



Proclamation

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, J.S. Smith, J. Landon Thompson and W. Duke Kimbrell organized Gaston Day School and the school opened its doors on September 6, 1967, as the first independent school in Gaston County and is known today as one of the finest college-preparatory schools in the southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, the school first opened in Belmont with 142 students, grades kindergarten through 9th, in a red brick building formerly used by the First Presbyterian Church; and by the second year, enrollment had grown to 220 students ; and

WHEREAS, Neely F. Dixon chaired a capital campaign that raised \$600,000 to build a 42,000 square foot structure on Airport Road in Gastonia that would house all grades from pre-school through 12th and the new school opened at its current location in September 1970 and has remained at the forefront of education's evolution; and

WHEREAS, with growth came new buildings on the 60-acre campus, first the W. Duke Kimbrell Learning Center in 1994, then the Pamela Kimbrell Warlick Visual and Performing Arts Center in 1999, the James Heyward Henry Student Activity Center opened in 2001, and the Frances H. Henry Field in March 2016 with enrollment currently topping 500 students; and

WHEREAS, academic excellence has become the school's hallmark and 100 percent of Gaston Day School graduates are accepted into four-year colleges and universities across the United States, regularly earning the most competitive and prestigious scholarships.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John D. Bridgeman, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, recognize and congratulate **Gaston Day School on their 50th anniversary** and for providing an academic school of excellence and being an integral part of Gastonia's growth.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 15th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.

John D. Bridgeman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Candice G. Owenby, Deputy City Clerk