi-faceted program emphasizing responsibility, character building and citizenship. There is no formal application process. However, cadets must be capable of participating in the school's physical fitness program. Cadets are also expected to maintain acceptable standards of conduct and academic achievement.

For more information: <http://www.hallco.org/ehhs> or 770-536-9921.

**Renaissance Academy for Creative Enterprises (RACE)** at Chestatee High School is designed for students who are looking for a rigorous, interdisciplinary academic experience during the high school years. RACE students complete authentic products that culminate in a technology-based portfolio highlighting their high school education. Collaborative interdisciplinary instruction provides students with opportunities to discover the limitless connections across the curriculum. Smaller classes and consistency in instructors creates an environment that invites curiosity and inquiry, and technology allows creative scheduling and programming that enable students to pursue personal interests. While RACE is an intentional extension of the Da Vinci Academy learning environment, rising 9th-grade students from any middle school in Hall County may apply. Participants are selected through a competitive application process, based on demonstrated achievement, motivation to excel, creativity, curiosity, resourcefulness and maturity to work well independently and in small group settings. For more information: <http://teacherpages.hallco.org/webpages/race> or 770-532-1162

**Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Academy at North Hall High School** is designed for students who are looking for high quality educational opportunities in STEM fields. STEM represents the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM curriculum places an emphasis on those content areas. STEM programs seek to prepare students to be successful in rigorous post-secondary settings. One of the primary directives of the North Hall High School STEM Academy is to be innovative in instructional methodology; the content delivery model can be described in three ways: Integrated, Thematic, and Student Directed. The STEM academy program is open to any rising 9th grader in the district. For more information, contact North Hall High School, 770-983-7331.

**International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programs at Johnson, North Hall and West Hall High Schools.** Designed to prepare students for success at the university level, the IB Diploma Program is recognized nationally and internationally as one of the most rigorous programs available to high school students. IB students take six college-level classes during their junior and senior years, participate in the Theory of Knowledge course, complete an independent research paper on a topic of the student's choice, and carry out community service related to causes about which they are passionate. The IB Diploma Program offers students an opportunity to stand out among their peers in the university admissions process. WHHS offers the IB Bilingual Diploma Program for students who have been raised in a bilingual environment and have had substantial experience in reading and writing in both languages. Any rising Hall County junior is invited to complete an IB application for the program at the school of his or her choice.

**For more information:**

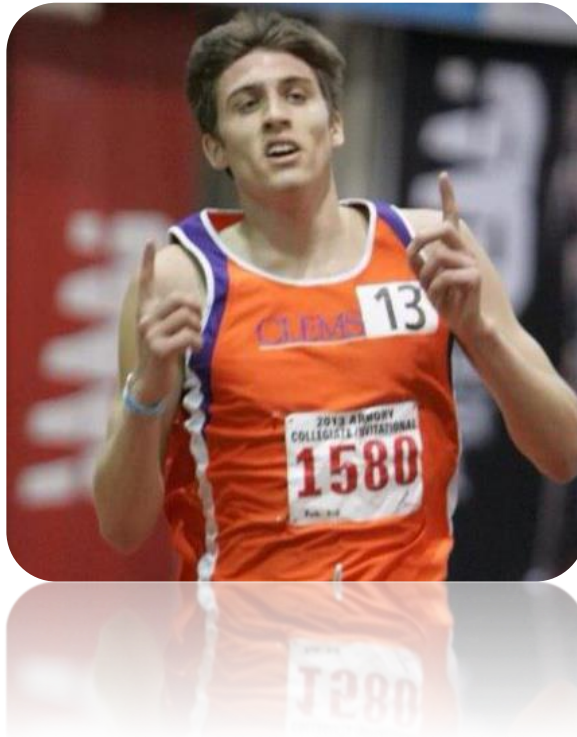
<http://www.hallco.org/johnsonhs>

<http://www.hallco.org/nhhs>

<http://www.hallco.org/whhs>

Each spring for the past three years, Hall County IB graduates have gone on to achieve success in a wide variety of college and university settings. The following stories spotlight three of these students who have experienced extraordinary achievements, often overcoming daunting challenges along the way. Nelson Yanes, from JHS; Ty McCormack from NHHS; and Mauricio Novelo, from WHHS demonstrate how a rigorous international education can propel students to dream big – and then offer them the foundation necessary to fulfill those dreams.

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### **Ty McCormack**

#### **North Hall High School – IB Diploma, 2010**

“Participating in the IB program was the best decision of my life. Not only did the teachers give me an education above that of the average high school student, but they also broadened my horizons and prepared me for success outside of Gainesville, GA. Learning to think internationally has prepared me to make an impact that spans the entire globe.”

Ty will be graduating this spring from Clemson University, Magna Cum Laude (after only 3 years). He has received the Class of 2013 Pat Wannamaker award, indicating that he is the top Language and International Trade major. He plans to attend Auburn University to earn a double Masters in Business Administration and Supply Chain Management. Following graduate school, he will be pursuing the 2016 and 2020 Olympic teams. After a career as a professional runner, he hopes to work for a company apparel industry managing an international supply chain for a company like Nike or Under Armor.

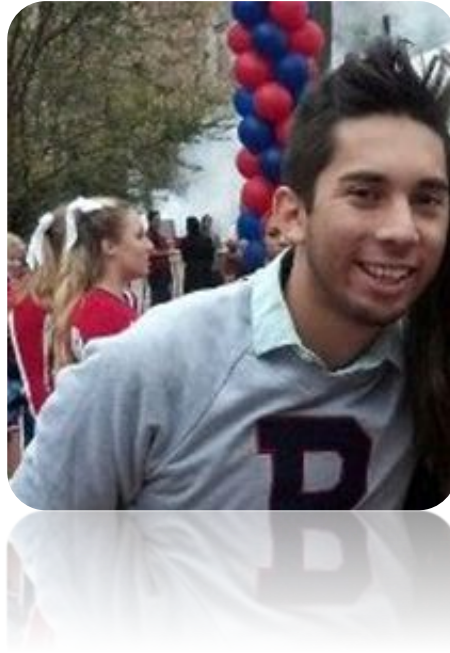


### Nelson Yanes

#### Johnson High School – IB Diploma, 2011

"Coming from first-generation immigrants who had no academic background or professional standing, I grew up in rather unfavorable circumstances. However, at the age of 6, my parents moved to Gainesville, GA, found jobs, and became legal residents, enabling them to securely provide stability for my family. Despite this unsteady upbringing, I realized that I excelled academically and was driven by the fact that my parents risked so much to get here. I grasped every opportunity presented to me and I embraced it. The IB Program was one of those rare opportunities in my life--probably my most crucial opportunity before college. The academic rigor this program provides along with the extracurricular activities it encourages fostered the ability within the student to multi-task and master the art of being busy. Now as a Sophomore of Harvard University, I am still guided by the principles I learned in high school. I may face more distractions today than I would ever before, but I manage my obligations successfully."

