ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
RECOGNITION MANUAL

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The Cherokee County School District (CCSD) Academic Achievement Recognition Manual is designed to provide information on ways in which students are acknowledged for their academic accomplishments. Some recognitions are dependent upon school participation, student participation and or academic performance levels. Please contact your local school for current information regarding which recognition programs they participate in annually.

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Elementary School Academic Achievement
Awards and Recognition

Elementary schools honor student achievements as follows:

**Report Cards**--The reporting of student progress to parents follows District procedures and is in accordance with Georgia Statutes, Georgia Board of Education administrative rules, and School Board Policies, rules and regulations. Report cards are issued at the end of every nine weeks of school and cover a period of approximately 45 school days. Report cards are distributed to students for delivery to their parents/guardians according to the annual School District calendar.

**Kindergarten**

**Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills Rating Scale (GKIDS)**

Performance in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics will be rated using the following rating scale:

- Not Assessed (NA)
- Demonstrating The Standard (DM)
- Not Yet Demonstrated (ND)
- Exceeding The Standard (EX)
- Emerging (EM)
- Developing (DV)

Performance in the areas of “Approaches to Learning”, “Personal Development”, and “Social Development” are rated using the following rating scale:

- Area of Concern (AC)
- Developing (DE)
- Consistently Demonstrating (CD)

**Grades 1–2**

Grade one and grade two student performance is evaluated and reported based on mastery of standards in academic courses, participation courses, personal growth and development, and conduct using the following symbols:

**Academic and Participation Courses, Personal Growth and Development, and Conduct Codes**

- O = Outstanding
- N = Needs Improvement
- S = Satisfactory
- U = Unsatisfactory

**Grades 3–5**

Student performance in grades three through five is evaluated and reported with the symbols “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” and “F”, which are used in the areas of ELA, mathematics, science, social studies and AIM (Accelerated Intellectual Movement), if applicable. These symbols represent the equivalent numerical grades as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Grades</th>
<th>Conduct Grades</th>
<th>Participation Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = 90-100</td>
<td>S = Satisfactory</td>
<td>S = Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = 80-89</td>
<td>N = Needs Improvement</td>
<td>N = Needs Improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = 71-79</td>
<td>U = Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>U = Unsatisfactory/Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D = 70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F = Below 70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance
Attendance certificates are awarded for the following categories of attendance:
- Platinum Award for Perfect Attendance: For no absences, tardies, or early check-outs.
- Gold Award for Perfect Attendance: For no absences and fewer than five tardies/early check-outs.
- Silver Award for Excellent Attendance: For three or fewer absences and fewer than five tardies/early check-outs.
- Award of Merit for Excellent Attendance: For three or fewer absences.

CCSD Reading Bowl
The CCSD Reading Bowl is a timed competition designed to encourage reading. Open to students grades four through twelve, the CCSD Reading Bowl features questions from books selected by the CCSD Reading Bowl Committee.

Citizenship Award
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) jointly administer the American Citizenship Award. Model students who receive this prestigious honor inspire and encourage other students to strive to be better citizens. Criteria is established at the local school level.

Duke University – Talent Identification Program
Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) provides an annual Talent Search for eligible 4th – 6th grade students. Duke supports academically talented students who have previously scored at or above the 95th percentile on a standardized achievement, aptitude, or mental ability test.

Georgia Young Authors Writing Competition
Georgia Young Authors Writing Contest encourages students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, provides a context to celebrate writing successes, and recognizes student achievement in arts and academics. The competition has been engaging Georgia students for more than two decades and is open to any student currently enrolled in Georgia's public schools, grades K-12.

Honor Roll
Honor Roll consists of students who earn all A's in each academic subject in grades 4-5 each quarter. Neither participation courses nor conduct is considered to determine Honor Roll.

Junior Beta Club – Division I Grades 4-5
To promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students.

To be eligible for membership for the Junior Beta Club, the student must meet all of the following criteria:
- Earn all A's in all core academic classes in previous and/or current school year – ELA, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies (in Elementary School, gifted resource class is also included)
- Achieve a 3 or 4 on the previous year's Georgia Milestones Assessment in ELA and Math
- Exhibit exemplary behavior, character and attitude
- Have no more than 5 unexcused absences in previous and/or current school year

Believing that exemplary student effort and achievement should be encouraged and rewarded, and seeking to cultivate ideals of service and leadership in our citizens of tomorrow, the governing body of the National Honorary Beta Club has instituted this organization for promotion of these ideals.
and those stated in the Beta Creed. As a member of the Junior Beta Club in Cherokee County, students must adhere to the Beta mission and learn to embrace and embody its four pillars.

**Merit List**

Merit List consists of students who earn all A's and/or B's in each academic subject in grades 4-5 each quarter. Neither participation courses nor conduct is considered to determine Merit List. If a student is on the Honor Roll, he/she is not included on the Merit List.

