APPROVED

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G C SCHOOL BOARD

GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECONDARY STUDENT HANDBOOK

George County Middle School
George County High School

2026 – 2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Table of Contents

Administration	Page 3	English Language Learners	Page 16
Bell Schedules	Page 4	Homeless	Page 16
GCSD Mission Statement	Page 5	Academics	Page 17
Drug & Alcohol Free Schools	Page 5	Honors Classes	Page 17
Tobacco Free Schools	Page 5	Curriculum	Page 17
Safe Schools	Page 5	Career/Technical	Page 17
Weapons	Page 5	Advanced Placement	Page 17
Guns	Page 5	Alternative School	Page 17
Use of Other Weapons	Page 6	Special Education	Page 18
Possession of other Weapons	Page 6	Collegiate Academy	Page 18
Anti-Bullying Policy	Pages 6-7	Dual Enrollment/Credit	Page 18
EPA Regulation	Page 8	Credit Recovery/Summer School	Page 19
Class Demonstrations	Page 8	Make Up Work	Page 19
Cyberbullying Laws	Page 8	Request for Assignments	Page 19
Sexual Harassment	Page 9	Grading Scale/Classification	Page 19
Asbestos Awareness	Page 9	GPA/Rank	Page 20
Discrimination	Page 10	Graduation Requirements	Page 21
Parental Consent Requirements	Page 10	Honors Graduates	Page 21
Grievance Procedures	Page 10	December Completion	Page 21
Student Surveys	Page 10-11	Graduation Ceremony	Page 21
Student Organizations	Page 11-12	Academic Honors	Page 21
Gang Activity	Page 12	Scholarships	Page 21
Care of School Property	Page 12	Senior Awards	Page 21-22
FERPA	Page 12-13	Hall of Fame	Page 22
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001	Page 13	Mississippi Scholars	Page 23
Student Rights	Page 13-14	Tech Master	Page 24
Parent & School Communications	Page 14	Diploma Options /Endorsements	Page 25-28
Parent Conferences	Page14	Cheating	Page 29
Active Parent/Student	Page 14	Progress Reports	Page 29
Parent's Right to Know	Page 15	Grade Reports	Page 29
Title I Parental Involvement	Page 15	Grading System	Page 29

Table of Contents

Testing	Page 29	Sportsmanship	Page 57
End of Course Testing	Page 29	Student Elections	Page 58
ACT	Page 30	Safety and Security	Page 58
Distance Learning	Page 30	Student Services	Page 59
Admissions	Page 31-32	School Nurse	Page 59
Student Attendance	Page 33-37	Medication	Page 59
Student Conduct/Discipline	Page 38-41	Telephone	Page 60
Student Transportation	Page 42-46	Food Services	Page 60
Technology	Page 47-56	Special Education	Page 60
Acceptable Use Computer Policy	Page 48	School Insurance	Page 60
Technologies Covered	Page 49	Counseling	Page 60
Usage Policies	Page 49	Schedule Changes	Page 60
Consequences of Policy Violations	Page 49	Visitors	Page 60
Cyberbullying	Page 49	Student Record	Page 61-63
District Access to Email	Page 50	Forms	
Email Communication	Page 50	Alma Mater	
Filtering	Page 50		
Internet/Network Access	Page 50-51		
Limitations of Liability	Page 52		
Mobile Devices	Page 52		
Personal Safety	Page 53		
Plagiarism	Page 53		
Prohibited Actions	Page 53-54		
Security	Page 54		
Social Media	Page 55		
Student Activities	Page 56		
Fundraisers	Page 56		
School Newspaper-GCHS	Page 56		
School Yearbook-GCHS	Page 56		
Initiations	Page 56		
Athletic Eligibility	Page 56		
Athletic Participation	Page 56		
Athletic Contests	Page 56		

GCSD 2026-2027 Academic Session Calendar

July 27-30	Teacher Workdays
July 31	Students Return
September 3	Progress Reports
September 7	Labor Day Holiday
September 28-Oct. 2	Fall Break
October 9	End of 1st Nine Weeks
October 22	Report Cards
November 19	Progress Reports
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 18	End of 2nd Nine Weeks 60% Day
December 21-January 6	Christmas Break
January 6	Teacher Workday
January 7	Students Return
January 14	Report Cards
January 18	MLK Holiday
February 8-9	Winter Break
February 11	Progress Reports
March 12	End of 3rd Nine Weeks
March 19	Teacher Workday
March 25	Report Cards
March26 March 29-April 2	Good Friday/Easter Spring Break
April 15	Progress Reports
May 26	End of 4th Nine Weeks- Students Last Day
May 27	Teacher Workday

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George County School District
2026-2027 Dress Code

This dress code outlines the only acceptable form of attire approved to be worn by students in this district. Every component of the student attire should be appropriate in length and/or size. The principal shall have the final decision about the appropriateness of the length/size of clothing. All teachers will monitor student dress and send those students who appear to be out of compliance to the principal at the beginning of the day.

Elementary Pre-K - 6th Gr

SHIRTS
-Any Solid Color Button up or Polo Shirt
-School specific spirit shirts are allowed each day. Alternate days may be designated by principal (examples: House, District, etc.)

SHOES
-FULLY Closed Toe and FULLY Closed Heel shoes must be worn.
-Athletic Shoes, Dress Shoes, and Boots may be worn.
-NO Crocs, cleats, sliders, flip flops, or house slippers will be allowed.

PANTS/SKIRTS/SHORTS/JUMPERS/DRESSES/ SKORTS
-Colors - Navy blue, khaki, black, or gray
-Pants, skorts, jumpers, dresses, shorts, and skirts must be appropriate fingertip length or longer.
-Blue, black, gray, and khaki jeans will be allowed. Must NOT have holes, rips, or expose skin.
-Blue, black, gray, and khaki jean shorts and skirts will be allowed. Must NOT have holes or rips and must be appropriate fingertip length or longer.
-Leggings may be worn under skirts, skorts, and dresses only and not as a stand-alone pant option.
-Yoga pants ARE NOT ALLOWED.
-Pajamas ARE NOT ALLOWED.

PULLOVER SWEATSHIRTS/HOODIES/ SWEATERS/TURTLENECKS
-Must not advertise any school prohibited substance or be in any way lewd, profane, vulgar, or threatening to any group.

JACKETS/COATS
-Must not advertise any school prohibited substance or be in any way lewd, profane, vulgar, or threatening to any group.

HATS
No Hats or head coverings are allowed inside the building unless approved by the administration.

Secondary 7th – 12th Grades

DRESS AND GROOMING CODE - PHILOSOPHY
Dress and grooming codes are based upon certain sound foundations, not just arbitrarily selected and dictatorially enforced for no cause. Laws surrounding indecent exposure, conditions necessitating safety and personal well-being, health and sanitation are some of the basic fundamentals. Conditions conducive to learning must not be impaired because of temporary and individualized fads. In order for students to be able to cope with even larger restrictions and responsibilities, they must learn while still in school to observe basic regulations set forth for the group as a whole. Keeping this total concept in mind and realizing a need to satisfy peer group desires for current fashions, the Board will make an effort periodically to restructure the dress and grooming code according to current conditions.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE
Clothing and other items that students wear to school must not disrupt the educational process nor create any form of school disturbance. In addition, but not limited to the list below, the student must follow these guidelines:
• Students will be required to wear clothing as garments are intended to be worn.
• Length of shorts, skirts and dresses must be school appropriate, non-revealing, and fingertip length.
• Leggings/tights may be worn with shorts, skirts, or tops that are school appropriate and non-revealing.
• Safe and appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
• Appropriate undergarments must be worn and not seen.
• Pants or shorts must be worn at the waistline with no exposure of undergarments.