Today Nelson is not only a full-time student at Harvard University, but he also works 15 hours a week at the Harvard-Yenching Library as a circulation desk assistant, was elected to be on the Harvard Undergraduate Government Body (Harvard Undergraduate Council), and is currently in **the Education** Committee and Finance Committee within this organization. As a sophomore, he was also elected to be the Finance Director of the Harvard College Democrats. He has just finished an internship with now-Senator Elizabeth Warren as a campus intern, for which he will be featured in the Harvard Leadership Magazine in Spring, 2013.

**Mauricio Novelo****West Hall High School – IB Bilingual Diploma, 2010**

“I was born in Mexico City, but my true hometown is Flowery Branch, where I grew up. Since I spent most of my after school time taking care of my little sister, my greatest companions and mentors were those I found in narratives. As I entered high school, I began to pursue literature as not only my source of inspiration but also as the medium through which to realize my artistic identity. Then I began to reclaim my Spanish from simply a connection with my Hispanic past to a pathway to a broader understanding of the world. Thus, the reaches of my consciousness expanded beyond America, and I loved it. I loved feeling like a global explorer as I traveled the world through literature. This love then metamorphosed into a passion and a calling. Through the IB Bilingual program I began developing myself around this calling. Everything I studied in IB provided pressure on my passions, effectively crystallizing my heart into that of an artist. Thinking back, I'm amazed at my boldness in applying for the Questbridge Scholarship.”

After earning the IB Bilingual Diploma, Mauricio was awarded an over \$200,000 full Questbridge scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, where he is now pursuing a double major in Comparative Literature and English so that he can study the ideas of globalization and postcolonial literature in both English and Spanish. He is a McNair Scholar and is currently completing his first independent research project on multiple interpretations of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, a book that he first read in IB Spanish. His plan is to enter a Ph.D. program after he graduates from UPenn. “Since my junior year of high school I have wanted to be a college professor, and I plan to follow through with this dream.”

## Career Pathway

Hall County Career & Technology Programs provide many pathways for students to get a head start in many technical and professional careers. The opportunity for real life experiences helps provide tools to assist in making connections and a plan for the future. The following stories spotlight some of our students who attended the programs available at the Lanier Charter Career Academy. These programs provided the students the necessary foundation to build upon their career goal for the future.



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**Dave Harkins**

**JHS Graduate, Class of 2011**

**CTAE Pathway Completer/Habitat High @ LCCA/ Work Based Learning**

"The Construction, Youth Apprenticeship, and the Habitat High programs, while at JHS and LCCA, played a significant role in where I am today in my career. Having the opportunity to learn and practice hands-on in the construction of Habitat House # 8 and having part-time work experience with a local hardware store during the time I was in high school, helped prepare a foundation in the area of construction and influence my career field of choice. Three months after graduation, I entered the work force full-time as an apprentice with the Industrial Electrical Contractors (IEC) in Athens where I continue to work with them currently while attending post-secondary training to obtain my Journey-Wireman credential."

Construction Workers Construction Electrician (CWCE) is the post-secondary school program Dave attends while working for IEC. Dave's tuition is paid for by IEC and he hopes to earn his Journey-Wireman credential as a registered apprentice in approximately four years.



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**Elizabeth Logan**  
**Class of 2012**  
**LCCA**

"Taking classes at Lanier Charter Career Academy has really helped me in the real world. The classes I took at the Academy were very informative and I had a lot of interaction with people. I began to expand my thoughts about businesses and I learned so much about how to manage a business as well," says Lizzie Logan, a freshman at the University of North Georgia. It was Lizzie's experience in the hands-on marketing program at LCCA that led her to launch her own business, L Squared Media. The photography business has allowed Lizzie to combine a passion with her business sense to result in a very successful first year of operation. "Becoming an intern at LCCA my senior year of high school, I really learned how to work well with customers. I have become very successful in the past year with my business thanks to the programs at LCCA. I am getting ready to photograph a wedding in a couple of weekends and I already have senior 2014 picture sessions lined up with a couple of promotions I have organized!"



**Kaycie Barnes**  
**Class of 2012**  
**Lanier Charter Career Academy**

“My time studying Culinary Arts at LCCA was a truly invaluable experience. I was able to gain real hands-on experience in the foodservice industry that I couldn’t get anywhere else. More than anything else though, I received personal attention from the teachers at LCCA. They care more about students’ learning and well-being than how students perform on a test. It is this student-focused learning experience that makes LCCA so special.”

As a pathway completer in the Culinary Arts program offered at Lanier Charter Career Academy, Kaycie has studied culinary arts at the Charlotte Johnson & Wales University. Kaycie is returning to Gainesville to complete her education by specializing in Dietetics. She plans to continue her education at University of Georgia with a Master’s degree and then pursuing a career as a pediatric dietitian.

## Habitat High

Habitat High is an innovative program for students interested in construction. Believed to be truly one of a kind, the program places high school construction students on a Habitat for Humanity job site with a highly qualified, experienced instructor, and have them to construct the Habitat Home from the ground up. Students for 'Habitat High' (name the students gave to the project) are selected based on their construction teachers' recommendation. The ambitious project, which began in the fall of 2007, is the result of a collaborative effort among the Hall County School System, the Greater Hall County Home Builder's Association, and Hall Habitat for Humanity. To date, Habitat High students have built ten (10) homes throughout the county for deserving families. Habitat High students have been featured in Southern Living magazine, Atlanta television, and numerous local media articles.



## Project Success

Five years ago, the Hall County School System Special Education Department launched a new partnership with Northeast Georgia Health Systems called Project SEARCH. This initiative allows a classroom to operate out of the Northeast Georgia Medical Center. The Medical Center supplies the classroom space and the Hall County Special Education Department supplies the classroom teacher. A partnership was also formed with Rehabilitation Industries of Northeast Georgia (RING), Georgia Mountains Workforce Development, and Vocational Rehabilitation to supply job coaches, laptop computers, and other program needs.

The students participating in Project SEARCH have the opportunity to rotate through three of twenty-five job sites that have been cultivated at the Medical Center. These work sites are located on the main campus of the Medical Center as well as off campus Medical Center sites. The student interns acquire valuable job skills. The employment rate for interns in the school year 2011-2012 was 90%, a 19% increase in employment from 2008. The Hall County Project SEARCH Program has been recognized for the past three years as one of the top Project Search Programs in the U.S. They are on track to receive this recognition again this year.

In October 2012, Project Search Hall County received the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) Outstanding Employer Service Award. Two years in a row, Project Search Hall County has presented at the Project Search International Conference as well as in Conversations that Matter, sponsored by All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD) Project Search was also featured in the Friday Flyer, the Medical Center's weekly publication and in the Making a Difference Magazine produced quarterly by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Hall County Schools Project Search Program has consistently been recognized as one of the best in Georgia.

