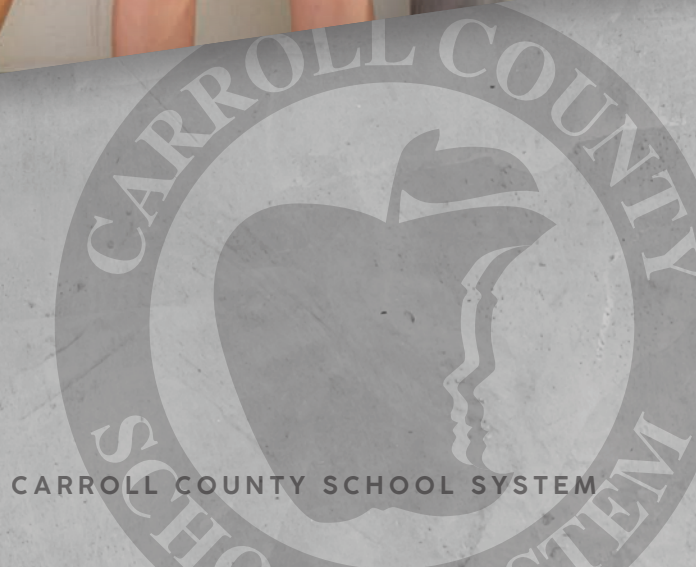


Committed to
CHANGING LIVES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM



Welcome to Carroll County Schools! The 2024-25 school year was filled with an amazing array of successes for our students, faculty, and staff. As they do each year, our students and our 24STRONG family of employees found new ways to elevate our planning, preparation, and execution to produce premier performance that continues to raise the bar. We have much to celebrate and much to anticipate in the future!

Annual reports are about looking back on the year that just ended, but that's hard for me. I love looking forward! It's also hard for our district to look back because we are all about the future! As you look through this report, you'll find victories in academics, athletics, arts, and activities, and you'll also find links to our new Performance Dashboard where you can monitor our metrics in real time. We have to know where we are, but we're not staying there. We are moving ahead!

From day one of pre-K, our teachers are coaching students to look to the future. We start with goal-setting, brainstorming, and problem solving. By the time they reach middle school, we're pushing them to set goals around three possible outcomes: enrolled, enlisted, or employed. High school is the critical time when they do make that choice about what follows graduation. The quicker they know, the sooner we can help them choose a path in high school that leads them where they want to go – higher ed, the workforce, or the military.

Students are individuals, and we're not in mass-production. We give each student the resources and tools he or she needs to make an educated decision about the future, and we support that decision with personalized advising, future-focused checklists, and coursework that prepares students to reach their own goals.

We're still not satisfied. We're adding advanced academic opportunities, workforce certifications, innovation labs, and emerging technologies so students have options that resonate with them and give them a pathway to the future they envision. The workforce of the future – here and around the world – won't look like the workforce of today. Our students need to move fast, learn fast, and think fast. We're going to do everything we can to make sure they are ready.

Thanks to your support, we continue to offer our students a premier experience that impacts them now and pushes them toward the future. We are convinced that our investment in them today will pay dividends for generations. Their future is our mission!

SUPERINTENDENT

Scott K. Cowart

Scott K. Cowart

Vision

Carroll County Schools will be recognized as a premier school district.

Mission

Carroll County Schools empowers students to graduate ready to be enrolled, enlisted, or employed, and engaged in their community.

Purpose

Carroll County Schools is committed to positively changing lives.

BY THE NUMBERS

From Pre-K through 12th grade, we equip students with a growth mindset and the skills to set and achieve their goals, preparing them for a lifetime of success. When our students move on from our campuses, they are ready to achieve greatness.



