



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Cumberland County Schools Graduates Finish #CumberlandStrong**

*Class of 2021 Factoids, Snapshots of Resilience: Part I*

**Fayetteville, NC** – Resilience is defined as *the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness*. When high school principals across the district were asked to share 'brag points' about the Class 2021, the word that was shared often was resilience. Despite learning virtually most of the school year and being unable to take part in in-person senior year activities because of COVID-19 restrictions, one principal said that his class has managed to "stay connected and finish the year strong!"

Since May 21, seven of the 17 Cumberland County high schools have held their graduation exercises in the Crown Coliseum. Resilient seniors from **Cumberland International Early College High School, Cumberland Polytechnic High School, Cross Creek Early College High School, E.E. Smith High School, Douglas Byrd High School, Massey Hill Classical High School, and Cumberland Academy (Virtual) High School** safely marched across the stage, received their well-earned diplomas, and stepped into a new phase of life.

The following factoids of resilience are a direct result of the recent graduates' hard work and determination:

- CCS Early College High School graduates completed half of their junior year and all of their senior year almost completely online while also crossing the stage as college sophomores at Fayetteville State University.
- Several Cumberland Polytechnic High School graduates also received an Associate degree from Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). One graduate was the first high school student to ever receive the Network Management Degree. Another Cumberland Polytechnic graduate became the first high school student to enroll in FTCC's Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology program and is now the first to complete it.

- One Cumberland Polytechnic High School graduate earned East Carolina University's Chancellor's Fellows Honors College Scholarship for four years of study.
- The Class of 2021 at E.E. Smith High School is the first class in the school's 94-year history to attend school completely online for over a year.
- There are two sets of twins and two sets of triplets who were graduates in E.E. Smith High School's Class of 2021. One set of triplets has been awarded scholarships that will offset the cost of their freshman year in college.
- Two Douglas Byrd High School student-athletes have received athletic scholarships to St. Augustine University to play offense on the team.
- Three Douglas Byrd High School graduates, who play the tuba or trumpet, have been awarded music and academic scholarships from Shaw University that will pay for all four years of college.
- A full scholarship from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that totals \$80,000 was awarded to a Douglas Byrd High graduate.
- Over the last four years, Massey Hill Classical High School's Class of 2021 has logged 3,779.5 hours of community service and has received over \$525,000 in scholarships to date.
- The Class of 2021 at Cumberland Academy (Virtual) sponsored a 5K scholarship run and raised \$1,200 that was awarded to a distinguished member of their class for "her perseverance and intrinsic motivation."

See [snapshots of resilience and other special moments](#) captured during the district's graduation ceremonies from May 21 - 23.

Media interested developing a story about the above CCS' Class of 2021 accomplishments should email Renarta Moyd in Communications at [renartac@ccs.k12.nc.us](mailto:renartac@ccs.k12.nc.us).

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