



Cabarrus
County Schools

2011-2012
ANNUAL REPORT

MOMENTUM



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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Momentum is defined as the force that keeps an object moving or keeps an event developing after it has started, and it is the perfect word to describe Cabarrus County Schools and our progress as we work to achieve the goals stated in our Strategic Plan.

Four years ago, we embarked on a journey to produce a generation of lifelong learners in our school system – students who are engaged and empowered. Our mission was clear – to value, teach and empower these students in a culture of education excellence.

I am proud to say that we are doing just that. Over the past four years, we have seen our graduation rate rise to its highest level. We have seen our students achieve inside and outside the classroom. Our teachers and administrators are embracing new methods of teaching and collaborating all in an effort to prepare our students for life beyond our school doors.

By providing students with a variety of options and opportunities, we are challenging them to reach higher, think deeper and dream bigger. We know that success comes from taking the initiative, following up, and being persistent. And we are so proud to see our students rising to the challenges we have set.

We are pleased to present our 2011-2012 Annual Report and are thrilled to share our successes and highlight our many accomplishments over the past year. The report also outlines the areas where we need continued focus. And you have our commitment that we are working diligently to address those areas of concern.

As we continue to build on our momentum, we will continue to challenge our students and staff to reach new levels of achievement. We will continue to involve our community as we know there is much wisdom to glean. And we will continue our pursuit of educational excellence.

Onward...

Sincerely,

Barry

Barry Shepherd, Ed.D.
Superintendent





VISION:

- To produce globally-competitive, lifelong learners through rigorous and relevant curriculum taught by highly prepared visionary leaders who recognize the importance of engaging a diverse body of learners.
- To provide 21st Century resources through responsible and efficient use of funding.
- To ensure success for all students in safe, inviting and healthy learning communities by building upon a foundation of stakeholder support and caring/respectful relationships.

MISSION STATEMENT:

We will value, teach and empower each student in a culture of educational excellence.

BELIEF STATEMENTS:

We believe in....

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



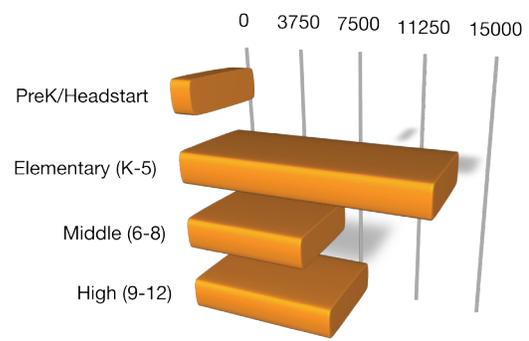
DEMOGRAPHICS:

Cabarrus County Schools is among the largest school systems in North Carolina, educating nearly 29,000 during the 2011-2012 school year. We also are one of the largest employers in Cabarrus County - with nearly 3,800 employees.

In the past five years, Cabarrus County Schools has opened 10 new schools. Providing our students and parents with a variety of educational options and opportunities is important to us. As a result, Cabarrus County Schools opened three new magnet programs in August 2011 - STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) programs at Coltrane-Webb Elementary School and J.N. Fries Middle School, as well as an International Studies at J.N. Fries.

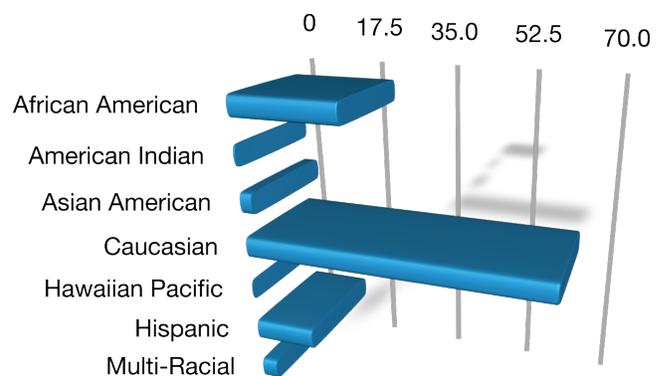
STUDENT POPULATION

PreK/Headstart	884
Elementary (K-5)	13,690
Middle (6-8)	7,026
High (9-12)	8,149
Number of Schools.....	39
Classroom Teachers	1,851
Other Employees.....	1,943
Total Employees.....	3,794



ETHNICITY

African American	18.2%
American Indian.....	0.4%
Asian American.....	2.6%
Caucasian.....	62.2%
Hawaiian Pacific	0.1%
Hispanic.....	13.1%
Multi-Racial.....	3.5%



Special Area Populations

Students receiving free and reduced meals	41.90%
Students who are English language learners	13.70%
Students receiving special education services	13.90%



PRIORITY 1

Globally Competitive Students

Progress was the name of the game for students in Cabarrus County Schools during the 2011-2012 school year. Our students racked up honors and accolades at the district, county, state and national level, proving what we've known all along - CCS has some of the best and brightest students on the planet. Our high school students continued to shine, outperforming students across the state on SAT scores and our graduation rate continues to climb, increasing to 86.3 percent - more than six percentage points over the state average.

ABCs of Public Education DESIGNATIONS

Five schools in the district were designated Honor Schools of Excellence. Those schools are Cabarrus-Kannapolis Early College High School, Cox Mill Elementary School, Cox Mill High School, Hickory Ridge High School, and J.N. Fries Magnet School.



In order for a school to receive the Honor School of Excellence designation, it must have had more than 90 percent of its students achieve a Level III proficiency rating on the end-of-course or end-of-grade tests; and it must have made Expected Growth.

Nine Schools of Distinction - Bethel Elementary School, Central Cabarrus High School, Charles E. Boger Elementary School, Harrisburg Elementary School, Harris Road Middle School, Hickory Ridge Middle School, Mount Pleasant Elementary School, Mount Pleasant High School, and Mount Pleasant Middle School.

Schools of Distinction are schools that made at least Expected Growth and had at least 80 percent of their students score at or above Achievement Level III on end-of-grade or end-of-course tests.

Twelve Schools of Progress - A.T. Allen Elementary School, Beverly Hills Elementary School, C.C. Griffin Middle School, Concord High School, Concord Middle School, Harold E. Winkler Middle School, Jay M. Robinson High School, Northwest Cabarrus High School, Northwest Cabarrus Middle School, R. Brown McAllister Elementary School, Weddington Hills Elementary School, Winecoff Elementary School

Schools of Progress are schools that made at least Expected Growth and had at least 60 percent of their



students score at or above Achievement Level III on end-of-grade or end-of course tests.