DEMOGRAPHICS

| | |
|----------|-----|
| White | 60% |
| Black | 20% |
| Hispanic | 12% |
| Other | 8% |



DISTRICT GRADUATION RATE

97%



The district graduation rate has been over 90% for the last seven years

97%

Seniors graduated in the Class of 2025

1,098



Fastest Growing Large School District in Georgia

4th

Total Enrollment is more than

16,000

Number of Schools

23

Number of College and Career Academies

2

Their future is our mission

✓

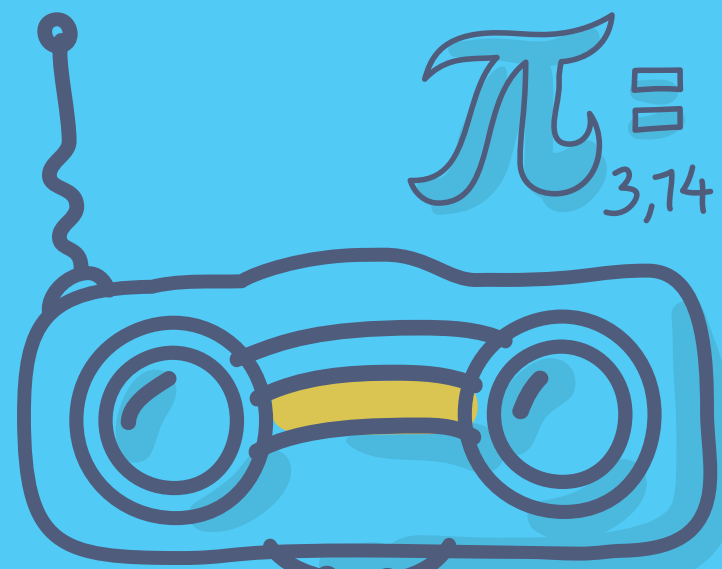
INNOVATION

RULES THE WORLD

The Carroll County School System is deeply rooted in a culture of excellence. Our mindset is one where every individual plays a vital role in fostering a high-achieving environment that **prepares students for lifelong success.**

This unified approach ensures that students are not only prepared academically but also equipped to be engaged, responsible citizens, reflecting the system's mission to empower students for their futures, whether they choose to be **enrolled, enlisted, or employed.**

The system's own measure of students who go beyond traditional graduation requirements to prepare for college, employment, or the military – called **G+ – increased 14 points to 70 percent** indicating that more students are being intentional about choosing a path for their future after high school.



G+

ADVANCED ACADEMIC COURSES
EARNING INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS
STATE CERTIFICATIONS THROUGH CCA
ACCELERATED CAREER PATHWAYS THROUGH CCA

ONLINE PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Carroll County Schools Performance Dashboard is a brand new tool used to provide internal and external stakeholders and partners with a dynamic, graphic interface to view our key data metrics. These include headline indicators as well as more granular metrics that will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of performance.

Here are just a few examples of the stats you can find on the new performance dashboard.



Elementary students have outperformed the state in all tested areas for **eight consecutive years**



Middle school students elevated their performance in **8 out of 10** end of grade scores for the 24-25 school year and outperformed the state in multiple subject areas



Carroll County high schools had **145 students** recognized nationally as AP Scholars, and **38 graduates** also earned top honors as AP Scholars of Distinction



To access the Performance Dashboard, scan the QR code



Literacy

Literacy remains a top priority across the district, and our efforts are paying off. Carroll County students improved their reading proficiency, with higher literacy scores recorded at all seven checkpoints for students in grades 3 through 8 and American Literature.



Their future is our mission

Teacher of the Year
STANLEY CLARKE

AGRICULTURE TEACHER AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Carroll County School System's 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year is Stanley Clarke, an agriculture teacher at Central High School. With over 30 years of teaching experience across Georgia and Alabama, Clarke has been instrumental in elevating the standards of the agriculture programs at Central High since joining in 2020. His dedication and expertise have led to his students winning numerous state and national accolades, including two national champion forestry teams.