Inappropriate items include:
• Clothing with logos or wording promoting/referring to alcohol, tobacco, weapons, or drugs.
• Clothing containing slogans or logos depicting vandalism, bigotry, violence, sexual connotations, suicide, fraternities, sororities, secret organizations, or those with an inappropriate double meaning.
• Any top that is revealing. Examples are tank tops, cut-off tops, tube tops, halter tops, racer-back tops, bathing suits, sports bras, or midriffs, muscle shirts, low cut tops, spaghetti straps, off the shoulder, etc.
• Spiked accessories and chains are prohibited.
• Clothing with holes, cuts, or tears revealing inappropriate areas of the body.
• Hats, caps, bandannas, do-rags, visors, sunglasses, "hoodies," or other headwear.
• Pajamas, house slippers, bathrobes, blankets, etc.
• Any items symbolic of gang attire.

In all instances, the appropriateness or inappropriateness of school dress or appearance will be determined by school administrators, considering the style or manner in which the clothing is worn or its fit.
Students who are dressed inappropriately will be required to call parents to bring a change of clothes that conforms to the dress code, or they will be referred to the discipline ladder.
ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHALL ADHERE TO THIS DRESS CODE ON ALL SCHOOL CAMPUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

APPROVED
SCHOOL BOARD

GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, smart glasses, etc.

At their own risk, students may bring their electronic devices to school. **The device must remain on silent at all times** so as not to distract from instructional time during the school day. The teachers may declare their classrooms as "No Electronic Device Zones." Any student in violation will receive a discipline referral. **The teachers who choose to monitor the use of electronic devices in their classrooms will be allowed to take up student's devices when used without permission, and turn it into the school administrator to hold it for the remainder of day in the office.** Inappropriate use of an electronic device is not allowed, and students who are defiant or refuse to comply will be sent to the principal's office for disciplinary action. **Out-going calls, incoming calls, camera use, social media, or other uses are not allowed. Any student who videos a fight or any other inappropriate activity on campus and shares it to social media or via text message may be subject to suspension, alternative school and/or expulsion.**

The school principal may declare the school a "device-free" zone during school hours.

Violation of the electronic device policy will be referred to the office and the student will face the following consequences:

1. 1st Offense – Warning
2. 2nd & Following Offenses -- Student will be placed on the discipline ladder and parent must pick up the device in the office.

Parent, if you have an emergency and need to contact your child, please call the office and we will contact your son/daughter. Please do not try to contact them by cell phone. George County Schools, its faculty and staff are NOT responsible for any damaged, missing, or stolen electronic devices. If a student has an electronic device and it is damaged or stolen, schools WILL NOT utilize administrative time to investigate the incident nor will the district or schools take any financial responsibility for electronic device or charges.

Parents and students must also sign and adhere to the George County School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy.

STATE TEST WARNING

Any student caught using or in possession of an electronic device during State Testing will have his/her test invalidated, which means he/she fails the test.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to comply with the Electronic Device Policy.

Student Signature & Date

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

ADMINISTRATION

George County High School 9284 Old Highway 63 South Lucedale, MS 39452 601-947-3116	George County Middle School 330 Church Street Lucedale, MS 39452 601-947-3106
Mr. Jason Holland, Principal	Shelia Taylor, Principal
Ms. Brittany Brown, Assistant Principal	Christina Havard, Assistant Principal
Ms. Kristin Davis, Assistant Principal	Tyler Williams, Assistant Principal
Ms. Valerie Pierce, Assistant Principal	
Mr. Jeff Mathis, Career Technical Director	
Mr. Jason Woodruff, Asst. Career Technical Director	
Mr. James Ray, Athletic Director Title IX Coordinator	
Mr. Tyler Williams, GCMS Athletic Coordinator	
Mr. Brandon Davis, GCHS Athletic Coordinator	
Ms. Julie Durgin, 504 Coordinator	



GCHS Bell Schedule 2026-2027

Student arrival may begin at 7:15 and instruction begins at 7:40.

Regular Schedule			Lunch Waves	
7:33	7:40	**Student Arrival**	1st Lunch	11:00-11:26
7:40	9:16	**1st Block***	2nd Lunch	11:34-12:00
9:21	10:55	**2nd Block***	3rd Lunch	12:08-12:34
11:00	1:08	**3rd Block***	4th Lunch	12:42-1:08
1:13	2:47	**4th Block**		
****There is a 5 min transition time between class changes.***				

GCMS Bell Schedule 2026-2027

Student arrival may begin at 7:15 and instruction begins at 7:40.

Period	Times	Minutes
1st	7:40-8:35	55
7th grade ELA/Math	7:40-9:02	82
2nd	8:39-9:29	55
8th Grade ELA/Math	8:40-10:02	82
7th Grade ELA/Math	9:05-10"28	83
3rd	9:33-10:28	55
8th grade ELA/Math	10:05-11:27	82
4th	10:32-11:27	55
5th	11:31-12:50	79 min. (55 class and 24 lunch)
7th/8th ELA/MATH	11:31-1:18	106 min (82 class, 24 lunch)
6th	12:53-1:46	53
7th/8th ELA/MATH	1:21-2:43	82
7th	1:50-2:43	53

Lunch Waves:

1st- 11:31-11:55

2nd- 12:00-12:24

3rd- 12:26-12:50

MISSION

George County School District

The mission of the George County School District, along with our community partners, is to prepare and empower our students with the knowledge and skills that are essential in being college and/or career ready.

Notices of Assurance and Compliance

DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE SCHOOLS

It is the policy of George County School District to maintain drug and alcohol free schools and workplaces. This includes any school building; any school premises; any school-owned vehicle or any school-appointed vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; and off school property during any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic event where students are under the jurisdiction of the school. Students who violate this policy may be suspended or expelled and referred to law enforcement authorities for appropriate action.. Non-school individuals are subject to removal from school premises and arrest.

TOBACCO FREE SCHOOLS

Student possession or use of tobacco or tobacco products at school, on the way to and from school or at any school function or activity will be referred to the Assistant Principal for punishment as a step 5 offense.

SAFE SCHOOLS

The administration of George County School District believes that all schools and all facilities should be safe, orderly places of learning. There are procedures and safeguards for crisis management and response, building and grounds security and maintenance, and codes of conduct for students, staff and patrons that promote the safety and well-being of all concerned.

WEAPONS

The George County Board of Education recognizes that the possession of firearms or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other that duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable risk of injury or death to district employees, students, visitors, and guests. Because of such dangers, the board hereby prohibits the possession of firearms or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such firearms or weapons.

GUNS

Any student who has in his/her possession any type of gun, operable or inoperable, while he/she is in school, on school property, on the school bus, on the way to and from school, or at any school function or activity will immediately be suspended and recommended for expulsion. The principal where the violation occurred and/or the principal of the school where the offending student is assigned will initiate such recommendation. Additionally, the student committing the offense will be referred to local law enforcement officials for criminal prosecution in accordance with State and Federal laws prohibiting such infractions.

