The Sims Academy of Innovation and Technology, a Ford Next Generation Learning Community, focuses on developing work-force ready students who can walk into high-paying industries such as robotics, culinary arts, broadcast video, and marketing while building an entrepreneurship foundation.

The Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT) is providing unique professional learning opportunities to teachers and innovative learning experiences to students through numerous programs and partnerships. The Teacher Pilot Program currently serves 26 teachers and over 620 fourth through eighth grade students in a year-long series of standards-based lessons featuring theater, dance, and visual arts integration facilitated by partner, ArtsNow.

For the 2018-2019 school year, BCSS has opened Barrow AIM – the Arts and Innovation Magnet program housed in our Center For Innovative Teaching (CFIT). Here, over 100 5th and 6th grade students will experience CFIT’s innovative and engaging arts infused, problem-based approach to teaching and learning every day of the school year!

Through a partnership with the UGA the South Korean-based company Roborobo, teachers are participating in workshops and receive training on how to best integrate robotics education. Students are learning about robotics, showcasing their own robotics creations, and even engaging in robotics competitions.

Bethlehem Elementary, Bramlett Elementary, Haymon-Morris Middle, Statham Elementary and Yargo Elementary were all named as “High-Progress” Reward Schools for 2017-2018.

The Barrow County School System retains 88.27% of their teachers, which is above the state average of 83.92%. Over 92% of teachers have been teaching for 3 years or more, compared to the State average of just 83%. A majority (64%) of BCSS teachers have Master, Specialist or Doctoral degrees.

BCSS is preparing to break ground on our 3rd high school. This will be an innovative arts and sciences magnet school that will be open as a school of choice to all Barrow County Students. It will share a campus with The Sims Academy and Lanier Technical College’s Barrow facility. Classes are expected to begin in the Fall of 2020.

The Barrow County School System was recognized with the Golden Radish Award, Platinum Level in 2017, a prestigious state-wide farm to school distinction which acknowledges the outstanding leadership in building comprehensive farm to school programs.

BCSS continues to increase both the number of students taking Advanced Placement Assessments and those receiving a score of 3 or higher to potentially earn college credit for the class. During SY 2016-17, 438 Barrow students took AP tests & 54.9% of all tests taken scored 3 or higher.

AHS & WBHS named Advanced Placement Honor Schools for 2017:
- AP STEM Achievement School - students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses and at least 40 percent of exam scores on AP math and science exams earning scores of 3 or higher. (AHS)
- AP HUMANITIES School - students testing in the following AP courses: at least one ELA course, two social science courses, one fine arts course and one world language course. (WBHS)
**Diverse Student Learning Opportunities:**

- Advanced Placement Honor Schools
- Career, Technical, & Agricultural Education (CTAE) program
- Dual Enrollment: College Credit in High School
- Local, National, & International Partnerships in Technology
- Schools Named “High-Progress” Reward Schools
- STEAM Barrow: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math
- Workforce Development Campus Career Academy

**Student Achievement & College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)**

For the fifth year in a row, the Barrow County School System was above the state average for the four year Graduation Rate Cohort at 82.6%. The dropout rate is 2.8%, a full point lower than the state average.

The Barrow County School System’s College and Career Ready Performance Index score has steadily increased to 78.9, which is higher than the state average of 75.0 and in the upper third of all Georgia school districts. The CCRPI is the primary accountability system for Georgia schools and school districts.

**A Georgia Charter School System**

The Barrow County School System is one of the top ten charter systems as recognized by the Georgia Charter System Foundation at their annual Charter Systems Awards event.
Barrow's Boldest and Brightest

Olivia Nelson-Ododa - 2018 Senior, Winder-Barrow High School

Olivia has many accolades such as All-Region, All-State, All-Metro, Region Player of the Year, Gatorade Player of the Year Nominee, Morgan Wooten Player of the Year Nominee, 2018 McDonald's All-American and a #1 Ranked UConn basketball signee. There is no doubt; Olivia is a true force to be reckoned with on the basketball court, but what is most important is that she is the definition of a true STUDENT-athlete. She is a caring and responsible leader, a humble and reliable teammate, a player who truly has the intense desire to improve and the fierce work ethic to make that happen, and is an exceptional athlete and highly skilled basketball player. Olivia’s involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities has proven success, while maintaining a 92.30 GPA. Nelson-Ododa’s Highlights: Member of the 2018 U18 USA Basketball Team, won gold at the FIBA Americas U18 Championship in Mexico City, member of 2016 U17 National Team, ranked No. 5 recruit in Class of 2018 by ESPN and Blue Star Report, 2018 McDonald’s All-American, 4-year starter at Winder-Barrow High School, 3-time all-state selection, member of National Honor Society.