One Priority School - Royal Oaks Elementary School Priority Schools are schools that had less than 60 percent of their students score at or above Achievement Level III, regardless of making Expected Growth standards.

Based on ABC provisions, 10 schools received No Recognition designations. Under the provisions, these schools did not meet Expected Growth; however, between 60 and 89 percent of their students scored at or above Achievement Level III on end-of-grade or end-of-courses tests. The 10 CCS schools in this category are: Cabarrus County Opportunity School, Carl A. Furr Elementary School, Coltrane-Webb Elementary School, Long School, Patriots Elementary School, Pitts School Road Elementary School, Rocky River Elementary School, W.M. Irvin Elementary School, W.R. Odell Elementary School and Wolf Meadow Elementary School.

Twenty-seven of our 39 schools achieved Expected or High Growth for the 2011-2012 school year. Twenty-five of our schools met 90 percent or more of the Annual Measurable Objectives. These objectives measure a variety of subgroups within a school, including ethnicity, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and limited English proficient students.

HIGHLIGHTS

- High School Graduation rate is the highest in school system history at 86.3%
- High School Advanced Placement enrollment increased 54% in 2012 and is the highest in school system history.
- High School ACT scores are 19th in the state out of 115 districts, with ACT math scores ranking 9th in the state out of 115 districts.
- Opening of STEM and IB high schools
- Beginning a summer Curriculum Review Week for teachers
- All high schools have an active mentor program with school and community mentors

GRADUATION Rate

Cabarrus County Schools reported an 86.3 percent four-year graduation cohort rate for the 2011-2012 school year. This data reflects the percentage of students who began as freshmen in the 2008-2009 school year and graduated in four years. The results show a more than 10 percent increase in the CCS four-year graduation cohort rate compared to just two years ago. This year's CCS rate is 6.1 percent higher than the state average.

FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION COHORT RATE COMPARISONS

Year	Cabarrus	State
2008-2009	72.9%	71.8%
2009-2010	74.7%	74.2%
2010-2011	84.0%	77.7%
2011-2012	86.3%	80.2%



CCS 11th Graders Take ACT in March

Looking AHEAD

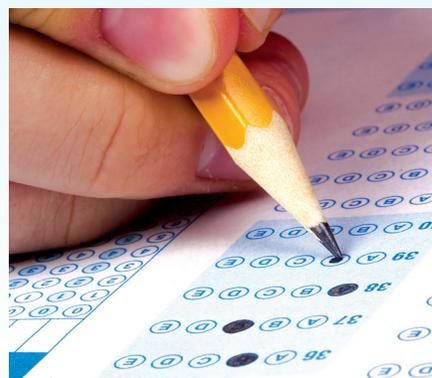
As excited as we are about our progress and the success of our schools, it is equally important to inform you about upcoming changes in the way end-of-grade and end-of-course assessments will be measured for the 2012-2013.

During the 2012-2013 school year, students will be assessed on the new Common Core standards adopted by the state of North Carolina. The Common Core standards increase the level of rigor expected in classrooms and from students. When student scores are reported next year for the 2012-2013 school year, North Carolina expects a substantial decrease in student proficiency under the new standards and measures due to the increased rigor.

Cabarrus County Schools is committed to providing our students with educational experiences and opportunities that will prepare them to be college and career ready. Although we anticipate a decrease in proficiency when we report performance next year, we know we are doing what is right in order to prepare our students for the future.

The North Carolina State Board of Education adopted a policy requiring all 11th graders across the state to take the ACT test as a measurement of students' college readiness.

The ACT has historically predicted the college readiness of students and will give parents, students and educators a clear guideline by which to measure students future potential as it relates to college. Cabarrus County Schools is excited to participate in this endeavor, and we look forward to seeing the results so that we can intentionally target instructional practices that will ensure that our students are college and career ready.



CCS Shares ACT, SAT Data

Students in Cabarrus County Schools ranked 18th in the state in results on the ACT achievement exam for the 2011-2012 school year.

Last spring, high school juniors across the state took the ACT exam, which is a curriculum-based achievement test consisting of four separate exams in English, reading, mathematics and science. There also is an optional writing assessment.

According to results released by the North Carolina of Public Instruction, CCS students ranked No. 9 in the math portion and No. 13 in the writing portion of the exam. The ACT is considered a good indicator of a student's chances of earning a B or better in first-year, credit-bearing college courses.

CCS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Jason Van Heukelum said, "We are pleased with our students' performance on the ACT. This is a good indication that our schools are preparing our students to be competitive for their future ambitions."

CCS students also outperformed state and national scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 2012. CCS students scored 1,502 on the tests three sections – critical reading, mathematics and writing. The statewide score was 1,469; the national score was 1,498.

For more information about ACT and SAT results, visit the North Carolina Department of public Instruction website at www.ncpublicschools.org.

CCS Hosts Visiting CHINESE DELEGATION

A group of 20 top education officials from China learned about education systems in North Carolina, met with policymakers, toured campuses of the University of North Carolina system and Duke University, and then split up in small groups to spend several days visiting K-12 schools and communities throughout the state.

Cabarrus County Schools was one of those communities. CCS hosted Chinese dignitaries from the Jiangsu Provincial Education Examination Authority who are visiting North Carolina as part of the exchange program. Three CCS schools offer Chinese language programs – Cox Mill High School, Harris Road Middle School and J.N. Fries Magnet School.

CCS schools are among a group of schools across the state to welcome guest language teachers from China through the Center for International Understanding at the University of North Carolina, which coordinates the statewide effort known as Confucius Classrooms.

Each North Carolina Confucius Classroom is partnered with a Chinese school to promote multi-national learning experiences. Superintendents, principals and teachers from the participating North Carolina schools have traveled to China to learn about China's history,

culture and education system. They have visited their partner schools in Jiangsu province in eastern China. The N.C. Board of Education has had an educational agreement with Jiangsu province since 2008, supporting the value of this international school partnership work.

The Center for International Understanding, based in Raleigh, is part of the University of North Carolina system. Founded in 1979, its mission is to promote global competence among current and future leaders in North Carolina. Its programs with China include 20 Confucius Classrooms, 35 international school partnerships with China, and in separate programs this fall, the Center will take 40 educators and its third delegation of policy leaders to China.