USE OF OTHER WEAPONS

Any student who uses or threatens to use any object, etc. which is defined as a weapon under State and Federal Code, regardless of its original purpose, for a weapon while he/she is in school, or at any school function or activity will be immediately suspended and recommended for expulsion. Examples of such weapons are, but not limited to, knives, billy clubs, chains, tasers, pepper spray, razors, box cutters, etc. Additionally, any student who uses or threatens another person with such a weapon will be referred to law enforcement officials for appropriate action.

POSSESSION OF OTHER WEAPONS

Possession by students of any object, etc. which is defined as a weapon under State and Federal Code, regardless of its original purpose, that may be considered a weapon while he/she is in school, on school property, on the school bus, on the way to and from school, or at any school function or activity shall be considered in violation of this policy. The principal in accordance with School Board Policy will administer suspension and recommendation for expulsion for violation of this policy.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The George County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The George County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official. The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying. The District official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined as harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the George County School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior. Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e)

Staff Protection

A person guilty of simple assault, as defined by statute, upon superintendent, principal, teacher or other instructional personnel, school attendance officer, school bus driver, or other individuals specified in state law while these individuals are acting within the scope of their duty, office, or employment shall be punished by a fine of not more than one-thousand dollars ($1,000) or imprisonment for not more than five (5) years or both. (Section 97-3-7, Mississippi Code, amended)

A person guilty of aggravated assault, as defined by statute, upon and individual named above shall be punished by a fine of not more than five-thousand dollars ($5,000) or by imprisonment for not more than (30) years or both. (Section 97-3-7, Mississippi Code, amended)

STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR

Students and employees in the George County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. This complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

I. Definitions

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

II. Procedures for Processing a Complaint

Any student, school employee or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student, school employee or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman. The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official

will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the District. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing.

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the District official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal within ten (10) working days. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.

Environmental Protection Agency
Regulation 763.93

"Notice to Parents, Teachers, Employees, Patrons, and Friends of the George County School District: In conformance with Environmental Protection Agency Regulation 763.93, a certified EPA Inspector has inspected all buildings in this School District for the presence of asbestos. A management plan has been developed for each school site documenting their findings. A copy of the management plan is on file in each Principal's office at the Transportation Office, 14214 Hwy. 26 West, Lucedale, Mississippi. Interested persons may review the plan at these locations."

CLASS DEMONSTRATIONS
All items/equipment brought to school for the purpose of class demonstrations will require a signed permission note from the parent and must have prior permission from an administrator. These are items that are normally not allowed: skateboards, archery bows, etc. Appropriate safety gear must be utilized.

State Cyberbullying Laws
Mississippi Criminal Liability

1. Cyberstalking

MS Code 97-45-15: Unlawful to use electronic mail or other communication for threats, repeated harassment, knowingly making false statements intended to threaten, terrify or harass, or to knowingly permit an electronic communication device under the person's control to be used for any purpose under the statute. Felony: Up to 2 years imprisonment, $5000 fine

2. Obscene Electronic and Telecommunications

MS Code 97-29-045: Unlawful to make obscene, lewd or lascivious comments, requests, proposals, or suggestions with intent to abuse, annoy, intimidate, threaten, terrify, or harass; fail to disclose identity in an telecommunication with intent to annoy, abuse, intimidate or harass; repeated telecommunications intended to harass; knowingly permit a computer or telephone under a person's control to be used for any purposes prohibited under the statute. First Offense: Up to 6 months imprisonment, $500 fine

3. Posting Injurious Messages

MS Code 97-45-17: Unlawful to post a message through use of any communication, including the Internet or a computer or other electronic communications (ie, text messaging) for the purpose of causing injury to a person. Felony: Up to 5 years imprisonment, $10,000 fine

4. Certain Acts Against Students Prohibited
MS Code 37-11-20: Unlawful to intimidate, threaten or coerce by force or threats of force any student for the purpose of interfering with right of student to attend classes. Misdemeanor: Up to 6 months imprisonment, $500 fine.

5. Abuse of School Employee

MS Code 37-11-21: Unlawful to abuse a school employee in the presence of students during school or at school related function.

6. Photographing, Filming In Violation of Expectation of Privacy

MS Code 97-29-63: Unlawful to film, photograph, record another person in a place where the person is in a state of undress and has a reasonable expectation of privacy (ie, bathroom, locker room). Felony: Up to 5 years imprisonment, $5,000 fine

7. Accessory Crimes/Directing or Causing Minor to Commit Felony

- Accessory Before the Fact: MS Code 97-1-3; Every person who is an accessory to a felony, before the fact, shall be deemed a principal and shall be punished as such.
- Accessory After the Fact: MS Code 97-1-5; Every person who knowingly helps conceal, aid, or assist a felon with intent to help the felon avoid arrest, conviction or punishment. Penalty: Up to 5 years, or $1,000 fine.
- Directing/Causing Minor to Commit Felony: MS Code 97-1-6; Any person over the age of 17 who shall direct or cause any person under the age of 17 to commit a crime which would be a felony if committed by an adult. Penalty: Felony, Up to 20 years imprisonment, $10,000 fine.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
Sexual harassment of employees and students will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment shall include, but not be limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact which interferes with a person's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or otherwise offensive environment. Other types of sexual harassment may include jokes, stories, pictures, or objects that are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse or demean.

- Students should first report claims of sexual harassment to a teacher, counselor, or school administrator.
- Teachers should first report claims to the school administrator or directly to Phyllis McDonald at the district office.

Asbestos Awareness
In accordance with AHERA regulations, school districts are required to perform several activities with regards to Asbestos in schools. One of these requirements is to provide notification to all parents, teachers, and employees of our ongoing management of ACM's. To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials are inspected every six months by an environmental consulting firm from Flowood, MS. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in a surveillance reports as part of the management plan. A copy of this surveillance report, along with a copy of the management plan, and all supplementary information is located in the office

at each school and at the central service office. These documents are available for review at either of these locations.

DISCRIMINATION

In compliance with Title IX, the George County School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability, sex, race, creed, color, or national origin in admission or access to benefits of education services or treatment of employment in its programs and activities to the extent provided by law. For questions or concerns, contact the district Title IX Coordinator, James Ray.

PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENTS

Signed parental consent or acknowledgment is required for the following at George County High School:

- ✓ Receipt of the GCSD Secondary Handbook.
- ✓ Participation in school-sponsored trips.
- ✓ Administration of medications.
- ✓ Technology/Internet usage agreements.

Alternative School Placement Appeal

Goss vs. Lopez

All students who are recommended to alternative school are entitled to due process. Students may appeal the alternative school placement decision to a Discipline Review Board. The next level for appeal will be with the school board. All requests for appeals must be in writing and submitted to the school administration within 5 days of the placement decision. Goss vs. Lopez affords a student the right to an informal notice of charges, explanation of the evidence and an opportunity to present his/her version of the story.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Grievances may be directed to the Human Resources Director/Grievance Coordinator. You may write to the above office at George County School District, 494 Cowart Street, Lucedale, MS 39452 or call 601-947-6993. You may also write or call the US Department of Heath, Education and Welfare Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Any student/parent who may have a problem during the course of the school year should go first to the person with whom he/she disagrees. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, he/she should go next to the Building Principal. If he/she is still not satisfied, he/she should continue to the Human Resources Director/Grievance Coordinator, the Superintendent, and finally to the School Board. To appear before the George County School Board, the grievant must submit the request, in writing, to the Superintendent. This procedure should be followed if there is a problem with transportation, food service, or any other division of the school system. For example, if there is a problem with transportation, the person would first go to the bus driver, transportation supervisor, principal, and then continue through the chain of command as outlined above.

