



2023-2024

District Student Handbook



This section of the handbook applies to all GCS elementary and middle schools. Please read the supplementary section for school-related expectations and policies.

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	District	School
1. Attendance	2-3	22
2. Behavior Code	3-6	
3. Dress Code	6	18-19
4. Transportation	6-8	
5. Safe Schools/Anti-Bullying	9	
6. Title IX	10	
7. Homework Policy	10	
8. Uniform Grading Policy	11-12	
9. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	12	
10. Directory Information	13	
11. Student Speakers	13	
12. School Insurance	13	
13. Parent's Right to Know	13	
14. Student Use of Technology	14	
15. Athletics (Middle Schools Only)		16
16. Parent Backpack/Student Progress		17
17. Bell Schedule		17
18. Breakfast/Lunch		17-18
19. Cell Phones, Wireless Headphones, & PEDs		18, 21-22
20. School Counseling & Health & Wellness		19
21. ID Requirements		19
22. Late Work/Redo & Retake Policy		19-20
23. Medications		20
24. Tardies/Early Dismissals		22
25. Water Bottles		22
26. Visitors/Volunteers		22-23

Attendance

In South Carolina, all children are required to attend a public or private school or kindergarten beginning at age five (5) and continuing until their 17th birthday. If a child is not six years of age on or before the first day of September in a particular school year, parents and guardians may choose not to send their children to kindergarten; however, they must sign a waiver which may be obtained at the local school.

In accordance with the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance law, the School District of Greenville County has adopted uniform rules to ensure that students attend school regularly. Each day that students are not in school, they miss hours of valuable instruction and opportunities for learning that they will not have again. Students are counted present only when they are actually in school, on homebound instruction, or are present at an activity authorized by the school principal. A student is considered in attendance when present for at least three (3) hours of a school day.

All absences beginning with the first shall be approved or disapproved by the board's designee, the building principal. In making this decision, the principal shall be guided by the procedures as presented herein. Decisions regarding approval of absences and eligibility for credit may be appealed in accordance with district policy.

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by his or her parent or legal guardian or a health care professional, for all absences within two (2) days of the student's return to school. The written excuse should include the reason for and the date of absence. If a student fails to bring a valid written excuse to school, his or her absence will be recorded as unlawful. School will use the criteria below when deciding whether an absence is lawful or unlawful.

Lawful Absences

- Absences caused by a student's illness and whose attendance in school would endanger his or her health or the health of others. These absences must be verified by a physician statement within two (2) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to an illness or death in the student's immediate family verified by a statement from the parent within two (2) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith when approved in advance. Such requests must be made to the principal in writing.
- Absences for students whose parents/guardians are experiencing a military deployment. Specifically absences when the parent or legal guardian of a student is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be excused as long as such absences are reasonable in duration as deemed by the principal so that the student can visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian.
- Absences due to activities that are approved in advance by the principal. This would include absences for extreme hardships. Such approval should be prearranged when possible.

Unlawful Absences

- Absences of a student without the knowledge of his or her parents.
- Absences of a student without acceptable cause with the knowledge of his or her parents.
- Suspension is not to be counted as an unlawful absence for truancy purposes.

Absences

For students in grades K-12, principals shall promptly approve or disapprove any student's absence in excess of ten (10) days, whether those absences are lawful, unlawful, or a combination of the two. A student does not exceed the 10 day absence limit until the student has reached his or her 11th unlawful absence. Furthermore, a student does not exceed the 5 day absence limit for a 90 day course until the student has reached his or her 6th unlawful absence.

Carnegie Credit

The school year consists of 180 school days. To receive credit, high school students or students in middle school taking courses for graduation credit must attend at least 85 days of each 90-day semester course and at least 170 days of each 180-day course, as well as meet all minimum requirements for each course.

In order to receive high school credit after the 10th unlawful absence, "seat time recovery" is required for every subsequent absence that is unlawful. (Note: the 10 unlawful absence limit applies to each 180-day course and should be considered 5 days for each 90-day course and 3 days for each 45 day course.) A student may have up to 10 absences excused by a parent note in each 180-day course and 5 days excused by a parent note in each 90-day course. Parent notes in excess

of 10 in a 180-day course, and 5 in a 90-day course, will be considered unexcused and will count towards the unlawful absences a student has in the respective course. A student must attend the majority of a class session during a school day to receive credit for that class.)

Truancy

Although the state requires students to only attend 170 of the 180-day school year, parents and students should be aware that SC Code of Regulations-Chapter 43-274 stipulates that a child ages 6 to 17 year is considered truant when the child has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences. For purposes of this section (truancy and compulsory attendance), a parent may provide up to 10 parent notes excusing a student's absence, 5 parent notes in a 90-day course, and 3 parent notes in a 45-day course. However, in order for any subsequent absence related to an illness to be lawful it must be supported by a physician statement/medical note.

Student Behavior Code

The District expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. This requirement refers to their actions toward other students and teachers, their language, their dress and their manners.

Students have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and District. Violations of such policies, rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions. The school directs students to the District's Behavior Code set forth in [Policy JCDA](#) and this handbook. Schools are authorized to incorporate the use of electronic devices, including cell phones, tablets and other similar devices, into the school environment when appropriate to enhance learning and student achievement. Schools will establish rules and expectations for student use of electronic devices, and students will be disciplined in accordance with this policy for any inappropriate or unauthorized use of a device. School authorities are authorized to employ probation and suspension and to recommend expulsion, if necessary, to enforce this policy.

It is the philosophy of the District to handle all student disciplinary matters at the lowest supervisory level possible and in the most reasonable manner possible. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with appropriate procedural rights being afforded to students and their parents/guardians as provided by State law, State Board of Education regulation, and/or the policies of this District.

The Board and the administration offer the following listing of offenses and the required or recommended dispositions for the information of students, parents/legal guardians and school personnel.

Levels of Offenses

Students who engage in an ongoing pattern of behavior that is disruptive to the orderly operations of the school shall be recommended for expulsion. The following is a general listing of offenses and the required or recommended disciplinary actions which should be taken as a result of such offenses being committed.

Disorderly Conduct - Level I

Disorderly conduct is defined as any activity in which a student engages that tends to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school or the frequency or seriousness of which disturbs the classroom or school.

Acts of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lying
- blackmail of other students or school personnel
- acting in a manner so as to interfere with the instructional process
- abusive language between or among students, to include profane language
- failure to complete assignments or carry out directions
- use of forged notes or excuses

- violation of school bus regulations
- cutting class
- school tardiness
- truancy
- use of obscene or profane language or gestures
- other disorderly acts as determined at the school level, which are not inconsistent with Board policy

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of disorderly conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- verbal reprimand
- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- Demerits
- Detention
- In-school/out of school suspension
- Other sanctions approved by the Board or administration

Disruptive Conduct - Level II

Disruptive conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by student(s) which are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of themselves or others in the school. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings.