Project Success is a second post secondary program implemented by the Hall County Special Education Department. In 2012, the program has grown to include three classes with 26 students, three instructors, and five job coaches. These students, instructors, and job coaches have become an integral part of the day to day operations of the Oaks Catering and Hospitality and the Corner Café businesses. Project Success currently has community work site agreements with Walgreens, New Horizons Lanier Park, and at the Hall County Government Building with Oakwood Occasions Catering. Project Success continues to work to develop new work site partnerships with other businesses in the community as well as with adult agencies that support adults with disabilities in the workplace and community. These instructors and job coaches work closely to educate the families of these students on futures planning and post graduation options.

Project Success has been asked to present in Conversations that Matter, sponsored by AADD and at Transitions Information Sessions. Project Success has also been featured in Making a Difference Magazine, a quarterly magazine produced by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. In addition, Project Success students have been featured in multiple local media features and articles.

## Hall County School District - United Healthcare Wellness Initiative

UnitedHealthcare's mission is to help people live healthier lives. To help realize that mission, they've selected just 6 school districts around the country to develop and partner with on a new and innovative program to get and keep kids healthy: Activate for Kids. UnitedHealthcare believes that through collaboration with highly motivated and engaged schools like those in the Hall County district, we can work together to help kids and their families to be active, healthy and well. Through this unique program, UnitedHealthcare brings resources, including a school wellness coordinator, directly to school districts with the goal of making them a healthy place for kids to learn, at no cost to the schools or families.

### Wellness Programs in Hall County Schools

- United Healthcare -- Activate for Kids -- All Schools
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation -- 25 schools
- HopSports - 3 elementary schools  
(Physical Education curriculum enhanced through video production)
- Breaks -- all elementary schools (classroom videos by HopSports for daily activity breaks)
- Running clubs -- Started at 9 schools (280 participants)
- Hall County School District Annual Fit Families 5K
- Family Wellness Nights -- held at several schools at various times
- IronKids Triathlon -- 20 students represented Hall County
- Afterschool Fitness Clubs -- several schools
- Staff wellness afterschool fitness clubs -- several schools
- Dance-Dance Revolution Classroom Edition -- North Hall Middle

### School Recognitions for Wellness Achievements

#### State Recognition -- Governors SHAPE Gold Award

- White Sulphur Elementary / - Friendship Elementary / - Spout Springs Elementary
- Chicopee Woods Elementary / - Chestnut Mountain Elementary / - Sugar Hill Elementary
- North Hall Middle / - South Hall Middle

#### National Recognition -- Alliance for a Healthier Generation

##### 2012 Bronze Award

- Friendship Elementary / - White Sulphur Elementary / - McEver Elementary
- Riverbend Elementary / - Chestnut Mountain Elementary / - Spout Springs Elementary
- Chicopee Woods Elementary

##### 2013 Bronze Award (Applications)

- Sugar Hill Elementary / - Sardis Elementary / - Flowery Branch Elementary / - East Hall Middle
- North Hall Middle / - South Hall Middle / - Chestatee Academy

##### 2013 Silver Award (Application)

- Spout Springs Elementary

### Individual Recognitions for Wellness Achievements

- Andrea Williamson-English, Hall County Schools Cluster Nurse, was chosen as a National Wellness Champion by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation (only 14 across the nation received this distinction).

## United Healthcare -- Activate for Kids

### Wellness Grants

#### 2011 – 2012

\$25,000 United Health Foundation

- Provided 100 Switch to Health watches to North Hall Middle
- 6 Sony Wii Fit Bundles for 4 Elementary and 2 Middle schools
- Support Gardening at Central Office
- Family Wellness Nights

\$34,000 -- Share our Strength

\$2000 worth of All Clad equipment to expand culinary arts programming -- 17 schools

\$2,200 -- National Association of School Nurses

-Chestatee High School -- Fitness trail with fitness stations

\$2,200 -- National Association of School Nurses

- Chestnut Mountain Elementary -- Exergaming class created along with nutritional education

\$2,000 -- National Association of School Nurses

- Riverbend Elementary -- PE equipment and deskercise to increase physical activity

\$1,500 -- National Association of School Nurses

- Sugar Hill Elementary -- Recess equipment and garden materials

\$1,500 -- National Association of School Nurses

- Martin Technology Academy - PE equipment and videos for the classroom to increase physical activity

\$1,000 -- United Health Foundation

- School Garden

**Wellness Grant Total 2011 - 2012 = \$69,400**

#### 2012 – 2013

\$25,000 -- United Health Foundation / Running clubs in 14 schools

\$30,000 -- HealthMPowers / Resources valued at \$10,000 at 3 elementary schools

\$10,000 -- Play 60 Super School / North Hall Middle School

\$5,000 -- Governors SHAPE Implementation Grant / Chestnut Mountain Elementary

\$5,000 -- Governors SHAPE Implementation Grant / North Hall Middle School

\$4,000 -- Fuel Up Play 60 / East Hall Middle School

\$4,000 -- Fuel Up Play 60 / White Sulphur Elementary

\$6,400 -- Governors SHAPE Gold Award Grant / \$800 worth of PE equipment for each of the 8 schools that received the SHAPE Gold Award