Definitions:

- A "grievance" shall be defined as a concern or a problem and shall mean a claim by a student or students that there has been a violation or discriminatory application of policies, procedures, rules, and regulations except that the term "grievance" shall not apply to any matter in which (1) The method of review is prescribed by law, any rules, or regulations having the force or effect of law or (2) situations in which the Board of Education is without authority to act.
- "Party of Interest" shall include the complaint and/or any person who might be involved in the required action or anyone required in order to resolve a grievance.

STUDENT SURVEYS

The George County School Board recognizes surveys can be a valuable resource for schools and the community in determining student needs for educational services. Such collection of student and parent input may be used to assist school staff in decision-making related to curriculum and instruction and in program development and operations. To this end, the board supports the use of appropriate surveys in accordance with the guidelines contained in these regulations.

Prior to administering a survey, the board of education must approve all those that are received by the superintendent that include reference to any of the factors listed below. No student may, without proper parental consent, take part in a survey, analysis, or evaluation in which the primary purpose is to reveal information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sex behavior and attitudes
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
7. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program); or
8. Religious practices, affiliation, or beliefs of the student's parents.

Parents shall have the right to inspect all instructional material that will be used for a survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of a federal program. Prior consent to any such survey, analysis, or evaluation means the prior written consent of the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is emancipated, of the student.

Surveys conducted for other agencies, organizations, or individuals must have the recommendation of the superintendent of schools and the approval of the board of education as to content and purpose. The results of such approved surveys must be shared with the board of education.

Parents/guardians shall have the right to inspect, upon their request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Such requests shall be made in writing with a response to be at least two weeks in advance of any survey to be given.

Overall survey results following decisions must be shared with all parties who request such information.

Parents/Guardians shall be notified at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, of this policy and when enrolling students for the first time in the district schools. This notification must explain that parent/guardians, or students 18 or older, have the right to "opt the student out of participation," in writing, in the following activities:

1. The collection, disclosure, and use of personal information gathered from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to students, such as:
   - College or other post-secondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
   - Book clubs, magazines, and program providing access to low-cost literary products;
   - Curriculum and instructional materials used in schools
   - Test and assessments
   - Student recognition programs; and
   - The sale to students of products or services to raise funds for school-related activities.

EQUAL ACCESS
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The George County School Board is aware that the Equal Access Act (Title VIII of Public Law 98-377) requires that school districts grant equal access to student groups who wish to meet for religious, political, or philosophical purposes, if the school allows other types of non-curriculum-related student groups to meet. The superintendent will establish whatever procedures are necessary to ensure equal access to student groups in this district and will approve student groups use of facilities to conduct meetings provided that:

1. The meeting will take place during open forum. Open forum is defined as non-instructional time during lunch hour, after school or as determined by the building principal.
2. The meeting is voluntary and student initiated. The superintendent and appropriate principal will be assured that only students are promoting such activities and that the students are participating on their own volition. Only students enrolled in the particular school may request meetings at the school.
3. School authorities or district employees do not promote, lead or participate in such meetings. The superintendent or appropriate principal may assign personnel to supervise the meetings. Such supervision will not constitute sponsorship by the district of such meetings.
4. The presence of school authorities or district employees or district personnel at student religious meeting is non-participatory in nature. Any presence of school authorities will be for the purpose of observation only.
5. The meeting will not in any way interfere with the conduct of regular instructional activities of the schools. The school may deny facilities to student if such activities or meetings interfere, or are likely to interfere, with the instructional program.

GANG ACTIVITY

Sec. 37-11-39. Public high school fraternity, sorority, or secret society. Any public high school fraternity, sorority, or secret society organization as defined in section 37-11-37 is hereby declared to be inimical to public free schools and therefore unlawful. This statute supports prohibition for illegal gangs on campus and supporting policies.

Sec. 37-11-43. Public high school fraternity, sorority or secret society; duties of boards of trustees. It shall be the duty of the school board to suspend or expel from high schools under its control, any pupil or pupils who shall be or remain a member of or shall join or promise to join, or be pledged to become a member of, any fraternity, sorority or secret society, as defined in MS Code Sec. 37-11-37.

Student behavior that harasses or threatens other students or school personnel will not be tolerated. The George County School District shall treat hazing, as defined in MS Code Sec. 97-3-105 and stalking, as defined in MS Code Sec. 97-3-107, as serious offenses subject to criminal prosecution. *MS Code Sec. 37-11-37 through 45; Sec. 97-3-105 and 107.*

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY BY STUDENTS

If any student in the George County School District shall willfully destroy, cut, deface, damage, or injure any school building, equipment or other school property, he/she shall be subject to suspension or expulsion and his/her parents, legal guardians or custodians shall be liable for all damages.

The district may institute legal proceedings against and recover damages provided by laws from parents of minor students who maliciously and willfully damage or destroy school property.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT-- FERPA

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records,

without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34CFR 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State Law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001
Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act, Sec. 725

If your family lives in any of the following situations:
- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, RV trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then, your children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

Rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness:

- Continue in the same school they last attended before they became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is the parent's or youth's choice and is feasible. If a staff member of a school sends the child or youth to a school other than the one requested, the staff member must provide a written explanation and offer the right to appeal the decision.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before the family or youth became homeless or the school they last attended, if the parent or youth request school transportation and it is feasible.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, and/or immunization/medical records.
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children or youth served in these programs.

Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student' status as homeless is prohibited

STUDENT RIGHTS

All students in the George County School District have certain basic rights that are outlined by the GCSD policies and are in compliance with the U.S. Constitution, federal law, and the laws of the state of Mississippi.

Right to a Public Education – Students have a right to a public education and the opportunities associated with this right including access to school programs and activities.

Right to Freedom of Expression – Students have the right to express their opinions verbally or in writing as long as they do not disrupt the learning process. The extent to which student speech is protected depends on where and how it is expressed.

Right to Privacy – Students' academic and personal records are confidential and can be inspected only by eligible district personnel or others as described by law (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1975.

Right to Due Process – Students have a right to due process and to disciplinary hearings as outlined by district policy.

Right to Be Free from Unreasonable Search and Seizures – Students have the right to be free from unreasonable search and/or seizure. However, a student's person or personal effects may be searched by an employee when that employee has reasonable suspicion, at the inception of the search, that the student is in possession or control of a weapon, illegal drugs, or other materials that are illegal or in violation of school policy.

In accordance with these basic rights, students are expected to comply with the following rules during school time as well as on school-sponsored trips and activities. Students and their parents should note that administrators have authority to prescribe additional rules of student conduct in order to maintain discipline and an atmosphere appropriate for learning. Problems not specifically addressed in the Code of Conduct will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

PARENT AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS: The intent of our school is to keep the line of communication open between parents and school staff. If you have any questions or concerns regarding absences, grading, or any classroom procedure, the teacher should be contacted first. If you do not receive satisfaction with the response received from the teacher, you may contact the administration of the school. If the issue is unresolved at the school level, then contact the superintendent's office. Parents are expected to update the school when there are any changes in phone number, email address, and/or physical address as soon as the change occurs.