**Academic Subjects include**

- Accelerated Intellectual Movement--AIM
- Reading
- ELA
- Science
- Mathematics
- Social Studies

➢ Students who receive one of these designations are recognized within the school.

**PTA Reflections Contest**

PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students will reflect on a common theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students of all grades and abilities may participate.

**President's Award for Educational Achievement**

The purpose of this award is to recognize students that show outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subjects but do not meet the criteria for the President's Award for Educational Excellence. This award is not comparable to the President's Award for Educational Excellence and should not be used or seen as a second tier award, for it recognizes a very different type of academic achievement. It is meant to encourage and reward students who work hard and give their best effort in school, often in the face of special obstacles to their learning.

**President's Award for Educational Excellence**

The purpose of this award is to recognize academic success in the classroom. To be eligible for this award, students at each award level (elementary, middle, or high school) must meet rigorous requirements for Grade Point Average or School Criteria/Standards and either Standardized Achievement Test or recommendation by a teacher plus one other staff member for outstanding achievement in a core curriculum course.

**Presidential Youth Fitness Program**

The Presidential Youth Fitness Program provides educators with the necessary tools and information to achieve excellence through quality fitness education and assessment practices. The Presidential Youth Fitness Program was launched in 2012 to phase out the Presidential Physical Fitness Test. This new program to assess student fitness levels now provides additional tools and resources to ensure students are fit for life. With an evolved approach, the fitness assessment has moved away from recognizing athletic fitness to providing a barometer on student's health.

To be eligible to receive a Presidential Youth Fitness Award, a student must score in the Healthy Fitness Zone® in at least five test categories of the Fitness Gram assessment.

With the introduction of Fitness Gram, participation in the Presidential Youth Fitness Program is an optional school-based activity.
**Science Olympiad**
Science Olympiad is one of the premier science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous, standards-based challenges to teams in all 50 states. The vision of Science Olympiad is to increase student and teacher participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Science Olympiad events take advantage of the natural curiosity of each student and allow for in-depth hands-on experiences. Events may involve chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, meteorology, astronomy, geology, and more. Some events are academic events where you take a test at the competition. Some events are lab events where you do something hands-on and possibly take a written test as well. And others are building events where you design, build, and test a device and then bring it to the tournament to compete, or possibly even built a new device during the event using the skills learned from participating on a Science Olympiad team.

**Social Studies Fair**
Local, regional and state social studies fairs annually present exhibitions of student work from grades 5-12. Each project is designed to show research and conclusions about the study of people and their relationships to their physical and social environment.

**Spelling Bee**
Spelling bees offer an opportunity for students to exhibit their proficiency in the art of spelling. All students in grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to participate at the school level.

**Student Council**
Any student meeting the academic eligibility requirement of the respective school may place his or her name in nomination for student council representative. Candidates must follow the guidelines for speeches and posters provided in the nomination/information packet of the respective school.

Elections for student council officers will be determined by the student government by-laws of the respective school. This process will occur in the spring, unless otherwise requested by the Student Council and principal and authorized by the Office of School Operations.

**Yes I Can Awards**
Each elementary school will award one recipient per grade level to receive the “Yes I Can” Award during your school's end of the year awards ceremony. The categories you can choose from are below:

- **Academics-** Write a paragraph describing how your student has made progress/changes that have affected their academic development.
- **The Arts-** Write a paragraph describing how the student created a project and how it has impacted his/her creativity.
- **School and Community-** Write a paragraph sharing how the student has impacted his/her school and community.
- **Self-advocacy-** Write a paragraph describing how the student is using self-advocacy skills to impact his/her education
- **Technology-** Share the type of technology the student is now using to influence his/her school day.

Nominating teachers must write a paragraph describing how the student has made progress/changes in the category selected. Submissions must be made by the principal and/or designee. The school will select one student per school and nominate them to be recognized at a CCSD School Board Meeting.
Middle School Academic Achievement
Awards and Recognition

Middle schools honor student achievements are as follows:

**Report Cards**
The reporting of student progress to parents follows District procedures and is in accordance with Georgia Statutes, Georgia Board of Education administrative rules, and School Board Policies, rules and regulations. Report cards are issued at the end of every nine weeks of school and cover a period of approximately 45 school days. Report cards are distributed to students for delivery to their parents/guardians according to the annual School District calendar.

**Middle Grades 6-7-8**
Student performance in middle school grades six, seven and eight is evaluated and reported with the interpretation of the letter grades, “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” and “F”, which represent the equivalent numerical grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Grades</th>
<th>Conduct Grades</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = 90-100</td>
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**Attendance**
Attendance certificates are awarded for the following categories of attendance:
- Platinum Award for Perfect Attendance: For no absences, tardies, or early check-outs.
- Gold Award for Perfect Attendance: For no absences and fewer than five tardies/early check-outs.
- Silver Award for Excellent Attendance: For three or fewer absences and fewer than five tardies/early check-outs.
- Award of Merit for Excellent Attendance: For three or fewer absences.