Schools Participate in READING PROGRAM

For the second year in a row, 10 CCS elementary schools participated in the Unilever/Dollar General Reading Puts You on the Track to Victory literacy program.

More than 2,500 CCS students participated in the program and read for more than 1.1 million minutes during the program's duration.

The student's with the highest reading times were entered into a random drawing for the grand prize - a VIP experience at the NASCAR race in October.

As a special thank you to the schools for participating, Dollar General and Unilever teamed

up with Speedway Children's Charities to provide each school with a donation - for a combined total of \$25,000, as well as a set of NASCAR drivers' favorite books for the schools' libraries.

The 10 schools that participated are Bethel, Beverly Hills, Carl A. Furr, Charles E. Boger, R. Brown McAllister, Rocky River, Winecoff, W.M. Irvin, W.R. Odell and Wolf Meadow Elementary Schools.

J.N. FRIES Team Completes Cybermission

Seven teams of students from the J.N. Fries STEM program competed in the eCybermission Competition sponsored by the U.S. Army.

To participate in the competition, students had to research a local problem and form a solution to the problem. The teams chose lots of different community issues to learn about, including ideas to help lessen the environmental impact of the widening of Highway 49.

One of the school's teams - **Team Death Waffle** - placed second in the state. Team members are

David Mack, Zach Bewersdorff, Eric Boucher and Jacob Lewis. The team's project was about educating people about Cabarrus County's number one crime problem - larceny.

The team interviewed School Resource Officer Vivian Stegall and researched ways to help educate people so that they could reduce their chances of becoming a crime victim. The group designed a website, a video and a PowerPoint presentation, which could be used to help the community.

Each student received a \$250 prize for their efforts.

MPHS Student Wins National EPA Contest

Ali Hasan, a Mount Pleasant High School student, who, along with a partner, won an application software design competition for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Apps for the Environment Challenge.

Hasan and partner, William Fry, a high school student from Greenville, N.C., created EarthFriend while attending North Carolina Central University's (NCCU) Summer Ventures program.

They won the category of Best Student App in the EPA Challenge, which asked software developers to find ways to combine and deliver environmental data in new apps. Submissions were required to use EPA data, address one of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's priorities and be useful to communities or individuals.

EarthFriend combines educational games and facts about the environment to encourage users to go green. The app is available as a free download for the iPhone and iPad and at the Apple App Store. It also can be viewed on the EPA's website at www.epa.gov.

Summer Ventures is a state-funded camp for academically talented high school students who want to pursue career in math and science. NCCU is one of five universities that host the free program.

Hasan and Fry were recognized at an EPA event in Washington, D.C.



CCS Crowns SPELLING CHAMP



Congratulations to Justin Allamby, a 7th grader at Harold E. Winkler Middle School. Justin won the Cabarrus County Schools Spelling Bee.

Justin has been an Honor Roll student since fourth grade. His activities include participating in the Duke Talent Identification Program,

Young Ambassadors Program, Math 24 Quiz Bowl, Battle of the Books, and Math Superstars. He also is a President's Education Award recipient.

The runner-up was Samantha Phelps, a 6th grader at Harris Road Middle School.

Twenty-seven students from each CCS elementary and middle school competed in the Bee, which lasted for eight rounds.



NCHS Student Named PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Corey Seager, Northwest Cabarrus High School graduate, who was named the 2012 Gatorade North Carolina High School Baseball Player of the Year. He is the first player from the school to receive this honor.

The 6-foot-4, 205-pound shortstop was recruited by the University of South Carolina and was expected to be an early selection in the major league player draft. Seager hit .519 with 10 home runs and 37 RBI his senior season.

PRIORITY 2

21st Century Professionals

Recruiting and retaining 21st century professionals continues to guide our work. Cabarrus County Schools recognizes employing top-notch professionals yields top-notch results in the classroom and in the effective operations of a school system. Our Human Resources team is leading the way communicating the changes in the new teacher evaluation instrument and continues to guide our work as we move into year three of our Professional Learning Communities.

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE Teachers and Administrators

A teacher's ability to create significant growth with his or her students is critical to the future of education and our CCS children. Because of its importance, a student growth measure was added this year to the teacher and principal evaluation processes. In addition to teacher ratings on leadership, establishment of a respectful environment, content knowledge, the facilitation of learning, and reflection on their practice, teachers receive a rating on their contribution to the academic success of students, based on whether

Highly Qualified Teachers	99.07%
Teacher Positions Filled on the First Student Day	99.9%
Teacher Retention	89.5%
Licensed Support Retention	87.5%
Bus Driver Retention	86.2%
Formal Teacher Observations with Conferences.....	4,807

students made or exceeded their expected growth. Administrators receive a similar rating for academic achievement leadership.



Hilda Batts

HILDA BATTS Named CCS Principal of the Year

Hilda Batts, principal of A.T. Allen Elementary School, was selected the 2012 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for Cabarrus County Schools, in a program sponsored by the North

Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Wells Fargo. Batts advanced in the competition and was named a regional finalist for the honor, competing for the title of North Carolina Principal of the Year.

CCS superintendent Barry Shepherd said, “We were thrilled and excited about Mrs. Batts’ selection as a regional finalist. We already knew what an outstanding school leader she is – to have others recognize her talent is a special honor.”

Batts has served as principal of A.T. Allen Elementary School since 2006 and continued in her role as principal of the school during the construction of the replacement school, which opened 2010.

Prior to her selection as principal at A.T. Allen, Batts served as assistant principal of instruction at the school, as well as a counselor in 1992 when she joined Cabarrus County Schools. Also during her tenure at CCS, she has served as a principal intern and an assistant principal at W.M. Irvin Elementary School.

Batts earned a bachelor’s degree from North Carolina State University and master’s degrees from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in counseling and school administration. She also is a graduate of UNCC’s Principal Fellows Program.



Mariko Weinhardt

CCS Names MARIKO WEINHARDT Teacher of the Year

Mariko Weinhardt, a teacher at Carl A. Furr Elementary School, was named the SunTrust Gold Star Award Winner and Teacher of the Year for Cabarrus County Schools.

Weinhardt was selected among four other finalists who were chosen from a field of 35 outstanding teachers from Cabarrus County Schools.

Weinhardt received a \$1,000 award check and a commemorative Gold Star Award plaque from SunTrust Bank. She also received a new laptop from Cabarrus County Schools.

