

- CMS has 24 Schools of Excellence and 42 Schools of Distinction as recognized by the North Carolina ABCs of Public Education program.
- CMS ranked seventh in Forbes.com listing of "The Best Education in the Biggest Cities." School districts in 100 of the largest cities were considered for the listing.
- CMS was the first district in the state to offer the International Baccalaureate program, the most challenging curriculum in the country.
- 52 percent of the CMS Class of 2003 completed at least one Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course.
- On SAT scores, the top 10 percent of CMS students outperform the top 10 percent of students, both statewide and nationally.
- Newsweek magazine ranked 14 CMS high schools among its "Best in the U.S." list, including four in the Top 100.
- CMS was one of the first school systems in the nation to award Advanced Placement diplomas.
- CMS has a nationally recognized character education program funded in part by a \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.
- CMS tops all area private and parochial schools combined in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship competition.
- CMS was recognized by the Council of Great City Schools as one of four school districts across the country demonstrating academic excellence.
- CMS outperforms the nation in reading and math tests administered by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
- The graduating class of 2003 earned in excess of \$34 million in academic and athletic scholarships.
- Six teams from CMS won state high school athletic championships during the 2003-04 school year.
- CMS supports as many IB schools as other districts twice its size across the country.
- CMS students received eight gold and silver awards in a variety of categories, including drawing, textiles and fiber design, painting, jewelry and metalsmithing, at the National Scholastic Art Awards in 2003.
- A work by a CMS student received the prestigious Pinnacle Award in 2003 as the best sculpture in the country.
- CMS partners with families in the education process. During the 2002-03 school year, more than 40,000 volunteers donated in excess of 600,000 hours of service.
- Independence High School has won four consecutive state football championships.
- CMS has a larger PTA membership than 25 states. The district is proud to have more than 65,000 PTA members.