



Cherokee County  
School District

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
RECOGNITION MANUAL**

**Dr. Brian V. Hightower**  
Superintendent of Schools

110 Academy Street  
Canton, Georgia 30114

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.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

click on title to advance to that section

### **Elementary School Academic Achievement Awards and Recognition**

- Report Cards .....4
- Attendance..... 5
- Honor Roll .....5
- Merit List .....5
- Citizenship Award..... 5
- Student Council.....5
- Junior Beta Club.....5
- Science Olympiad .....5
- Social Studies Fair .....6
- Spelling Bee.....6
- Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition .....6
- Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl.....6
- President’s Award for Educational Excellence.....6
- President’s Award for Academic Achievement .....6
- Duke University – Talent Identification Program .....6
- The Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP) .....6
- PTA Reflections Contents.....6

### **Middle School Academic Achievement Awards and Recognition**

- Report Cards .....7
- Attendance..... 7
- Honor Roll .....7
- Merit List .....7
- Citizenship Award..... 8
- Student Council.....8
- Junior Beta Club.....8
- Science Fair .....8
- Social Studies Fair .....8
- Spelling Bee.....8
- Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition .....8
- Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl.....8

President’s Award for Educational Excellence.....	9
President’s Award for Academic Achievement .....	9
Principal’s Academic Awards.....	9
Duke University – Talent Identification Program .....	9
The Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP) .....	9
PTA Reflections Contents.....	9
All-State Band.....	9
All-State Chorus.....	9

**High School Academic Achievement, Recognition and Honors**

Report Cards.....	10
Attendance.....	11
Honor Roll .....	11
Citizenship Award.....	11
Class Officers/Student Government Association Representative (SGA) .....	11
National Honor Society .....	11
National Beta Club.....	11
National Technical Honor Society.....	11
Social Studies Fair .....	11
Science Fair .....	12
Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition .....	12
Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl.....	12
PTA Reflections Contest .....	12
All-State Band.....	12
All-State Chorus.....	12
President’s Award for Educational Excellence.....	12
President’s Award for Academic Achievement .....	12
Valedictorian/Salutatorian .....	13
Cherokee County Scholars Banquet.....	13
STAR Student .....	13
Georgia Scholar .....	13
Superintendent’s Key Scholar Program .....	13
National Merit Scholarship Program.....	13
National Hispanic Recognition Program .....	14
Honor Graduates .....	14
Academic Excellence Certificate.....	14
Academic Letters .....	14
Lamp of Knowledge.....	14
Scholar Athlete.....	14
Georgia Certificate of Merit .....	14
Governor’s Honors Program (GHP).....	14
North Georgia Honors Program.....	14
United States Senate Youth Program.....	14

Scholarships .....	15
Principal’s Leadership Award.....	15
Cherokee County Who’s Who.....	15
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Leaders.....	15
Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY) .....	15
Teen Leadership Cherokee .....	15
Girls State/Boys State.....	16
Wendy’s High School Heisman Award.....	16
Ray Kroc Youth Achievement Award .....	16
Moose Youth Awareness Program.....	16
Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and Daughters of the American Revolution History Award .....	16
<b>Superintendent’s Key Scholar Program (Appendix A) .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Additional Student Recognition Opportunities (Appendix B).....</b>	<b>19</b>

# 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 Yet Demonstrated (ND)	Meets the Standard (MS)
Emerging (EM)	Exceeds the Standard (EX)
Progressing (PR)	

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 reading, writing, mathematics, spelling, science, health, social studies and AIM (Accelerated Intellectual Movement). These symbols represent the equivalent numerical grades as shown below:

<i>Academic Grades</i>	<i>Conduct Grades</i>	<i>Participation Courses</i> (Handwriting, Computer Skills, Music, Art and Physical Education)
A = 90-100	S = Satisfactory	S = Satisfactory
B = 80-89	N = Needs Improvement	N = Needs Improvement
C = 71-79	U = Unsatisfactory	U = Unsatisfactory/Failure
D = 70		
F = Below 70		

## **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.

## **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.

## **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
Grammar/Writing	Science
Health	Social Studies
Mathematics	Spelling

- Students who receive one of these designations are recognized within 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.

## **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.

## **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.

- Although there are some universal requirements, each chapter has its own criteria for selection.

## **Science Olympiad**

Science Olympiad is a national nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality mathematics and science education, increasing students' interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding student achievement.

### **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 elementary students will have the opportunity to participate at the school level.