The remaining four finalists, who each received \$250 from SunTrust Bank, included: Molly Carlberg, Royal Oaks Elementary School; Sarah Rochelle, Charles E. Boger Elementary School; Andrea Sowle, Central Cabarrus High School; and Leah Zufall, A.T. Allen Elementary School.

The competition began with nominations from each school within the district. A selection committee interviewed each nominee, and selected the five finalists, who were observed in their classrooms.

SunTrust Bank created the Gold Star program in 1987 to recognize the impact that excellent teachers have on the community. SunTrust also sponsors Teacher of the Year programs in the following school systems: Kannapolis, Henderson County and Jackson County.

Supporting Classroom Teachers and Administrators

The 2011-12 school year represented the fourth year that CCS teachers and administrators received no salary progression, despite increasing demands professionally. In addition, CCS continued to operate an extremely lean central office, when the number of central office personnel to students ratio was compared with districts nearby geographically and others in NC of similar size. A salary study indicated that both teacher and school administrator pay is low compared with the market, and 37% of non-instructional employees are paid beneath the minimum of market comparable ranges. The board received a report of actions necessary to improve salary competitiveness and prevent the departure of strong teachers and technical employees. The Board of Education recognizes the value of a quality teacher in every classroom and will be considering ways to address these challenges in the coming year.

PRIORITY 3

Healthy & Responsible Students

By focusing on the whole student, Cabarrus County Schools teaches and inspires each student to make healthy and responsible choices for their health, well-being and character development. With programs rooted in core ethical values such as self-discipline, perseverance, empathy and respect, students understand how service learning and positive choices can impact their lives and the lives of others.

R. Brown McAllister Students Participate in WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Students from R. Brown McAllister Elementary School joined with Safe Kids Cabarrus and volunteers from FedEx to raise awareness about pedestrian safety on International Walk to School Day on Oct. 5, 2011.

More than 250,000 children across the United States and nearly three million around the world participated in the annual event to learn about walking safely and to encourage the creation of safe walking environments.

“On International Walk to School Day, parents and caregivers both teach and model safe pedestrian behavior,” said Angel Overcash, Safe Kids Cabarrus. “International Walk to School Day is the perfect opportunity for students to learn how to remain injury-free as they walk to and from school.”

In 1999, Safe Kids Worldwide and program sponsor FedEx created the Safe Kids Walk This Way Program in the United States to teach safe behaviors to motorists and child pedestrians and



create safer, more walk-able communities.

This year will mark the 12-year anniversary of the program and 189 Safe Kids coalitions and 400 schools across the country will hold more than 1,000 local events at elementary schools to teach children how to walk safely and recognize pedestrian dangers.

Safe Kids Cabarrus works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability to children ages 1 to 14. Its members include police, fire, EMS, medical and business professionals. Safe Kids Cabarrus is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury. Safe Kids Cabarrus was founded in 1998 and is led by the Jeff Gordon Children’s Hospital.



KIDS:PLUS Donates Coupons to Military Families

As one of its 4-H community service projects, all 19 Kids:Plus sites collected expired and unused coupons to ship to military bases overseas.

This project was chosen because military families overseas are allowed to use coupons that have expired on the base commissaries. The students and staff felt this was one way thank these families for their service to our country.

Thanks to the students and staff efforts, KIDS:PLUS was able to ship two boxes full of coupons to the military families overseas.



W.R. Odell Wins MILK CONTEST

Students and staff at W.R. Odell Elementary School celebrated their first place win in the *Fuel Up Like A Pro* milk contest with a pep rally with Carolina Panthers DeAngelo Williams.

During the pep rally, teams of students competed against one another in trivia and physical challenges. Members of the Top Cats, the Carolina Panthers cheerleaders and team mascot, Sir Purr, also joined Williams at the celebration.

The contest, hosted by Fuel Up to Play 60 (FUTP60) and the Southeast Dairy Association, challenged the students of Cabarrus County Schools to drink more milk in their schools. Odell students rose to the challenge and took home first place with a 19 percent increase in milk consumption in December. For their efforts, the school received a \$1,500 grant to use for school-wide health, nutrition and physical education programs.

Coltrane-Webb Elementary Magnet School won second place in the milk contest with an 18 percent increase in milk consumption, and Jay M. Robinson High School took third with a 14 percent increase. Each school received \$1,000 and \$500, respectively for their efforts.

On behalf of dairy farm families, the non-profit Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc.



(SUDIA) works with schools, health professionals, retailers, dairy processors and the public to promote dairy foods. For more information, visit www.southeastdairy.org.

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by the National Dairy Council (NDC) and NFL, with additional partnership support from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program encourages youth to consume nutrient-rich foods (low-fat and fat-free dairy, fruits, vegetables and whole grains) and achieve 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

NCMS Students TEE OFF



Students at Northwest Cabarrus Middle School spent four weeks learning about the game of golf thanks to the PGA of America and its affiliates.

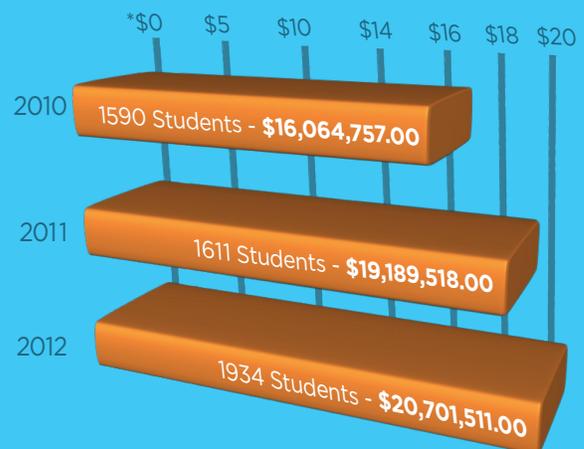
NCMS served as a pilot school to introduce golf at the middle school level in Cabarrus County. Students spent a four-week unit of study learning fundamentals of the game, including how to keep score, golf etiquette, golf

swings, and golf vocabulary.

At the end of the unit, sixth-grade students went to The Lost Duffer to play miniature golf; seventh-grade students traveled to Rocky River Golf Course to use the driving range. Eighth-grade students were able to play nine holes of golf at the Rocky River course and enjoy lunch at the club house.

2011-2012 College SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

More than 1,900 students graduated from Cabarrus County Schools as part of the Class of 2012. These students received an aggregate in excess of \$20 million in scholarship monies, a figure that has grown consistently over the past three years.



