

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public
Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF June 2024

1. Gaston County Schools had 26 students in the Class of 2024 to earn valedictorian or salutatorian honors. The students were recognized during high school graduation for their commitment to academic excellence.
2. Kameron Kee of Ashbrook High School achieved 13 years of perfect attendance. During her high school's graduation ceremony, she received a perfect attendance plaque from the Gaston County Board of Education in recognition of her outstanding accomplishment.
3. Gaston County Schools held a Career Signing Day program for 10 seniors. The following "letter of intent" and accept a job offer with one of seven companies. The following students were recognized during the program: Wesley Carter of Ashbrook High School, GSM Services; David Ogden of Ashbrook High School, GSM Services; Kaden Kromis of North Gaston High School, Toyota of Gastonia; Raleigh Triplett of East Gaston High School, Toyota of Gastonia; Henry Cox of East Gaston High School, Toyota of Gastonia; Jose Jimenez-Lara, Forestview High School, United States Marines; Elijah Herron of North Gaston High School, Agricultural Center Fire Department; Connor Jones of North Gaston High School, Gaston County Government; Ranley Clayton of Ashbrook High School, Covenant Village; and Omarrus Holland of Stuart W. Cramer High School, EdyMac Plumbing.
4. Gaston County Schools recognized four outstanding bus drivers during the school district's annual transportation banquet. Michael Mongillo of Kiser Elementary, Nicole Christina of Holbrook Middle, Melvin McCorkle of Forestview High School, and Jessie Wilson of Webb Street School were presented the Tracy Lea Calhoun Award. The honor goes to school bus drivers who have made a significant contribution to the school transportation profession and bus safety. In addition, Sybil

annual scholarships to Connor Redmond of Highland School of Technology and Grace Woliver of South Point High School

6. Seniors in the Gaston County School Class of 2024 were awarded more than \$28.3 million in college scholarships and grants.

7. Bryson Lomick of South Point High School won the 200meter dash and placed second in the 100meter dash. Additionally, Camryn Masse of Ashbrook High School achieved her fifth and sixth state championships, securing first place in the discus throw and shot put competitions.
8. Cherryville High School senior Lillyann Chambers received the Piedmont Lithium Power of Life Scholarship valued at \$2,000.
9. Naami Abbey of Forestview High School was one of 20 students nationwide to be named a Levine Scholar at UNC Charlotte. The scholarship is valued at \$115,000 over four years and is the most prestigious merit award offered by the university. She plans to major in biology and biomedical engineering while on a premedicine pathway.
10. New Hope Elementary student Adele St. Romain won the "Proudest Kid in Gaston County" essay contest, which is sponsored by Gaston Together.
11. Pleasant Ridge Elementary competed in the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics' state math fair. Emily Kiser kindergarten class won first place in the 2K class projects division. In addition, first grade students Esmeralda Miller and Anam Fatima won first place in the individual 1st division, and third grader Golden McKinney was an honorable mention winner in the individual Grades 3-5 division.
12. South Point High School senior Colin McAlister was named a Wood Family Scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill. The scholarship award is valued at \$36,000.
13. The South Point High School boys' tennis team won the 3A dual championship and finished the season with a perfect 16 record. Shiv Patel and Brandon Cunningham won the doubles match, and Shiv Patel MVP, won his singles match. Other singles wins came from James Dove, Brandon Cunningham, and Tyler Cunningham. Additionally, Asher Dover was named a 2024 N.C. Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award winner.
14. The South Point High School girls' soccer team secured their second consecutive trip to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) 3A state championship. The team finished the season as Big South 3A Conference champions with a record of 18-2, despite a loss in the state championship to Jacksonville. Senior Madison Dudley was honored before the game as the NCHSAA Sportsmanship Award winner. Additionally, junior Grace Maynard was named to the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association (NCSCA) 3A state team.