**Wellness Grant Total 2012 - 2013 = \$89,400**

# Academic Update

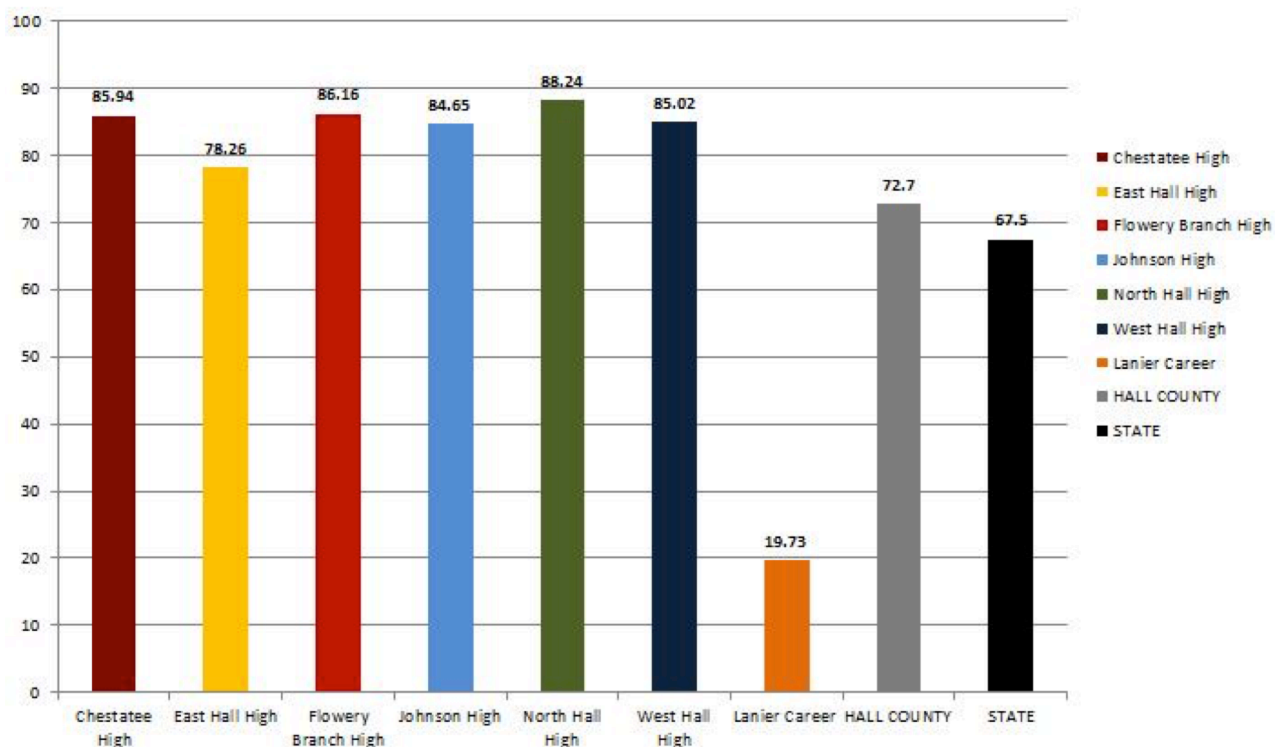
## High School Graduation Rates at Traditional High Schools

The US Department of Education is requiring all states to begin reporting comparable high school graduation rates using the Four-year Cohort Rate Calculation method. This method requires all states to report the graduation rate based upon the percentage of high school freshmen students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma. The report below represents the first graduation classes to which the new formula has been applied to determine graduation rates.

Lanier Career Academy (LCA) offers a number of alternative programs that yield high school completion but not always an approved Georgia High School diploma. The 19.73% graduation rate below for LCA is the actual percent of approved Georgia High School diplomas awarded by LCA in 2012.

Due to the emphasis on rigorous coursework and academic supports, Hall County graduation rates at our six traditional high schools exceed statewide graduation rate for the first time in recent history.

## High School Graduation Rates



## CRCT Results

The Georgia Criterion Referenced Tests (CRCT) in Reading, English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are administered to students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the spring of each year. CRCT scores have been the basis for determining whether or not a school made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) over the past few years and still serve as an integral part of the calculations used in the new College and Career Readiness Performance Index which is Georgia's new accountability instrument for the No Child Left Behind law.

### The 2012 CRCT scores are summarized below:

- In Reading, ELA, Mathematics, and Science, all grade levels scored higher than the state in the meets category. In Science and Mathematics, sixth graders made higher than the state in the exceeds category and higher than the state average.
- In social studies, grades three, four, seven and eight scored higher than the state in the meets category while seventh grade met the state percentage in exceeds category.

### 2012 Hall County CRCT Scores - System/State View

Grade	Social Studies Mean	SS % Exceeds	SS % Meets	SS % M + E	SS % DNM		
3rd	813 (829)	10 (28)	58 (53)	68 (82)	31 (19)	STATE SCORES ARE IN ( )	
4th	814 (825)	12 (24)	57 (55)	69 (79)	32 (22)		
5th	811 (825)	11 (24)	51 (53)	62 (77)	38 (23)	Numbers = %	
6th	832 (835)	37 (38)	33 (35)	70 (73)	30 (27)		
7th	844 (844)	47 (47)	34 (31)	81 (78)	20 (22)		
8th	825 (828)	27 (31)	50 (46)	77 (77)	23 (23)		

Grade	Reading Mean	Reading % Exceeds	Reading % Meets	Reading % M + E	Reading % DNM	ELA Mean	ELA % Exceeds	ELA % Meets	ELA % M+ E	ELA % DNM
3rd	840 (844)	42 (47)	49 (43)	91 (90)	9 (9)	831 (837)	28 (38)	60 (53)	88 (91)	11 (9)
4th	836 (841)	37 (44)	52 (46)	89 (90)	11 (10)	831 (838)	27 (35)	61 (55)	88 (90)	12 (9)
5th	829 (834)	24 (32)	65 (59)	89 (91)	11 (9)	834 (840)	32 (41)	61 (54)	93 (95)	7 (6)
6th	838 (841)	37 (43)	58 (53)	95 (96)	5 (4)	832 (835)	27 (31)	64 (61)	91 (92)	9 (8)
7th	829 (832)	22 (27)	71 (67)	93 (94)	7 (6)	840 (844)	38 (46)	54 (48)	92 (94)	8 (7)
8th	836 (840)	34 (40)	61 (55)	95 (95)	5 (4)	836 (842)	30 (39)	64 (56)	94 (95)	6 (5)

Grade	Math Mean	Math % Exceeds	Math % Meets	Math % M + E	Math % DNM	Science Mean	Science % Exceeds	Science % Meets	Science % M + E	Science % DNM
3rd	836 (841)	40 (44)	40 (37)	80 (81)	21 (19)	824 (833)	28 (39)	47 (39)	75 (78)	25 (22)
4th	827 (833)	30 (36)	48 (45)	78 (81)	22 (20)	827 (841)	31 (43)	44 (38)	75 (81)	25 (19)
5th	830 (838)	28 (37)	53 (47)	81 (84)	19 (16)	821 (836)	28 (41)	40 (37)	68 (78)	31 (22)
6th	827 (824)	25 (23)	58 (57)	83 (80)	17 (20)	822 (821)	22 (21)	53 (52)	75 (73)	25 (27)
7th	841 (843)	41 (42)	52 (49)	93 (91)	7 (9)	827 (841)	39 (44)	43 (41)	82 (85)	17 (15)
8th	822 (827)	21 (26)	55 (51)	76 (77)	24 (23)	821 (821)	18 (21)	59 (53)	77 (74)	22 (26)

## SAT Scores

Overall, more students took the SAT in 2012 than in 2011 and in most cases scores increased as indicated below:

- In Reading and Mathematics, four high schools showed gains in SAT scores.
- In Reading, the system was within two points of the state average. Two schools exceeded the state's average. One school met the national average and another school exceeded the national average.
- In Mathematics, the system was within 4 points of the state average. Two schools exceeded the state mathematics average.
- Even though one school's scores declined in 2012, that school's scores exceeded both state and national averages.

### 2012 SAT Scores--System-State

	System	State
Critical Reading Mean	486	488
Math Mean	485	487
Writing Mean	465	475
Average Score	1436	1452

Composite ACT scores as well as scores in each content area show a slight decline statewide, including Hall County scores. However, Hall County students still outperformed the state in all areas except mathematics where our score was 20.1 as compared to the state score of 20.2.