Student **AMBASSADORS**

Carroll County Schools actively engages students as ambassadors to foster leadership, to be a voice for their student body, and to network with our district leaders and community partners. Student ambassadors play a vital role in representing their schools at various events, such as district celebrations, campus tours, and community gatherings. Beyond promoting their schools, ambassadors also participate in various activities and offer valuable feedback to district leaders, demonstrating their commitment to positive school culture and continuous improvement within the Carroll County School System. This experience helps students develop essential communication, public relations, interpersonal skills, and understand organizational structure and business operations, preparing them for future leadership roles.



24STRONG FOUNDATION

The recently established 24STRONG Educational Foundation is set to be a cornerstone of support for our district, demonstrating a profound commitment to both student achievement and teaching excellence. This independent non-profit organization primarily focuses on three crucial areas: STEM, literacy, and future-focused initiatives. Through the generosity of community donors and strategic fundraising initiatives, the foundation provides financial assistance to deserving students pursuing higher education, helping to alleviate the burden of tuition and related costs. Concurrently, the foundation offers competitive grants to educators, empowering them to implement innovative classroom projects, pursue professional development opportunities, and acquire essential resources that directly benefit student learning. By investing in both the aspirations of students and the dedication of teachers, the 24STRONG Educational Foundation aims to cultivate a vibrant educational ecosystem, fostering a legacy of academic success and professional growth within the school community.

Raised More Than

\$400,000

Funded Field Trips for Nearly

2,000 students

Awarded More Than

\$10,000

in Teacher Grants and Student Scholarships



To support our purpose of positively changing lives through the 24STRONG Foundation, please scan the QR code

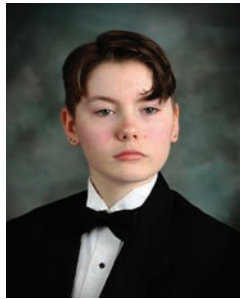
ENROLLED

Katherine Gargan

Temple High School Alumna, Class of 2010

“Carroll County students are blessed and lucky to be surrounded by teachers and leaders who see their potential for whatever path students choose after high school. As a first generation college graduate, I am appreciative to have had many dual enrollment opportunities as well as dedicated guidance to help me achieve my childhood dream of becoming an attorney.”

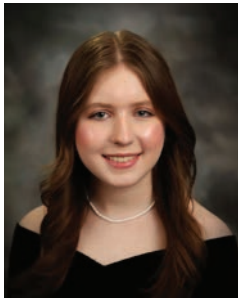
VALEDICTORIANS



Destiny Richardson
Bowdon High



Emily Dutton
Central High



Hannah Green
Mount Zion High



Sarah Green
Temple High



Ava Smith
Villa Rica High

SALUTATORIANS



Allyson Bowen
Bowdon High



Mary Lois Griffis
Central High



Caleb Rivers
Mount Zion High

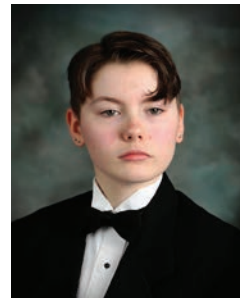


Ansleigh Garrett
Temple High



Aeddon Sresthadatta
Villa Rica High

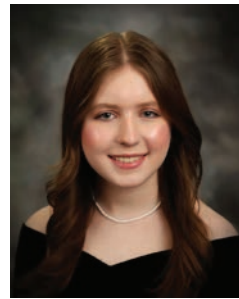
STAR STUDENTS



Destiny Richardson
Bowdon High



Mary Lois Griffis
Central High



Hannah Green
Mount Zion High



Kirra Hines
Temple High



Clayton Brown
Villa Rica High

STAR TEACHERS

Carrie Gay
Bowdon

Elizabeth Rance
Central

Chyna Gowan
Mount Zion

Gina Niemann
Temple

Jonathan Cook
Villa Rica

The Carroll County School System’s ELEVATE Chorus is a prestigious ensemble showcasing the vocal talents of students from all 23 campuses. With two representatives from each school, the chorus reflects the district’s commitment to music education and investment in fine arts. Students and directors dedicate countless hours

preparing for performances, including their appearance at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. Beyond musical growth, the ELEVATE Chorus fosters discipline, attention to detail, and community, echoing Carroll County Schools’ mission to provide high-quality music education and lasting life skills.

