

# History of

# Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST) was established in 2007. The development of GSMST began with research, national model reviews, on-site visits, meetings with school leaders, and curriculum studies. In composing its charter, approved by the Gwinnett County Board of Education in March of 2006, GSMST sought flexibility in curriculum design and schedule to pursue its vision of infinite possibilities for the school's students. The school sought to nurture the talents and high potential of all students through a unique, challenging, and integrated curriculum in the focus areas of bioscience, engineering, and emerging technologies. A diverse range of university, community, and industry partners came together with the school district to ensure the success of GSMST. Members of the Advisory Board were instrumental in helping to shape the curriculum and develop instructional programs, providing industry expertise, hands-on opportunities for students, mentors, and financial and material support.

## FAST FACTS

**Address:** 970 McElvaney Lane  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

The following have served as principals of GSMST:

2007–2008 Dr. Banks Bitterman

2008–Nov. 2013 Dr. Jeff Mathews

Dec. 2013–Present IV Bray

GSMST was temporarily housed on the Duluth High School Campus, Building 100, for the years 2007–2008, 2008–2009, and 2009–2010. GSMST was a separate school from Duluth High School, even though it resided temporarily on the Duluth campus. Renovations updated and modernized 18 classrooms and offices. GSMST moved to its permanent location at the geographic center of Gwinnett County near Sugarloaf Parkway and Old Norcross Rd., the former site of



Benefield Elementary School and Oakland School, in the summer of 2010. The new building is designed for a maximum of 1,200 students, with the design driven by curriculum and flexibility. The building incorporates a high-tech look, with project-based work areas for student, university and business collaboration.

Technology plays an integral role in supporting the curriculum and instruction at GSMST. Lenovo made a generous donation for all GSMST students to have personal laptops. With the implementation of the 1:1 laptop rollout, students have instant access to instructional material and documentation to supplement their classroom research. Students also use their laptops as

part of their daily lessons as they do research, enter data, and access digital resources. Technology is a key teaching and learning tool for our students and serves as a way to bring real-life application to what students learn. Teachers and students have access to state-of-the-art classroom technology, including interactive software. Some of the technology we use to engage students and prepare them to be successful in the global workforce includes: interactive whiteboards, overhead Projectors, a Foreign Language lab, an interactive music lab, and student response systems.

A charter school, GSMST holds a lottery each spring, if there are more applicants than spaces available, to determine its freshman class for the coming fall. The school draws its student population from middle schools



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### Gwinnett County Board of Education

Dr. Mary Kay Murphy, *2010 Chairman*  
 Dr. Robert McClure, *2010 Vice Chairman*  
 Carole Boyce  
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 Daniel Seckinger

across the district.

During its brief history, GSMST and its students and teachers have received state and national acclaim for achievements. Below are a few of note:

- GSMST was awarded the GA S.T.E.M. Certification by the State Dept. of Education. A science, technology, engineering, & math (STEM) school is one dedicated to the STEM education of every student within the school. The entire curriculum & every teacher are committed to preparing students for careers in a STEM field. Through this certification, the Georgia Department of Education recognizes & supports the critical contributions made by Georgia's (STEM) programs.
- GSMST was named the top high school in the state for the first annual Technology Association of Georgia S.T.E.M. Education Awards. This award recognizes excellence in promoting science, technology, engineering and math education in Georgia.
- GSMST's 2012 SAT SCORE was 1941— the highest score in Georgia. This score was 489 pts above the state average of 1452; 443 pts above the national average of 1498; and 423 pts above the GCPS average of 1518.
- GSMST was awarded as an Advanced Placement Honor School by the Georgia Department of Education in four out of five categories. AP Challenge School, AP Merit School, AP STEM School, & AP STEM Achievement School.
- GSMST was the recipient of the 2012 Educator of the Year Award from Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.
- A GSMST student took 1st place overall at the Georgia Junior Science and Humanities Symposium held at UGA.
- US News & World Report ranked GSMST the #3 best public high school in the nation, #2 charter school in the nation, & the #1 high school in the state of GA.
- The Washington Post ranked GSMST #1 in the State of GA, #5 in the south, & #10 in the nation. This ranking is based on how effectively a school prepares its students for college.