The administration may reclassify disorderly conduct (Level I) as disruptive conduct (Level II) if the student engages in the activity three or more times.

Acts of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- fighting
- vandalism (minor)
- stealing
- use or possession of laser pointers, fireworks, smoke bombs, pepper-style sprays, and other similar devices or materials
- threats against others
- trespass
- abusive language to staff, to include profane language
- other disruptive acts which interfere with the educational process
- refusal to obey school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aids or chaperones) whose responsibilities include supervision of students
- possession or use of unauthorized substances, including tobacco and tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, non-prescription drugs, "look-a-like" drugs, and drug paraphernalia, including rolling papers
- illegally occupying or blocking in any way school property with the intent to deprive others of its use
- inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- misuse of District technology resources
- gambling on school property
- unlawful assembly
- disrupting lawful assembly
- harassment, intimidation or bullying
 - intimidating, threatening, or physically abusing another student
 - any other acts as determined at the school level that are not inconsistent with Board policy

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of disruptive conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- in-school suspension
- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- temporary removal from class
- out-of-school suspension
- referral to outside agency
- assignment to alternative school
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
- other sanctions as approved by the Board or administration

Criminal Conduct - Level III

Criminal conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by students (whether or not they result in criminal charges) that result in violence to themselves or to another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of themselves or others in the school or to the security of District resources. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and/or action by the Board.

Whenever a student is engaging or has engaged in activities including, but not limited to, one of the acts specified below, while on school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity which a principal or his/her designee has reason to believe may result, or has resulted, in injury or serious threat of injury to a person or to his/her property, the principal or his/her designee is required to notify law enforcement officials.

Acts for which principals must recommend students for expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- bomb threat
- possession, use or transfer of weapons - a weapon is defined as a firearm (rifle, shotgun, pistol or similar device that propels a projectile through the energy of an explosive); a knife, razor, bludgeon, blackjack, metal pipe or pole, brass knuckles (to include multi-finger rings); incendiary or explosive device; or any other type of device or object which may be used to inflict bodily injury or death.
- sexual offenses (which include sexual acts that do not result in a criminal offense)
- arson
- distribution, sale, purchase, manufacture, use, being under the influence of, or unlawful possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 44-53-110 through 44-53-270. (See Policy JCDAC)
- threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a school employee or member of their immediate family
- ganging ("Ganging" or participating as a member of a gang and inflicting a violent act of bodily harm, however slight, upon another person will not be tolerated. A "gang" shall consist of two or more persons acting together for and with the purpose of committing an act of violence against another person. "Participation" also includes any act that interferes with or hinders a staff member from stopping the infliction of bodily injury that is the objective of the gang.)
- Unauthorized access, use, or attempted access or use of District computer systems

Additional acts for which principals may recommend students for expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- vandalism (major)
- theft, possession or sale of stolen property
- disturbing the schools
- possession, use, or transfer of "look-a-like" weapons
- assault and battery
- extortion
- any other acts as determined by the Board

NOTE: In determining whether a student is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, the student's appearance, behavior, manner, presence of an odor of the substance, and statements made by the student as to the use of controlled substances or alcohol may be considered without regard to the amount of alcohol/controlled substance consumed.

The principals must recommend students for expulsion if they have committed offenses which are underlined above. If a student commits an offense that is not underlined, the principals may recommend the student for expulsion when the circumstances warrant it. The administration may apply sanctions in cases of criminal conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- out-of-school suspension
- assignment to alternative school
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
- other sanctions as approved by the Board or administration

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress and be groomed in such a way as to not distract or cause disruption in the educational program or orderly operation of the school. Personal appearance of students should promote health and safety, contribute to a climate conducive to teaching and learning and project a positive image of the District to the community. Students should dress for the educational setting and not the recreational one. The principal may create further guidelines regarding student dress which are consistent with the guidelines below.

- Clothing and/or hair should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the education process. Therefore, clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive will not be permitted.
- Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to oneself or others is not allowed.
- Hats and sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term.
- Proper shoes must be worn at all times.
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent or offensive.
- Clothing that inappropriately exposes body parts is not permitted. Students shall not expose undergarments.
- Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and undergarments are not to be visible. Pants and slacks must not bag, sag, or drag.
- No clothing, jewelry, or tattoos are permitted that display profanity, suggestive phrases, or advertisements for, or messages or pictures depicting or suggesting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or sex.

In the event the administration determines a student's dress is inappropriate for school in accordance with this policy, the administration will either require the student to change or will inform the student not to wear the garment to school again. Repeated violations of the dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the District's Behavior Code.

Transportation

Discipline

In order to ensure the safety of all students riding buses in Greenville County Schools, appropriate behavior is required for all students. Transportation to and from school is an extension of the classroom and should be considered part of the school day. The issue of safety requires students to be on their best behavior while on school buses or vehicles. Violations of school bus rules will be addressed in the manner listed below.

The School District Behavior Code (Board Policy JCDA) is in effect for all students at all times when being transported on school buses to and from school or school activities. Thus, while students may lose the privilege to ride the bus due to their conduct as contained below, the student may also be disciplined in accordance with the District's Behavior Code up to and including being recommended for expulsion.

Level I Offenses - Disorderly Conduct

- Refusing to follow driver directions
- Getting on or off the bus at an unauthorized stop without permission
- Standing or sitting improperly while the bus is moving
- Intentionally riding the wrong bus without permission from the principal
- General horseplay
- Making loud noises
- Profanity/Obscene Gestures
- Littering
- Possession of tobacco products, e-cigarettes or vaping devices
- Delaying bus services by tardiness, loitering, etc.
- The school administration may classify a Level I offense as a Level II offense if the infraction seriously jeopardizes the health and/or safety of others.

Level I Consequences

- 1st Referral -- Warning and parent contact
- 2nd Referral -- In school punishment, parent contact and/or one (1) day bus suspension
- 3rd Referral -- Suspended from bus up to three (3) days and parent conference
- 4th Referral -- Suspended from bus up to five (5) days and parent conference
- Additional Level 1 referrals will result in administrative review and may be accelerated to a Level consequence.