Ryan Miller - 2017 Valedictorian and Graduate of Apalachee High School

“I am Ryan Miller, and I graduated as Valedictorian from Apalachee High School in 2017. In high school, I was involved in numerous clubs, and I played football, basketball, and baseball while taking eleven Advanced Placement classes and passing all of the exams. I was honored as a National Advanced Placement Scholar. While at Apalachee, I was also honored as the 2017 Barrow County School System STAR Student and the State Winner for the Georgia Athletic Director Association Scholarship. After attending Apalachee High School, I went on to attend the University of Georgia where I currently major in History and Pharmaceutical Sciences. In my first semester, I completed a nearly 130k word fiction novel, The Man They Call Zoran, in my spare time while also taking the maximum amount of hours at the University of Georgia (17) and achieving a 3.98 GPA in my first semester in college.” Miller’s Highlights: 2017 AHS Valedictorian, National Advanced Placement Scholar, STAR Student, State Winner for the Georgia Athletic Director Association Scholarship, published author, University of Georgia GPA 3.95.

Paul Serrato - 2015 Valedictorian, Apalachee High School

“The personal attention that educators within the Barrow County School System dedicated to my education reassured me that my collegiate aspirations were not only laudable but also attainable. During my time at Apalachee High School, I took advantage of the most rigorous curriculum available while assuming extracurricular responsibilities that allowed me to explore my interests in the natural and social sciences. This ultimately helped me develop the academic foundation and work ethic necessary for the coursework that I encountered at Stanford, a school that I never would have imagined attending as a first-generation college student. I am grateful for the strong support systems that I had in school and at home that made my current trajectory towards a career in medicine possible.” Serrato’s Highlights: 2015 AHS Valedictorian, Student Body President, STAR Student. He currently attends Stanford University as a senior majoring in Public Policy with a concentration in Health Care Policy. He serves as the student government Executive Chief of Staff and volunteers at the Stanford Hospital Emergency Department.

Chandon Sullivan - 2014 Graduate of Winder-Barrow High School

“Ms. Price at Russell Middle School was the first teacher to see my potential and encourage me to push myself to reach my goals. Knowledgeable teachers, counselors, and coaches at Winder Barrow High School helped me and made certain that I took the proper classes for my pathway to college success. The fast pace of the AP and Honors classes prepared me for college by forcing me to pay attention and work hard. My family’s support and encouragement has always been present. I’m a WBHS “GG” Dogg for life, because we give double effort in all we do in order to achieve.” Sullivan’s Highlights: 2014 WBHS Honor graduate 33rd of 390 students; All Region 8-AAAAA cornerback & running back, NEGA FCA Scholar-Athlete, National Honor Society. Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgia State University in Jan. 2018 with a degree in Journalism and became the first Academic All-American in GSU history. He was 1 of 13 national finalists for the National Football Foundation’s William V. Campbell Trophy as the top football scholar-athlete in the nation in all divisions. In the Spring of 2018, Chandon signed as Cornerback for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Tyler Tippens - 2013 Graduate of Winder-Barrow High School

“Being a former K-12 Barrow County School System student means to me, that I was given a solid, diverse, lasting foundation on which to build my future. The respect I received from teachers in the classroom and mentors outside of BCSS and my family’s support at home is really what prepared me for college. I took as many AP classes as I could, and came into college with a semester of classes done. AP Calculus in particular taught me math that was directly applicable to the classes I’ve taken at GA Tech, and I use calculus in virtually every single class. AP Physics had the most similar feel to any of the classes I’ve taken in college.” Tippens Highlights: 2013 WBHS honor graduate, #7 in class. Former graduate assistant in Physics at GA Tech. May 2017 BS in Physics from Georgia Institute of Technology. Was recognized in Feb. 2016 with his physics team for their research with the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, which made the first ever detection of gravitational waves, a landmark scientific achievement. Employed as health physicist with Auxier & Associates, which does radiological health safety and environmental consulting.

Learn more about the success of our students at www.barrow.k12.ga.us
Barrow County School System • 179 West Athens Street, Winder GA 30680 • 770-867-4527