

WELCOME

William Gaither, Principal

I welcome you to Mountain Youth School. Mountain Youth is an alternative school where faculty and staff work to provide a safe and inviting work environment for our students. This brochure provides much information about our school, yet if you are unable to find information or answers to questions you may have, please contact us here at school any time.



An educator for more than thirty years, Mr. Gaither brings experience and discipline to Mountain Youth School.

For more information, call (828) 837-6775, or e-mail Mr. Gaither at william.gaither@cherokee.k12.nc.us.

REFERRALS

Mountain Youth School accepts new students on a referral basis for transition periods, interventions, and permanent enrollment. In most instances, an administrator from one of Cherokee County's conventional middle or high schools refers a student who is unable to be successful in the traditional classroom setting for additional academic, attendance, or behavioral support to our referral team. When accepted, each student's progress is reviewed regularly to assess the best way to meet his/her overall needs.



At Mountain Youth School, we offer personalized education to meet the unique needs of every student:

- **Small class sizes allow personalized, one-on-one interaction and flexibility;**
- **Caring faculty and staff work to meet all aspects of student success;**
- **Goal-oriented, outcome-based education helps students grasp essential concepts of learning;**
- **Network of community partners provide support and real-life applications for skills learned.**

MOUNTAIN YOUTH SCHOOL

William Gaither, Principal

4533 Martins Creek Road

Murphy, NC 28906

PHONE: (828) 837-6775

FAX: (828) 837-7979

E-MAIL: mountainyouth@cherokee.k12.nc.us

WEBSITE: <http://mys.cherokee.k12.nc.us>

*Real-life education
that makes sense!*



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ABOUT MOUNTAIN YOUTH SCHOOL

Cherokee County's only alternative middle/high school, Mountain Youth School, offers students an unique learning experience and tailored support network that equips them to succeed – both in school and in life. Now, our students will be among the first to engage in outcomes-based learning tailored to their unique learning styles.

Centrally located between the Andrews, Murphy, and Hiwassee Dam communities, our campus in Martins Creek serves middle and high school students from all over the county who benefit from personalized education, and have been unsuccessful in the traditional school setting. Founded in 1997, the campus is home to an average of 75-100 students per year, with 30-50 students at any given time.

PUBLIC EDUCATION WITH A PERSONALIZED FOCUS

Many parents are not aware that Mountain Youth School provides an excellent opportunity for all students who benefit from personalized, goal-oriented classroom instruction. While in previous years, we have had the misfortune of a reputation as a disciplinary school for students with behavior issues, most students are referred for academic and attendance support above what conventional schools can provide.

Our goal is for every student to have an opportunity to learn through individualized attention, and graduate with a high school diploma prepared for success in adult life. This was evidenced in the Class of 2013, which included 33 graduates – including four former dropouts – the largest class in school history.

Small class sizes and caring staff ensure that each child receives the attention he or she needs to thrive. Led by Principal William Gaither, dedicated teachers work hard daily to put students in position to achieve success in the classroom, demanding quality work, attentiveness, and good behavior. Faculty and staff members help students recognize and utilize strengths, overcome obstacles, and strive for their personal best.

OUTCOMES-BASED LESSONS TARGET STUDENTS

In 2013, Mountain Youth School will be among the first in the region to utilize outcomes-based learning. With targeted goals, learning becomes specific and achievable, helping students to focus on a skill or concept they must learn to be successful, rather than completing standardized worksheets. While all curriculum still adheres to the N.C. Standard Course of Study, and there are still standardized

tests, students will have unique opportunities to “show what they know” in a variety of formats that let them communicate that they grasp the material. By the end of the course, students will understand why they are proficient in a subject area; hence “real-life education that makes sense” is our motto for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mountain Youth School students study under the Future-Ready Core Course of Study as identified by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, meaning they must earn 21 high school credits to graduate. Although we are governed by special state alternative school policies, all county policies apply to our school.

If they are willing to attend school daily and put forth genuine effort, students attending Mountain Youth School have many incentives to succeed. Students have opportunities to receive one-on-one attention and tutoring, access to a counselor and graduation coach, and hands-on learning in every classroom.

State priority school grant funding made it possible last year to equip Mountain Youth School with all-new personal computers, student desks and seating. This year, the funding will provide each high school student with an Apple iPad. In addition, we are proud to be the first 100% LED energy-efficient lighting school in the state.

RELEVANT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OFFERED

We offer a variety of extracurricular activities to supplement classroom instruction, including:

- First school in the county to offer the “Stacked Deck” problem gambling prevention curriculum;
- A Student Leadership Council comprised of stellar students who voluntarily improve our school and community through service projects, mentoring and citizenship;
- Model school for Western Carolina Pacesetters’ teen leadership and team-building program;
- Contrived the unique two-day “Careers in Creativity” artists in schools program in cooperation with the Cherokee County Arts Council and John C. Campbell Folk School;
- Host an annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Veteran’s Day Celebration for community veterans;
- Student-led vegetable and flower greenhouse offers community outreach and school fund-raising;
- Career preparedness offered to all high school students via “Career Cruising” interest/skills assessments and assistance with resumé preparation, job and college applications and financial aid.



Student-led greenhouse



Careers in Creativity program



Thanksgiving/Veteran's Day



Student Leadership Council

CAMPUS INFORMATION

We invite you to visit our campus at 4533 Martins Creek Road any time. Classes are in session from 8:20 AM – 2:20 PM Monday through Friday. Please sign in at our main office, and we will be happy to give you a tour.

More information is available on our website, mys.cherokee.k12.nc.us, or by calling (828) 837-6775.

We're on the Web! Check us out at mys.cherokee.k12.nc.us!