Level II Offenses

- Use of tobacco products, e- cigarettes, or vaping devices
- Throwing objects out of bus
- Profanity directed at staff
- Rude, discourteous behavior directed at staff
- Vandalism [restitution may be required]
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating another student
- Fighting
- Stealing
- Inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- Other safety violations that may interfere with the safe operation of the school bus
- The school administration may classify a Level II offense as a Level III offense if the infraction seriously jeopardizes the health and/or safety of others.

Level II Consequences

- 1st Referral -- Suspension from bus up to ten (10) days and parent conference
- 2nd Referral -- Suspension from bus up to ten (10) days and parent conference
- 3rd Referral -- Suspension from bus up to thirty (30) days, possible removal and parent conference

Level III Offenses

- Possession, use or transfer of weapons
- Sexual offenses (which include sexual acts that do not result in criminal offense)
- Arson
- Impeding the operation of a school bus
- Distribution, sale, purchase, use or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance
- Threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm to a school employee
- Ganging
- Bomb threat

Level III Consequences

- Any referral - Minimum thirty (30) days suspension from bus and possible removal from bus for remainder of school year and parent conference.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will be disciplined in accordance with federal and state law including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as set forth in the procedures developed by the administration.

Procedures for Transporting 4k, 5k and 1st Grade Students

For safety reasons, all K4, K5 and 1st grade students will receive a numbered ID tag from the school prior to boarding the bus in the afternoon. The tag must be visible to the driver. As the student departs the bus in the afternoon, the driver will collect the student's identification tag. The driver will retain the tag and deliver all tags to the school the following morning. The school will distribute the tags to the respective teacher or staff member so the tags can be put on the student before afternoon bus dismissal.

Each 4K, 5K and 1st grade student must wear a bus tag while being transported from school for the entire school year. The student tag shall include the following information:

Front:	Back:	
Student Name	Student address	unique number
[] Student designee name (4th grade or above)		
Route number		

Parent Responsibilities:

The parent/guardian is responsible for properly registering their student(s) at the designated school and ensuring that all information provided on required forms is accurate and current. The parent/guardian is responsible for updating this information at the school whenever changes occur.

The parent/guardian must be present at the regular bus stop both during the morning pickup and afternoon drop-off of their 4K, 5K or 1st grade child. The parent/guardian will be given four (4) numbered cards to distribute to any designee to be at the bus stop in their place. The designee may be another adult or student designee (4th grade or higher). A Bus Tag Application is to be furnished by the school, completed and returned by the parent/guardian to the school before the student rides the bus. One person may serve as designee for multiple children. The parent/guardian is ultimately responsible for the safety and conduct of his/her child at the regular school bus stop.

If a 4K, 5K or first grade student is preparing to depart the bus at their assigned stop, whether alone or in a group, and the parent/guardian/designee with the numbered card is not present at the bus stop, the student will be returned to his/her elementary school. When a student is returned to the elementary school, school staff will contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be located, the matter could be referred to Greenville County Schools Law Enforcement Division, appropriate local Law Enforcement Agency, and/or the Greenville County Department of Social Services (DSS).

Incidents of the parent/guardian/designee with the numbered card not being at the bus stop for afternoon drop-off will result in all transportation services being discontinued according to the following schedule:

- First Incident: Warning to parent by school with review of future consequences
- Second Incident: 3 days off the bus
- Third Incident: 5 days off the bus
- Fourth Incident: 10 days off the bus
- Fifth Incident: Removal from bus for the remainder of school year

The school administration will implement the above schedule without a bus driver referral and notify the appropriate bus center of the effective dates of loss of bus transportation services. Only the Superintendent or his or her designee may make exceptions to the provisions contained in this administrative rule.

Anti-Bullying and Safe Schools

The District is committed to fostering an environment that both promotes learning and prevents disruptions to the educational process. In order to create and maintain an atmosphere that promotes learning and prevents disruption, the District has implemented the following procedures to address student concerns, complaints, and grievances in regards to bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation or misconduct as provided in Board Policy and Administrative Rule JCDAG. All formal complaints of any allegation of bullying, discrimination or harassment will follow the below process, except for complaints filed on the basis of sex (Title IX), which will follow the procedures contained in that Section II below.

Reporting Bullying, Harassment & Discrimination

Any student who believes that he/she has been subject to harassment, intimidation, bullying or misconduct by other students, employees of the District or third parties in the school setting should immediately inform the school's administration and may also file a formal complaint under Board Policy and Administrative Rule JCDAG.

All complaints should be filed with the principal or his or her designee within sixty days of the date of the alleged incident using the Complaint Form attached to Rule JCDAG. Complaints may also be filed by a student's parent. If the allegation is against the school's administration, the student or parent should file a report directly with the District's Ombudsman. Anonymous reports may be made, but those reports must provide the District with adequate information in order to begin an investigation.

Additionally, students and parents should immediately report any concerns related to employee interactions with students that are inconsistent with the requirements and expectations contained in Board Policy GBV pertaining to staff and adult interactions with students. Concerns that should be immediately reported to a school's administration include potential mistreatment of students and other conduct by employees that could constitute inappropriate interaction or communication, including those sexual in nature.

Investigation

Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. The investigation shall include appropriate steps to determine what occurred and to take actions to end the harassment, intimidation, or bullying and prevent such misconduct from occurring again. A meeting will be scheduled within ten working days of the complaint with the complainant to discuss the complaint. The student and his/her parent(s) shall be informed in writing of the outcome of the investigation but all discipline of students and staff will remain confidential. The written notice will also outline the complainant's right to appeal.

Appeals

An appeal related to disability discrimination or harassment should be made to the District's Section 504 coordinator. An appeal regarding color, race, or national origin discrimination or harassment should be made to the District's Title VI coordinator. The email contact information for the Section 504 Coordinator and Title VI Coordinator is Section504@greenville.k12.sc.us and TitleVI@greenville.k12.sc.us. Both may also be contacted by mail at Post Office Box 2848, Greenville SC 29602 or by phone at 864-355-3100.

The appeal shall state the reasons for which the complainant is appealing the initial decision. The coordinator will examine the evidence presented by all the parties, and may conduct a meeting with both the complainant and the school principal or designee if needed. The coordinator must provide a written decision to the complainant within 10 working days of receiving the complainant's written appeal. The coordinator shall inform the complainant of the right to appeal to the Superintendent or his/her designee. If a coordinator or the Superintendent or his/her designee is alleged to be involved in the complaint, the District will appoint an objective and impartial administrator to address the complainant's appeal at that level.

If a student or parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the action or decision of the Coordinator, they may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or his/her designee within 10 working days of the decision of the Coordinator. The appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for the appeal. The superintendent or designee, in his or her discretion, may choose to have a meeting with the complainant and the coordinator. The Superintendent or designee shall provide a written determination to the complainant and take appropriate action within 10 working days after the receipt of a written appeal.

