

NEWS RELEASE

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GCPS Class of 2018:

More than 12,600 Gwinnett students prepare for graduation

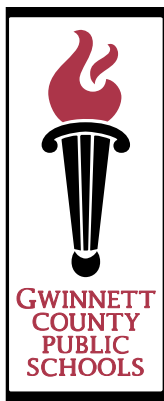
After 13 years of hard work during their K-12 academic careers, more than 12,600 potential Gwinnett graduates are counting down the days. The 12,612 high school seniors will walk across the stage as the school district congratulates the Class of 2018, the largest and most decorated to date.

“The Class of 2018 is one of our most distinguished to date,” says **CEO/Superintendent Alvin Wilbanks**. “These students have had an impressive career in Gwinnett County Public Schools and have been lauded for their academic, athletic, and civic accomplishments. They have earned prestigious awards and scholarships, state championships, and have left their mark on our schools and within our community. Graduation is the capstone of their K-12 academic careers and we wish them well and congratulate them on their hard work and persistence, knowing they are ready for the future. And, while the focus is on the graduates at this time of year, I also would like to thank their families and the thousands of teachers who provided support and guidance to them throughout the years.”

The senior report for the Class of 2018 shows that:

- **84% of the students graduating this year report that they plan to continue their education** by attending college or postsecondary schools. The vast majority, or 84% of them, plans to attend college in Georgia.
- These seniors have been offered, as of April 2018, **more than \$207 million in academic, athletic, and military scholarships**.
- The majority of the scholarship amount, **more than \$106.5 million, was earned for academic achievement**. Gwinnett students also received more than \$93 million in athletic scholarships, and more than \$7.6 million due to military appointments. The monetary awards do not include HOPE, the QuestBridge Scholarship recipients, or the Gates Scholarship recipients.
- **One of only three Georgia students and 161 throughout the nation honored as a U.S. Presidential Scholar hails from Gwinnett County Public Schools**. The scholars are selected based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

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THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
skills, and behavior
for each student,
resulting in measured
improvement against
local, national, and
world-class standards.*

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools
not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex,
religion, national origin, age, or disability in any
employment practice, educational program,
or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 and 2014 Winner of

the **broad prize**
for urban education



- As of May of 2018, **22 Gwinnett seniors earned a full scholarship through the QuestBridge College Match Program.** Seven of the seniors are Gwinnett School of Math, Science and Technology graduates.
- **Nine of the nation’s 300 Gates Scholarship recipients for 2018 are Gwinnett students.** This prestigious scholarship program provides an all-expenses-paid scholarship to high-potential, low-income minority students. It also provides support to Scholars, by engaging with them and their institutions in a ways, to ensure they have access to the resources and services they need.
- **Twenty students received military appointments.**

<u>School</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>School/Branch</u>
Brookwood HS	Hamilton Dodd	United States Military Academy at West Point (Army)
Brookwood HS	Trent Ho	United States Coast Guard Academy
Brookwood HS	Matthew Key	United States Merchant Marine Academy
Brookwood HS	Michael Neacsu	United States Air Force Academy
Collins Hill High School	Darius Penton	United States Air Force Academy
Dacula HS	Shayne Buckingham	United States Military Academy at West Point (Army)
Dacula HS	Payton Rawson	United States Air Force Academy
Duluth HS	William English	United States Military Academy at West Point (Army)
Grayson HS	Ethan Bigness	United States Air Force Academy
Grayson HS	Demetrius Goggans	United States Naval Academy
Grayson HS	Tiger McIntosh	United States Military Academy at West Point (Army)
Grayson HS	India McKalope	United States Coast Guard Academy
Grayson HS	Joel-Timothy Purnell	United States Air Force Academy
Grayson HS	William Vanpamelen	United States Military Academy at West Point (Army)
Lanier HS	Chadwick Kever	United States Air Force Academy
Mill Creek HS	Kathryn Brewer	United States Merchant Marine Academy
Mountain View HS	Berechiah David Austin	United States Naval Academy
Mountain View HS	Marquel Broughton	United States Military Academy at West Point (Army)
Norcross HS	Riley Stark	United States Coast Guard Academy

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- Mill Creek High graduates the largest class this year with 911 students, closely followed by Brookwood High with 838, and Peachtree Ridge High with 801
- The Class of 2018 also includes 3,246 Honor Graduates, who are graduating with a grade percent average of 90 or better.
- During high school, 7,100 seniors took Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- While members of the Class of 2018 were working on their high school diploma, 1,231 of them also earned college credit through dual enrollment.