#### ACT Scores 2008-2011

	System	State
<b>Composite</b>		
2008	20.2	20.6
2009	20.6	20.3
2010	21.1	20.7
2011	20.5	20.2
<b>English/LA</b>		
2008	19.5	20.1
2009	20	19.7
2010	20.6	20.1
2011	19.9	19.7
<b>Math</b>		
2008	20.2	20.6
2009	20.6	20.3
2010	21.2	20.7
2011	20.1	20.2
<b>Reading</b>		
2008	20.8	20.9
2009	21.2	20.5
2010	21.4	20.9
2011	21	20.6
<b>Science</b>		
2008	20.1	20.3
2009	20.1	20.1
2010	20.8	20.5
2011	20.6	20.3

### Middle School Students Taking High School End-Of-Course (EOCT) Tests

During the 2011-2012 school year, Hall County middle school students were administered 1,368 End-of-Course Tests which are designed for high school students. These tests include Physical Science, 9th Grade Literature, and Mathematics 1 tests. The Hall County pass rate for these middle school students was well over 99% for each of the denoted high school level course offerings. The pass rate is well above the state average and is consistent with the historical performance of Hall County middle school students recommended for high school level courses.

Middle School	# Tested	% Passed
<b>9th Grade Literature</b>		
Chestatee	82	99
C.W. Davis	25	100
East Hall	57	100
North Hall	80	100
South Hall	223	96
West Hall	24	100
<b>State</b>		<b>84</b>

Middle School	# Tested	% Passed
<b>Physical Science</b>		
Chestatee	85	100
C.W. Davis	125	100
East Hall	57	100
North Hall	97	100
South Hall	176	97
West Hall	30	100
<b>State</b>		<b>77</b>

Middle School	# Tested	% Passed
<b>Math 1</b>		
Chestatee	39	97
C.W. Davis	38	100
East Hall	18	94
North Hall	76	100
South Hall	107	99
West Hall	29	97
<b>State</b>		<b>65</b>

## 2011 ACCESS Data

The Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State (ACCESS) test is administered annually to measure English Learners (ELs) English Language Proficiency. District ELL's must meet Annual Measurable Assessment Objectives (AMAO's) demonstrating 1) Progress and 2) Attainment of Proficiency, in addition to AYP goals.

The results below provide data indicating that Hall County exceeds state targets

Academic  
Updates

<b><u>ACCESS Band Data</u></b>					
<i>AMAO-1 Percent of ELs who moved one or more Performance Bands</i>					
<i>AMAO-2 Percent of ELs attaining proficiency</i>					
	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	
<b><u>AMAO-1</u></b>					
Georgia Target	48%	49%	50%	51%	
<b>Hall County</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>63.8%</b>	<b>61.4</b>	
<b><u>AMAO-2</u></b>					
Georgia Target	5.5%	6.0%	6.5%	6.75%	
<b>Hall County</b>	<b>13.58%</b>	<b>14.44%</b>	<b>14.27%</b>	<b>14.86%</b>	

# Milestones

## Academic Milestones

- Da Vinci Academy First Lego League (FLL) teams bring home awards from competitions at regional and state levels: The Lego Legends place 3<sup>rd</sup> and won the Champion's Award at the Creekland Qualifier Tournament; they placed 11<sup>th</sup> at the Gwinnett Super-Regional Tournament. The Da Vinci Squad received a Champion's Award and was named Grand Champions at the Creekland Qualifier Tournament. They won the Presentation Award Trophy and placed 8<sup>th</sup> at the Gwinnett Super Regional, and they won a team medal at the Georgia FLL Championship Tournament.
- C.W. Davis Middle 2012 Odyssey of the Mind Team placed 2nd at World Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, an international competition featuring teams from all over the world.
- World Language Academy and C. W. Davis Odyssey of the Mind Teams placed 1st at the 2013 Georgia Odyssey of the Mind Finals, qualifying for the summer 2013 OM World Finals.
- The Lanier Charter Career Academy Public Relations team placed 2nd at the International DECA Career Development Conference for their Buy Hall Y'all Campaign competition against 145 teams from around the world.
- Seven Da Vinci Academy students qualify for History Day State Finals.
- West Hall High senior Savannah Schneider named 2013 District STAR Student. Andrew McCain named as her STAR Teacher.
- Chestnut Mountain Creative School of Inquiry, Mount Vernon Exploratory School and Flowery Branch High School were approved and began their first year as charter schools.
- North Hall High School gains approval for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academy to open in August 2013.
- The Academy of Discoveries was created to house both the Da Vinci Academy and the intermediate grades of the World Language Academy. Building improvements include a state-of-the-art, collaborative learning environment featuring digital displays and interactive whiteboards.
- Marketing and DECA students from Chestatee, East Hall, Flowery Branch, LCCA and North Hall High Schools won top prizes at the State DECA Championships to advance to competition at the international level.
- Math teachers partnered with professors at the University of North Georgia to offer project-based Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics to 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Seventeen students from Chestatee Academy, Davis Middle and West Hall Middle placed in the top 10 for the state of Georgia in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Competition.

- Two students, one from WHHS and one from CHS, were accepted into the extremely competitive Georgia Tech Distance Learning Calculus program for 2012-13. Only students who scored 4's or 5's on their AP Calculus exams may apply to be admitted.
- In only their third year of examinations, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students at Johnson, North Hall and West Hall continue to excel with an examination pass rate of nearly 75%. Hall County IB students have been accepted at the some of the best known universities in the world. Two have won full Questbridge scholarships (worth over \$200,000 each) to Ivy League colleges. In the past three years, Hall County Schools has awarded 100 IB Diplomas.
- In the past three years, Hall County Schools has awarded 100 IB Diplomas. Twenty-two students from Chestatee Academy, Chestatee High, Davis Middle, Flowery Branch High and West Hall Middle placed in the top 10 for the state of Georgia in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Competition.
- The Workforce Development Academy, focusing on the development of strong employability skills for its students, opened at LCCA. A new Cosmetology program also opened along with the six student-run business, Reflections Salon & Spa.
- The Business & Information Technology Program at Chestatee High and the Construction Program at Johnson High received State Industry Certification.
- Seventy five Health Science and HOSA students from Chestatee, Flowery Branch, Johnson and West Hall qualified to compete at the state level of competition.
- Desmond Hammond, a graphic arts student at Johnson High School, was awarded a “Benny” for Best of Category from all high school entries, the highest honor in the 2012 Premier Print Awards. The Premier Print Awards, the graphic arts industry’s largest and most prestigious worldwide printing competition recognizes outstanding achievement in print production.
- Fifteen Hall County students representing our Construction, Cosmetology, Graphic Arts and Transportation programs from East Hall, Johnson, LCCA and West Hall recently placed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Region SkillsUSA Competition and advanced to the state finals.
- Yanet Velazquez from West Hall High School was named a Jackson EMC Washington DC Leadership Tour Delegate and embarked on a trip to the nation's capital on the 2012 Washington Youth Tour this past summer..
- West Hall High, Flowery Branch High, and Chestatee High all won Region One Act Competitions and all finished in the top five at State GHSA AAA One Act Play Competition.
- Johnson High Cast members of Drama “Catfish Moon;” Flowery Branch Cast members of Drama “Mary’s Wedding” were selected to perform at 2013 State Thespian Conference, and West Hall High Cast members of Drama “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” were selected to perform at main stage at 2013 State Thespian Conference
- Trey Grimsley, 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Mount Vernon Exploratory School, selected by the Georgia Association for Gifted Children as the 2013 winner of the Distinguished Elementary Student Award.