PARENT CONFERENCES: Parents are urged to confer with the teachers concerning their children. However, since interruptions of classes interfere with the learning process for other students, parents are asked to first contact the office to arrange an appointment with the teacher. Teachers shall refer parents to the office if an appointment has not been made for a conference. At the beginning of each course, the teacher will provide the parent with contact information.

ACTIVE PARENT and ACTIVE STUDENT

Active Parent and Active Student are web-based computer programs that allow parents and individual students the ability to view student information on course schedules, attendance, grades and discipline. This service will allow both parties to become more involved in the student's education.

In order to access student information, parents and students must be assigned a username and password. Parents who would like to participate in this program should complete a registration form, and return it, in person, to

their student's appropriate school office. Photo identification must be presented at the time of registration. Only one registration form should be completed per household. Information for each student listed on the registration form will be accessed using the same username and password. Only one username and password will be assigned to parents per student. After submission of the registration form, please allow ample time for registration to be completed and access to be made available. Students who would like access to Active Student should go to Student Services for information and instructions.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

The parents "Right to Know" information, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, is available at our school to include:

- The professional qualifications, licensure status, and degree level and major of your child's teacher(s).
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and their qualifications.
- Level of achievement of the child in each statewide academic assessments
- Notification if the child is taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified in a timely manner.
- The notice and information provided to parents is in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

If you have questions, please call the superintendent's office at 601-947-6993.

TITLE 1 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (GCMS)

The GCSD is committed to the promotion of parental involvement as a critical element in the implementation of its Title I program. To promote parental involvement, the district will:

- Adopt procedures and implement programs and activities to involve parents in all schools operating under Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended. All procedures, programs, and activities will be planned and carried out with meaningful discussion with parents.
- In accordance with section 1118, the district will collaborate with its schools to ensure that the mandatory school-level parental involvement plans fulfill the requirement of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and include a parent-school compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- Hold a district wide and/or school level annual meeting with parents of Title I schools to discuss the development of the District's annual Title I plan, as well as inform parents of their right to contribute input in the design and implementation of the Title I program.
- Allow parents the opportunity to establish systems for maintaining communication between all parties involved in the student's educational process.
- Maintain a copy of this policy on the district's website and make copies of the policy as requested for Title I parents without access to the internet.
- Provide coordination and support to assist Title I schools in carrying out effective parental involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance.
- District Title I personnel will be available to offer assistance to schools by providing material and training with regard to parental involvement in the area of communication to parents.
- When possible, coordinate Title I parental involvement with existing programs such as Head Start and pre-k programs.

English Language Learners

The GCSD participates in an ongoing effort to identify, consider, and take action to provide English Language Learners (ELL) with a challenging core curriculum and instruction that develops proficiency in English as rapidly and effectively as possible in order to assist students in becoming productive members of our society. Procedures shall be maintained which provide for the identification , assessment, and placement of English Language Learners and for their re-designation based on criteria adopted by the George County School District Board of Education. To ensure the use of sounds methods that effectively serve the needs of English Language Learners, the program results, including reports of the students' academic achievement and their progress towards proficiency in English shall be monitored annually. This information is available for parents/guardians of students who are English Language Learners in the educational program in a format and language you can understand upon request.

Homeless

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Section 11431(1), 1432(e) (4) and 11302(a), the school district shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432(e) (3). For more assistance, homeless students should contact their school counselor or the Federal Programs, Director, Ms. Patti Wilkins-Seaman, at 494 Cowart Street, Lucedale, MS 39452. The email address is wilkinsp@gcsd.us and the phone number is 601-947-6993.

ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM-

The course offerings at George County High School comply with the approved list of courses developed by the Mississippi Department of Education, and each course includes the skills included in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. The minimum requirements at GCHS are updated and revised as needed to remain in compliance with state guidelines required for student graduation.

The middle school curriculum will emphasize five areas: a core curriculum (English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies), a unified arts program (Music and Art), a technology program for seventh and eighth graders, and a club program (topics to be determined by student interests and teacher creativity). As mandates from Mississippi State Department of Education are forthcoming, the make-up of these areas may change, but the basic design should remain constant.

Career/Technical Education
A variety of high quality two-year career and technical education programs are offered to the students at GCHS. These programs are designed to prepare students for careers, technologies, adult roles, leadership, and responsibilities that will support and enhance Mississippi's workforce and economy. The programs also enable students to work toward postsecondary scholarship opportunities while acquiring needed skills and abilities in order to achieve their future occupational goals. Upon successful completion of the two-year career and technical program area courses, students will possess marketable job skills and authentic career experiences that will help them bridge the gap between high school and postsecondary education or the workplace. A Memorandum of Understanding must be completed by all CTE students in years one, two, and three. Reference MOU form in the back of the handbook.

Honors Classes
Students who are placed in honors courses must have scored a PL4 or PL5 on their previous state assessment.

Advanced Placement
The Advanced Placement program at GCHS is designed to provide students with an opportunity for learning that goes beyond just facts and figures. The exceptionally rewarding and exciting academic program allows students to demonstrate that they are up to the challenge of rigorous, college-level work and to earn college credit and stand out in the college admissions process. The rich course material, classroom discussions, and demanding assignments encourage students to develop content mastery as well as reading, speaking, listening and critical-thinking skills expected of college students. Both the philosophy and the content of these courses follow College Board curricular requirements, guidelines, and recommendations. Full AP test payment is due before testing. Performance on AP exams may affect enrollment in other AP courses.

Alternative
The mission of the Alternative School is to provide an educational environment in which students can regain self-control, self-discipline, self-respect, and respect for authority while continuing to learn academic subject material. Students are referred to the Alternative School for various reasons, including habitual misbehavior, drug and weapons offenses, and transfers from other alternative school programs. All students will have an Individual Instructional Plan (IIP). If a student is a special education student, that student will have an IIP and Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students placed in Alternative School will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular school activities. Violations will result in criminal trespassing charges filed. Additional information is provided in the Alternative School Handbook.

Special Education
Special education programs are provided in the George County School District in accordance with provisions of Title 37, Chapter 23 of the Mississippi Code, and with applicable federal legislation and regulations, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004 and 2008, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the State Plan for Special Education. Services are provided to students who are identified with a broad range of disabilities.

Collegiate Academy
Collegiate Academy allows students the opportunity to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate degree. The student body consists of high school juniors and seniors enrolled in dual-credit/dual-enrollment courses online or at GCHS and MGCCC.

Requirements:

- Meet all eligibility criteria for dual credit/dual enrollment, including but not limited to both GCHS and MGCCC attendance policies.
- Be a high school junior (14 core Carnegie units) in good standing, with a GPA of 3.5 or above.
- Submit an application.
- Minimum ACT Score of 17 (English) and 19 (Math).
- Demonstrate appropriate, responsible, and respectful behavior on the high school campus.
- Demonstrate the maturity to cope with the challenges and relative freedom of a college environment.

The ASSOCIATE DEGREE is awarded for the successful completion of courses designed as the first two years of a four-year college/university curriculum leading to a baccalaureate degree. This degree encompasses programs listed under University Parallel Programs in the MGCCC catalog and requires the completion of 60 semester hours with an overall grade point average of 2.0 or above.