* Millions





Odell Student Helps HUMANE SOCIETY

MaKenna McGough, a W. R. Odell Elementary School student, invested 50 hours in a community service project collecting supplies for the Humane Society of Concord and Greater Cabarrus County.

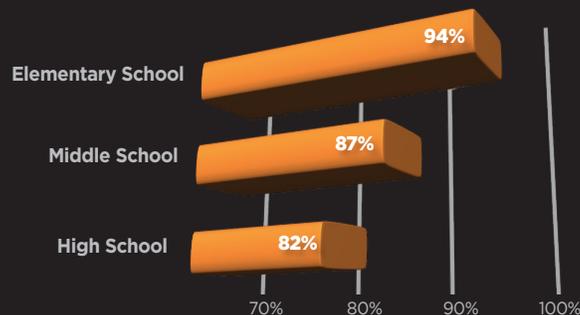
Each 5th grade AIG student is responsible for completing a 50-hour community service project.

MaKenna's love of animals is what led to her service project. In fact, she rescued her family pet from a gas station.

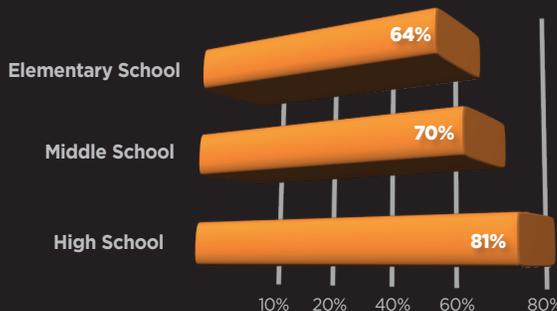
For her project, MaKenna created flyers and distributed them to every student at school. She set up a decorated collection box outside the school office for supplies.

What's next for MaKenna in her quest to help animals? She will be participating in a Kids Triathlon series to benefit the Birkdale Animal Foundation.

Students who feel safe at school:



Students who answered "No" to being bullied at school this year:



School Nutrition HIGHLIGHTS

- 2011-2012 meals served: Breakfast: 975,830 and Lunch: 2,939,353
- Fruit and Vegetable Shows at Northwest Cabarrus Middle, Wolf Meadow Elementary, and J.N. Fries Magnet Schools
- Vegetable Demonstration with Food Science class at Cox Mill High School
- Participation increased for Breakfast Cart at Cox Mill High School
- Received Breakfast Champion award from No Kid Hungry and N.C. Department of Public Instruction's Child Nutrition Division



Odell Fuel Up to Play 60 Pep Rally

PRIORITY 4

Innovative Leadership

Communicating and connecting with our constituents is integral to our success. By communicating, promoting and celebrating our school system's achievements, we share the story of Cabarrus County Schools. Our strategic partnerships, positive relationships and effective communications – including our entry into the realm of social media – were evident throughout the 2011-2012 school year.

CCS Releases NEW PARENT TOOL

Cabarrus County Schools, in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, is now offering the Parent Assistant Module (PAM) to its parents.

The PAM is a new tool that will allow parents access to important information about their child and enhance school-to-home communication.

The PAM, which was released in the fall of 2012, is an internet-based program located on a secure website. Via the PAM, parents will have access to their child's demographic and attendance information (K-12), and current progress and grades (3-12).

NASCAR Driver Visits OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

Darrell Wallace, a graduate of Northwest Cabarrus High School and a NASCAR driver, visited students at Opportunity Middle and High Schools.

Wallace shared with students his personal journey from high school student to participating in the NASCAR Drive for Diversity initiative, a program that provides training and sponsorship for young minority and women drivers, providing them the opportunity to race their way into the sport's highest levels. Wallace currently is driving in the developmental K&N Pro Series East to prepare for the next step into the Truck or Nationwide series.

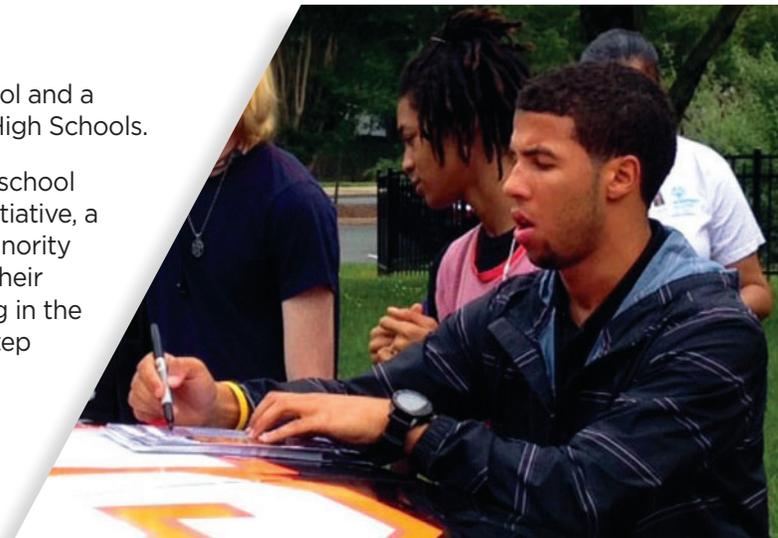
Opportunity School Principal Beverly Mack said, "Darrell Wallace is a living example of someone achieving his or her dream, no matter how challenging or difficult. His discussion with the students was practical, but very inspiring and motivational."

Students and staff at the school were impressed with his love of racing and enjoyed the opportunity to see his race car up close and personal. After his presentation to students, Wallace fielded more than 20 questions.

Mack continued, "Darrell is an awesome role model who encouraged our students to chase their dreams and to work hard in school and to listen to their teachers and parents for support and guidance."

CCS Launches SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Cabarrus County Schools' parents and other constituents can stay informed about school system happenings on the social media sites Facebook and Twitter. The sites are just another way for interested parties to stay connected to CCS for news and other important information. So **Like** us on Facebook and **Follow** us on Twitter.



Tire Kingdom Donates SHOW CAR TO NCHS

Tire Kingdom donated its NASCAR show car, formerly driven by NASCAR Driver Jeff Burton, to Northwest Cabarrus High School.

Tire Kingdom representatives were joined by Service Central Funny Car Driver Johnny Gray, Service Central Top Fuel Dragster Driver Dom Lagana and Service Central Pro Stock Driver Shane Gray for the presentation to the NCHS automotive and sports marketing students.