- Two students, one from WHHS and one from CHS, were accepted into the extremely competitive Georgia Tech Distance Learning Calculus program for 2012-13. Only students who scored 4's or 5's on their AP Calculus exams may apply to be admitted.
- In only their third year of examinations, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students at Johnson, North Hall and West Hall continue to excel with an examination pass rate of nearly 75%. Hall County IB students have been accepted at the some of the best known universities in the world. Two have won full Questbridge scholarships (worth over \$200,000 each) to Ivy League colleges. In the past three years, Hall County Schools has awarded 100 IB Diplomas.
- Meagan Burg, 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Chestnut Mountain Creative School of Inquiry (CMCSI) was Young Georgia Author State Writing Contest Winner.
- Allison Walls, 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Flowery Branch High was selected to Student Advisory Board for State School Superintendent D. John Barge

### **Educator Milestones**

- Superintendent Will Schofield received the 2012 Professional Achievement Award from the University of Georgia College of Education. This honor is given to alumni in the midpoint of their careers who have demonstrated significant achievements in their fields.
- Laurie Ecke, Assistant to the Director of Innovative and Advanced Programs, was selected by the Georgia Association for Gifted Children as the 2013 winner of the Mary Frasier Equity and Excellence Award.
- Andrea Williamson-English, school nurse for Chestnut Mountain Elementary Creative School of Inquiry, was selected as the National Wellness Champion for the 2011-2012 School Year.
- Dr. Sally Krisel, Director of Innovative and Advanced Programs, and Johnson High School Band Director Dr. David Jones were honored as the 2013 “Masters in Teaching – Life Changers at Work” by the Featherbone Communiversities partners.
- Mike Madsen, West Hall High, was name the 2012 Georgia CEFGA Construction Teacher of the Year.
- Hall County Work-Based Learning Coordinators received the Department of Education 2012 Outstanding Public Relations and Marketing Efforts State Award at the 2012 Georgia Association of Career & Technical Education Conference.

## Athletic Milestones

- North Hall High School 's Paul Powers won State 2013 GHSA Swimming Championships in both 100 and 50 Meter Free Style. Powers swam first sub 20 second 50 meter in state history during the competition.
- North Hall High School's Relay Team—Bradley Brown, Paul Powers, Ty Powers, David Schofield—won State 2013 GHSA Swimming Championship in 200 Meter Free Style. They finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200 Meter Medley Relay
- Flowery Branch High School's Austin Eckenroth won State 2012 GHSA Track Champion in Pole Vault and was voted Atlanta Track Club's Best Athlete for Field Events for the state.
- North Hall High School's Luis Gonzales won State 2012 GHSA Track Championship in the 3200 Meter and the Trojan team finished as 2012 Region Runner-up
- West Hall High School's Maia Caldwell was Silver Medalist in 2012 GHSA AAA State Track Finals in 100 Meter Dash
- Flowery Branch High School Girls Soccer Team won 2013 Region 8AAAAA Championship, the third consecutive championship for the Falcons
- Flowery Branch High School Girls Soccer Team won 2012 Region 8AAAAA Championship
- Flowery Branch High School Girls Tennis Team won 2012 Region 8AAAAA Championship and advanced to Elite 8 of GHSA State Tournament
- Flowery Branch High School Boys Cross Country Team finished 2nd in State 2012 GHSA AAAAA Cross Country Championships and won 8AAAAA Region Championship
- Flowery Branch High School Girls Cross Country Team finished 3rd in State 2012 GHSA AAAAA Cross Country Championships and won 8AAAAA Region Championship
- North Hall High Boys Cross Country Team finished 3rd in State 2012 GHSA AAA Cross Country Championships and won 7AAA Region Championship
- Chestatee High School Girls Cross Country Team finished 4th in State 2012 GHSA AAAA Cross Country Championships and won 8AAAA Region Championship
- North Hall High Girls Cross Country Team finished 5th in State 2012 GHSA AAA Cross Country Championships and won 7AAA Region Championship
- West Hall High School Girls Cross Country Team finished 9th in State 2012 GHSA AAA Cross Country Championships
- Chestatee High School Boys Cross Country Team won the 2012 8AAAA Championship
- Chestatee High School Competitive Cheerleading finished 3rd in the State 2012 GHSA Cheerleading Championships Co-Ed Division
- Chestatee High School Girls' Varsity Soccer Team earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Team Academic Award for 2012, the 8th consecutive year the team has earned the honor.
- North Hall High Football Team advanced to Semi-Finals of State 2012 GHSA AAA Football Championship and won Region 7AAA Championship
- Flowery Branch High School Football Team won the 2012 Region 8AAAAA Championship and qualified for the GHSA State Football Play-offs for the 8th consecutive season
- Johnson High School Volleyball Team won the 2012 Region 8AAAA Championship, the first in school history and advanced to the 2013 GHSA State Volleyball Championships