Students must provide his/her own transportation to and from the MGCCC campus.

Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit
Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school students to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a Mississippi public institution that will also count as credit toward a high school diploma. Students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Students must be enrolled in Collegiate Academy and/or be a junior/senior.
- Dual Enrollment students must have an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor.
- A student must have an 80 or above in English II Honors or English III honors or a 90 or above in English III to qualify for dual credit Comp English classes.
- Collegiate Academy students must complete Algebra II Honors with an 80 or above before enrolling in College Algebra/Trig.
- Senior Dual Credit students must complete Algebra III with a 70 or above before enrolling in College Algebra/Trig.
- Students must have a 19 or above on the Math subsection and a 17 or above on the English subsection of the ACT to be eligible to enroll in Collegiate Academy, Dual Credit, and/or Dual Enrollment courses.
- Students may participate in a Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment course at principal's discretion
- Payment for Dual Credit courses are due at student registration. No refunds will be given.
- In the event that an administrator approves a class change, a class of equal weight or value must be taken in its place. No refunds will be given.

Credit Recovery
GCHS offers Edgenuity for Credit Recovery through an approved curriculum. Any student in grades 9-12 who has failed a state-tested class with at least a 50/F or better and has passed the state subject area exam may recover credit for that course through the online program. The student will have a 9 week term to recover the credit for the class. For state-tested classes in which the state exam has not been passed, credit recovery will not be available. The principal reserves discretion to make exceptions. Credit recovery may be utilized for other failed classes in which a curriculum is offered; however, priority must be given to state-tested classes. Once a student has completed the course and receives a passing grade on the assigned curriculum, the student will be issued the appropriate credit and the minimum passing grade on the district-approved grading scale. Attendance and discipline will be considered prior to granting permission for a student to participate in credit recovery classes. Qualifying students are contacted by a school counselor to obtain the application form which requires approval by the principal, counselor, and parent.

Makeup Work
It is the student's responsibility to make up all work missed due to absences. Make-up work should begin immediately upon the student's return to school. Time permitted for work to be made up shall be in proportion to the number of days missed. For example, 1 day absence = 1 day to make up work. If a student misses Monday and returns to school on Tuesday, then the missed work is due Wednesday. If the work is not made up in the allotted time, the student receives a zero.

Request for Assignments
If a student is ill and will be out of school under a doctor's care for more than one day, parents or guardians may arrange to pick up assignments for the student. Parents may call the front office and arrange for the assignments to be prepared for pick up at a scheduled date and time.

Summer School:
GCMS students who fail math, science, ELA, or social studies with a 50/F or better may be eligible to attend summer school if a summer school program is offered. Parents are responsible for transportation. To be eligible to participate in summer school, a student can only have a failing grade for one subject. Exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the building principal. Once a student has completed the course and receives a passing grade on the assigned curriculum, the student will be issued the appropriate credit for the class. Attendance and discipline will be considered prior to granting permission for a student to participate in summer school.

Grading Scale
The academic standard for GCHS and GCMS is as follows:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	65-69
F	Below 65

Grading Policy
For specific grading policy, refer to the course syllabus or course instructor.

Grade Classification

Freshman	Grade 9	Pass Grade 8
Sophomore	Grade 10	7 Carnegie Units
Junior	Grade 11	14 Carnegie Units
Senior	Grade 12	21 Carnegie Units
Graduation		28 Carnegie Units

Promotion/retention is based on Carnegie Unit and/or principal discretion. For more information, please refer to George County School District policy IHE.

PROMOTION/RETENTION -Students are required to master basic course curriculum minimum standards. Student performance of these objectives will be measured in the district's testing program. To be promoted in grades seven and eight, the student must pass all core subject classes: (Math, English, Science and Social Studies). Exceptions to this policy are made only after consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators through programs approved by the district. Whatever decision is made concerning promotion or retention, the decision will reflect what is best for the child educationally. If a student enters our school and has attended a private or home school, he/she may be given an achievement test to determine grade placement.

GPA/Rank in Class

The Grade Point Average for rank in class is calculated after progress reports during the fourth quarter of the senior year using all academic classes attempted. Weighted classes will be used to determine all class rank, including top 20.

GPAs for transcripts or scholarships, unless otherwise specified, are calculated on an unweighted scale.

Courses that do not count toward GPA calculation:

- All athletic courses
- All performance courses (band, show choir, etc.)
- Office Aide
- Correspondence Courses or MVPS courses

All middle school credit bearing core classes will count toward GPA.

Weighted Grades

Level Two Courses: Weight 1.15

- Advanced Placement Courses
- CTE National Cert. Courses (Year I and II) or documented 35 hrs. of "Level 4" CTE Program Specific embedded Work-Based Learning.
- Dual Credit Courses

Dual Enrollment Courses taken on the college campus that are also offered on the GCHS campus as Dual Credit will be weighted a Level Two Course.

Dual Enrollment Courses taken on the college campus that are not offered on the GCHS Campus are not weighted. Students are required to provide official numeric averages from Canvas to reflect grade earned.

Level One Courses: Weight 1.10

- Honors Classes
- Journalism III
- Foreign Language II, III
- Algebra III
- Genetics/FSL
- Physics
- Anatomy/Physiology
- CTE Year II Non-certification courses

Graded Earned	Level 2	Level 1
100	115	110
99	113.85	108.9
98	112.7	107.8
97	111.55	106.7
96	110.4	105.6
95	109.25	104.5
94	108.1	103.4
93	106.95	102.3
92	105.8	101.2
91	104.65	102.3
90	103.5	99
89	102.35	97.9
88	102.2	96.8
87	100.05	95.7
86	98.9	94.6
85	97.75	93.5
84	96.6	92.4
83	95.45	91.3
82	94.3	90.2
81	93.15	89.1
80	92	88
79	90.8	86.9
78	89.7	85.8
77	88.55	84.7
76	87.4	83.6
75	86.25	82.5
74	85.1	81.4
73	83.95	80.3
72	82.8	79.2
71.	81.65	78.1
70	80.5	77

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each student graduating from George County School District must complete 28 Carnegie units in Grades **9**-12 for a traditional diploma track, and earn a passing score on each of the four state subject area exit exams. Students may complete an MDE approved diploma endorsement. By February of their senior year, all students must have taken the ACT and meet the benchmarks set by their diploma endorsement. For additional information on diploma endorsements, see pages 25-26. ***Note: For all seniors who do not December Complete, students must take at least one course each semester of their senior year.***

Honor Graduates

Honors will be bestowed on students at George County High School who graduate with certain high averages. The valedictorian will be the highest honor student in the senior class. The salutatorian will be the second highest. The historian will be the third highest. These three students must have completed at least five (5) of their eight (8) semesters of high school work at George County High School. The top 20 graduates receive special recognition.

Honor students and honor graduates are listed as follows:

90-94	Honors
95-97	High Honors
98-100	Highest Honors

December Completion

Students who potentially qualify for December Completion will be evaluated on an individual basis. Qualifying students must complete the application process for approval. Reference form at the back of the handbook.