Title IX Complaints (Sex-Based Discrimination/Harassment)

The District, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and its corresponding regulations ("Title IX"), does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activities. Title IX prohibits sex-based harassment, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature. The District prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in all of its programs and activities by its employees, students or third parties.

Reporting

Any student (or parent/guardian of student) who believes they have been the subject of sex-based harassment or discrimination should contact the school's administration immediately. A formal complaint may be filed in accordance with Administrative Rule JCDAG. Even if a formal complaint is not filed related to a Title IX concern, the District must still conduct a thorough review into the concern and implement appropriate supportive measures and disciplinary consequences and provide a written summary to the student/parents related to its efforts and actions.

Investigation

A school's Assistant Principal or other appointed school administrator (investigator) will initiate an investigation of any formal complaint of alleged sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature reported to them in consultation with the District's Title IX Coordinator following the detailed process outlined in Administrative Rule JCDAG. The school's Principal will then separately review the findings of that investigation and render a determination as the decision-maker. If an allegation is made against a non-student, including an employee, the District Employee Relations Representative will serve as the investigator and a director in the District's Human Resources Department will serve as the decision-maker. A parent or legal guardian or Title IX Coordinator may also file a complaint on behalf of the student. If, for any reason, the student prefers not to share the complaint with the Assistant Principal, he or she may submit a complaint with the Principal.

The District prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a report. The District also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another person. Additional information pertaining to Title IX, including contact information for the District's Title IX Coordinator, training received by District employees, and the process for appeals can be found at <https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Parents/main.asp?titleid=titleix>

Homework

When homework is given, assignments shall reflect the following guidelines:

Homework shall include one or more of the three generally recognized types of homework:

Practice: reinforces newly acquired skills taught in class

Preparation: helps students prepare for upcoming lessons, activities, or tests

Extension: provides challenging, often long-term opportunities for enrichment that parallel class work

Homework shall be carefully planned and explained to the students. Content and duration of homework shall be personalized to accommodate the age, grade, ability, and readiness of the students. Homework shall be assigned with awareness of the home resources available to the student and the family and alternative options offered, where necessary. Since involvement in extracurricular activities is encouraged and valued, homework assignments that are lengthy shall be scheduled as far in advance as possible.

Because homework at the high school level varies according to a student's course load and schedule, high school students should spend sufficient time on homework to master the content of the subject matter. Completed homework assignments are to be reviewed by the teacher or designee; appropriate instructional follow-up shall occur.

If homework is graded, the homework shall count no more than 10% of the overall quarterly grade at the middle school and high school levels.

Because they require a greater amount of time and effort than daily assignments, grades for long-range assignments shall not count as part of the homework percentage, but should be considered in the time allocated for homework.

Parents and students shall be informed at the beginning of the school year and at the beginning of second semester, if appropriate, of the district homework policies and classroom homework expectations.

Students are encouraged to spend some time each day reading a variety of materials independently.

Uniform Grading Scale

The Uniform Grading Policy approved by the State Board of Education is effective for all students enrolled in unit-bearing classes, including those offered at the middle school level.

The SC Grading Scale is as follows:

A= 90-100; B= 80-89, C= 70-79, D= 60-69, F= 0-59

WF= 50, FA=50, P= no value, WP= no value, AU= no value, NP=no value

[Link to: SC Uniform Grading Scale](#)

Prekindergarten

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal and social growth • Approaches to learning • Physical development and health • Language arts and literacy • Mathematics 	+ Exceeds standard = Meets standard # Making Sufficient Progress - Not Yet making Progress Blank-Not taught or assessed
--	---

Kindergarten and First Grade

Student progress in kindergarten and first grade is reported for South Carolina Academic Standard as follows:

Academic Skills Indicators:

Reading Writing and Language Communication Science Mathematics Social Studies	M=The student consistently meets or exceeds end-of-year expectations for this standard P=The student shows expected growth/progress in meeting this end-of-year standard B=The student is beginning to progress toward meeting this end-of-year standard N=The student needs intensive support at school and home to develop this end-of-year standard <i>If left blank, this standard was not addressed or assessed during this reporting period</i>
--	---

Successful Learner Characteristics:

Interacts positively with adults and peers Shows initiative and eagerness to learn Participates and works well in a variety of settings (whole class, small groups, independently) Demonstrates organizational skills Sustains attention in a variety of settings Demonstrates perseverance in various tasks/situations Follows multiple-step directions	4=The student consistently demonstrates the characteristics 3=The student demonstrates the characteristics most of the time 2=The student demonstrates the characteristics some of the time 1=The characteristic is not yet evident
--	--

Related Arts Indicators:

Art Music Physical Education	M=Meets related arts standards P=making progress towards related arts standards
------------------------------------	--

2nd-12th Grade

The following grade scale will be applied to students in grades 2-12.

A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F=59-50

For Carnegie Unit courses please refer to the state Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) for quality points and state regulations guiding credit-bearing courses.

Grading Floors

- **Elementary School Students (Grades 2-5)**

A floor of 50 will be applied to quarter report cards for elementary students (2-5). The floor will not be applied to Interim Progress Reports.

- **Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)**

A floor of 50 will be applied to all grades for middle school students (6-8)

- **High School Students (Grades 9-12)**

A floor of 50 will be applied to quarter report cards for High School Students (9-12). The floor will not be applied to Interim Progress reports.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that affords parents (including legal guardians) and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to students' education records. "Student education records" include any records maintained by a school or the district that are directly related to the student. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review a student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should write a letter to the school principal and identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access to those records and will notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where they may inspect them.
- The right to request an amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend an education record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the school principal. In that letter, they should not only clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, but also specify why they believe it is inaccurate or misleading. They should also provide any evidence to support their claim. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a district-level hearing regarding the request for amendment. The school will provide additional information regarding the district's hearing procedures when they notify the parent or eligible student of the decision. After the hearing, if the district still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his/her view about the contested information.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. FERPA allows the district to disclose education records to school officials with a legitimate educational interest in the information contained in the record without consent from the parent or eligible student. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health and law enforcement staff); a person serving on the School Board; and a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor or therapist). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if that official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request and without consent, the district forwards and discloses education records to officials of another school district in which a student seeks/intends to enroll, specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes, appropriate parties in connection with financial aid, organizations conducting certain studies for the school, accrediting organizations, to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, to appropriate offices in cases of health and safety emergencies, and to state and local authorities within a juvenile system.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the federal agency that administers FERPA is as follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5920

*An eligible student is defined as a student who reaches 18 years of age or attends a post-secondary school.

