

At Gadsden City Schools, we are committed to equipping our students to meet and exceed expectations in the classroom and beyond. More than 650 employees, including National Board Certified and highly-qualified teachers, as well as other award-winning professionals, are dedicated to seeing students reach their greatest potential. As a result, more than 5,500 students from Gadsden City Schools are finding success in the classroom, on the stage, in the concert hall, on the athletic field, in the computer lab, and in their career training.

### Academics

A great education starts in the classroom, and at Gadsden City Schools, our classroom education is unparalleled. With **21 National Merit Semi-finalists** in the last ten years, over **\$50 million in scholarship offers**, and **college acceptance for more than 50 percent of seniors**, Gadsden City High and its feeder schools are academic beacons in this area.

### 21st Century After-School Program

The Gadsden City Schools Community Education Department strives for excellence in education, building strong community partnerships, and establishing and maintaining parental involvement in all areas. The mission statement of the Gadsden City Schools Community Education program, is to develop lifelong educational opportunities, utilize community resources, and coordinate with local agencies to meet the ever changing needs of the adults and children of Gadsden, Alabama.

The Gadsden City Schools Community Education program, directs twelve afterschool programs throughout the school district. These programs are self-sustaining, 21st Century, and Community Ed Programs. The programs are equipped with excellent staff that adheres to local and state guidelines. The afterschool programs host academic enrichment, homework assistance, fine arts enrichment, STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) activities, and Project Based Learning activities.

### STEP Academy

In order to meet the varied and unique learning styles of all students, Gadsden City High School has created STEP (Striving Toward Educational Proficiency) Academy which will provide 24/7 instructional content available from home for virtual learning. STEP Academy is a school without walls that offers a fully comprehensive alternative approach to meeting and exceeding standards. STEP provides a multi-faceted, individualized plan for removing barriers to prepare every graduating student for college.

### Performing Arts

In the world of public education, Gadsden City Schools' commitment to the arts is extraordinary. With a course schedule that includes piano lab, ceramics, photography, jazz band, drama, and technical theater, high school students enjoy access to an arts education with both breadth and depth. Vibrant visual arts, strings, and choral programs in the middle schools, as well as strings, visual arts, and events like Serendipity Day on the elementary level, are all key to a Gadsden City education.

### Career Training

One of the most significant advances in K-12 education in recent years has been the growing emphasis on career training. Gadsden City Schools is once again on the cutting edge with a **\$2.4 million career tech center**. With an estimated **90 percent positive placement for students completing the program**, Gadsden City is helping build Northeast Alabama's skilled

workforce. Thanks to the new career tech center, students no longer leave campus as they train in the following areas:

- Electrical Technology
- HVAC (heating and air conditioning)
- Information Technology
- Cosmetology
- Health Science
- Family and Consumer Science
- Automotive Technology
- Business/Marketing Education

### Athletics

When Gadsden City fans yell "Go Titans," they can be supporting any one of the **23 Gadsden City teams competing at the 7A level**. More importantly, their "Go Titans" pride supports more than **400 student athletes** striving to be the best in their chosen sport. Gadsden City is proud of its strong female sports program and the many junior varsity programs for ninth and tenth grade students.

### Technology

Through "**Gadsden 21**," the Gadsden City Schools technology initiative is turning classrooms into a technology-driven work environment. From **iPad programs in the elementary schools** to our **One to One Laptop Initiative**, which involves assigning a laptop/tablet device to every student at Gadsden City High School for use at school and at home throughout the entire school year, Gadsden City Schools incorporates modern technology at every level. The annual **Tech Blitz** competition gives students throughout the system opportunities to put their technology training to the test. Not only are we utilizing technology as a teaching tool, our students are also preparing to take their places in the technology workforce thanks to courses like digital design, computer maintenance, and introduction to networking.

### Elementary Schools

Oscar Adams Elementary  
919 Raley Street  
Gadsden, AL 35903  
256-492-4952

Named a 2016  
Blue Ribbon School By The U.S.  
Department of Education  
Eura Brown Elementary  
1231 Alcott Road  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-546-0011



C.A. Donehoo Elementary  
1109 East Broad Street  
Gadsden, AL 35903  
256-546-3604

George W. Floyd Elementary  
601 Black Creek Road  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-546-0836

R.A. Mitchell Elementary  
1501 Noccaculla Road  
Gadsden, AL 35904  
256-546-2711

W.E. Striplin Elementary  
600 Cleveland Avenue  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-546-8616



It is the policy of the Gadsden City Schools that no person shall be denied the benefits of any educational program or activity on the basis of race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, age or sex: Dr. Donna Smoots, Section 504 Compliance Officer, P.O. Box 184, Gadsden, AL 35902 or call 256-543-3512. Mrs. Rhonda Perry, Title VI and IX Compliance Officer, P.O. Box 184, Gadsden, AL 35902 or call 256-543-3512.