**Merit List**
Merit List consists of students who earn all A’s and/or B’s in each academic subject each quarter/semester. Conduct is not considered when determining Merit List. If a student is on the Honor Roll, he/she is not included on the Merit List.

**Academic subjects include:**

- English Literature/Composition
- Mathematics
- Literacy Workshop
- Science
- Social Studies
- Spanish I
- Physical Education
- Connection Classes

➢ Students who receive one of these designations are recognized within the school
All-State Band
The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) sponsors an All-State Band annually to showcase the most talented students in the state of Georgia. Students are selected for participation by an extremely competitive audition process.

All-State Chorus
The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) sponsors All-State Chorus to provide Georgia choral students (grades 7-12) an opportunity to rehearse and perform with a large group of singers who have demonstrated advanced skills in the areas of singing and music reading and to work with a renowned conductor.

CCSD Reading Bowl
The CCSD Reading Bowl is a timed competition designed to encourage reading. Open to students grades four through twelve, the CCSD Reading Bowl features questions from books selected by the CCSD Reading Bowl Committee.

CCSD Tome Student Literacy Society
CCSD Tome Student Literacy Society provides student competitions across multiple literacies among 6th-12th grade students. Service, collaboration, competition-based club activities, and clean, entertaining, encouraging literature are available to promote self-esteem, leadership skills, character ethics, and nurture critical thinking, creativity, and imagination in the digital age.

Citizenship Award
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) jointly administer the American Citizenship Award. Model students who receive this prestigious honor inspire and encourage other students to strive to be better citizens. Criteria is established at the local school level.

Duke University – Talent Identification Program (TIP)
The Duke TIP provides an annual Talent Search for eligible 7th grade students. Duke supports academically talented students who have previously scored at or above the 95th percentile on a standardized test (i.e., Iowa, CogAT) by providing them with the opportunity to take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the ACT, which are college entrance exams. Districtwide procedures are utilized to build awareness and encourage increased student participation in TIP. Recognition is presented to qualifying students.

Georgia Young Authors Writing Competition
Georgia Young Authors Writing Contest encourages students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, provides a context to celebrate writing successes, and recognizes student achievement in arts and academics. The competition has been engaging Georgia students for more than two decades and is open to any student currently enrolled in Georgia's public schools, grades K-12.

Junior Beta Club – Division II Grades 6-8
To promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students.

To be eligible for membership for the Junior Beta Club, the student must meet all of the following criteria:
• Earn all A’s in all core academic classes in previous and/or current school year – English Lit/Comp; Literacy Workshop, Math, Science, and Social Studies (in Elementary School, gifted resource class is also included)
• Achieve a 3 or 4 on the previous year’s Georgia Milestones Assessment in ELA and Math
• Exhibit exemplary behavior, character and attitude
• Have no more than 5 unexcused absences in previous and/or current school year

The governing body of the National Honorary Beta Club has instituted this organization for encouraging and rewarding exemplary student effort and achievement, while cultivating service and leadership in the citizens of tomorrow. As a member of the Junior Beta Club in Cherokee County, students must adhere to the Beta mission and learn to embrace and embody its four pillars.

**PTA Reflections Contest**

PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students will reflect on a common theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students of all grades and abilities may participate.

**President’s Award for Educational Achievement**

The purpose of this award is to recognize students that show outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subjects but do not meet the criteria for the President’s Award for Educational Excellence. This award is not comparable to the President’s Award for Educational Excellence and should not be used or seen as a second tier award, for it recognizes a very different type of academic achievement. It is meant to encourage and reward students who work hard and give their best effort in school, often in the face of special obstacles to their learning.

**President’s Award for Educational Excellence**

The purpose of this award is to recognize academic success in the classroom. To be eligible for this award, students at each award level (elementary, middle, or high school) must meet rigorous requirements for Grade Point Average or School Criteria/Standards and either Standardized Achievement Test or recommendation by a teacher plus one other staff member for outstanding achievement in a core curriculum course.

**Presidential Youth Fitness Program**

The Presidential Youth Fitness Program provides educators with the necessary tools and information to achieve excellence through quality fitness education and assessment practices. The Presidential Youth Fitness Program was launched in 2012 to phase out the Presidential Physical Fitness Test. This new program to assess student fitness levels now provides additional tools and resources to ensure students are fit for life. With an evolved approach, the fitness assessment has moved away from recognizing athletic fitness to providing a barometer on student’s health. To be eligible to receive a Presidential Youth Fitness Award, a student must score in the Healthy Fitness Zone® in at least five test categories of the Fitness Gram assessment.

With the introduction of Fitness Gram, participation in the Presidential Youth Fitness Program is an optional school-based activity.

**Principal’s Academic Awards**

Awarded at the end of eighth grade to students who earned a yearly average, in grades six, seventh, and eighth grades, of 90.0, in each academic subject throughout middle school.

