

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public
Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: February 2023

1. **Rex Dover** of **Belmont Middle School** won the **Gaston County Schools** Spelling Bee, which was held on February 1 at **Ashbrook High School**. He will compete in March at the Carolina Panthers Spelling Bee presented by Bank of America. The top four finishers in the regional bee will receive invitations to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee. **Lawrence Martin** of **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** was the district runner-up.
2. The following students placed in the UNC

21. **East Gaston High School** junior **Trenton Sherrill** scored the 1,000th point of his basketball career.
22. **East Gaston High School** teacher **Nikki Akins** was selected by **Gaston County Schools**

34. **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** received a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from Daimler and The Blackbaud Giving Fund that will be used to purchase robotics.
35. **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** welcomed Miss Gaston County Erin Emiroglu as a guest speaker who celebrated the students reading a book about toys and then creating their own toys.
36. **Highland School of Technology** senior Josie Houchard was named a 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars semifinalist. She was nominated for her academic success in the engineering program at Highland and is one of five students in the state selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program for her accomplishments in Career and Technical Education.
37. **Highland School of Technology** student **Samantha Saltiel** received an honorable mention in the Mid-Carolina Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for her painting titled "The Sky is the Limit".
38. **North Gaston High School** received a grant to use remote telescopes in Chile and Canary Islands for a full year, making it the only school in Gaston County to have access to both the Northern and Southern Hemisphere skies through professional observatories. In their astronomy and science classes, students will be able to observe the skies in the