ELEVATE CHORUS



ENLISTED



John Ballenger

11th State Command Sergeant Major
Georgia Army National Guard
Bowdon High School Alumnus

I have proudly followed in the footsteps of my father to walk the path of service, discipline, and purpose. I am grateful to the teachers, coaches, and leaders in Carroll County for recognizing my potential and helping me find my way. Since graduation from Central High School, my son has also answered the call of duty, and together we are proud to serve our great nation.

24STRONG

describes the overall culture, values, and practices that align with the district's purpose of *positively changing the lives* of its students and staff.

The collective action of Carroll County's 24STRONG Team has been recognized and celebrated at the local level and in the Atlanta metro area with a host of accolades. Recently, the district earned a spot as one of the **Atlanta Business Chronicle's Best Places to Work** in the Large Business category for the fifth time.



Throughout the year, we honor staff members and community partners who have gone above and beyond to serve our students and have exemplified the 24Strong Spirit. We appreciate their commitment to excellence and their passion for being difference makers.

24Strong Winners:

Ken McLendon
Lesley Dempsey
Tiffany Bright
Katie Fowler
Sharon Richardson
Kevin Muldoon
Melanie Lively



School Safety

The Carroll County School System places an unwavering emphasis on school safety, recognizing it as the absolute top priority. This commitment is evident through extensive investments in security measures and proactive initiatives designed to protect students and staff. We utilize cutting-edge tools like SchoolDog, a data collection app that helps administrators identify and address potential vulnerabilities in real-time, ranging from human error to mechanical malfunctions. The district also fosters strong collaborations with local law enforcement and first responders, conducting annual safety summits and deploying numerous School Resource Officers across campuses to ensure a coordinated and immediate response to any threat. Beyond physical security, Carroll County prioritizes student well-being through comprehensive social emotional wellness services, ensuring a supportive environment where students can thrive safely. This multi-faceted approach underscores the district's dedication to creating secure and nurturing learning environments for the entire school community.

Safety Partners

Carroll Electric Membership Corporation partners with the district in a variety of ways, including providing a generous donation of \$97,500 towards school safety initiatives. We appreciate their support and commitment to our focus of having an enhanced safety infrastructure and the well-being of our entire school community.



BACK
TO BACK TO BACK
STATE
Champions
1971 · 1992 · 2022 · 2023 · 2024

Unstoppable. Undeniable. Unprecedented.

What an incredible achievement for Bowdon High School—your back-to-back-to-back State Football Champions! Three years of grit, teamwork, and pure dominance. This is history in the making!





FORKS UP



BHS was named a GADOE Advanced Placement Challenge School.

Bowdon Cluster athletes had a banner year, earning 16 individual and team championships at the regional and state levels. This included BHS's 6th consecutive state weightlifting championship and their 3rd straight state football championship.

Averi Lowen, a track star from BHS, is recognized as the fastest girl in Georgia. She was named the Atlanta Track Club's Female Runner of the Year and won back-to-back state championships in cross country.

Fine arts students demonstrated exceptional performances in band, chorus, and visual arts.

100% OF BOWDON
CLUSTER SCHOOLS
ARE STEM CERTIFIED

Teachers of the Year



Leah Kilgore
Bowdon Elementary



Clayton Young
Bowdon Middle



Rich Fendley
Bowdon High

1,547
STUDENTS

161
EMPLOYEES

98%
GRAD
RATE



LIONSTRONG



Teachers of the Year



Daniel McCord
Central Elementary



Nicole Fountain
Central Middle



Stanley Clarke
Central High



Lacey Christmas
Roopville Elementary



Dana Little
Whitesburg Elementary

4,312
STUDENTS

462
EMPLOYEES

98%
GRAD
RATE

100% OF CENTRAL
CLUSTER SCHOOLS
ARE STEM CERTIFIED

CHS was recognized with three distinctions by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE): AP Expansion School, AP STEM School, and AP STEM Achievement School.