Directory Information

Information that the District has designated as "directory information" regarding a student may be released to outside organizations without prior written consent from the parent/eligible student. The District defines directory information as a student's name, address, telephone number, photograph, grade level, school to which he/she is assigned, years of attendance at that school, awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of athletic team members. Outside organizations requesting directory information include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, the No Child Left Behind Act requires that local high schools must provide military recruiters, upon request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. If you do not wish for the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the School in writing no later than 30 calendar days after the first day of school.

Student Speakers at School-Sponsored Activities

The School District of Greenville County is committed to maintaining an educational environment in which students of all backgrounds, beliefs and religions are welcome and treated with equal dignity and respect. The District will neither advance nor inhibit religion. In accord with the United States Constitution, the District protects private expression, including religious expression, by individual students as long as that expression does not create a disruption to or interfere with the educational environment.

Student speakers at school-sponsored activities, including graduations, may not be selected on a basis that either favors or disfavors religious speech. Where student speakers are selected on the basis of genuinely neutral, evenhanded criteria and retain primary control over the content of their expression, that expression is not attributable to the school and therefore may not be restricted because of its religious or secular content. In contrast, where school officials determine or substantially control the content of what is expressed, such speech is attributable to the school and may not include prayer or religious content. A school, however, may prevent or remove a speaker if the content of their speech is obscene, contrary to the District's behavior code or substantially disruptive to the school environment.

School Insurance

Student accident insurance is offered as a service to parents. The available insurance coverage includes school-only or 24-hour coverage. Coverage, cost, and enrollment information is provided on the District's website at <https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Parents/main.asp?titleid=faqinsurance>

Voluntary student accident insurance is different from athletic insurance, which is required.

Parent's Right to Know

As the parent or family of a student enrolled in Greenville County Schools, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the District to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether a teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- the baccalaureate degree major of a teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree;

If you would like to receive this information, please call the Human Resources Department.

Student Use of Technology

Students must use school technology in an appropriate manner and in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Rule EFE. This school technology includes District email, network, equipment, and assigned devices to students. Students will be disciplined in accordance with the District's Behavior Code (JCDA) for any misuse of school technology. While the District implements filters and safeguards for school technology, the District cannot guarantee that these measures will detect or prevent inappropriate use of technology by students. Parents and students should immediately contact the student's school with any concerns pertaining to the use of technology.

Board Policies and Administrative Rules

All current policies of the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees and administrative rules can be found on Board Docs on the District's website at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/sc/greenville/Board.nsf/Public>



**GREENVILLE MIDDLE ACADEMY
TRADITIONAL & GLOBAL STUDIES**

STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

This Student Handbook Belongs to:

Student _____ Grade _____

Car # _____ If Bus Rider, Bus # _____

GMA Rams are Resilient, Resourceful, Ready

From the Principal

On behalf of the GMA staff, I would like to welcome you to Greenville Middle Academy of Traditional and Global Studies. It is a privilege to serve as your principal. Our school has an outstanding reputation, and I am proud to be a part of such an amazing school community.

Our goal is to ensure that all students become critical thinkers, active problem-solvers, inquisitive readers, diligent researchers and prolific writers. We do all of this to prepare students for the demands of the real-world so they may become productive citizens, become our future leaders, and contribute positively to the community.

It is my sincere hope that you will find this year to be one that is exciting, challenging, and rewarding. There will be opportunities for social and athletic activities, which will be an important part of your middle school experience. Take advantage of them! In addition, your success in school depends on the development of effective study habits, good listening skills, a positive attitude, and regular school attendance.

The faculty, staff, and I look forward to a positive and rewarding school year!

Athletics (to read this in its entirety, go to [school website](#))

- **Expectations of Conduct for Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities** – Participants on a school team, club, or organization represent not only themselves and their families, but also their teammates, their coaches or sponsors, their schools, and the Greenville County School District.
- **The Privilege of Participation** – Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. School officials may deprive a student of the privilege of participation when they determine that the student's continued participation is not consistent with the high standards of conduct expected of all participants.
- **Unacceptable Conduct - The prohibition of unacceptable conduct:** Certain conduct by any participant is absolutely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Examples of such unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, hazing, harassment, violation of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances restrictions, major infractions of The Student Code of Conduct, or violations of law. This unacceptable conduct rule shall be in force twelve months of the year.
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** – During the period that any participant is serving an out-of-school suspension, the student will not be allowed to participate in practice or games or contests.
- **Attendance Rule** – A student shall not participate in a contest or practice on the day he/she has been absent from school without just reason. Just reason shall be anything beyond the control of the student (ex: school field trip, doctor/dental appointments, bereavement, religious holiday, etc.).

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:

Academic Requirements - Academic requirements for students enrolled in the seventh and eighth grades, including first semester 9th graders are: they must pass the 4 required courses of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies, and be promoted to the next grade. An exception exists if the student is taking Algebra 1 or English 1 and fails as they may take the course again as a 9th grader. Regardless, the student must be **promoted** into the next grade.

1. Students passing the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades by academic promotion pursuant to district policy are considered as having met the requirements for academic eligibility for first semester.
2. Students in grades seven and eight must meet the school district promotion policy at the end of the first semester in order to be eligible for the second semester.
3. A seventh or eighth grade repeater shall not be eligible during a school year if academic requirements for promotion were not met during the previous year.
4. A student who previously failed the seventh or eighth grade is eligible during the second semester if he/she has satisfactorily passed first semester work.
 - II. Second semester eligibility begins when the first semester ends and the student is added to the certificate of eligibility form signed by the principal.
 - III. Schools will follow the procedures outlined in the School Administrators Guide, published by the State Department of Education, in accepting or rejecting credits received by a student while the student is enrolled in private schools, including home schools and/or out of state schools.

Backpack Information / Student Progress

[Parent Backpack](#) provides parents, guardians, or contacts with a central place to sign in to do the following:

- View their student's information including demographics, attendance, classes, grades, lunch balances, and test scores
- Apply or register their student to Special Focus schools and programs (Fine Arts Center, Career Centers, etc.)
- Receive alerts and notifications regarding their students
- View their student's school and contact information
- Manage parent and contact information for their students

For more information, visit: <https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Parents/main.asp?titleid=backpack>

Bell Schedule

The highlighted times below include lunch. Go to our website for specific teacher lunch times. Please go to the Visitors/Volunteers section of this handbook for procedures on eating lunch with your student.

