



TO: Bennett Students and Parents/Guardians  
FROM: Tony B. Watlington, Sr, EdD, Chief of Schools & Denise Patterson, EdD, Chief Student Services Officer  
DATE: August 13, 2020

**RE: Bennett Parent Letter**

Dear Bennett Students and Parents/Guardians:

Since The Middle College at Bennett first opened its doors in 2003, we've taken great pride in offering a nurturing high school environment that gives young women the academic skills and confidence they need to succeed in college, career and life.

While we remain committed to that mission, we recently learned that Bennett College is moving to an online-only environment for this fall, and while Bennett College has not made any decision or announcement for the spring semester, we must prepare for all possible scenarios. In addition, we have learned that it is not possible for us to hold in-person instruction on the Bennett College campus this fall as it is closed due to COVID-19.

As a result, we are relocating our juniors and seniors to the Middle College at North Carolina A&T State University. They will continue to take their high school classes from their Bennett Middle College teachers. As with all other GCS students, high school classes will be taught remotely until at least Oct. 20.

Juniors and seniors will take their college classes online from their professors at Bennett College for the entire first semester. We shared that juniors and seniors would be at NCA&T for the entire school year. However, while NCA&T is available to us for the school year, we will most likely return to campus when Bennett reopens this school year.



While we had hoped to keep the entire school together in one location, it simply wasn't possible. Ninth and tenth graders have three choices: 1) Return to their home school; 2) Participate in the virtual high school (either at home school or with Bennett teachers if enrollment is high enough); or, 3) Enroll in one of the following programs, based on seat availability. We have expanded the options to include:

- Dudley Early College Academy
  - Health Sciences
  - Engineering
  - Education
- Kearns Academy (Academy of Computer & Information Science)
- The Academy at Smith
  - Pharmacy Tech
  - Mental Health Counseling
  - Biomedical Technology
- The Middle College at GTCC-Greensboro
- The Middle College at GTCC-Jamestown
- The Middle College at GTCC-High Point
- The Middle College at UNCG
  - Health Sciences
- Northeast Academy of Computer and Information Science
- Western Guilford High School
  - Advanced Placement Capstone (subject to admission criteria)
  - Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

To select your choice, please login to SchoolMint at [gcsnc.schoolmint.net](https://gcsnc.schoolmint.net) and follow the enclosed directions. Please select your top three choices in order of preference. If you need assistance with SchoolMint, please call GCS Student Assignment at 336-370-8303.

We are sorry to have to share this information with you and know that this change is likely a disappointing one. We will also hold your child's seat at Bennett Middle College in the hopes that the college will be able to reopen for on-campus learning this school year.

Please do not hesitate to call Principal Thyais Maxwell, 336-517-1832 or [maxwelt@gcsnc.com](mailto:maxwelt@gcsnc.com), if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

Sincerely,

*Tony B. Watlington, Sr*, EdD  
Chief of Schools

*Denise C. Patterson*, EdD  
Chief Student Services Officer

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