**Science Fair**

The Georgia Science & Engineering Fair (GSEF) is Georgia’s premier forum for students to showcase their original research, compete for awards, and interact with top-level professional scientists. The science fair system in Georgia serves not only to recognize students for their achievements, but also
to prepare students to succeed and flourish in an increasingly complex and highly technical world by becoming problem solvers, critical thinkers, reflective learners, and more productive and influential members of their communities.

The Georgia Science and Engineering Fair (GSEF) is dedicated to encouraging all Georgia's teachers and school districts to incorporate active science and engineering research into their classrooms in order to help students 1) develop a love for science, 2) learn to isolate important problems and to attack and solve these problems within the framework of organized, logical thought, careful research, and a detailed analysis of facts, and 3) showcase and celebrate their achievements.

**Science Olympiad**
Science Olympiad is one of the premier science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous, standards-based challenges to teams in all 50 states. The vision of Science Olympiad is to increase student and teacher participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Science Olympiad events take advantage of the natural curiosity of each student and allow for in-depth hands-on experiences. Events may involve chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, meteorology, astronomy, geology, and more. Some events are academic events where you take a test at the competition. Some events are lab events where you do something hands-on and possibly take a written test as well. And others are building events where you design, build, and test a device and then bring it to the tournament to compete. Or possibly even built a new device during the event using the skills learned from participating on a Science Olympiad team.

**Social Studies Fair**
Local, regional and state social studies fairs annually present exhibitions of student work from grades 5-12. Each project is designed to show research and conclusions about the study of people and their relationships to their physical and social environment.

**Spelling Bee**
Spelling bees offer an opportunity for students to exhibit their proficiency in the art of spelling. All students in grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to participate at the school level.

**South Cherokee Optimist Club Awards for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID)**
Select middle school student with disabilities who are eligible to take the GAA are recognized in March annually. Optimist Award nominations include the following categories:

- Most Improved
- Outstanding Achievement
- Positive Attitude
- Other categories as determined by staff

Each school should select one student from their ID program classrooms. All ID teachers should work collectively to select their school student nominee. The Optimist Club will recognize one student from each school and they will pay for the students’ and teachers’ breakfasts. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend.

**Student Council**
Any student meeting the academic eligibility requirement of the respective school may place his or her name in nomination for student council representative. Candidates must follow the guidelines for speeches and posters provided in the nomination/information packet of the respective school.
Elections for student council officers will be determined by the student government by-laws of the respective school. This process will occur in the spring, unless otherwise requested by the Student Council and principal and authorized by the Office of School Operations.
High School Academic Achievement
Awards, Recognition and Honors

Individual high schools may have recognition beyond those listed. Service recognition may be based on the school’s affiliation with specific civic and community organizations within their area. All Cherokee County School District recognitions that are determined by GPA will use weighted grades. High schools honor student achievements are as follows:

Report Cards
The reporting of student progress to parents follows District procedures and is in accordance with Georgia Statutes, Georgia Board of Education administrative rules, and School Board Policies, rules and regulations. Report cards or quarterly progress reports are issued at the end of every semester and cover a period of approximately 90 school days. Report cards are distributed to students for delivery to their parents/guardians according to the School Board calendar.

Grades 9-12
Student performance in grades nine through twelve is evaluated and reported utilizing numerical grades for normal progress reporting. The GPA summarizes each student’s academic performance in high school. GPA is used in determining eligibility for numerous awards, activities and college applications. Should letter grades be needed to calculate certain Grade Point Averages (GPA’s) the equivalent numerical grades are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Grades</th>
<th>Conduct Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = 90</td>
<td>S = Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = 80</td>
<td>N = Needs Improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = 71</td>
<td>U = Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D = 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F = Below 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purpose of computing numeric grade average (NGA) for class rank, extra points will be awarded for advanced courses as follows:

Honors Courses, 5 Points
Advanced Placement (AP) Courses, 10 Points

Dual Enrollment Courses
a. 10 points, whenever the college course taken is equivalent to an AP high school course for which the student has not already taken and received quality points, as recommended and approved by the Chief Academic Officer.
b. A waiver for consideration of quality points (5 or 10) may be submitted to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction for Dual Enrollment Courses taken by students which meet the following criteria:
   • Demonstrates rigor;
   • Serves as a replacement for an on-campus course receiving quality points; or,
   • Exceeds the highest instructional level course available at the local high school.
Except in instances where the post-secondary institution provides the student a numerical grade, the correlation of student’s grade earned at the post-secondary institution and the secondary cumulative grade point average shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Honor Roll**
For the graduates in the Classes of 2019 and 2020, high school students will be placed on the Honor Roll when their weighted numeric grade averages are 90 or above (or 89.5 or above rounded to the nearest whole unit).

For the graduates in the Class of 2021 and beyond, high school students will be placed on the Honor Roll when their weighted NGA is 90 or above.

