



NEWS RELEASE

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Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology named among best schools in the nation

The **Gwinnett School of Mathematics Science and Technology (GSMST)** has been named one of the best high schools in the United States by the oldest high school ranking system in the nation. According to the *Jay Mathews Challenge Index*, which first started ranking schools in 1998 in both *Newsweek* and *The Washington Post*, GSMST is the 31st best high school in the nation. GSMST is the only high school in Georgia ranked among the top 100 schools on the list, and one of only nine schools in the state to make the list of 300.

The Jay Mathews Challenge Index ranks high schools by a simple ratio: the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge tests given at a school each year, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year. Schools ranked 220 or above are in the top 1 percent of America's 22,000 high schools. Those ranked 440 or above are in the top 2 percent and so on. The Challenge Index is the only list that does not rely on test scores. It is also the only list that compares private and public schools.

Researchers with the Jay Mathews Challenge Index believe participation in college-level AP, IB and Cambridge tests is a unique measure of the depth of learning. They believe teachers cannot "dumb down" the exams because they are written and graded by independent experts. Success on the exams has been linked with success in college. Researchers say the list is designed to recognize schools that challenge average students, so magnet or charter schools that have few or no average students are placed on a separate Public Elites list.

This is not the first time GSMST has been recognized as one of the top schools in the nation. Earlier this month *U.S. News & World Report* named GSMST the best high school in Georgia and the 12th best in the United States.

For more information on the Jay Mathews Challenge Index, including the entire list, click [HERE](#).

--30--

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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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