Ray Thompson Elementary  
236 Goldenrod Avenue  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-546-7011

Walnut Park Elementary  
3200 Walnut Street  
Gadsden, AL 35904  
256-546-4665

### Middle Schools

Emma Sansom Middle School  
2210 West Meighan Boulevard  
Gadsden, AL 35904  
256-546-4992

Gadsden Middle School  
612 Tracy Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-547-6341

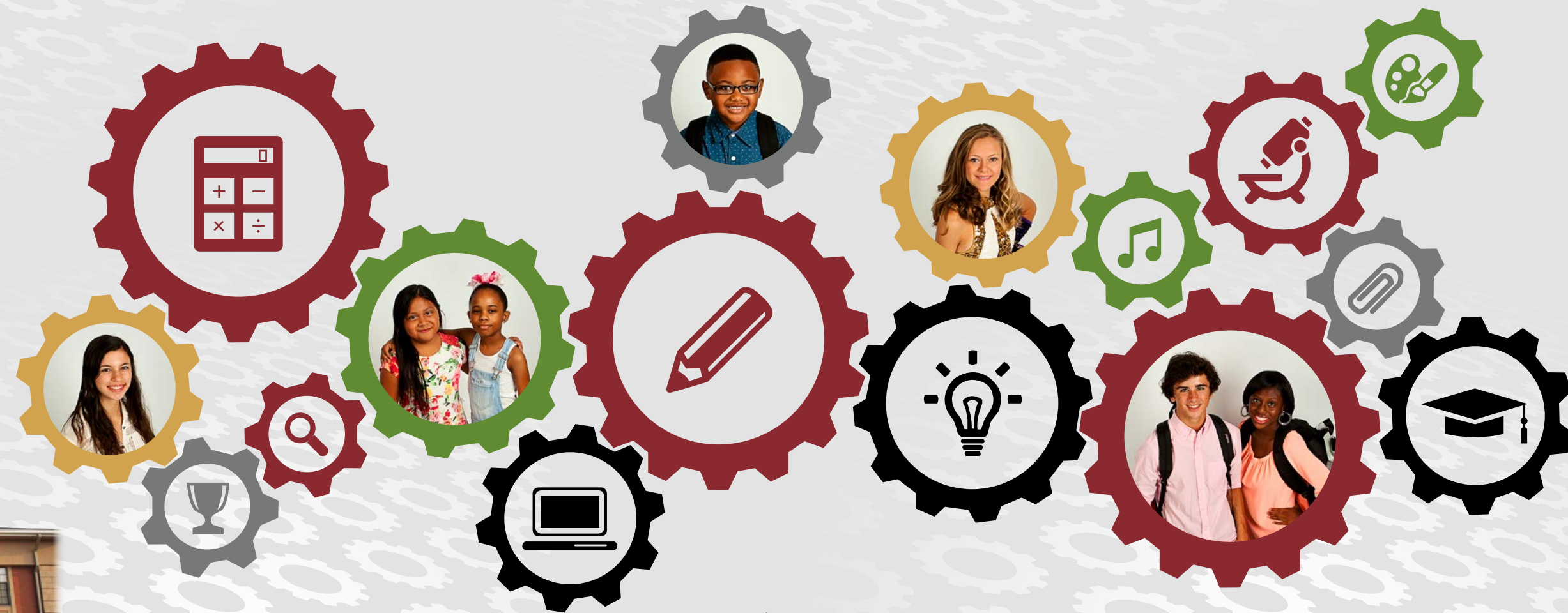
Litchfield Middle School  
1109 Hoke Street  
Gadsden, AL 35903  
256-492-6793

### High School

Gadsden City High School  
1917 Black Creek Parkway  
Gadsden, AL 35904  
256-543-3614

# A TITAN EDUCATION

moving *forward*



Gadsden City Schools

1026 Chestnut Street  
P.O. Box 184 • Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-543-3512 • [www.gcs.k12.al.us](http://www.gcs.k12.al.us)  
Dr. Ed Miller, Superintendent



Gadsden City Schools



# Elementary



Today, an elementary school education is more challenging than ever. A strong academic base is important for developing a strong student from the ground up. That's why Gadsden City Schools has implemented technology programs, group learning programs, and enrichment activities – all with the goal of giving the students at our eight elementary schools the foundation they need to be ready to move forward with their education at the next level.