**Attendance**
Attendance certificates are awarded for the following categories of attendance:
- Platinum Award for Perfect Attendance: For no absences, tardies, or early check-outs.
- Gold Award for Perfect Attendance: For no absences and fewer than five tardies/early check-outs.
- Silver Award for Excellent Attendance: For three or fewer absences and fewer than five tardies/early check-outs.
- Award of Merit for Excellent Attendance: For three or fewer absences.

**Academic Excellence Certificate**
A certificate recognizing academic excellence is awarded to students who have a cumulative GPA of 90 or above at the end of 3 ½ years.

**Academic Letters**
Academic letters are awarded to students who have maintained a 90 or above average for 2 consecutive years. Letters are presented in the fall.

**All-State Band**
The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) sponsors an All-State Band annually to showcase the most talented students in the state of Georgia. Students are selected for participation by an extremely competitive audition process.

**All-State Chorus**
The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) sponsors All-State Chorus to provide Georgia choral students (grades 7-12) an opportunity to rehearse and perform with a large group of singers who have demonstrated advanced skills in the areas of singing and music reading.

**CCSD Reading Bowl**
The CCSD Reading Bowl is a timed competition designed to encourage reading. Open to students grades four through twelve, the CCSD Reading Bowl features questions from books selected by the CCSD Reading Bowl Committee.

**CCSD Tome Student Literacy Society**
CCSD Tome Student Literacy Society provides student competitions across multiple literacies among 6th-12th grade students. Service, collaboration, competition-based club activities, and clean, entertaining, encouraging literature are available to promote self-esteem, leadership skills, character ethics, and nurture critical thinking, creativity, and imagination in the digital age.
Cherokee County Scholars Banquet
The Cherokee County Scholars Banquet is held each year in May. The purpose of the banquet is to recognize and honor the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from each high school. Each Valedictorian and Salutatorian invites his/her parents and a teacher of his/her choice who has significantly contributed to the student’s academic success.

Cherokee County Who’s Who
Who’s Who is the principal and faculty's opportunity to recognize seniors who have contributed the most to the school’s overall program. Faculty members nominate those students who work publicly and behind the scenes to make all programs distinctive and competitive. Students nominated must have a GPA of at least 90 and be a candidate for graduation at the end of the current school year. After the nominations are compiled, the faculty votes to determine which students have made the most significant contribution to the school.

Citizenship Award
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) jointly administer the American Citizenship Award. Model students who receive this prestigious honor inspire and encourage other students to strive to be better citizens. Criteria is established at the local school level.

Class Officers/Student Government Association Representative (SGA)
The School Board recognizes the importance of student involvement and representation regarding various aspects of the educational process, especially at the high school level as students are preparing for higher education, work and life.

Accordingly, each high school will establish and maintain an active Student Government Association (also referred to as a School Advisory Board).

The members of the Student Government Association (SGA) will be determined by the student government standards of the respective school. Recommended members are the presidents and vice-presidents of the classes and student council members.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award
The DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. This award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools and communities. These students are selected by their teachers and peers because they demonstrate these qualities to an outstanding degree. This program is only open to high school seniors and only one student per year may be honored as a school's DAR Good Citizen.

For more information, please visit: https://www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships/dar-related

Georgia Certificate of Merit
University of Georgia (UGA) recognizes 11th grade students who have excelled academically. Juniors who are ranked in the top 5% of their class at the end of their fifth semester receive a Certificate of Merit from UGA.

Georgia Scholar
Pursuant to State Board Policy 160-4-2-.23, the Georgia Scholar Program is an effort by the Georgia Department of Education to identify and recognize high school seniors who have achieved excellence in school and community life. The program is coordinated by the Georgia Department of
Education's Excellence Recognition Office and through local coordinators in each public school system and private schools throughout the state.

**Georgia Young Authors Writing Competition**
Georgia Young Authors Writing Contest encourages students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, provides a context to celebrate writing successes, and recognizes student achievement in arts and academics. The competition has been engaging Georgia students for more than two decades and is open to any student currently enrolled in Georgia's public schools, grades K-12.

**Girls State/Boys State**
Boys and Girls State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. The program is one in which participants learn about rights, privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizens in a one-week intensive program. Most programs are held on a college campus and students live in the dorms. The selection process occurs during the junior year and the program takes place between the junior and senior year. Nominations are submitted to the American Legion, Thomas M. Brady Post 45.

*For more information regarding Boys State, please visit: [https://www.legion.org/boysnation/stateabout](https://www.legion.org/boysnation/stateabout)*

*For more information regarding Girls State, please visit: [https://www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Girls-State/](https://www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Girls-State/)*

**Governor’s Honors Program (GHP)**
Pursuant to State Board Policy 160-4-2-.09, the Georgia Governor's Honors Program (GHP) is a summer residential instructional program designed to provide intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students challenging and enriching educational opportunities not usually available during the regular school year. Activities are designed to provide each participant with opportunities to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to become independent, life-long learners.

