

KIPP:Gaston College Preparatory

Dear Friend,

For a decade KIPP Gaston has been fighting for educational equality by closing the achievement gap in northeastern North Carolina. Beginning with just one class of fifth graders in 2001, KIPP Gaston expanded in 2005 to include KIPP Pride High School, and will continue that expansion in 2012 with KIPP Gaston Elementary School. Our current middle and high school of 700 students will eventually expand to a K-12 campus of over 1,300 students.

As a free public school of choice, KIPP Gaston students and their families make the choice to attend our school and commit to extended hours, higher expectations and a more rigorous college-preparatory education. We believe that through hard work, commitment and passion, all of our students will be empowered with the skills, habits and knowledge necessary to succeed at the colleges of their choice, strengthen their community and fight for social justice.

Since 2009, 100% of KIPP Gaston seniors have been accepted to a four year college and more than 85% will be the first in their family to earn a Bachelor's Degree. KIPP Gaston was recognized as "One of America's Best High Schools" by the Washington Post in 2011 and Newsweek magazine in 2010. While we are extremely proud of our students, we know that our school's ultimate success will be measured by the accomplishments of our alumni in college and throughout their lives.

While KIPP Gaston is a public school open to all students in North Carolina, because we are a charter school, we receive only 70% of the funding that is provided to traditional public schools. While we receive no state or federal money for building or transportation costs, we have worked hard to offer over a dozen two-hour bus routes and have expanded our facilities to provide additional opportunities for students. In addition to music, art, athletics, and other extracurricular programming at the schools, students gain exposure to the world through field lessons and college visits across the country. We have been able to provide these life-changing experiences for our students through the generous support of donors like you.

In order to continue to provide our students with the best education possible we ask for your support by making an investment in the 2011-12 KIPP Gaston Annual Fund. Your donation to the Annual Fund helps to support the greatest needs of our students and campus. This may include classroom technology, college visits, end of year field lessons, and professional development opportunities for our staff. Your donation enables our school to continue to grow and improve, thus changing the trajectory of individual students and in doing so strengthening the rural communities in which our students live. Your donation in any amount makes a tremendous difference, and we hope that you will support some of the hardest working students in North Carolina.

Contributions are tax-deductible and can be paid by check, credit card or online at www.kippgaston.org. For your convenience we have enclosed a remittance envelope with this letter. On behalf of KIPP Gaston, and our students and their families, we thank you for your generosity and support.

With gratitude and appreciation,



Tammi Sutton
Founder and Executive Director
KIPP Gaston