Grade Level 8		Grade Level 7		Grade Level 6	
Periods	Time	Periods	Time	Periods	Time
1st Pd (RAM)	8:30 - 9:15	1st Pd (RAM)	8:30 - 9:15	1st Pd (RAM)	8:30 - 9:15
2nd pd - 8RA 1	9:18 - 10:03	2nd pd - Core 1 (HR)	9:18 - 10:11	2nd pd - Core 1 (HR)	9:18 - 10:11
3rd pd - 8RA 2	10:07 - 10:53	3rd pd - Core 2	10:14 - 11:40	3rd pd - Core 2	10:14 - 11:09
4th pd - Core 1 (HR)	10:57 - 11:50	7 Lunch	10:30 - 11:34	4th pd - Core 3	11:12 - 12:37
5th pd - Core 2	11:53 - 1:21	4th pd - 7RA 1	11:44 - 12:31	6 Lunch	11:24 - 12:28
8 Lunch	12:18 - 1:19	5th pd - 7RA 2	12:35 - 1:20	5th pd - Core 4	12:41 - 1:34
6th pd - Core 3	1:24 - 2:17	6th pd - Core 3	1:24 - 2:17	6th pd - 6RA 1	1:38-2:23
7th pd - Core 4	2:20 - 3:15	7th pd - Core 4	2:20 - 3:15	7th pd - 6RA 2	2:27-3:15
7/8 Split Team				Related Arts	
Grade Level 8		Grade Level 7		Periods	Time
Periods	Time	Periods	Time	1st Pd - Planning	8:30 - 9:15
1st Pd (RAM)	8:30-9:15	1st Pd (RAM)	8:30-9:15	2nd pd - 8RA 1	9:18 - 10:03
2nd pd - 8RA 1	9:18 - 10:03	2nd pd - Core 1 (HR)	9:18 - 10:11	3rd pd - 8RA 2	10:07 - 10:53
3rd pd - 8RA 2	10:07 - 10:53	3rd pd - Core 2	10:14 - 11:40	Planning/Lunch	10:55 - 11:40
4th pd - Core 1 (HR)	10:57 - 11:50	7 Lunch	10:30 - 11:34	4th pd - 7RA 1	11:44 - 12:31
5th pd - Core 2	11:53 - 1:21	4th pd - 7RA 1	11:44 - 12:31	5th pd - 7RA 2	12:35 - 1:20
8 Lunch	12:18 - 1:19	5th pd - 7RA 2	12:35 - 1:20	Planning	1:22 - 1:34
6th pd - Core 3	1:24 - 2:17	6th pd - Core 3	1:24 - 2:17	6th pd - 6RA 1	1:38-2:23
7th pd - Core 4	2:20 - 3:15	7th pd - Core 4	2:20 - 3:15	7th pd - 6RA 2	2:27-3:15

Breakfast & Lunch Information

All GCS schools currently offer free breakfast at every school location, including Greenville Middle. For the 2023-24 school year, Greenville Middle will also be offering **free lunches** to all students. No application is needed!

Students who purchase snacks in the cafeteria line will need to bring cash. Funds can be added to student accounts so that students may purchase snacks during lunch. Snacks may not be sold if students do not have cash or funds in their account.

Students who wish to purchase snacks and ice cream on designated days during the school year from the PTA may bring cash. Most items cost \$1.00.

Breakfast Procedures:

- At 7:45 AM, students who wish to eat breakfast will line up and go through the breakfast line.
- Students must have IDs scanned to check out at the register.
- A staff member will direct students to the first two tables, with all seats filled in.
- Starting at 7:45 AM, grade levels will be dismissed, from the cafeteria, to their grade level holding areas.
- If a student intends to eat breakfast, they must do so at 7:45 AM or immediately upon arrival to school. Students will not be allowed to go back to the cafeteria from holding.
- Any student who wishes to eat breakfast must in the breakfast line by 8:20 AM. Breakfast will not be served after 8:20 AM.

Lunch Procedures:

- Remain in a line walking to lunch and while waiting for lunch in the cafeteria.
- Remain seated during lunch and facing forward and sit at teacher-designated tables.
- Refrain from making excessive noise.
- All food is to be eaten in the cafeteria. No food or drink is to be taken out of the cafeteria.
- Keep the cafeteria as clean as possible. Students are expected to throw away their items from the tables and the floor around them. All litter is to be deposited in the designated trash cans.
- Students shall not leave the cafeteria until dismissed by a teacher.

***No outside food may be delivered to school (for example, Door Dash). See Visitors/Volunteers section in this handbook for additional information about eating lunch with their student.**

Cell Phones & Wireless Headphones Policy

Students are not permitted to possess personal electronic devices, including cell phones during the school day. They should be turned off and stored in the student's locker upon arrival. Smart watches should remain at home. Wireless headphones/earbuds are not permitted during the day. **Leave wireless earbuds at home.** Plug-in earbuds are best. All electronic devices are the responsibility of the student. Greenville Middle is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced cell phones or earbuds.

Dress Code

The following standards apply and will be vigorously enforced. Administrators have final say on all dress code matters and may make additions to these standards as they deem necessary.

1. The school-issued student ID must be worn around the neck and visible at all times. No defacing of the image is permitted (see next section for greater guidance).
2. Hoodies, including clothing and jackets with hoods, cannot be worn during the school day. Hoodies and clothing with hoods must be placed in the student's locker upon arrival (or at designated locker break).
3. No skin showing through pants, jeans, or shorts above the knee.
4. No pants or shorts hanging below the waistline. Pants are to remain pulled up so as not to expose underwear.
5. The length of skirts, skorts, dresses, and jumpers must be no shorter than the top of the student's ID when placed horizontally, two times, at the top of the student's knee cap.
6. Snug-fitting bottoms, such as leggings or biker shorts must have the backside covered by a shirt, sweater, dress, non-hooded sweatshirt, etc.
7. Low-cut tops and mid-drift shirts are not permitted. Student's mid-section must be covered.
8. Tank tops must be ID width at shoulders.
9. Undergarments should be covered at all times. See-through garments are not permitted.
10. Pajamas, pajama bottoms, or anything resembling pajamas are not permitted.
11. No profane or vulgar language, and no drawings containing alcohol, tobacco or illegal drug advertisements, etc. on any part of student clothing, bookbags, lunch bags, jewelry, etc.
12. Hats, bandanas (any color), shower or hair caps, skullies, curlers or sunglasses are not permitted.
13. Shoes must be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers and shower shoes are not permitted.

Students who violate the dress code may find something to wear from the Clothing Closet, or may call home to have appropriate garment(s) brought to the school. If a student refuses school-provided clothing or the parent(s) cannot be contacted for a change of clothing, the student will be placed in ISS until alternate clothing is made available.