**Honor Graduates**
For the graduates in the Classes of 2019 and 2020, students who have a cumulative NGA of 90 or above (or 89.5 or above rounded to the nearest whole unit) at the end of 4 years receive recognition at graduation and a certificate from the school system. For the graduates in the Class of 2021 and beyond, the distinction of Honor Graduate will be awarded to graduating seniors who have a weighted NGA of 90 or above. These students will also receive the recognition at graduation and a certificate from the school system.

**Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY)**
Founded in 1958, HOBY’s mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. HOBY provides students, for whom most are selected by their schools, to participate in a unique leadership training, service-learning, and motivation-building experiences beginning a lifelong dedication to improving the lives of others. Programs are available for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

*For more information, please visit: [http://www.hoby.org/about/programs](http://www.hoby.org/about/programs)*

**Lamp of Knowledge**
The Lamp of Knowledge is awarded to students who have maintained a 90 or above average for 3 consecutive years. Lamps are presented in the fall.
**National Beta Club**  
The National Beta Club promotes ideals of Character, Service and Leadership among secondary school students, to reward meritorious achievement and to encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school.

**National Honor Society**  
The National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes outstanding high school students. NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

**National Merit Scholarship Program**  
The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) – and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.  
[Additional Information regarding National Merit can be found by clicking here.](#)

**National Hispanic Recognition Program**  
The National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) is a College Board program that recognizes the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors. Students qualify for this program by maintaining a 3.5 GPA and meeting an identified PSAT score as high school juniors.  
[Additional Information regarding the NHRP can be found by clicking here.](#)

**National Technical Honor Society (NTHS)**  
For over 30 years, NTHS has been the acknowledged leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in Career and Technical Education (CTE). The NTHS serves approximately 100,000 active members and nearly a million members since its inception in 1984. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides scholarships to encourage the pursuit of higher education, and cultivates excellence in today’s highly competitive, skilled workforce. In 2018, NTHS awarded over $225,000 in scholarships to NTHS members.  
[For more information, please visit:](https://nths.org/)  

**North Georgia Honors Program**  
North Georgia Summer Honors Program provides an opportunity for 11th grade students to participate in an outstanding program that emphasizes academic excellence, interpersonal skills, and physical fitness. This program is designed to prepare students for the full-time college experience.

**PTA Reflections Contest**  
PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students will reflect on a common theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students of all grades and abilities may participate.

**President's Award for Educational Achievement**  
The purpose of this award is to recognize students that show outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subjects but do not meet the criteria for the President's Award for Educational Excellence. This award is not comparable to the President's Award for Educational Excellence and should not be used or seen as a second tier award, for it recognizes a very different type of academic achievement. It is meant to encourage and reward students who work hard and give their best effort in school, often in the face of special obstacles to their learning.
President’s Award for Educational Excellence
The purpose of this award is to recognize academic success in the classroom. To be eligible for this award, students at each award level (elementary, middle, or high school) must meet rigorous requirements for Grade Point Average or School Criteria/Standards and either Standardized Achievement Test or recommendation by a teacher plus one other staff member for outstanding achievement in a core curriculum course.

Presidential Youth Fitness Program
The Presidential Youth Fitness Program provides educators with the necessary tools and information to achieve excellence through quality fitness education and assessment practices. The Presidential Youth Fitness Program was launched in 2012 to phase out the Presidential Physical Fitness Test. This new program to assess student fitness levels now provides additional tools and resources to ensure students are fit for life. With an evolved approach, the fitness assessment has moved away from recognizing athletic fitness to providing a barometer on student's health.
To be eligible to receive a Presidential Youth Fitness Award, a student must score in the Healthy Fitness Zone® in at least five test categories of the Fitness Gram assessment.

With the introduction of Fitness Gram, participation in the Presidential Youth Fitness Program is an optional school-based activity.

Principal's Leadership Award
The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and Herff Jones co-sponsor the Principal's Leadership Award (PLA), Recognizing Outstanding Student Leaders for the school year. This scholarship award affords high school principals the opportunity to recognize a student leader by nominating him or her for a national scholarship.

Ray Kroc Youth Achievement Award
The Ray Kroc Youth Achievement Award was created in memory of McDonald's founder to recognize students who have met the challenges that face young people as they grow into productive, responsible adults. Each school selects one senior who has earned the respect of teachers and fellow students through notable contributions to both the school and the community.

The Ray Kroc recipient is someone who gives back by participating in some form of charitable volunteer work through the school or within the community, who is hard-working and self-motivated, who displays integrity, and who sets a good example for his or her peers simply by being a thoughtful, caring person.

STAR Student
STAR student is an academic achievement based primarily on SAT scores. Based on all SAT scores posted through the November test date of the twelfth grade, the student with the highest combined score is identified. The program requires that the scores be equal to or higher than the latest available national average on both the verbal and the math sections. The STAR student must be ranked in the top 10% of his or her class, based on cumulative grades through the junior year. Ties are permitted at the school, system, and district level; but only one student receives Governor's Scholarship monetary award. The Lions Club sponsors the program locally.