“We are thankful to have the opportunity to invest in the education of our youth as it lays the foundation for their career in the tire and automotive repair industry,” said Bob Crostarosa, senior vice president marketing, TBC Retail Group. “The show car is a great tool for these youth to learn hands-on automotive maintenance.”

Tire Kingdom also donated an autographed hood from Jeff Burton’s #99 Exide Car, which the CCS Career and Technical Education Department will use an auction item in an upcoming fundraiser.

In addition to sponsoring drivers in the NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series under the Service Central brand, TBC Retail Group also sponsors drivers in IZOD IndyCar Series and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.

“Business partners are the backbone of career and technical educational programs. We appreciate the generosity of Tire Kingdom in providing a car for our



automotive classes,” Cabarrus County Schools Career and Technical Education Director Lisa Conger.

Tire Kingdom® tire and automotive service centers provide a variety of services performed by trained and certified ASE technicians using state-of-the-art equipment. There are 272 Tire Kingdom retail locations in the Southeast, 199 of which are in Florida. It is one of four brands operated by the TBC Retail Group (TBC).

Headquartered in Juno Beach, Florida, TBC Retail Group, Inc., a subsidiary of TBC Corporation, operates more than 800 tire and automotive service centers under the brands: Tire Kingdom, NTB - National Tire and Battery®, and Merchant’s Tire and Auto Centers®, along with over 400 franchised Big O Tires® locations. The contingent of more than 1200 stores has trained and certified ASE technicians who use state-of-the-art equipment to provide quality service on cars and trucks. The nationwide warranty provides peace of mind while it protects consumers and their investment in over 40 states.

TBC Retail Group employs more than 300 associates at its Juno Beach, Fla. headquarters and over 10,000 associates nationally.



CCS Students Win Jewelry Design Contest

Three CCS students were winners in the 2nd annual Ellis Jewelers Jewelry Design Contest. Congratulations to:

Tommy Molter – Pitts School Road Elementary

Pendant with the word “inspire” underneath a blue diamond ribbon designed to inspire awareness about Tourette Syndrome

Stephan Dimusto – Hickory Ridge Middle School
Emerald pendant in the shape of a sea turtle

Jordan Mesimer – Northwest Cabarrus High School
3-dimensional reindeer pendant complete with a garnet birthstone entwined in the antlers

Dan Levinson, owner of Ellis Jewelers, took Tommy’s design one step further. Levinson recasted Tommy’s pendant design in sterling silver and placed it as an

item for sale at his store. A portion of the sales were donated to the Tourette Syndrome community to help Tommy continue to raise awareness.

Ellis Jewelers is located at 29 Union Street South in historic downtown Concord. Locally owned and operated, Ellis Jewelers has been a fixture in downtown Concord for over 50 years. Offering a large selection of engagement and wedding rings to loose diamonds, Ellis Jewelers also creates exclusive custom designs, repairs jewelry, and in addition, buys gold, silver, precious diamonds, unique estate jewelry and rare coins.

CCS Students WIN THEATER AWARDS

CCS students and school theater programs won big at the Blumey Awards (*the high school version of the Tony Awards*).

The Blumeys are presented by the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center to honor and recognize excellence in high school musical theater. The program's mission is to highlight the importance of musical theater and arts education.



The Blumeys went to...

Best Actor - Kyle Conroy

Little Shop of Horrors
Jay M. Robinson High School

Best Supporting Actor - Matt Verner

Little Shop of Horrors
Jay M. Robinson High School

Best Student Orchestra

Urinetown
Hickory Ridge High School

CMHS Marching Band Featured in Commercial

Members of the "Spirit of Cox Mill" Marching Band participated in a promotional video shoot for a commercial for the Showtime series *Homeland*. The band spent a day on-set in downtown Gastonia filming the commercial. Since its debut, *Homeland* has become wildly popular with viewers and has garnered numerous awards.



CCHS Wins \$25,000.00 WINDSTREAM GRANT

Central Cabarrus High School received a \$25,000 grant from Windstream through its SchoolsWIN Classroom Connections program.

CCHS was one of eight schools to win \$25,000 across the 18 eligible states and the only one in North Carolina to win the award. The school will use the funds for technology upgrades.

Central Cabarrus High was notified that it was one of 30 finalists for the award. Finalist schools had to garner online votes for their submitted videos - videos that showed the schools giving back to the community.

The CCHS video showed a cartoon, nightly news program with its anchors talking about the students taking on Rachel's Challenge, a focus area for the school since the 2010-2011 school year. Rachel's Challenge encourages students and communities to start a chain reaction of kindness.

The school's Rachel's Challenge team visited residents at Horizon Bay Assisted Living Center and asked them to teach them how to crochet, which was also included in the video. The students then made fabric to decorate trees, posts and signs at McGhee Park in Concord and invited the community to a "Scarf the Park" event.

Windstream representatives said the CCHS video was inspiring and creative.



PRIORITY 5

21st Century Systems

Plan. Do. Check. Act. This is our systematic approach to continuous improvement for Cabarrus County Schools. Our departments and schools analyze vital data and information to determine areas that need improvement and then put measures in place to track the performance of a given initiative - all in an effort to positively impact our most important assets - our students.

BUDGET Committee

Cabarrus County Schools' Budget Committee worked throughout the 2011-2012 school year to establish a budget for upcoming year. Their goal for establishing a budget for the 2012-2013 school year was, and continues to be, ensuring that the budget is efficient, effective and can be implemented with the utmost fidelity - keeping the best interest of our students and employees top of mind.

The committee, comprised of Board of Education members, school system administrators, a teacher, a teacher assistant and a community member, began its work evaluating each expense incurred by the school system.

The committee enlisted the assistance of 21 subcommittees and 39 advisory committees. Over 1,000 hours were expended on the budget by members of the advisory committees, the subcommittees, and the budget committee. Every idea submitted was given thoughtful consideration and often resulted in spirited debate.

After months of work, the committee presented a proposed budget to the Cabarrus County Board of Education. In April, the Board adopted the proposed budget.

Cabarrus County Schools was not in the same

position that it faced with last year's budget, which incurred a \$6.1 million cut.

After extensive deliberation and consideration, it was determined that additional increases to the budget would not be prudent or fiscally responsible at this time. Cabarrus County Schools was not in a position to add many items to our budget this year without those additions being a detriment to other areas.

We also decided that additional cuts to the budget would not be good for our system or employee morale. Student enrollment has continued to grow in Cabarrus County Schools. We are serving more students with fewer staff members and less funding per student.