### **Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition**

Young Georgia Authors 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.

### **Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl**

Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl (HRRB) is a competition designed to encourage reading. Open to students in grades one through twelve, the HRRB features questions from the Children's Book Award List as well as the Georgia Peach Book Award List for Teen Readers.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Duke University - Talent Identification Program**

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

### **The Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP)**

With the introduction of FitnessGram, participation in the PYFP is an optional school-based activity.

### **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.

## Middle School Academic Achievement Awards and Recognition

Middle 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.

### **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:

<i>Academic Grades</i>		<i>Conduct Grades</i>	
A	= 90-100	S	= Satisfactory
B	= 80-89	N	= Needs Improvement
C	= 71-79	U	= Unsatisfactory
D	= 70		
F	= Below 70		

### **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.

### **Honor Roll**

Honor Roll consists of students who earn all A's in each academic subject each quarter/semester. Conduct is not considered when determining Honor Roll.

### **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**

Language Arts	Social Studies
Mathematics	Spanish I
Reading	Physical Education
Science	Connection Classes

- Students who receive one of these designations are recognized within 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.

### **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.

### **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.

- Although there are some universal requirements, each chapter has its own criteria for selection.

### **Science Fair**

The Georgia Science and 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.

### **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 elementary students will have the opportunity to participate at the school level.

### **Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition**

Young Georgia Authors 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.

### **Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl**

Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl (HRRB) is a competition designed to encourage reading. Open to students in grades one through twelve, the HRRB features questions from the Children's Book Award List as well as the Georgia Peach Book Award List for Teen Readers.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Principal's Academic Awards**

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

### **Duke University – Talent Identification Program (TIP)**

The Duke TIP provides an annual Talent Search for eligible 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Duke supports academically talented students who have previously scored at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standardized test (i.e., Iowa, CogAT) by providing them with the opportunity to take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and ACT, which are designed for above average eleventh and twelfth grade students. District-wide procedures are utilized to build awareness and encourage increased student participation in TIP. Recognition is presented to qualifying 7<sup>th</sup> grade students whose scores meet Duke University's regional recognition criteria at a Metro Atlanta location.

### **The Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP)**

With the introduction of FitnessGram, participation in the PYFP is an optional school-based activity.

### **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.

### **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.

## 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 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 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 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:

<i>Academic Grades</i>		<i>Conduct Grades</i>	
A	= 90-100	S	= Satisfactory
B	= 80-89	N	= Needs Improvement
C	= 71-79	U	= Unsatisfactory
D	= 70		
F	= Below 70		

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 added to numerical grade**

**Advanced Placement Courses (AP).....10 points added to numerical grade**

Students who successfully complete a course(s) in a post-secondary institution through Dual Enrollment - Move on When Ready at a post-secondary institution (as described in Board Policy IDCH) will receive the above bonus points whenever the college course taken is equivalent to an Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) high school course as determined by the Principal or designee, and Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs, Student Support, Accountability and Professional Development.

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:

A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 70	F = 60
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

## **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.

## **Honor Roll**

Honor Roll consists of students who earn weighted cumulative average of 90 or above (or 89.5 or above rounded to the nearest whole unit). Students who receive this designation are recognized within 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.

## **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 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 Technical Honor Society**

The National Technical Honor Society serves over 80,000 student members annually. In 2015, NTHS awarded over \$200,000 in scholarships to career and technical education students. 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.

## **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.

### **Science Fair**

The Georgia Science and 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.

### **Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition**

Young Georgia Authors 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.

### **Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl**

Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl (HRRB) is a competition designed to encourage reading. Open to students in grades one through twelve, the HRRB features questions from the Children's Book Award List as well as the Georgia Peach Book Award List for Teen Readers.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Valedictorian/Salutatorian**

Pursuant to CCSD Board Policy IHC-Class Ranking, the graduating senior with the highest class ranking as determined by weighted cumulative average shall be recognized as Valedictorian. The student with the second highest class ranking as determined by weighted cumulative average shall be recognized as Salutatorian. The cumulative average is calculated to four decimal places.

Students participating in Dual Enrollment – Move on When Ready programs are eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian recognition if they have attended and successfully completed a minimum of two courses per semester on the high school campus during both junior and senior years. Courses on the high school campus include traditional, on-line and/or virtual delivery models authorized by the school and School District. Transfer credit used for Valedictorian or Salutatorian shall be accepted only from high schools accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or agencies defined under CCSD School Board Policy JBC(4) as acceptable.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Superintendent's Key Scholar Program**

Superintendent's Key Scholar Program is a district-wide 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. High-achieving students are encouraged to achieve at even higher academic levels. The 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.