Scholar Athlete
A Scholar Athlete patch is awarded to students who receive an Academic Letter or Lamp of Knowledge and have lettered in a varsity sport.
**Scholarships**
Numerous academic, athletic, memorial, church and civic scholarships are awarded yearly to deserving students. Many of these scholarships require a formal application process. Students should consult their counselor concerning applying for scholarships. There is a formal recognition of scholarship recipients during the spring of the senior year. Students and parents must notify and present verification for scholarships received in order to be recognized by the school.

**Science Fair**
The Georgia Science & Engineering Fair (GSEF) is Georgia's premier forum for students to showcase their original research, compete for awards, and interact with top-level professional scientists. The science fair system in Georgia serves not only to recognize students for their achievements, but also to prepare students to succeed and flourish in an increasingly complex and highly technical world by becoming problem solvers, critical thinkers, reflective learners, and more productive and influential members of their communities.

The Georgia Science and Engineering Fair (GSEF) is dedicated to encouraging all Georgia's teachers and school districts to incorporate active science and engineering research into their classrooms in order to help students 1) develop a love for science, 2) learn to isolate important problems and to attack and solve these problems within the framework of organized, logical thought, careful research, and a detailed analysis of facts, and 3) showcase and celebrate their achievements.

**Science Olympiad**
Science Olympiad is one of the premier science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous, standards-based challenges to teams in all 50 states. The vision of Science Olympiad is to increase student and teacher participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Science Olympiad events take advantage of the natural curiosity of each student and allow for in-depth hands-on experiences. Events may involve chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, meteorology, astronomy, geology, and more. Some events are academic events where you take a test at the competition. Some events are lab events where you do something hands-on and possibly take a written test as well. And others are building events where you design, build, and test a device and then bring it to the tournament to compete, or possibly even built a new device during the event using the skills learned from participating on a Science Olympiad team.

**Social Studies Fair**
Local, regional and state social studies fairs annually present exhibitions of student work from grades 5-12. Each project is designed to show research and conclusions about the study of people and their relationships to their physical and social environment.

**South Cherokee Optimist Club Awards for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID)**
Select high school student with disabilities who are eligible to take the GAA are recognized in October annually.
Optimist Award nominations include the following categories:

- *Most Improved*
- *Outstanding Achievement*
- *Positive Attitude*
- *Other categories as determined by staff*

Each school should select one student from their ID program classrooms. All ID teachers should work collectively to select their school student nominee. Additionally, one student should be nominated from the Transition Academy. The Optimist Club will recognize one
students from each school and they will pay for the students' and teachers' breakfasts. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend.

**Superintendent's Key Scholar Program**
Superintendent's Key Scholar Program is a districtwide academic recognition initiative honoring Cherokee County School District students' achievement from talent identification in grade four through National Merit Scholarship Finalist qualification in grade twelve. *(See Appendix A for more information)*.

**Teen Leadership Cherokee**
Teen Leadership Cherokee is designed to develop the knowledge and leadership skills of Cherokee County tenth graders so they may confidently become our leaders of tomorrow. Participation in Teen Leadership Cherokee will demonstrate that in this transient society, a diverse group of people working together, rather than individually, can be effective in solving the problems faced by the community. *(Additional information regarding Teen Leadership Cherokee can be found by clicking here.)*

**United States Senate Youth Program**
United States Senate Youth Program was created for outstanding high school students to help broaden their knowledge and understanding of Congress and the legislative process in our nation's Capitol; to demonstrate the importance of a freely elected legislature in the perpetuation of an effective democratic system of government; and, to dramatize in particular the crucial role the Senate performs in the maintenance of our government.

**Valedictorian/Salutatorian**
Pursuant to CCSD Board Policy IHC - Class Ranking, the graduating senior with the highest class ranking as determined by the weighted numeric average, NGA, shall be recognized as Valedictorian. The student with the second highest class ranking, as determined by weighted numeric grade average will be recognized as Salutatorian. The weighted numeric grade average will be calculated to the four decimal places or more until a tie is resolved. *Students participating in Dual Enrollment programs are eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian recognition* per statutory requirements. A Dual Enrollment student who moves into the local school system after his or her sophomore year and has not taken any courses on site at the participating eligible high school will not be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian recognition. Transfer credit used for Valedictorian or Salutatorian will be accepted only from an Accredited School in accordance with Board Policy on Awarding Units of Credit and Acceptance of Transfer Credit and/or Grades (JBC(4)).

