



Beginning with the graduating class of 2000, Pittsylvania County Schools introduced the Graduate of Merit program. This innovative program helps recognize and acknowledge the accomplishments of graduates who exemplify attributes of achievement, proficiency, character and social development demonstrated through commitment to excellence in education.

The Graduate of Merit program, a great school and community partnership recognizing outstanding young people, received acknowledgment from the Governor of Virginia. The program was the recipient of the Horizon Award in September of 2000.

Response to the program has been overwhelming as students pursue the honor and privilege of attaining recognition as a Graduate of Merit. Since its inception in 2000 continuing through 2010, there have been 1,226 students awarded with the distinction of graduating as a Graduate of Merit.



Partnerships with corporations, small businesses, and civic and church organizations ensure sponsorship for all Graduate of Merit recipients. Interest in providing support to recognize the students' accomplishments can be provided through a nominal sponsorship fee.

Program

- ✧ Graduates who attain a specified point total accumulated during their high school studies qualify as a Pittsylvania County Graduate of Merit.
- ✧ Points are earned throughout the time that the student is enrolled in grades 9-12. Areas evaluated for inclusion extend beyond the academic area to include attainment in other areas perceived to relate to life success.

Objectives

- ✧ To recognize and acknowledge accomplishments of graduates who exemplify attributes of achievement, proficiency, character and social development
- ✧ To provide additional insight into credentials of individuals who demonstrate qualities and traits beyond those of fellow graduates
- ✧ To provide prospective employers with an avenue to evaluate candidates for employment further through this recognition
- ✧ To allow area businesses the opportunity to stress to graduates the need for qualities essential to employment success

Role of the Community

- ✧ The program is sponsored concordantly between the school division and the business and civic community. Each participating business or organization will be recognized as a sponsor of the "Graduate of Merit."

Recognition/ Acknowledgement

- ✧ Each recipient will be honored during a public ceremony/banquet. This event is to be held at the end of the final semester and attended by the students, parents, sponsors and school officials.
- ✧ Permanent notation will be located at the respective schools and businesses.

Components

- ✧ Grade Point Average
- ✧ Total Courses
- ✧ Course Work
- ✧ Attendance
- ✧ Conduct
- ✧ Community Service
- ✧ School Activities




For Further Information Contact

Pittsylvania County Schools
P. O. Box 232
Chatham, VA 24531
<http://www.pcs.k12.va.us/merit/>

Dr. Lillian D. Holland
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Lillian.Holland@pcs.k12.va.us
(434) 432-2761 - Ext. 5011

Mrs. Tonda F. Gregory
Executive Administrative Assistant for Instruction
Tonda.Gregory@pcs.k12.va.us
(434) 432-2761 - Ext. 5007



Thank you! 2010 Sponsors

To be recognized as a Graduate of Merit, a student must earn a minimum of **155 points*** from the following categories

Category / Description	Points
Final Grade Point Average	
10 points per year for attaining a 3.0 average or above	40 points
1 additional point awarded for each tenth of a point cumulative average above 3.0 after final GPA averages have been calculated	variable points
Total Courses	
5 points per year in which a student takes a full complement of credit-bearing courses	20 points
Course Work	
5 points per year in which all courses are passed	20 points
Attendance	
5 points per year with 95% or above attendance average	20 points
1 additional point per each percent above 95% (cumulative four-year average)	5 points
Conduct	
5 points each year absent bus suspensions and/or out-of-school suspensions	20 points
Community Service	
10 points per 25 hours of service	50 points
Activities	
5 points per year in which student participates in four or more activities (participation shall be defined as a member in good standing)	20 points

- ✂ Application must be submitted prior to the end of first semester, senior year.
- ✂ Points must be earned from each category.
- ✂ Community service is defined as volunteer or non-paying activities (home, church and community) performed that are beneficial to both parties.
 - 1 Community service would be validated at the end of each 25 hours earned and documented on the form provided.
 - 2 Community service hours earned as part of the requirements in other organizations would not be counted towards **Graduate of Merit** certification.

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| Abercrombie Oil Co.
Allstate - Thomas & Johnston Ins. Agency
Alpha Phi Omega Chapter Inc.
American Legion Auxilliary
- Dan River Unit 1097
Dr. John W. Amos Memorial
Brande' & Jeff Arthur
Audiology Hearing Aid Associates
Averett University
Barkhouser Ford Inc.
Blair Construction
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Burton
C & N Storage
Carpets by Worley, LLC
Carter Bank & Trust
Centra Health
Central Oil of Virginia - Gretna
Central Oil of Virginia - Rocky Mt.
Chatham Baptist Church
Chatham Family Medical Center
Chestnut Level Baptist Church
Colbert Moran
Collie Equipment Co.
John & Phyllis Collins
Columbia Forest Products
Compton & Nichols
Drs. Martha & Barry Cutright
Alan Dalton Photography
Dalton-Yeatts Real Estate (Aaron Johnson)
Danville Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma
Theta Sorority, Inc.
Danville Braves
Danville Dental Associates
Danville Food Distributors
Danville Orthopedic Clinic, Inc.
Danville Pittsylvania County
Chamber of Commerce
Danville Science Center
Davenport Energy
Delta Nu Lambda Chapter of
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.
DVF Foodservice
Eastern Panel Manufacturing
Farm Credit of the Virginias, ACA
First Baptist Church of Gretna, Virginia
First Citizens Bank
First State Bank
Four Seasons Pest Control
Ethan & Rebecca Franklin
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Piedmont Aerie 4420
George Grekos Memorial
Dr. Paul & Sheryl Grekos
Goodyear Tire & Rubber
Green Rock - Gethsemane Pentecostal
Faith Church | David Grimes, Commonwealth Attorney
Dorothy Grimes
Greenpond Baptist Church
Gretna Junction Lions Club
Gretna Lions Club
Hammock Dairy
Harmony United Methodist Church
William Taylor Hathaway Memorial
Hewlett-Packard Company
Holbrook Enterprises
Jean Willis Hundley Memorial
Senator Robert Hurt
Hurt-Motley Ruritan Club
Indianapolis Colts
Institute for Advanced Learning
& Research
Jennings Creek Farm & Kennel
Jo Ann Johnson & Nancy Lynch
Kentuck Presbyterian Church
Liberty Baptist Church
Liberty University
Mecklenburg Electric Coop
NAACP Youth Council - Pittsylvania Co.
National College
Negril, Inc.
Nestle
Norris Funeral Services
Northern Lites
Ricky & Stacey Oakes
Piedmont Access to Health Services, Inc.
Piedmont Glass
Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Pittsylvania Education Association
R. J. Baldwin Agency, Inc.
ReyChem
Ross Electric, Inc.
Sartomer USA, LLC
Ronald M. Scott DVM Memorial
Staunton Baptist Church
Morris & Loretta Stowe
Calvin & Brenna Takata
Mike & Becky Taylor
Taylor Rental Center
The Community Foundation
of the Dan River Region
The Laundry Center
The Optimist Club
The Wednesday Club
Trane
Robert T. Vaughan, Jr.
Virginia Bank & Trust
Western Auto
Wilkins & Co.
Womack Publishing/Star Tribune |
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*Pittsylvania County Schools
Chatham, Virginia*

GRADUATE OF MERIT



A great school and community partnership recognizing outstanding young people

Our success depends on you!

* Beginning with the Graduating Class of 2013, the student is required to earn a minimum of 170 total points to qualify.