Graduation Ceremony

As established by state accreditation standards, only students who have completed the requirements in the regular program or special education students who have completed the IEP are permitted to participate in the graduation program. Students are required to participate in the graduation ceremony rehearsal in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Scholarships

Scholarships for college are available to deserving students. High School students are advised to study college and university catalogs to be familiar with opportunities for institutional, service, and foundation scholarships that are offered. Most are available by completing a single application provided by the college or university. Students are advised to check with their guidance counselor frequently for information and opportunities for scholarships.

Senior Awards

Each year in May a Senior Awards Ceremony is held for graduates and parents to introduce the graduates and present awards and scholarships earned by the graduates. Seniors may only choose (2) colleges for which the

school will mail transcripts.

Awards

Outstanding academic achievement, citizenship, and participation in extracurricular activities are recognized during awards ceremonies at the end of each school year for students in grades 9 through 11.

Academic Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame selections will be made in each subject area. Teachers in each subject will select the Hall of Fame. Students selected for Hall of Fame must be seniors. The coaching staff at GCHS will select Athletic Hall of Fame.



Mississippi Scholars

The Mississippi Scholars program is designed to encourage students to take more challenging courses in high school. The State Superintendent of Education and all national data indicate that students with a more rigorous academic schedule of high school studies are going to be better prepared for college and/or the world of work. Students who complete the Mississippi Scholars Program will be recognized at the senior academic awards program. These students will also receive a Mississippi Scholars seal on the transcript and diploma.

Requirements for a Mississippi Scholars:

English/Language Arts: English II English II	4 credits
Mathematics: Algebra I, II, Geometry Any one Carnegie unit of comparable rigor and content	4 credits
Science: Biology I, Chemistry I Any two Carnegie units of comparable rigor and content	4 credits
Social Studies: World Geography, MS Studies, World History, US History, US Government, Economics	4 credits
Arts: One Carnegie unit of visual and performing arts	1 credit
Advanced Electives: Option 1: Foreign Language I and II Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3. Option 3: Any combination of advanced electives above the required Carnegie units in: English, Math, Science, Computer Science and/or any Advanced Placement, Academic or Career Technical Dual Credit. *Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit.	2 credits
Additional Expectations: • 80 hours of community or volunteer service during 4 years of high school. • 2.5 cumulative high school GPA. • 95% school attendance during 4 years of high school (excused absences not included) • Letter of Recommendation from principal or guidance counselor if student has four or more days of ISS. OSS is not allowed. • ACT- minimum of a 19 composite score	

Mississippi Scholars Tech Master

The Mississippi Scholars Tech Master program is designed to encourage students to pursue and perform well in a tech-prep course of study, recognizing their achievements at graduation, as the Mississippi Scholars program currently recognizes those who pursue a college-bound course of study, with a particular emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Mississippi Scholars Tech Master Curriculum: must have a minimum of 28 credits

English	***4 credits***
*Mathematics: Math, Algebra I, Math above Algebra I (Course has to be related to program of study.) *Geometry (Mandatory)	***3 credits***
Science: Biology I and 2 courses above Biology I.	***3 credits***
Social Studies: American History, Government and MS Studies	***3 credits***
Computer	***1 credit***
Health or PE	***½ credit***
Electives Based on your program of study	***2 ½ credits***
*CTE In the same area of study	***4 credits***
Additional Requirements: • 80 hours of community or volunteer service during high school pilot year- 40 hours of community or volunteer service thereafter. • Minimum of 19 ACT composite score (overall score) or minimum of 36 ASVAB • Silver Level Work Keys • 2.5 high school GPA • 95% school attendance during 4 years of high school (Excused absences not included • No out of school suspension. Must attain a passing score on an MDE approved industry certification assessment. Mississippi Scholars Tech Master must complete any remaining state-mandated high school graduation requirements. Dual credit courses are acceptable. *Flexibility to tailor courses to area of interest.	

COURSE OF STUDY

GCHS offers a traditional diploma track. The traditional track is designed to meet college entrance requirements and to equip the student to do college work.

* In extenuating circumstances, with administrative approval and parental signatures, a student may graduate with the required 24 credits stated in the MDE Accountability Standard 14.1.3 Appendix A-6, in lieu of the George County School District Traditional Diploma Track listed above.

Traditional Diploma Track

Curriculum Area	Units	Required Subjects
English	**4**	**English I,II**
Mathematics	**4**	**Algebra I, Geometry**
Sciences	**3**	**Biology I**
Social Studies	**3 ½**	**½ MS Studies** **1 World History** **1 U.S. History** **½ U.S. Government** **½ Economics**
Health	**½**	
PE	**½**	
Computer Tech	**1**	
Fine Art	**1**	
College and Career	**1**	
Electives	**9 ½**	
Total Units Required	**28**	

Required State Tests: English II, Biology I, Algebra I

- See your academic advisor or counselor for specific courses.
- Accelerated courses are recommended for college prep students.

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks or College and Career Ready Standards*. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (See SB Policy ICFA-1.) Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses listed in this book must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course. Elective courses that do not have identified content in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks* or whose titles do not appear in the current edition of *Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi* must be approved according to criteria stated in Appendix D.

<u>Additional Course Information</u>

- ROTC I and II meets the health requirement.
- ROTC III and IV meets the PE requirement or College & Career requirement.
- Business, Marketing and Finance I and II meets the economics requirement.
- Health Sciences II will satisfy two science credits.
- Health Sciences I meets the health requirement.
- Forestry II will satisfy two science credits.

• Horticulture II will satisfy two science credits.
One semester of Work Based Learning meets the College & Career requirement

ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS EARNING A TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering 9th grade. There are four endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, Distinguished Academic Endorsement, and JROTC.

Recommendations:

- For December Completion, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement.
- A student should take a math or math equivalent course the senior year.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL OR JROTC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Units	Required Subjects
English	**4**	**English I, II**
Mathematics	**4**	**Algebra I**
Science	**3**	**Biology I**
Social Studies	**3 ½**	**1 World History** **1 U.S. History** **½ U.S. Government** **½ Economics** **½ Mississippi Studies**
PE	**½**	
Health	**½**	
Art	**1**	
College & Career Readiness: ***Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4 year sequence***	**1**	
Technology or Computer Science	**1**	
CTE Electives or JROTC	**4**	
Additional Electives	**3 ½**	
Total Units Required	**26**	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT Work Keys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie units for a total of 26.

Must successfully complete one of the following:

- One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE Course.
- Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience.
- Earn a State Board of Education approved national credential.
- One AP, Diploma Program IB, or Cambridge course aligned to their career pathway. Students must a C or higher to take appropriate exam.
- NOCTI/JROTC Leadership and Employability Skills Credential

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Units	Required Subjects
English	**4**	**English I, II**
Mathematics	**4**	**Algebra I + two additional math courses above Algebra I**
Science	**3**	**Biology I + two additional science courses above Biology I**
Social Studies	**3 ½**	**1 World History** **1 U.S. History** **½ U.S. Government** **½ Economics** **½ Mississippi Studies**
P.E.	**½**	
Health	**½**	
Art	**1**	
College & Career Readiness ***Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4 year sequence***	**1**	
Technology or Computer Science	**1**	
Additional Electives ***Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs***	**7 ½**	
Total Units Required	**26**	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency sub scores) .
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.

Must successfully complete one of the following:

- One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam.
- One Diploma Program – IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams.
- One dual credit course with a C or higher in the course.