**Wendy's High School Heisman Award**
The Wendy's High School Heisman honors both male and female high school students who excel in academics, athletics and student leadership. We want to hear from all student-athletes who work hard, are dedicated, and have become role models for their school's underclassmen! *(Additional information regarding Wendy's High School Heisman can be found here.)*

**21st Century Leaders**
21st Century Leaders is a collaboration of business and professional leaders inspiring high school students to take on leadership positions, explore career opportunities, and give back to their communities by connecting them with a diverse group of enthusiastic peers, passionate professionals and powerful ideas, transforming their skills, attitudes, and abilities through training and hands-on experiences. *(For more information, please visit: https://www.21stcenturyleaders.org/student-programs/)*
Superintendent’s Key Scholar Program

Superintendent’s Key Scholar Program supports the Cherokee County School District’s Major System Priority of establishing internationally competitive standards for student performance and an accountability system and policy framework designed to insure that all students are challenged individually and collectively to meet more rigorous standards.

The Superintendent’s Key Scholar Program identifies and nurtures high-achieving students, encouraging them to achieve at even higher academic levels. The program builds upon the current district-wide involvement in Duke University’s 7th Grade Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP). The following grade levels are recognized utilizing national assessments, the Iowa Assessment, Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Georgia Milestones, Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), SAT Reasoning Test or ACT Assessment. Students at each grade level listed below meet specific assessment criteria and receive specific Cherokee County School District academic recognition.

Elementary School

- Grades 4 - 6 Duke University Talent Identification Program
  
  **Criteria:**
  Invitations to participate are based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary school. Participation is voluntary/parent choice.

  **Recognition:**
  Duke University Participation Award Ribbon
  CCSD Certificate of Achievement

Middle School

- Grade 7 Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP)
  
  **Criteria:**
  Invitations to participate are based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Participation in Duke TIP is voluntary/parent choice. Standardized test score criteria on SAT or ACT change yearly, per Duke determination.

  **Recognition:**
  CCSD Certificate of Achievement
  Introduction to CCSD Board of Education and Superintendent

High School

- Grades 9 CCSD Preliminary Identification - Key Scholar Program
  
  **Criteria:**
  PSAT/NMSQT selection index of 80th percentile or greater on Grade 9 test scores (when available)

  **Recognition:**
  CCSD Certificate of Achievement
  School Recognition
• **Grade 10 CCSD Preliminary Identification - Key Scholar Program**
  
  **Criteria:**
  PSAT/NMSQT selection index of 85th percentile or greater on Grade 10 test scores

  **Recognition:**
  CCSD Certificate of Achievement
  School Recognition

• **Grade 11 Superintendent's Key Scholar**
  
  **Criteria:**
  PSAT/NMSQT selection index of 90th percentile or greater on Grade 11 test scores

  **Recognition:**
  Parent Letter from Superintendent of Schools
  CCSD Certificate of Achievement
  School Recognition
  Introduction to CCSD Board of Education and Superintendent
  Letter Jacket Patch--“Superintendent's Key Scholar”

• **Grade 12 National Merit Scholarship Finalist**
  
  **Criteria:**
  PSAT/NMSQT selection index for National Merit Scholarship changes yearly (College Board determination) based upon Grade 11 PSAT scores.

  **Recognition:**
  CCSD Certificate of Achievement
  Senior Honor Recognition
  National Merit Scholarship Certificate of Achievement
  Recognition at Graduation/National Merit Scholarship Medallion
Additional Student Recognition Opportunities

Below are some events/activities that may be available for your child. Please contact your local school for current information regarding which recognition programs they participate in annually.

**American Legion Award**
The Award Medal represents the educational symbolism of the School Award Medal Program and associates it with The American Legion and its purposes. The medal is applicable for award to either boys or girls in the graduating class of elementary, middle and high schools.

**Japanese Art Exchange**
Each year six elementary schools (one per Zone) are chosen to submit five 2-D paintings or drawings. The school's art teacher selects pieces of artwork which are then sent to Japan in exchange for artwork created by Japan's students. CCSD's student artwork is displayed in Meguro City, Japan and artwork from Japan is displayed at the six selected CCSD elementary schools. Students whose artwork is chosen for the exchange will receive a certificate from Japan when artwork is returned as well as have their artwork displayed at the Cherokee Arts Center during the elementary art show in the spring.

**Optimist Club Contests & Awards**
The *Essay Contest*: Young people are given the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In additional to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

*Oratorical Contest*: The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship. Specific rules are established by the local Optimist Club.

*Optimist Award*: The South Cherokee Optimist Club annually sponsors "Optimist Awards for Middle/High School Students with Intellectual Disabilities". Recipients are honored each year at a special awards breakfast.

**Special Olympics**
The Cherokee County Special Olympics Awareness Day provides a glimpse of the year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Their goal is to help bring persons with intellectual disabilities into the larger society under conditions whereby they are accepted, respected, and given the chance to become useful and productive citizens. As they achieve this goal through their sports program, they demonstrate that Special Olympics has a unique value: to show the world that every person counts and that every person can be something good when we all work together.

**Terrific Kids (Sponsored by Kiwanis Club)**
Terrific Kids is a student-recognition program that promotes character development, self-esteem and perseverance. “Terrific” is an acronym for Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive and Capable.