GCS School Counseling

Guidance services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupations information, career information, study help, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any other questions the student would like to discuss with a counselor. Students must have an appointment and/or pass to meet with the counselor.

6th Grade School Counselor: Megan Giordani, mgiordani@greenville.k12.sc.us, 355-5653

7th Grade School Counselor: Darrah Heinold, dheinold@greenville.k12.sc.us, 355-5619

8th Grade School Counselor: Pamela Cao, pcao@greenville.k12.sc.us, 355-5622

Mental Health Counselor: Krista Smith, nd0212391@greenville.k12.sc.us, 355-5662

Health & Wellness Education

Social Emotional Learning is a term used to describe traits students need to be prepared for opportunities in life, education, and employment. GCS has committed to building a better graduate, which includes social and emotional skills like perseverance, integrity, work ethic, and interpersonal skills. These are all skills that the business community has emphasized are needed for our students to become healthy and effective employees.

The GCS Mental Health Resources Program is called Let's Talk. The name of our SEL curriculum is Rethink SEL, and it is created by Rethink Ed.

ID Requirements

As part of our school district's continuing efforts to provide a safe learning environment, all middle school students and staff will be required to wear Photo ID badges.

- Students must wear their ID badge, with their grade-level lanyard, whenever they are on campus, on field trips, or school functions. The photo side of the ID should be visible at all times.
- Students who are not wearing their ID badges when they arrive in the morning will be given a temporary ID and will serve lunch detention (including those with IDs in pockets and bookbags). IDs must be worn at all times.
- Students should make every effort to keep up with their ID badge and must wear it every day. Lost, stolen, or defaced ID badges must be replaced at a cost of \$5.00 (new lanyard included). Students are not allowed to wear any items on their ID badge other than a house key.
- Stickers, writing, or other defacing of the ID badge will not be permitted.
- Student ID badges will also be used to purchase lunch and check out media books as well as textbooks.
- After the first week of school, students not wearing their ID badge will be subject to disciplinary action.

Late Work & Redo/Retake Policy

Late Work Policy

- When class time is provided, students are expected complete work assigned in class. If a student did not use their class time appropriately, a teacher may deny the opportunity to turn in the assignment late.
- If an assignment is eligible to be turned in late, students have 5 school days from the assignment being recorded in the gradebook to submit their work.
- For assignments not handed in, an NHI (50%) will be recorded in the gradebook.
- Late assignments may result in the loss of student participation privileges in celebratory events or reward times that occur periodically throughout the year.
- If there are special circumstances, these must be communicated to the teacher by the parent and/or student.

Redo/Retake Policy

- Major assessments of 69 or below are eligible for a retake or corrections.
- Students must complete a teacher conference, alternate assignment, tutorial, and/or test corrections.
- Students may retake an assessment one time.
- The highest grade achieved will be recorded in the gradebook.
- Retake major assessments must be of similar length and subject matter as the original test.
- Retake must take place during the best method for both teacher and student.
- Retake must be completed within one week of the original major grade or by a time frame approved by their teacher.
- Students with absences still have the opportunity to have a retake for a make-up exam within 5 school days.
- All students must request a make-up opportunity directly from the teacher.
- Performance-Based Assessments are NOT eligible for retake. The teacher will allow for an alternate assessment when a student is absent for a performance, if the student informs the teacher at least two weeks in advance.

Medications

The health room is merely an emergency station and is not equipped to take care of any serious illness. Students will only be dismissed from school in case of illness from the Health Room. Students may not contact parents regarding illness using personal cell phones or a classroom phone. If a student becomes ill at school, he/she must go to the Health Room, where the nurse will evaluate whether or not that student needs to go home. Parents are to notify the school nurse, in writing, if any health conditions pertinent to the student's wellbeing such as coronavirus, asthma, epilepsy, toxic reactions to bee stings, diabetes, bone and joint problems, etc.

Immunizations: The state requires that each student present the school with a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization or Certification of Exemption. Students who do not have immunization records on file with the school will not be allowed to attend school. All 7th graders must have the Tdap vaccine in order to attend school.

Medication: ALL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION must have written parental and physician authorization before medication can be administered at school. [Form MED-1](#).

- All PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION must be administered as labeled and OTC medications may not exceed package directions.
- ALL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION must be brought to school by a legal guardian or designated person over 18 years of age and given directly to the school nurse or designated school personnel.
- OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS may be provided by the parent if it is in a new - unopened container, clearly labeled with the student's name and is accompanied by written [parental permission. Form MED-3](#).
- Parents are responsible for knowing the expiration date of any medication brought to school and replacing medication before the expiration date. School Nurses will not administer any medication passed the expiration date.
- ALL MEDICATION MUST BE IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER.
- No medication containing ASPIRIN can be given at school without a doctor's authorization. This includes but is not limited to Pepto Bismol, Excedrin, and some OTC cold medications.
- If your child forgets to take a morning dose of medication, school nurses are not allowed to give that dose at school. Parents may come to the Health Room to give the missed dose.
- Students with medication prescribed by a health care provider contained in the original packaging and appropriately labeled may carry these medications, may self-monitor and may self-administer these medications only if we have permission from the prescribing doctor and the parent/legal guardian. If there is sufficient evidence that unsupervised self-monitoring or self-medicating would seriously jeopardize the safety of the student or others, the school district may refuse to allow the student to carry his/her medication. Examples of medications that are approved for self-administering are asthma inhalers, insulin for diabetic students, and Epi-Pens for severe allergic reactions.

Contact the school nurse, at 864-355-5607, with any questions.

Personal Electronic Devices

Chromebooks: Greenville Middle is proud to be a Personalized Learning school, with each student having access to a Lenovo Chromebook. Expectations for the use of Chromebooks include:

Students will...

- bring the Chromebook to school every day fully charged.
- protect the device from damage or defacement.
- practice responsible digital citizenship at all times.
- never leave their Chromebook unattended.
- save all work in the cloud. Local files cannot be retrieved if the device is damaged or stolen.
- not connect personal accounts (such as iTunes) to the device.
- not download or access inappropriate material at home or at school
- never give their login information to other students.
- remember that if they give their device to others to use, the student is responsible for any content viewed on the device, any material downloaded, and any damage that may occur while it is out of their possession.

Each student will be issued a Chromebook provided by Greenville County Schools. All Chromebook forms must be completed and turned in to the school. The Chromebooks are permitted to go home with students for educational use. However, they will be responsible for maintaining their good condition and returning the Chromebooks at the end of the school year. Students will also be responsible for ensuring their Chromebook is charged for school each day.