Several of these honor students were recognized as the highest ranking students in their school, earning the title of valedictorian or salutatorian. They are:

School	Valedictorian (1st in Class)	Salutatorian (2nd in Class)
Archer HS	Lois Williams	Dennis Rodney Crawford III
Berkmar HS	Afsha B. Hossain	Du Kieu Dang
Brookwood HS	Brian Cho	Ruby Lee
Central Gwinnett HS	Andy Chea	Devinne Moses
Collins Hill HS	Jena Jibreen	Michal Szurek
Dacula HS	William Braxton Butcher	Maria-Isabelle V. Dittamo
Discovery HS	Nabid Farvez	Kaitlyn Choe
Duluth HS	Preethi Narayan	Jackson Baird
Grayson HS	Aliza Shivanni Ramdass	Melina Maleknia
GSMST	Iris Galfas	Frank Hu
GOC	Connor Harris Caldwell	Mary Collier Pritchett
Lanier HS	Gabrielle Burlison	Gabriel Cranor
Meadowcreek HS	Nhi Ngo	Ashley Duong
Mill Creek HS	Jason Russell	Camryn Petit
Mountain View HS	Kaitlyn Catapano	Matthew Kim
Norcross HS	Angela Lau	Chloe Pak
North Gwinnett HS	Peter (Yoon) Jang	Kevin Kim
Parkview HS	Jeremy Levin	Frank Tang
Peachtree Ridge HS	Terry Kang	Morgan Broniec
Shiloh HS	Nardos Solomon	Oluwapelumi Oluleye

South Gwinnett HS	Bailey McClain-Avant	Hannah Keilani Blas
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The graduation ceremonies for Gwinnett's Class of 2018 will take place as follows:

<u>Monday, May 21, 2018</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Phoenix High	Infinite Energy Theatre	7 p.m.
<u>Wednesday, May 23, 2018</u>		
Peachtree Ridge High	Infinite Energy Arena	3 p.m.
Central Gwinnett High	Central Gwinnett Stadium	7 p.m.
Gwinnett Online Campus	Gwinnett Online Campus Auditorium	7 p.m.
Brookwood High	Brookwood Stadium	8 p.m.
Collins Hill High	Infinite Energy Arena	8 p.m.
Mill Creek High	Mill Creek Community Stadium	8 p.m.
Parkview High	Parkview Community Stadium	8 pm
<u>Thursday, May 24, 2018</u>		
Grayson High	Infinite Energy Arena	8 a.m.
Archer High	Infinite Energy Arena	Noon
Berkmar High	Infinite Energy Arena	4 p.m.
Gwinnett School of Mathematics Science and Technology	Infinite Energy Exhibit Halls A/B	5 p.m.
Discovery High	Discovery Field	7:30 p.m.
Lanier High	Infinite Energy Arena	8 p.m.
<u>Friday, May 25, 2018</u>		
North Gwinnett High	Infinite Energy Arena	8 a.m.
Meadowcreek High	Infinite Energy Arena	Noon
Dacula High	Infinite Energy Arena	4 p.m.
Shiloh High	Infinite Energy Arena	8 p.m.
<u>Saturday, May 26, 2018</u>		
Norcross High	Infinite Energy Arena	8 a.m.
Duluth High	Infinite Energy Arena	Noon
South Gwinnett	Infinite Energy Arena	4 p.m.
Mountain View	Infinite Energy Arena	8 p.m.

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