



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 2016, there have been 1,946 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."

Components

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



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.



2016 Graduate of Merit Pinnacle Award recipient and sponsor.

For Further Information Contact

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<http://www.pcs.k12.va.us/merit/>

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To be recognized as a Graduate of Merit, a student must earn a minimum of **170 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 participated 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 the first semester, senior year.
- ★ Points must be earned from each category.
- ★ Community Service is designed 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.



Bestowing of the Graduate of Merit medallion.

Thank you! 2016 Sponsors

Abbott Nutrition
 Abercrombie Oil Company
 Adkins Brothers, Inc.
 Alan Dalton Photography
 Delegate Les Adams
 American Legion Auxiliary
 - Dan River Unit 1097
 American National Bank
 Dr. John W. Amos Memorial
 Amy's Kuts & Kurls
 Averett University
 Bankers Insurance / Carter Bank & Trust
 Barkhouser Motor Inc.
 Jessie Barksdale
 Brosville Animal Clinic
 Brosville Vol. Fire Department
 Stavros "Stabby" Calos Memorial
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 Fraternal Order of Eagles
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 Faith Church
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 Gretna Health & Rehabilitation Center

Gretna Lions Club
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 Hopewell United Methodist Church
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 Dan River Region
 The Institute for Advanced Learning
 and Research
 The Laundry Center
 The Links
 The Optimist Club of Danville
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 - Robert & Christi Woodall
 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. /
 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Pittsylvania County Schools
 Chatham, Virginia

GRADUATE of MERIT



2016-2017



A great school and community
 partnership recognizing
 outstanding young people

Our success depends on you!