



NEWS RELEASE

Three Wake County Public Schools (North Carolina) Earn Level 1 Status in NFHS School Honor Roll Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (June 5, 2020) – The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is pleased to announce that three additional schools in the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) in Cary, North Carolina, have earned Level 1 status in the NFHS School Honor Roll.

The newly instituted NFHS School Honor Roll is a national recognition program designed to promote professional development for high school coaches by completing specific online education courses through the NFHS Learning Center (www.NFHSLearn.com).

Wake Forest High School, Green Hope High School and Carroll Middle School are the latest WCPSS schools to achieve this honor, joining Holly Springs High School, Green Level High School and Heritage High School. In earning Level 1 status, more than 90 percent of the coaches at these three schools completed the core course “Fundamentals of Coaching” along with three of the Learning Center’s most significant courses – “Concussion in Sports,” “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” and “Protecting Students from Abuse.”

“We want to congratulate the coaches and administration at these three WCPSS schools for taking this significant step in prioritizing professional development,” said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, NFHS executive director. “These four courses will definitely help the coaches at these three schools to handle the daily challenges in high school sports and should serve as a challenge for other schools to follow their example.”



“Congratulations to Wake Forest High School and Green Hope High School for earning NFHS Level 1 Honor Roll status,” said Deran Coe, CMAA, CIC, director of athletics for the Wake County Public Schools. “The dedication to continuous self-improvement by your coaching staff puts your school in a select group of schools that have gone above and beyond to help provide the best possible education-based athletic opportunities for your student-athletes. I greatly appreciate all that your coaches do to support the mission of Wake County Public School System athletics.

“I also want to congratulate Carroll Middle School for being recognized as the first Wake County Public School System middle school to earn NFHS Level 1 Honor Roll status. Your exemplary commitment to coaches education is to be commended. Thank you to the entire Carroll coaching staff for taking the lead as you seek to grow as coaches to better support your student-athletes.

“We are thankful the NFHS has created a program for schools to encourage coaches to strive to improve themselves, which makes the athletic experience for our student-athletes and communities stronger,” said Battle Watkins, athletic director at Carroll Middle School. “Coaches work really hard daily to make a difference, and this is a great way to honor them for their dedication and professionalism.”

As a physical sign of completing Level 1 certification, each of these three schools will receive a large display banner for its school gymnasium to commemorate its accomplishments and dedication to professional development and education-based activity programs.

Schools can earn Level 2 status (and a Level 2 banner) on the NFHS School Honor Roll when more than 90 percent of their coaches – excluding volunteer coaches – complete courses that pertain specifically to sports they coach, along with “First Aid, Health and Safety,” “Heat Illness Prevention” and “Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.”

A Level 3 banner will be awarded for schools that reach 90-percent completion for the “Sportsmanship,” “Strength and Conditioning,” “Teaching and Modeling Behavior,” “Engaging Effectively with Parents” and “Bullying, Hazing, and Inappropriate Behaviors” courses.

“Earning the NFHS School Honor Roll banner is a symbol that the school and its coaches are committed to providing a great experience for young people, and it’s something that everyone can be proud of within their communities,” said Dan Schuster, NFHS Director of Educational Services.



For more information on the NFHS School Honor Roll and to apply for participation in the program, please visit <https://nfhslearn.com/home/administrators>.

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About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

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