The budget process provided the school system with an opportunity to examine all areas to ensure that it is operating efficiently. The system is always looking for ways to leverage any efficiencies that can be found. All time and effort that was put into this year's budget process was greatly appreciated.



TRANSPORTATION DATA

- Three-Tier System
- Seven System Magnet Schools
- Three PreK Programs
- EC Transportation
- McKinney Vento Students
- 246 Yellow School Buses
- 4,595,217 Miles Traveled during the 2011-2012 school year
- 7,925 Bus Stops
- ZERO Major Injuries





• 4-H Science Fun Day (Spring Break Field Trip) was a huge success! Board of Education Member Carolyn Carpenter volunteered to serve as guest storyteller and came dressed as a butterfly to share *The Great Kapok Tree* with the children. Several 4-H volunteers conducted workshops which included how to make a rain stick, discovering the beauty of the rainforest and enjoying healthy snacks with foods from the rainforest.

• Our “Beat the Clock” incentive was a huge success! 63% of our current families registered for next year during the promotional period. Families expressed their appreciation for our effort to reward their loyalty, and the supervisors expressed appreciation for the opportunity to start all of the data entry now so that they would not be overwhelmed after Open House in the fall.

• For the first time since 2007-2008, we ended the fiscal year with a profit balance - \$167,143.52. Our fund balance was depleted during the summer of 2011, but we were able to build it back up to \$125,796.00 (post-audit) by the summer of 2012.

KIDS: PLUS

Before & After School Child Care

- All 19 sites currently hold 5-Star ratings on their licensure (assessed by the *School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale*).
- Cox Mill Elementary School started the year with an enrollment exceeding 100 children; no center exceeded 100 children in 2010-11.
- Increased enrollment at Coltrane-Webb STEM site.
- Initiated new partnerships with outside agencies: Girl Scouts- sent a representative to work on-site with girls for free; Boy Scouts- provided all sites with free materials to implement the Learning for Life Curriculum; FCCA Soccer - provided free soccer clinics on-site



GRANTS

Cabarrus County Schools received more than \$245,000 in grant funding during the 2011-2012 school year. The system also exceeded its goal of receiving six grants worth more than \$10,000. One of those high-dollar grants was from IKEA, which awarded Pitts School Road Elementary School a grant for \$10,000 through its Life Improvement Project. The school purchased \$7,000 worth of books for the media center and used the remainder to purchase furniture for a special reading nook in the center.

Number of grants greater than \$10,000

2010 -2011
5

2011 -2012
8



2011-2012 Per Pupil Expenditure

(per Department of Public Instruction)

District	ADM*	State PPE‡	Federal PPE‡	Local PPE‡	Total PPE‡
Kannapolis City	5,136	5,233	1,211	1,706	8,159
Stanly	8,836	5,710	811	1,202	7,724
Davidson	19,967	5,090	713	947	6,750
Rowan-Salisbury	19,916	5,234	866	1,959	8,058
Iredell-Statesville	21,239	4,948	705	1,620	7,274
Buncombe	25,260	5,136	788	1,899	7,823
Cabarrus	29,182	4,971	450	1,519	6,939
Johnston	32,514	5,216	748	1,604	7,568
Gaston	30,704	4,930	794	1,337	7,061
Union	39,654	4,902	754	1,902	7,557
Charlotte-Meck	137,016	4,948	761	1,933	7,702

*Average Daily Membership, ‡Per Pupil Expenditure



MANAGING CCS Facilities

The Facilities Management Department (FMD) has been going through a number of changes over the course of the last two years. The Department is responsible for approximately 5.7 million square feet of school and office space that has a replacement value of nearly \$1 billion.

In order to meet the maintenance needs of the 39 schools in the District as well as the 9 schools in the Kannapolis City School system, FMD has been conducting facility tours in an effort to establish the age and condition of all primary building systems and equipment in the schools. This information will allow FMD to better plan for future maintenance needs and address those needs before they become emergencies or negatively impact school operations.

Our maintenance personnel completed more than 16,000 work orders during the 2011-2012 school year. This work is performed by expert craftspeople that include carpenters, electricians, mechanical technicians, plumbers, refrigeration specialists, grounds personnel and a kitchen equipment specialist.

We continue to look for ways to work more effectively and to exercise sound fiscal controls within a limited budget to address the highest and

most critical needs at the schools. Our goal is to maintain a safe, secure and pleasant learning and working environment for all of our students and staff.

This year also saw the completion of many of the larger maintenance and technology projects at a variety of schools which were paid for through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Program. This program provided very low interest loans for thirty seven (37) projects in the district totaling just over \$11.1 million. It is anticipated that the majority of all the projects funded by this program will be completed by the start of the school year in August 2013.



TECHNOLOGY in Our Schools

The use of technology in our schools has evolved over the years – gone are the days when simply having a computer in the classroom was cutting edge. Today, new technologies emerge faster than the blink of an eye. Our Technology Department continues to stay abreast of new tools, software and systems that will facilitate learning. Here are a few highlights of technology being used at J.N. Fries Magnet School.

Using Gaggie App on iPads to transfer files to PCs in the lab. There is a new Gaggie app that allows students to upload photos/videos that they take on the iPad to their digital locker in Gaggie. This lets them easily transfer their work from the iPad to the computers.



BioMoto Club

Technology-Based CLUBS

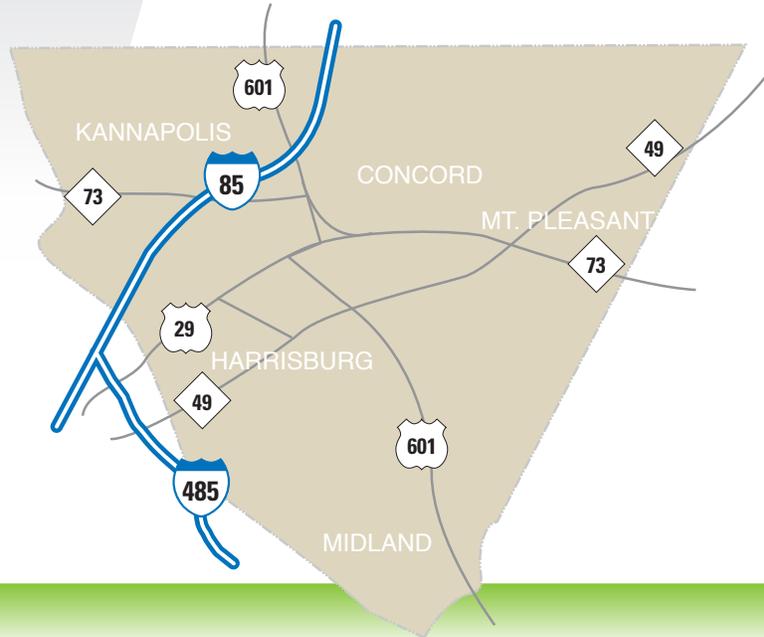
- **VEX Robotics:** Students build robots to accomplish tasks.
- **STEM Video Game Challenge:** Students create games using Kodu and other programs.
- **PC Building Club:** Students tear apart old computers to learn and shop for parts.
- **Digital Scrapbooking:** Students enjoy working with digital images and elements to create scrapbooks.
- **Newspaper Club:** Students learn the basics of newspaper creation through Weebly.com
- **Geocaching Club:** Students sent out to find caches with GPS devices.
- **BioMoto:** The program builds off the popularity of NASCAR and the science and math that make a pit crew and race team successful.