**Enrichment** Gadsden City offers a specially designed program for gifted and exceptionally talented students. In our STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics) Academy, students will be problem solvers, innovators, inventors, and logical thinkers as they use project-based learning models to go beyond traditional classroom instruction to apply knowledge in real world settings. Students will participate in special projects, field trips, and challenging hands-on experiences like the annual Invention Convention, MathFest, and Robotics.

**Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI)** As a participant in ARI, Gadsden City elementary school teachers use proven strategies, including formative assessment, to help students develop critical

thinking skills and to increase student learning.

**Response To Instruction (RTI)** Gadsden City utilizes RTI as an instructional framework that promotes a well-integrated system connecting general, gifted, supplemental, and special education services. RTI provides high-quality, standards-based instruction and intervention that is matched to students' academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

**Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI)** Through AMSTI, Gadsden City is enhancing math and science education by giving students the knowledge and skills necessary for success in their post-secondary studies and in the workforce. Gadsden City teachers have

access to in-depth professional development, resources, and on-site support, as well as valuable partnerships with institutions of higher education, science centers, regional in-service centers, Science in Motion, GLOBE, businesses, and other organizations committed to improvements in math and science education.

**Elementary Arts** Elementary school students throughout the Gadsden City System have access to an award-winning strings program, visual arts training, choral groups, and an overall commitment to making the arts a vital part of a Gadsden City education. With visual arts winners at the state level, events like Serendipity Day, and special concerts and speakers throughout the year, students are exposed to a wide range of arts opportunities.

# Middle Schools



Gadsden City Schools participates in Making Middle Grades Work in our three middle schools as part of the Southern Regional Education Board's groundbreaking program. Making Middle Grades Work is a comprehensive initiative founded on the conviction that most students can master academic studies at or above grade-level when schools create an environment that motivates them to succeed in learning College and Career Ready Standards.

**College Preparatory Coursework** Pre-AP (Advanced Placement) classes offered at Gadsden City Middle Schools include algebra, science, reading, language, and social studies. The courses not only prepare students for the rigorous coursework on the high school level, but also gives middle school students the opportunity to be challenged and stimulated.

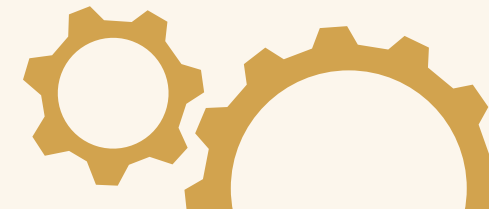
**Middle School Arts** From marching band to choral, from dance line to strings, the Arts are an important component in Gadsden City middle schools. Gadsden City High School is one of the most committed high schools in the state to providing a thorough arts education. Middle school students are introduced early to the arts



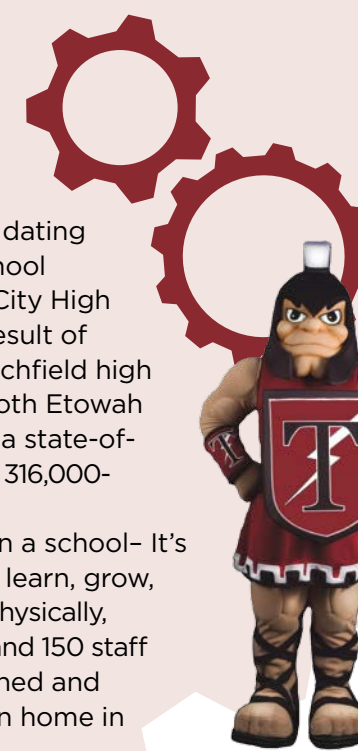
in preparation to attend Gadsden City High School.

**Middle School Athletics** While baseball, basketball, and football are popular middle school sports, Gadsden City 7th and 8th graders are also eligible to participate in softball, soccer, tennis, golf, cheerleading, and more.