Central Cluster athletes excelled in many sports, earning 29 individual and team championships at the regional and state levels.

Fine arts students showed outstanding ability in band, chorus, and visual arts. The Lion Pride Marching Band secured three Grand Championships. Additionally, Central graduates earned 47 Fine Arts Seals, the highest number in Carroll County.



EAGLES RISE UP



MZHS received two major accolades: the GADOE Advanced Placement Challenge School designation and the GOSA Achievement Award, both of which recognize high student achievement and growth.

Mount Zion Cluster athletes excelled in many sports, earning 17 individual and team championships at the regional and state levels.

Fine arts students demonstrated exceptional performances in band, chorus, and visual arts, and 16 MZHS graduates earned Fine Arts Seals.

Teachers of the Year



Michaela Ethridge
Mount Zion Elementary



Tyler Banister
Mount Zion Middle



Scott Jones
Mount Zion High

1,540
STUDENTS

99%
GRAD
RATE

162
EMPLOYEES

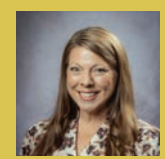
100% OF MOUNT ZION
CLUSTER SCHOOLS
ARE STEM CERTIFIED



TIGER PRIDE



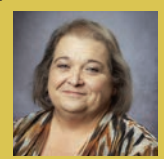
Teachers of the Year



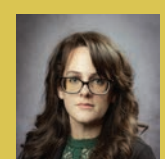
Christina Flores
Providence Elementary



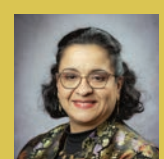
Julie Kelly
Sharp Creek Elementary



Missy Calas
Temple Elementary



Lauren Rosinski
Temple Middle



Claudia Lancheros
Temple High

3,320
STUDENTS

285
EMPLOYEES

99%
**GRAD
RATE**

**100% OF TEMPLE
CLUSTER SCHOOLS
ARE STEM CERTIFIED**

THS was named a GADOE Advanced Placement Challenge School.

Temple Cluster athletes excelled in many sports, earning 9 individual and team championships at the regional and state levels.

Fine arts students demonstrated exceptional performances in band, chorus, and visual arts, and 24 THS graduates earned Fine Arts Seals.



WE ARE VR

Teachers of the Year



Mary Crider
Glanton-Hindsman
Elementary



Alicia Montgomery
Ithica Elementary



Heather Duffey
Sand Hill Elementary



Lisa Steed
Villa Rica Elementary



Marti Webb
Bay Springs Middle



Jaynie Jackson
Villa Rica Middle



Tara Bogozan
Villa Rica High

5,631
STUDENTS

97%
GRAD
RATE

574
EMPLOYEES

100% OF VILLA RICA
CLUSTER SCHOOLS
ARE STEM CERTIFIED

In honor of its excellent Advanced Placement programs, VRHS earned the titles of AP STEM School, AP STEM Achievement School, and AP Access and Support School by the GADOE.

Villa Rica Cluster athletes excelled in many sports, earning 10 individual and team championships at the regional and state levels.

Fine arts students demonstrated exceptional performances in band, chorus, and visual arts, and VRHS graduates earned 26 Fine Arts Seals.

CTAE

Overall CTAE had
20 students place 1st in State



Bennett Jacobs
NCCA



Tiffany Lewis
SCCA

Teachers of the Year

Work-based Learning had
527 students who earned
\$1,808,387

Carroll County School System offers award-winning programs in Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE). Students have access to hands-on, real world experiences in a variety of subject areas that prepare them to be college and career ready upon graduation. Additionally, the district continues to be the only school system in Georgia that has two College and Career Academy campuses.

12 FOR LIFE,

a nationally recognized work-based learning program that combines classroom instruction with on-the-job training through a partnership with the Southwire Company, recently opened its new 900 square foot Mechatronics Lab. This new lab has expanded course offerings to include a collaborative robot trainer, Industrial Plastics trainer, and Intermediate Pneumatics trainer in addition to other state-of-the-art training equipment.