Consequences to Violations of Student Chromebook Policy

Level 1 offenses may include:

- Consecutive failure to bring device to class
- Continuously leaving Chromebook unsupervised
- Repeated failure to charge battery/low battery/dead battery
- Sharing passwords
- Changing passwords without permission from Administrator or Technology Support
- Plagiarism
- Defacing computers (e.g., stickers, markers, destruction of ID/serial number)
- Removing District labels or tags
- Clearing web browser history
- Creating, accessing, downloading, or distributing non-educational materials (e.g., games, music, videos, images) without permission
- Accessing/participating in chat rooms, chat documents, bulletin boards, or blogs, without teacher/administration permission
- Failure to follow teacher directives
- Failure to be polite and courteous digital citizens
- Consecutive failure to bring device to class
- Unintentional possession of another student's device
- Horseplay (running, throwing, kicking, mishandling, etc.)

Consequences can include: Student/Parent Conference or Call, Principal's Detention, Suspension (ISS or OSS), Restitution (money paid in compensation for loss or damage), Removal of unauthorized files and folders, Restriction of the Internet privileges, Restriction of District-issued device.

Level 2 offenses may include:

- Downloading, posting, or distributing material that:
 - Are harmful or prejudicial to others (e.g., defamatory or libelous)
 - Are profane, pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit (e.g. photos, music, images, videos)
 - Are illegal (e.g., copyrighted materials)
 - Refers to weapons, alcohol, drugs, guns, gangs
 - Constitutes gambling
 - Are restricted

- Engaging in online activity that threatens, intimidates, bullies, harasses, discriminates, or defames
- Intentionally destroying hardware or software
- Engaging in theft (intentional possession of another student's device)
- Engaging in any illegal activity
- Harming or destroying another user's data
- Creating or sharing a computer virus
- Disrupting the network or the educational process
- Hacking into someone else's account

Consequences can include: Student/Parent Conference or Call, Principal's Detention, Suspension (ISS or OSS), Restitution (money paid in compensation for loss or damage), Removal of unauthorized files and folders, Restriction of the Internet privileges, Restriction of District-issued Chromebook, Court referral/Criminal charges, Alternative School Placement, Expulsion.

If a violation of the Student Chromebook and Acceptable Use Policy violates other rules of the student handbook, consequences appropriate for violations of those rules may also be imposed.

Textbooks: Textbooks will be accessed electronically this school year. Access codes will be provided by teachers. Math books, which are consumable, will be issued to students and do not need to be returned at the end of the school year. If any textbooks are issued to students, students are responsible for paying for a textbook if the book is lost or damaged.

Tardy / Early Dismissals

Tardies

Punctuality is one of the most important skills that a person can learn. Students are expected to be in their individual classes on time. Late arrival (tardiness) results in interruptions to the learning process – not only for the tardy student but for the other students in the class as well. Additionally, the tardy student misses important instruction.

- Students must be inside and seated in their 1st class by 8:30 am.
- All students arriving in the building late should immediately report to the Attendance Clerk for a tardy pass.
- Bus riders will receive a "Late Bus" pass. "Late Bus" passes are "excused" tardies.
- Car riders will receive an "excused" or "unexcused" tardy pass.

Early Dismissals

A parent must submit a note the morning of any early dismissal. The parent or guardian will be required to come into the office to sign the dismissal slip. If anyone other than the parent or guardian picks up the student, identification will be necessary before the student is permitted to leave, and they must be included in the student file as an authorized contact, or named in the Parent Note.

- Early Dismissals should be done prior to 2:30 PM.

Water Bottles

- Students may bring a clear, plastic water bottle to school. We have water fountains as well as self-filling water stations throughout the school for students to fill up their water bottles.

Visitors / Volunteers

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST RECEIVE DISTRICT APPROVAL PRIOR TO VOLUNTEERING AT ANY SCHOOL/CENTER OR CHAPERONING ANY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 2-WEEKS FOR THE APPROVAL PROCESS.

Greenville County Schools (GCS), in an effort to ensure the safety of all of our students, has implemented additional security checks for school volunteers. All volunteers must submit an online application to the district and receive clearance from the district before volunteering at any school/center or chaperoning any school field trip.

Volunteers are now identified by two different categories: Level I or Level II. The application is the same for level I and level II (you must be 18 or older to become a volunteer) . The application process for each is detailed here:

<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Parents/main.asp?titleid=volunteers>

LEVEL I - This level requires the presence and supervision of a GCS employee at all times. Level I volunteers must have a National Sex Offender Registry check conducted every time they volunteer at the school (this is the current process each time you check into a school and/or district office). Level I volunteers may volunteer in classrooms, work in the Media Center, and participate in school activities on campus as long as staff members are present.

LEVEL I application process:

- Use the links on the GCS website to complete the Volunteer Application Form, a Level I volunteer only selects those functions not containing (Volunteer Level II) in the name.
- Once approved the Level I volunteer is notified by email.
- Level I volunteers must sign in each time they volunteer. Photo identification must be presented each time for verification.

LEVEL II - This level allows interaction with students without a GCS employee present. Level II volunteers must have a National Sex Offender Registry check conducted every time they volunteer at the school as well as a criminal background check good for three years. Chaperones for field trips are required to be a Level II volunteer, regardless of the destination (YOU MUST BE 21 or older TO BE A FIELD TRIP CHAPERONE) .

LEVEL II application process:

- Use the links on the GCS website to complete the Volunteer Application Form, a Level II volunteer can select all functions available including those with (Volunteer Level II) in the name.
- Step #4 is where you select "functions". By selecting Volunteer Level II functions the system will conduct a criminal background check.

LUNCH VISITORS- If you plan on eating lunch with your student, please go online and confirm the time your student eats lunch (lunch schedules are posted on our website). Please sign in at the office. You will need a driver's license, which will be scanned, in order to provide you with an ID badge. Our office staff will provide you an ID that must be worn at all times when on campus. You will be escorted to the cafeteria to meet your student. Please sit with your student at one of the round tables.

Visitors are not permitted to access any part of the building. Once you have finished eating lunch, please return to the office to be signed out.



MENTORS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving as a mentor to one student in our school, please contact a school counselor:

6th Grade School Counselor: Megan Giordani, mgiordani@greenville.k12.sc.us, 355-5653

7th Grade School Counselor: Darrah Heinold, dheinold@greenville.k12.sc.us, 355-5619

8th Grade School Counselor: Pamela Cao, pcao@greenville.k12.sc.us, 355-5622

Requirements:

Mentor Training (no more than 1 hour)

Lunch once a month