**Math and reading intervention** For those challenged to meet the growing demands of higher math and reading coursework, Gadsden City Schools has developed a comprehensive RTI (Response to Instruction) model that provides ongoing progress monitoring, re-teaching, and intervention to meet individual learning styles.



# Gadsden City High School



Following a long and storied history dating back to 1889, the Gadsden City School System opened the new Gadsden City High School in the fall of 2006. Founded as a result of merging Emma Samson, Gadsden, and Litchfield high schools, the new school is the largest in both Etowah County and Northeast Alabama. It boasts a state-of-the-art \$40 million campus, complete with a 316,000-square-foot facility.

Gadsden City High School is more than a school- It's a phenomenal experience where students learn, grow, and strengthen themselves intellectually, physically, and socially. Approximately 1,500 students and 150 staff members continually work to form the trained and educated population that will call Gadsden home in years to come.

**Unique Coursework** – One of the most important benefits of a large campus, staff, and student body is the opportunity to offer a wide range of studies. Gadsden City offers more than 160 courses.

**Academies** – Our goal is to prepare every student for college and career. In pursuit of that goal, we have created several academies designed to provide essential coursework based on individual career interests. For example, GCHS has a Fine Arts Academy for students with a propensity toward band, choir, or orchestra. There is also a Health Science Academy for those interested in the medical

field. Additionally, a 9th Grade Academy was created for all incoming freshmen that is designed to provide an overview of options available to our students. Ninth Grade Academy gives students a safe environment for transition and time to create their own learning pathway based on their career interests.

**Extracurricular Activities** – At Gadsden City High School, approximately 350 students participate in our award-winning marching band, and approximately 400 students show their Titan pride on the athletic field. But beyond the gymnasium or even the music hall,

there are numerous extracurricular activities and clubs to keep students busy and engaged outside the classroom. For example, the Titan Ambassadors serve as official hosts and hostesses at school system and citywide events, and the highly successful JROTC program, with more than 150 participants per year, trains students in leadership, citizenship, and excellence, and our Scholars Bowl Team and Career Technical Education program have both produced nationally ranked students.

**AP** – The Advanced Placement Program at Gadsden City High offers students the opportunity to earn college credit for high school courses through qualifying scores on AP exams. The wide array of AP courses allows our students the latitude to choose according to their interests and to excel in different areas, making them highly desirable to colleges. Excellence is a GCHS hallmark, evidenced by recognition from the A+ College Ready Grant.

**Dual Enrollment** – Dual Enrollment academic courses are now available to Gadsden City High School students. Through our dual enrollment program, students are able to earn both high school and college credit through academic courses taken on Gadsden City's campus or on a college campus.

## GCHS Unique Coursework:

- Broadcast Journalism
- Accounting
- Zoology
- Robotics
- Ceramics
- Food and Nutrition
- Graphic Arts
- Entrepreneurship Lab
- Latin, French, German & Spanish
- Genetics
- Piano Lab with Theory
- Electronics

- Health Science Internship
- Fashion Design
- Creative Writing
- Technical Theater
- Competitive Theatre
- CAD Academy
- Dual Enrollment, partners with Gadsden State Community College and University of Alabama
- Job Shadow
- Career Tech Endorsements
- Robotics

- STEP Academy
- STEP Virtual School

## Gadsden City Performance Organizations:

- Concert Choir
- Drama
- Fine Arts Academy
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band
- Orchestra
- Show Choir
- Titan Choral

## Gadsden City Clubs and Honoraries:

- National Honor Society
- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)
- Beta Club
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- First Priority
- FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America)

- Foreign Language Club
- HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)
- Interact Club
- JROTC Rifle Team
- Key Club
- National Honor Society
- Robotics
- SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
- Scholars Bowl
- Spanish National Honor Society
- Titan Ambassadors

## Gadsden City Athletics:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Special Olympics
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

## Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Offerings:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Calculus AB
- English Language
- English Literature
- European History
- French
- German
- Latin
- Music Theory

- Spanish
- US Government & Politics
- US History

## AP Courses through ACCESS:

- Physics B
- Computer Science
- Statistics

The AP Program offers students the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school through our Dual Enrollment arrangement with the ACE (Advanced College Enrollment) Institute at Gadsden State. Dual Enrollment allows eligible high school students to enroll in career and technical education programs which provide both college credit and high school credit for the same course.

## Gadsden City High School offers Advanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) diplomas with the following concentrations:

- Biomedical Services
- Computer Information Systems
- Electrical Engineering