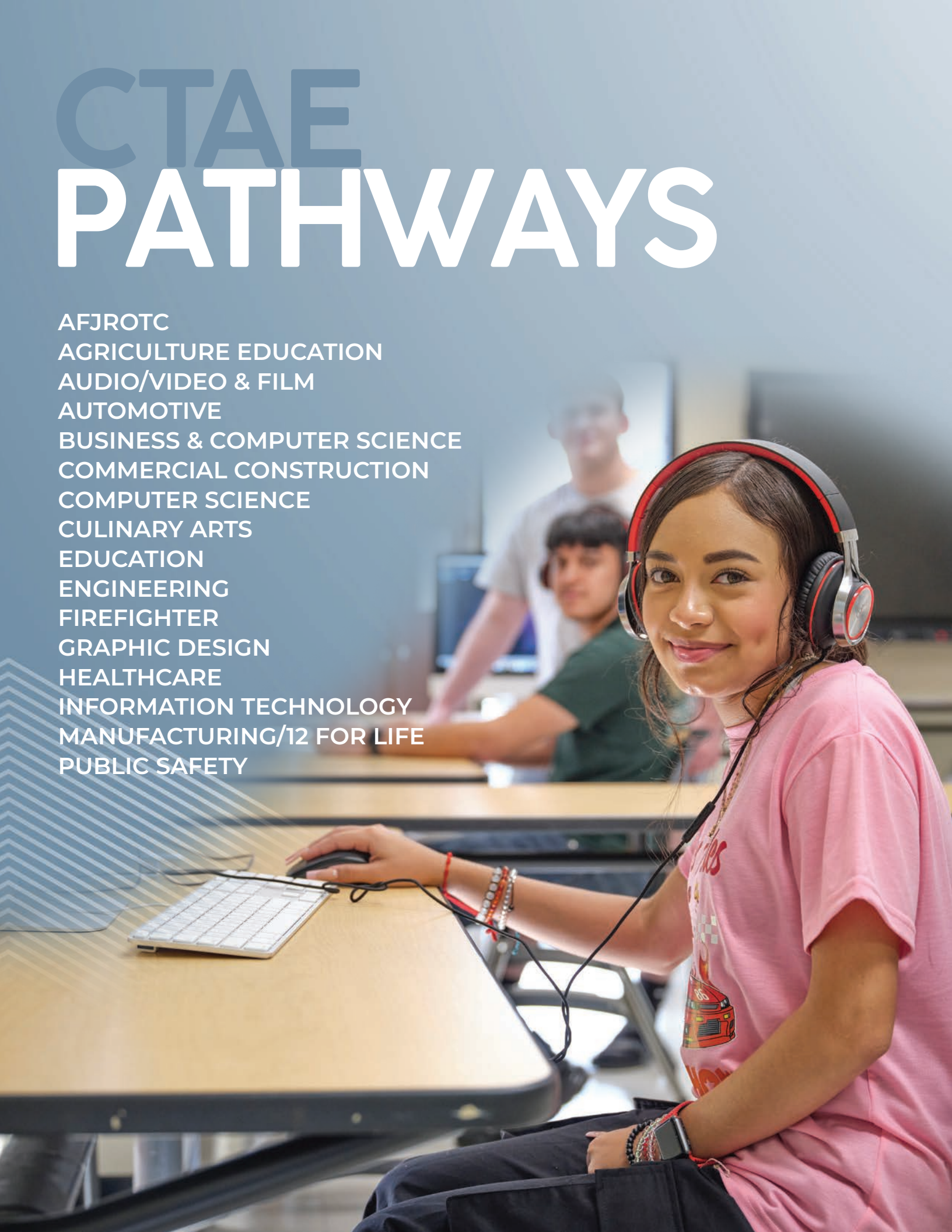


Total CTAE Enrollment

3,052

CTAE PATHWAYS

AFJROTC
AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
AUDIO/VIDEO & FILM
AUTOMOTIVE
BUSINESS & COMPUTER SCIENCE
COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION
COMPUTER SCIENCE
CULINARY ARTS
EDUCATION
ENGINEERING
FIREFIGHTER
GRAPHIC DESIGN
HEALTHCARE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MANUFACTURING/12 FOR LIFE
PUBLIC SAFETY



