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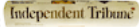
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## A.L. Brown ranks among nation's best high schools



Bridgett Baker

A.L. Brown High School freshman Shannon Spencer looks at books during the book fair while deciding on her purchase on Monday. The school has been named one of the nation's best.

By **Justin Vick** | Independent Tribune

Published: December 8, 2008

Kannapolis - A.L. Brown in Kannapolis is among the nation's best high schools, according to U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine analyzed more than 21,000 schools to rank the top 100 for its second annual "America's Best High Schools" edition, which hit newsstands on Monday. Another 1,842 schools, including A.L. Brown, were recognized on the publication's Web site.

Principal Debra Morris was ecstatic to hear about A.L. Brown's inclusion. She was in Raleigh on Monday with Kannapolis City Schools Superintendent Jo Anne Byerly for a press conference marking another A.L. Brown achievement — its state championship football game on Saturday.

"It's so much fun to be a part of all this," said Morris of the school's recent good fortune. "Christmas may be around the corner, but all this is better than Christmas!" Morris, who is North Carolina's reigning principal of the year, attributed A.L. Brown's success to her teachers and the high expectations they set for students.

Byerly agreed.

"A.L. Brown is an outstanding high school with high-quality, innovative programs for students," Byerly said. "And they are always looking for ways to improve."

Schools were evaluated based on participation and performance on Advancement Placement or International Baccalaureate exams, as well as state reading and math tests.

The highest ranked North Carolina school was the Early College at Guilford in Greensboro at No. 17, followed by Raleigh Charter High at No. 20 and East Chapel High at No. 77.

Schools outside the top 100 were not ranked, but given designations of silver or bronze.

Salisbury High was among 504 schools to earn a silver designation for meeting all of the necessary criteria but falling short of the highest 100 composite scores.

A.L. Brown was designated as a bronze-level school based on state reading and math tests results. Scores and proficiency rates were compared to state averages. Another factor was how favorably black, Hispanic and low-income students fared on these tests compared to state averages.

Stanly County Schools also claimed two bronze winners: South Stanly High in Norwood and Endy Elementary in Albemarle, which serves students beyond the fifth grade.

To view the report and compare schools, go to [www.usnews.com/highschools](http://www.usnews.com/highschools) and <http://www.schoolmatters.com/>

• Contact reporter Justin Vick: 704-789-9138



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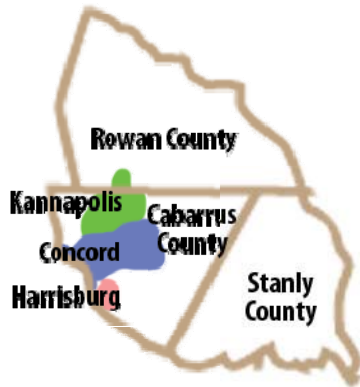
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