- North Hall High Boys Basketball Team advanced to the Final Four of State 2013 GHSA AAA Basketball Tournament and won the 2012 Lanierland Championship
- Johnson High School Boys Basketball Team won 2013 Region 8AAAA Championship and advanced to the 2013 GHSA State Basketball Tournament
- Chestatee High School Girls Basketball Team won the Lanierland Basketball Championship for the first time in school history, finished 2nd in Region 8AAAA, and advanced to the 2nd Round of the State 2013 GHSA AAAA Basketball Tournament
- Chestatee High School Wrestling Team won both the 2013 AAAA Area Duals and the 2013 AAAA Area Traditional Championships
- Flowery Branch High School Wrestling Team won both 2013 Region 8AAAAA and 2013 Area AAAAA Championships
- Chestatee High School Boys Soccer Team won the 2013 Region 8AAAA Championship, the first in school history, and earned a number 1 seed in GHSA State Play-offs.
- North Hall High School Baseball Team won the 2013 Region 7AAA Championship and earned a number 1 seed in the GHSA State Play-offs.
- Johnson High School Boys Soccer Team qualified for 5th straight GHSA State Soccer Tournament in 2013
- West Hall High School Boys Soccer Team won the 2013 Region 7AAA Championship and earned a number 1 seed in GHSA State Play-offs
- Special Olympics Hall County continues to experience growth. 21 of the 22 schools in Hall County with qualifying athletes participated in one or more Special Olympics events this year. This includes more than 500 Special Olympics athletes, unified partners, and coaches.
- Hall County is also proud to have been selected as the site of the 2013 State Equestrian Event for Special Olympics Georgia. This event will take place at the Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center the weekend of October 11, 12, and 13, 2013
- This year we have athletes qualify for two state events, State Winter Games in Marietta and State Summer Games at Emory University in Atlanta. At winter games in Marietta team Hall County brought home eight gold medals, seven silver medals, and seven bronze medals. Summer games at Emory University will be held the weekend of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Team Hall County will be taking 75 qualifying athletes to Emory this year.
- Special Olympics Hall County will be hosting Area 02 Games again this year at Davis Middle School. We expect an estimated 350 athletes from our 13 county area. Hall County also started a Special Olympics kayak team in collaboration with the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club. Two kayak athletes participated in the first ever state invitational for kayak and brought home a gold and silver medal.

# Financial Update

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year the Hall County School System continued to struggle with declining revenues as do most government entities in our nation. The downward adjustment to our Quality Basic Education earnings for FY 2012 was \$19,195,552 as compared to \$18,376,064 during FY 2011.

The local property digest continued to decrease due to reassessments and increased exemptions. Other local sources such as interest earnings, real estate transfer taxes, and intangible taxes continued in a depressed state.

During FY 2012, we continued to cut costs where possible. Ninety percent of our expenditures come in the form of team member salaries. Therefore, we are forced to continually review and adjust compensation schedules to meet the current challenges.

While our system has had economic difficulties, your Board of Education has continued to offer a quality program for our students. They have also continued to add to the choices available to all our students and will continue to search for innovative approaches to funding to provide a 21st Century education for the boys and girls of Hall County.

## **What a Penny will do..**

During a time when economic conditions have made families and business alike tighten their budgets, Hall County School District has carefully evaluated and prioritized where ESPLOST funds will have the greatest impact for students and the communities where they live. First and foremost, Hall County School District attends to facilities and infrastructure needs to ensure students have safe, quality facilities with innovative technology and structures. Like many schools across our state, several facilities have been in need of general maintenance and repair that ESPLOST made possible. By having this funding source, the district's state allocations can be utilized to retain high quality teachers and minimize the impact of the state's increasing austerity reductions. ESPLOST has funded many general infrastructure and maintenance needed upgrades including:

- Technology Improvements to Infrastructure, Hardware, and Student Devices at all thirty-three (33) system schools totaling approximately \$5.5 million in 2012-2013.
- Other technology expenditures of approximately \$1 million for new construction projects.

## Completed Projects

- Academies of Discovery addition/complete renovation - \$6,867,510
- Air conditioned 4 high school competition gyms (CHS, JHS, NHHS, EHHS) - \$1,006,852
- Chestatee High Weightroom/Fieldhouse (new facility) - \$1,377,061
- East Hall Fieldhouse/Classroom (new facility) - \$1,129,951
- West Hall Middle Roof & HVAC - \$2,124,908
- Jones Elementary complete renovation - \$3,125,814
- Lula Elementary HVAC - \$641,626
- Lyman Hall Elementary Roof - \$378,914
- McEver Elementary Roof - \$607,393
- Spout Springs Elementary Roof - \$437,484
- Tadmore Elementary Roof/HVAC - \$1,350,803

## Current Project

- Johnson High Cafeteria expansion - \$978,496
- STEM renovations, restroom upgrades and corridor flooring at North Hall High - \$1,000,000

## Summer 2013 projects include

- HVAC at Spout Springs Elementary
- Roof and HVAC at Mt. Vernon Elementary
- Adding HVAC to kitchens at 4 elementary schools.

As we move into blended learning environments, teachers and school leaders are undergoing focused professional learning on effective ways to design and implement instructional plans where students utilize the resources of the world to collaborate and create new knowledge for themselves. Many schools and teachers are utilizing the HallConnect learning platform to facilitate blended learning environments. Every school in the Hall County has implemented school-based instructional technology professional learning on at least a monthly basis.

# The Future – Race to the Top

The Race to the Top Grant is a \$4 billion federal grant which is a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Georgia's share of that grant, \$400 million, is divided equally between the Georgia Department of Education and the 26 school systems that agreed to be a part of the grant. Hall County's allocation for this grant is \$3.8 million.

There are four commitments that a school system must make in order to receive and spend the Race to the Top funds. These include: making progress to rigorous college-and-career ready standards and high-quality assessments; establishing pre-K to college and career data systems; making improvements in teacher effectiveness through a strategic compensation plan; and providing intensive support to the lowest-performing schools. Fortunately, Hall County does not have any low-performing schools; therefore, Hall County's commitments are to the first three of the requirements. With Race to the Top funding, Hall County School District is supporting Georgia's transition to rigorous standards. Teachers are implementing the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards during the 2012-2013 school year and the district is providing intensive professional learning to support the implementation.

Hall County Schools will also commit to the use of data systems that provide longitudinal data on students from pre-K through college or career. The school system currently uses the Infinite Campus system for student data which allows any data collected by the state to be made available to teachers and schools.

The third commitment is for a strategic compensation plan. About one-third of the Race to the Top funds have been set aside for the fourth year of the grant to be used for strategic compensation. Strategic compensation will be based on evaluations within the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems. Districts will be required to provide bonus pay for effectiveness, special accomplishments and services.

Other than the strategic compensation plan, the largest expenditures Hall County anticipates with Race to the Top funds will be for professional development and for the implementation of a learning management system. The learning management system will place all elements of teaching and learning-curriculum, instruction, assessment data, teacher resources, and professional learning-at the teacher's fingertips in the classroom. This system will also allow teachers, students, and parents to interact with learning anytime, anywhere.

Race to the Top funds will allow the Hall County School System to continue its focus on its primary vision: Character, Competence, Rigor ...for all!

Race to the  
Top

# Meet Your Board of Education



## **Nath Morris, Chairman**

Nath is in his 13<sup>th</sup> year serving the North Hall Post of the Board of Education. Mr. Morris has served as legislative liaison and has a passion for maintaining local control of educational concerns.

“Who knows better the educational needs for our students than our teachers, administrators and community?”

Nath is a graduate of the University of Georgia and is the US Breeder Sales Manager for Perdue Farms and has been in the poultry industry for 26 years. Married to Joy, their two children graduated from North Hall High School. Megan is a graduate of University of Georgia and is employed in the medical supplies industry. Jennifer is a senior at Piedmont College. Joy serves as a substitute teacher in the North Hall cluster.

