

SCHOOL PROFILE

Abingdon High School

Abingdon High School is a public school, fully accredited by the Virginia State Department of Education and AdvancED/Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. The Washington County, Virginia, school division was one of the first school systems in the state to earn division-wide accreditation in 2006. Abingdon High School serves a diverse student population drawn from the Town of Abingdon, its suburbs, and the adjoining rural areas. Washington County has a population of 54,729 (U S Census, 2015), while Abingdon proper has a population of 8,146 (U S Census, 2015). The school's population has diminished slightly over the past three years.

Abingdon High School's demographic make-up is as follows: the population is 91.4% Caucasian, 3.6% African-American, 1% Asian, 3.6% Hispanic, and less than 1% other. Abingdon High School is 55% female and 45% male. The percentages of graduates entering college are as follows: 37% enter four-year colleges; 40% enter two-year colleges (based on 2014-15 data).

The top 15 major employers in Washington County include Washington County Schools, Food City/K-VA-T, Mountain States Health Alliance, Bristol Compressors, Camac, Wal-Mart, Utility Trailer, Washington County, Virginia Highlands Community College, Emory & Henry College, Lowes, Paramont Manufacturing, Columbus McKinnon Corp., Town of Abingdon, and Professional Employment Services (Sources: VA Employment Commission, 2nd Qtr. 2015). The median household income in Washington County is \$41,682.

Students at Abingdon High School are provided with a number of educational course offerings. There are *Honors* courses in Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English, Geometry, and World History I. *Advanced Placement* courses include Biology, English 11, United States Government, United States History, and various on-line courses. *Dual-enrollment* classes are also offered through Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) in Abingdon and Emory & Henry College; course offerings include Calculus, Engineering Calculus, Statistics, Computer Information Systems, English 12, U.S. History, and Spanish. Additionally, the A. *Linwood Holton Governor's School and Virtual Virginia* offer online courses, which include but are not limited to, Astronomy, Anatomy, Statistics, Engineering, Multivariate Calculus, Western Civilization, World Civilization, Appalachian History, and Principles of Physics I. Other various online options are available.

Technical skills courses are taught at the high school and the Washington County Career and Technical Education Center. Students may choose courses from such areas as ad. design, auto servicing, auto body, criminal justice, culinary arts, cosmetology, drafting, electricity, building trades, computer networking LPN, nurse aid, pharmacy tech, and welding.

The fine arts curriculum offerings include art, art history, ceramics, graphics arts, band, creative writing, humanities, and choral music.

Approximately three percent of our students are currently in alternative learning environments. Alternative programs for students include GED (General Education Diploma), Bridge Program, and PASS.

Virginia students are required to pass Standards of Learning tests, which are end-of-course tests for most of the core subjects. Pass rates for Abingdon High School students for past years are accessible on the Washington County Public Schools/Abingdon High School web site.

Another type of test offered at Abingdon High School is the Advanced Placement Exam. Students may take the AP Exams in College Board/AP subjects which may be found on the College Board/AP website. Students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams are designated AP Scholars. Those who receive an average grade of 3.25 on all AP Exams taken are AP Scholars with Honors. The highest designation is AP Scholar with Distinction; this is awarded to students who receive an average grade of 3.5 on all AP Exams taken. Several Abingdon High School students have been awarded the title of AP Scholar.

Students of Latin and French are offered the opportunity to take the National Latin Exam and *Le Grand Concours*. Based on performance, they may receive scholarship opportunities, national awards, state awards, or local recognition.

In preparation for college, students at Abingdon High School can take either the ACT or the SAT. The majority of AHS students take the SAT.

In addition to academics, Abingdon High School offers students a wide range of athletic extracurricular activities. We believe that athletics is vital to the educational development of the student and is an integral part of the total curriculum. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition, and learning to win and lose gracefully are important. The athletic program is a privilege available to all students who demonstrate an interest and meet the requirements for participation. The following is a list of the athletic extracurricular activities available at Abingdon High School: boys' cross country; girls' cross country; golf; football; volleyball; girls' basketball; boys' basketball; wrestling; cheerleading; boys' swimming; girls' swimming; boys' tennis; girls' tennis; softball; baseball; boys' soccer; girls' soccer; boys' track; girls' track; and indoor track. Additionally, the school has a winter guard.

Abingdon High School also offers a diversity of clubs and organizations that have evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of the student body. The following clubs are available to students for membership: 4-H; Art Portfolio; Blue Crew; Chess; Civinettes; Contemporary Band; Creative Writing; DECA; Democratic; Drama; Environmental Awareness; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; French; Future Business Leaders of America; FFA; Key; Latin; Pre-Med; Republican; Student Council Association; Spanish; TSA (Technology Students of America), and Youth Alive. Students may be invited to become members of the National Art Honor Society and the National Honor Society.

Abingdon High School has immense community involvement. Students are involved in volunteer work on a regular basis by assisting at local food banks in collecting and processing food for the less fortunate. Students donate time at local nursing homes and hospitals. Students

participate in community-wide fund-raising events like the Relay for Life and the Queen of Hearts campaign. Many civic organizations have affiliations with clubs at Abingdon High School. The Kiwanis and Civitan clubs sponsor the Key Club and Civinettes in our school. Abingdon High School also participates in the Washington County Community Scholars program, which promotes a strong sense of volunteerism among students and earns them a designated cord to wear at graduation. Additionally, Washington County Scholars may be eligible for free tuition at Virginia Highlands Community College.

Abingdon High School has also demonstrated excellence in extracurricular activities with an academic focus. The three major school publications – the school newspaper, the *Talon*; the yearbook, the *Beacon*; and the literary arts magazine, *Wings* – all have received trophy class ratings in Virginia High School League competition. Forensics and theatre competition have also garnered top awards at the state level. Abingdon High School also participates in the Sigma Zeta Science and Math Competition at UVA-Wise and the Virginia High School League Scholastic Bowl, both of which give students the chance to compete in the academic areas of English, math, science, social sciences, and all-around knowledge.

Abingdon High School students have won numerous awards in athletics, career competitions, academics, and fine arts. Abingdon High School won for fifteen years the Wachovia Cup in Group AA Academics of the Virginia High School League, which is based on publications, creative writing, forensics, drama, debate, and academic bowl competition. Members of the faculty have also received recognition in various areas. Most recently, during recent years, four members have received doctorates.