[\(See Appendix A for more information\).](#)

### **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.

### **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 enter the program by taking the PSAT as high school juniors, and by identifying themselves as Hispanic.

### **Honor Graduates**

Students who have a cumulative GPA of 90 or above (or 89.5 or above rounded to the nearest whole unit) at the end of 4 years receive an honor stole and a certificate from the school system. Honor Graduates are based on Cherokee County Board Policy Class Ranking (IHC).

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Georgia Certificate of Merit**

University of Georgia (UGA) recognizes 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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. The Georgia Governor's Honors Program is fully-funded by the Georgia General Assembly, and operates at no cost to the participant.

### **North Georgia Honors Program**

North Georgia Summer Honors Program provides an opportunity for 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

## **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.

## **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. They use the broadest possible base to evaluate seniors, awarding scholarships.

## **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.

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders is a program that provides high-level business and educational opportunities for students with a heavy emphasis on diversity education. Four students are selected from each of the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades to participate in the program. Participants attend a weeklong summer workshop specifically designed for their grade level.

*Additional information is located at*

<http://www.21stcenturyleaders.org/>

## **Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY)**

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) program has worked diligently at helping young people make a difference and become positive catalysts for change in the home, in the school, in the workplace, and in the community.

*Additional information is located at*

<http://gahoby.org/>

## **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 is located at*

<http://cherokeechamber.com/programs-events/programs/teen-leadership-cherokee/>



### **Girls State/Boys State**

Girls State and Boys State are summer programs sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion, respectively. The programs are designed to educate students about citizenship and government. Nominations are submitted to the American Legion, Thomas M. Brady Post 45. Interviews are conducted to determine the students to participate in this program.

*Additional information is located at*

<http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/>

<http://www.dogboysstate.org/>

### **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 is located at*

<http://www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com/>

### **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.

### **Moose Youth Awareness Program**

Schools select two tenth, eleventh and/or twelfth graders to become part of a speaker's bureau for drug awareness targeting four to nine year-olds. Students are required to complete a minimum of 3 Moose Kids talks to the targeted age group. Nominations are requested from appropriate grade-level teachers for students they feel would be effective in this role.

### **Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and Daughters of the American Revolution History Award**

The Good Citizen recognition is for a senior who has exhibited dependability, service, leadership and patriotism to an outstanding degree. The History Award recognizes a junior for outstanding achievement in the field of history, but it is not limited to students with high grades. The recipient is a student who has shown a great amount of interest in U.S. History, who has made an extraordinary effort in class, and who has exhibited great dedication to his or her history studies.

For both the Good Citizen award and the History award, class officers and SGA faculty advisors are consulted. Advanced Placement U.S. History teachers are consulted for recommendations for the History Award.

## Superintendent's Key Scholar Program

**Superintendent's Key Scholar Program** is a district-wide academic recognition initiative acknowledging Cherokee County School District students' achievement from talent identification in grade four through National Merit Scholarship qualification in grade eleven. The 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 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP). The following grade levels are recognized utilizing national assessments, the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS), Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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 85<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Accelerated Reader**

AR is a computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his or her own level and reads at his or her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz indicates that your child understood what was read.

### **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.

### **BOOK IT!**

Sponsored by Pizza Hut, this program motivates children to read by rewarding their reading accomplishments with praise, recognition and pizza. The program is simple for the teacher to use, flexible because goals match reading ability, and fun because achieving a goal is a great reason to celebrate! BOOK IT! was created in 1984 and currently reaches over 14 million students in 38,000 elementary schools annually.

### **Japanese Art Exchange**

Each year students attending Cherokee County School District's Fine Arts Academies create paintings/drawings based on a pre-chosen theme. Select pieces of artwork are then sent to Japan in exchange for artwork created by students there. CCSD's student artwork is put on display in Japan and artwork from Japan is put on display at both of CCSD's Fine Arts Academies. Students whose artwork is chosen for the exchange will receive a certificate from Japan when artwork is returned.

### **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 addition 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.

### **READ to SUCCEED**

Read to Succeed is an exciting program that encourages students in grades K through 6 to read for fun. Students who complete six hours of recreational reading earn a free ticket to Six Flags! The program is available to teachers and schools at no cost to participate, and it's a great way to motivate kids to read.

**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.