Meet Your  
Board of  
Education



## **Craig Herington, Vice-Chairman**

Craig is in his 13<sup>th</sup> year serving as the District 3 Representative of the Board of Education. He also serves as the Board's representative on the Hall County Parks and Leisure Board. Craig is a native of Hall County and a graduate of Johnson High School. He has been employed by Duplicating Products of Gainesville for 35 years.

Craig and Lisa have two children, Heather and Michael both graduates of Hall County Schools. Heather is married to Kurtis Sturm and is in her 5<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. She currently teaches second grade at Martin Technology Academy. Heather has three beautiful children, Mollie, Macie, and Konner. Michael is married to Tabitha Mathis Herington and is currently working for Crossroads Meat Co. in Flowery Branch.

Lisa has been in the education field for 24 years and is working for the Hall County School System in the Technology Department. Craig is proud to be associated with such an outstanding group of teachers, administrators and support staff.

### **Sam Chapman, Board Member**



Sam is in his seventh year serving on the board. He is a farmer and has promoted agriculture as executive secretary for Hall County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for the past ten years. He and his wife, Martha, are active members of Air Line Baptist, where he had served as Chairman of the Deacons in the past.

Sam, Martha, their sons Mitch and Lee, along with daughters-in-law Karen and Julie, are all graduates of UGA. Mitch, Lee and Karen received their masters degree from Brenau, and both Karen and Julie are school teachers. Martha, Mitch, Lee, grandson Josh, and granddaughters Haley and Payton are all graduates of EHHS. Josh is a teacher and coach at EHHS. Haley is a junior and Payton, a sophomore, at UGA. His grandson Hayden is a senior EHHS.

Sam is a strong supporter of parental involvement in all phases of education. He firmly believes in local control of all educational issues. He believes our school system needs to teach using the most advanced technology available at all times throughout the whole system. He is proud to be a part of a board and administration with Christian values that work in harmony for the betterment of educational opportunities for all students within the school system.

Meet Your  
Board of  
Education

### **Brian Sloan, Board Member**



Brian began his second term as the Post 2 Board member in 2011. He is a graduate of North Georgia College and State University with a degree in Education. He has served as the Pastor of Worship at Chestnut Mountain Church for the past fourteen years. His wife, Annette, is the practice administrator for Heritage OBGYN in Gainesville. Their children include; Brandon, a senior at NGCSU; Caitlin, a freshman at GCSU; and Karis, a senior at Johnson High.

Brian believes that Hall County Schools can set the pace in providing families a broader scope of options when choosing a child's education. He also is a strong advocate for using extra-curricular activities for long-term character building. He is confident that Hall County Schools will effectively lead the way into the future.

"I am so pleased with the accomplishments of this team of progressive thinkers in our system. I am proud to give my support in any way I can."

**Bill Thompson, Board Member Elect**

Bill Thompson has begun his second year as a Board member. He retired from the Hall County School System after serving 32 years. His most recent position was that of Principal of Chestatee High School. His love for the students and staff at all of his positions made the job fun and not a “job”.

His wife Linda has served in the Hall County School System for over 30 years. Three of his five children have worked for the Hall County School System at one time or another.

Bill is extremely proud of his years of service to the school communities and is enjoying his service in the new capacity of a Board of Education member.

Meet Your  
Board of  
Education

# System Facts

- 33 Schools
  - 20 Elementary Schools
  - 6 Middle Schools
  - 6 High Schools
  - 1 Charter Career Academy
- Enrollment - **26,515**
- Fiscal Year 2013 General Fund Budget - **\$202,568,863.00**
- Fiscal Year 2013 Millage Rate - **18.49**
- Percent of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch - **61%**
- Number of English Language Learner Students - **5,203**



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

	PHONE#	FAX#	PRINCIPAL
Chestnut Mountain Elementary	770-967-3121	770-967-4891	Dr. Sabrina May
Chicopee Woods Elementary	770-536-2057	770-536-2175	Hank Ramey
Flowery Branch Elementary	770-967-6621	770-967-4880	Susan Miller
Friendship Elementary	770-932-1223	770-932-2162	Berry Walton
Lanier Elementary	770-532-8781	770-531-3017	John Wiggins
Lula Elementary	770-869-3261	770-869-1961	Matt Alexander
Lyman Hall Elementary	770-534-7044	770-531-2321	Lois Myers
Martin Elementary	770-965-1578	770-965-1668	Tamara Etterling
McEver Elementary	770-534-7473	770-531-3055	Dr. Catherine Rosa
Mount Vernon Elementary	770-983-1759	770-983-1663	Connie Daniels
Myers Elementary	770-536-0814	770-531-2323	Beth Hudgins
Oakwood Elementary	770-532-1656	770-531-2326	Dr. Shane Rayburn
Riverbend Elementary	770-534-4141	770-531-3054	Dr. Debra Smith
Sardis Elementary	770-532-0104	770-531-3057	Neil Yarrington
Spout Springs Elementary	770-967-4860	770-967-4883	Steve McDaniel
Sugar Hill Elementary	770-503-1749	770-503-9686	Beth Skarda
Tadmore Elementary	770-536-9929	770-531-2325	Robin Gower
Wauka Mountain Elementary	770-983-3221	770-983-1019	Dr. Jo Dinnan
White Sulphur Elementary	770-532-0945	770-531-2324	Dr. Ann Murphy
World Language Academy	770-967-5854	770-967-3496	David Moody

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

	PHONE#	FAX#	PRINCIPAL
Chestatee Middle	770-297-6270	770-297-6275	Suzanne Jarrard
Da Vinci Academy	770-533-4004	770-533-4018	Paula Stubbs
Davis Middle	770-965-3020	770-965-3025	Eddie Millwood
East Hall Middle	770-531-9457	770-531-2327	Kevin Bales
North Hall Middle	770-983-9749	770-983-9993	Dr. Brad Brown
South Hall Middle	770-532-4416	770-907-5852	Paula Stubbs
West Hall Middle	770-967-4871	770-967-4874	Dr. Karla Swafford

## HIGH SCHOOLS

	PHONE#	FAX#	PRINCIPAL
Chestatee High	770-532-1162	770-532-2202	Chip Underwood
East Hall High	770-536-9921	770-535-1184	Jeffrey Cooper
Flowery Branch High	770-967-8000	770-967-1218	Dr. Mark Coleman
Johnson High	770-536-2394	770-531-3046	Stan Lewis
Lanier Charter Career Academy	770-531-2330	678-450-5978	Dr. Cindy Blakley
North Hall High	770-983-7331	770-983-7941	Joe Gheesling
West Hall High	770-967-9826	770-967-4864	Dr. Greg Williams

The Hall County Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, handicapping condition, or sex in its educational programs or employment.

**Hall County Schools**  
711 Green Street  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
(770) 534-1080  
[www.hallco.org](http://www.hallco.org)