EMPLOYED

Sgt. Jenn Garmon

Central High School Alumna

"Being a Law Enforcement Officer is choosing a life of service work. I thank God for giving me a heart for service. I am passionate about the safety and security of our schools. I'm so thankful and blessed that I get to serve and work within the same community that I call home."



J.C. Daniell Operations Center

The Carroll County School System is committed to providing premier facilities to support a high-quality educational experience for its students. This dedication is evident in recent enhancements to many of its campuses including Bay Springs Middle School, Central High School, and Villa Rica High School—just to name a few. Furthermore, the district completed phase one of the 20-acre J.C. Daniell Operations Center campus that comprises School Nutrition, Maintenance and Transportation, as well as the Alternative Programs that serve students from all five clusters. These ongoing efforts reflect the system's strategic plan to ensure students have access to modern, well-maintained environments that foster a premier learning experience and positive working environments for staff.



*Thank
You*

Carroll County citizens demonstrated their support for our schools by approving the SPLOST VII referendum. SPLOST dollars have and will continue to provide necessary funding in the areas of safety, technology, facilities and transportation as well as fine arts equipment. Thank you to all those who have shown support for our commitment to providing a premier education for all students.

for voting yes to
SPLOST VII



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

As a thriving school system, we rely on a network of dedicated community partners, each contributing unique resources and expertise to enrich the educational experience for all students. This multifaceted collaboration creates a robust network that not only enhances academic achievement but also fosters a stronger, more supportive environment for students, families, and the community.

The McWhorter Family has made a significant investment in Whitesburg Elementary School over a span of many years. During the 24-25 school year, WES dedicated McWhorter Court in honor of Aaron McWhorter and his family. We are grateful for this new area where students can take part in healthy activity, refine their sports skills, and dream about becoming stars.

“I believe the success of our schools is attributed to the good people we have working at every level. Our team serves with heart and pours everything they have into our students. I am honored to serve as your Board Chairman and Chief Encouragement Officer.”

Kerry Miller, Chairman



Standing Left to Right:
Bryant Turner
Kerry Miller (Board Chair)
Tom Sizemore (Vice-Chair)
Bart Cater

Sitting Left to Right:
Sandra Morris
Lawana Knight
Dr. Bernice Brooks

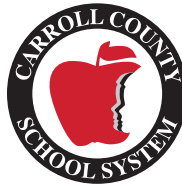


BOARD OF EDUCATION

GSBA DISTINGUISHED BOARD

Premier leaders create premier schools through strategic planning, continuous improvement, and thoughtful decision making that prioritizes our students and staff. We are grateful to our Board of Education for their passion and commitment to positively changing lives.





DISTRICT

College & Career Academy North
College & Career Academy South
Performing Arts Center

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

12 For Life Programs
GOAL Program
Online Campus
Extended Day
Fast Track

ELEMENTARY

Bowdon Elementary
Central Elementary
Glanton-Hindsman Elementary
Ithica Elementary
Mount Zion Elementary
Providence Elementary
Roopville Elementary
Sand Hill Elementary
Sharp Creek Elementary
Temple Elementary
Villa Rica Elementary
Whitesburg Elementary

MIDDLE

Bay Springs Middle
Bowdon Middle
Central Middle
Mount Zion Middle
Temple Middle
Villa Rica Middle

HIGH

Bowdon High
Central High
Mount Zion High
Temple High
Villa Rica High

carrollcountyschools.com

164 Independence Drive
Carrollton, GA 30116



24STRONG