Lanschool on all computers - teacher and student.

We have a site license to Lanschool, which is a PC management system (allows the teacher computer to view what is on every screen, lock PCs, broadcast their screen to student computers, etc.). We put it on all our laptops and netbooks, so students just click the icon, put the room # they're in, and their computer pops up on the teacher PC in that room. There is also a Lanschool app for the iPad that allows the teacher to see where students are on the Internet (does not show apps, just Internet pages being looked at).

Digital Portfolio work. Students on the International Studies side are starting work on digital portfolios- where students are publishing their work through Gaggie. They are planning on using these as a basis for student-led parent conferences, where the students will speak from their portfolio about areas they are strong/weak and the growth they've shown. When I started doing digital portfolio work with both STEM and IS sides we used this Prezi as a conversation starter and a way to hammer out ideas.





School LOCATIONS

ELEMENTARY Schools

A. T. Allen 3939 Abilene Road Concord, NC 28025 (704) 788-2182	Coltrane-Webb 61 Spring St NW Concord, NC 28025 (704) 782-5912	Mount Pleasant 8555 North Drive Mount Pleasant, NC 28124 (704) 436-6534	Rocky River 5454 Rocky River Road Concord, NC 28025 (704) 795-4505	Weddington Hills 4401 Weddington Road Concord, NC 28025 (704) 795-9385
Bethel 2425 Midland Road Midland, NC 28107 (704) 888-5811	Cox Mill 1450 Cox Mill Road Concord, NC 28027 (704) 795-6519	Patriots 1510 Holden Avenue Concord, North Carolina 28025 Phone (704) 455-1882	Royal Oaks 608 Dakota Street Kannapolis, NC 28083 (704) 932-4111	Winecoff 375 Winecoff School Road Concord, NC 28027 (704) 782-4322
Beverly Hills 87 Palaside Drive NE Concord, NC 28025 (704) 782-0115	Harrisburg 3900 Stallings Road Harrisburg, NC 28075 (704) 455-5118	Pitts School Rd. 720 Pitts School Road SW Concord, NC 28027 (704) 788-3430	W. M. Irvin 1400 Gold Rush Drive Concord, NC 28025 (704) 782-8864	Wolf Meadow 150 Wolf Meadow Drive SW Concord, NC 28027 (704) 786-9173
Carl A. Furr 2725 Clover Road Concord, NC 28027 (704) 788-4300	Long School 310 Kerr St NW Concord, NC 28025 (704) 784-3614	R. Brown McAllister 541 Sunnyside Drive SE Concord, NC 28025 (704) 788-3165	W.R. Odell School 1215 Moss Farm Road Concord, NC 28027 (704) 782-0601	
Charles E. Boger 5150 Dove Field Lane Concord, NC 28027 (704) 788-1600	Mary Frances Wall Center 3801 Highway 601 South Concord, NC 28025 (704) 782-5712			

MIDDLE Schools

C. C. Griffin 7650 Griffin's Gate Drive Concord, NC 28025 (704) 455-4700	Concord 1500 Gold Rush Drive Concord, NC 28025 (704) 786-4121	Harris Road 1251 Patriot Plantation Blvd Concord, NC 28027 (704) 782-2002	J. N. Fries 133 Stonecrest Circle SW Concord, NC 28027 (704) 788-4140	Northwest Cabarrus 5140 Northwest Cabarrus Dr. Concord, NC 28027 (704) 788-4135
Cabarrus Opportunity 120 Marsh Avenue NW Concord, NC 28025 (704) 793-1736	Harold Winkler 4111 Weddington Road NW Concord, NC 28027 (704) 786-2000	Hickory Ridge 7336 Raging Ridge Road Harrisburg, NC 28075 (704) 455-1331	Mount Pleasant 8325 Hwy. 49 N Mount Pleasant, NC 28124 (704) 436-9302	

HIGH Schools

Cabarrus - Kannapolis Early College 1531 Trinity Church Road Concord, NC 28027 (704) 260-0229	Central Cabarrus 505 way 49 South Concord, NC 28025 (704) 786-0125	Cox Mill 1355 Cox Mill Rd Concord, NC 28027 Phone: 704-788-6700	Jay M. Robinson 300 Pitts School Road SW Concord, NC 28027 (704) 788-4500	Northwest Cabarrus 5130 Northwest Cabarrus Dr. Concord, NC 28027 (704) 788-4111
Cabarrus Opportunity 120 Marsh Avenue NW Concord, NC 28025 (704) 793-1736	Concord 481 Burrage Road NE Concord, NC 28025 (704) 786-4161	Hickory Ridge 7321 Raging Ridge Road Harrisburg, NC 28075 (704) 454-7300	Mount Pleasant 700 Walker Road Mount Pleasant, NC 28124 (704) 436-9321	Performance Learning Ctr. 133 Stonecrest Circle SW Concord, NC 28027 (704) 795-7074



*Left to Right:
Barry Shepherd, Blake Kiger, Cindy Fertenbaugh,
Holly Blackwelder, Tim Furr, Carolyn Carpenter,
Grace Mynatt, Lynn Shue*

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Non-Discrimination Notice

Cabarrus County Schools provides equal access and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age in its programs or activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: 504 Coordinator - Markl Kies 704-786-6191
Title IX Coordinator - Dr. Colleen Sain, colleen.sain@cabarrus.k12.nc.us

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