

# Jesse Carson High School

## School Profile (CEEB #340734)

Jesse Carson High School is a North Carolina public high school serving rural southeastern Rowan County and the small towns of China Grove and Faith. We are the County's art academy and have thriving band, dance, theatre, visual arts and chorus programs. Currently we have approximately 1275 students divided into grades 9-12. The senior class numbers approximately 300. Our graduation rate for last year was 90%.

Our school operates on a 4X4 block schedule for the most part but we do have a few AP classes that are taught as year-long classes. Our scheduling philosophy is that all courses are available to all students providing they have passed the prerequisite.

Of last year's seniors approximately 40% plan to attend a 4-year school, 35% plan to attend a community college or trade school and 5% will serve in the military.

Our student body is 75% White, 5% African American, and 16% Hispanic. Approximately 40% receive free or reduced lunch but that number is under-representative of those who would be eligible.

### Curriculum

Rowan-Salisbury Schools require students to complete:

Carson AP Offerings

English	Math	History	Science	Other		English Lit.	English Lang.
I	I	World	Earth	Health		Biology	Environmental
II	II	American I	Biology	12 Electives		European	US
III	III	American II	A Physical			Statistics	Calculus BC
IV	One more	Civics				Psychology	Spanish

Our highest levels of second language are AP Spanish. AP classes are not available to Freshmen and sophomores may only take 2. Students also take AP classes online through North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) as well as through Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC).

### Class Rank/Grade Point Average

An Exact ranking is calculated at the end of each semester.

§ A=4 (100-90), B=3 (89-80), C=2 (79-70), D=1 (69-60), F=0 (<60).

§ .5 additional quality points are assigned to advanced, honors, and foreign language classes after the second level. 1 additional quality point is assigned to AP and Community College College and Career Promise (CCP) courses.

§ Our average ACT score for Class of 2020 is an 18.55. All students take the test their Junior year. NC's Average (Class of 18) is 19.1.

§ Our average SAT is 1029 (528 ERW / 501 Math) 36% of our Seniors took the SAT. NC's average (Class of 18) is 1074 (554 ERW / 543 Math).

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## What We Do Well

§ Theatre - Students regularly earn superior ratings at the NC International Thespian Festival. Yearly musicals regularly sell 2000 tickets and involve approximately 10% of the student body. All shows are created by staff to be entirely run by students.

§ Prom – On-campus prom transforms our school atrium into underwater worlds, the circus, or New York streets. With a budget that exceeds \$20,000 a year, the students serving on the prom committee truly create a spectacular event.

§ Band – Our band is over 150 members and performs at concerts, football games, competitions, a school-wide musical, and parades, including the Magic Kingdom at Disney World, and the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington D.C. The band consistently receives superior ratings at festivals and has had numerous students continue to become musicians at the collegiate level.

## What We Do Differently

We are actively encouraging students to take courses that are in alignment with their individual passions and life goals. Rather than simply encourage a top student to take AP Calculus because that is what all the other top students are doing, we are now encouraging them to find courses that align with their intended major or interests in college. Therefore, we have students who are taking courses that are relevant to them online through the NCVPS, through CCP. While this may result in what some might consider this less rigorous coursework, we believe that coursework aligned to the students' interest and passions are far more valuable to them than taking courses simply to boost their grade point average.

The reality is simply this: the real world does not ask us to complete our work or our learning in silos. Rather, all our work is integrated, and that is the learning environment we want to offer our students, too.