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC, CTE, or JROTC ENDORSEMENTS

Curriculum Area	Units	Required Subjects
English	**4**	**English I, II**
Mathematics	**4**	**Algebra I + two additional math courses above Algebra I**
Science	**4**	**Biology I + two additional science courses above Biology I**
Social Studies	**4**	**1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies**
P.E.	**½**	
Health	**½**	
Art	**1**	
College & Career Readiness ***Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4 year sequence***	**1**	
Technology or Computer Science	**1**	
Additional Electives ***Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs***	**8**	
Total Units Required	**28**	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0
- Courses must meet MS IHL CPC recommended requirements.
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn six additional Carnegie Units for a total of 30.

Must successfully complete one of the following:

- One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam.
- One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams.
- One dual credit course with a B or higher in the course.

Cheating

Consequences for cheating are as follows:

1. A zero for the work given.
2. Parents are notified by the teacher.
3. Other disciplinary measures for recurrences are assessed at the discretion of the teacher and/or principal.

Progress Reports

The school year consists of four terms of nine weeks each. Progress reports are sent home midway during each term to let parents know how their child is progressing. These reports are given to students on Thursday of the fifth week of each term. If the parents desire a conference with a teacher, it may be arranged by making an appointment through the front office secretary.

Grade Reports

Report cards are issued on the first Thursday after the nine-weeks tests are administered. Parents should review the report and request parent-teacher conferences if needed. End of year report cards will be mailed home.

Grading System

According to MS Code 37-11-64, no school board member, school superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, guidance counselor, other teachers, coaches, or other administrative staff members of the school or the central services staff of a local school board shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to change, alter, or otherwise affect the grade received by a student from his/her teacher except as otherwise specifically allowed by this section.

A school official or employee having authority provided under formally adopted written rules and procedures adopted by the local school board to change a student's grade can take such action only upon it being determined that the grade is an error or that the grade is demonstrably inconsistent with the teacher's grading policy.

Any local school district or personnel employed by the school district who violates the provisions of this act shall cause the local school district to be subject to losing its accreditation in the manner determined by the policies and procedures of the State Board of Education.

Note: All student/parent request for grade reviews must be made with the teacher assigning the grade. Parents/students should schedule a parent/student/teacher conference to discuss any and all grading issues.

TESTING

Exemption from Exams Exemptions only occur at the end of the course. To qualify for an exemption in a particular course the student must meet one of the criteria listed below:

1. Have a grade of 90 or higher in the course.
2. Have perfect attendance with a grade of 70 or higher in the course.

Perfect attendance means no ISS/OSS, no tardies, and no absences other than school related.

End of Course Testing:

George County High School students participate in the state-testing program as prescribed by the Mississippi Department of Education and state law. End of course tests are required in Algebra I, Biology I, English II . Passing of these tests will be a graduation requirement. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: 36.5, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5 provides approved options for students to meet high school end-of course (EOC) assessment requirements for graduation through approved alternate measures. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: 36.5, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5, applies to past, current, and future graduates and allows a student to meet the graduation requirements once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of course (EOC) assessment one (1) time. The following graduation options provide opportunities for students to obtain a certain score or level on the ACT, ASVAB, ACT WorkKeys, or other state-approved industry certifications. Students also may obtain a grade of "C" or higher in a dual credit/dual enrollment course, corresponding to

the EOC assessment that was not passed.
Concordance tables provide opportunities for students who do not obtain a passing score on an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment to utilize a different graduation option, using a combination of the assessment scores with the final course grade. The tables provide the final course grade required to use with the scale score obtained on the EOC assessment. Districts are required to use the concordance table specific to when the student took the assessment. For more information, please contact the guidance counselors.

ACT
The ACT is the American College Testing assessment that helps colleges determine a high school student's ability to complete college level work. The assessment covers five areas: English, Reading, Math, Science, and STEM. GCHS is an ACT test site one Saturday a month for the months of September, October, December, February, and April. It is the student's responsibility to register for the test at act.org before the deadline. Information is available in the front office. Students taking the ACT should enter through the front entrance of the building at 7:45 a.m. with proper photo identification and permissible calculator. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch may receive up to two ACT vouchers. See the front office staff for further information.

Distance Learning
For information on distance learning please review the George County School District's policy on distance learning IAAA. Individualized distance learning will be determined by the local school principal or designee.

Admissions: Reference MS Code 37-15-9 (3)

Enrollment admission:
Children of legal school age whose parents are residents of this school district are eligible to attend school. New and returning students must re-register each year. In the case of separated or divorced parents, court orders and decrees involving custody of children will be controlling. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to provide the school with copies of custodial documents. In the case of a student living with a legal guardian who resides in the school district, the guardian must provide a certified copy of a filed petition for guardianship, if pending, and the final decree when granted. This school board shall not recognize any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes.
MS Code 37-15-31(1)(d)(1991)

Mandatory documents provided by the parent must include ONE of the following (a post office box as an address will NOT be accepted):

- Homestead exemption application, home ownership or mortgage documents and a utility bill and one additional document from the list below.
- Rental agreement /lease and two additional documents from the list below.
- Affidavit of residency (subject to personal visit by a designated school district official) and two additional documents from the list below. Furthermore, the homeowner/lease owner must provide either #1 or #2.

Additional documents:

- Utility Bill within 45 days of enrollment
- Current MS driver's license
- Voter precinct registration
- Automobile insurance registration
- Automobile tag receipt for that year
- Current payroll stub that has current street address
- Any other documentation that provides proof of street address

Returning Students:
Each year students must re-register. The online portion of registration must be completed and two current documents from the list above should be provided to the school.

New Students:
Registration at GCHS and GCMS requires the parent/legal guardian to accompany the child (MS Code 37-15-11) and provide the school with the following documents:

- Certified Birth Certificate (long form only for students new to GCSD)
- Certificate of compliance for Immunizations
- Report Card from previous school attended
- Students transferring with only letter grades will be assigned the following numerical grades unless the previous school has provided a grading scale: A-95, B-85, C-75, D-67, F-60
- Name and address of previous school attended
- Legal home address of parent or guardian
- Verification of handbook receipt
- Verification of school district residency

Any new student enrolling in the GCSD or any continuing student whose residence has changed will be required to verify his/her residence address as herein provided as part of the registration process. Definition of "legal resident" for school attendance purposes: The student physically resides full-time, weekdays/nights and weekends within the limits of the school district. Students who were homeschooled will be tested for appropriate placement according to policies JBCD, JBCDE, JBAB.

Student Attendance

Compulsory Attendance

The law of Mississippi requires that all children between the ages of 6 and 17 attend school on a regular basis. This law requires the schools to:

- Report to the George County attendance officer any child not enrolled within the first 15 days of the school year.
- Report to the George County attendance officer any child who has
  - 5 accumulated unexcused absences
  - 8 accumulated unexcused absences
  - 12 accumulated unexcused absences
  - Been suspended or expelled.

State law requires that students not have more than 12 unexcused absences per year. The school is required to report unexcused absences to the attendance officer beginning with 5 unexcused absences.

Limitation on Excused Absences: Policy JBA: Compulsory School Attendance

Unless an exception applies, no student shall be granted more than five (5) excused absences per semester. Any additional excused absences beyond this limit must be specifically approved by the superintendent, or his or her designee, upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. ***Each student is allowed five (5) excuses per semester for the year. A parent note can only be for one day. A parent note does not automatically excuse the absence. Doctor's excuses shall be furnished on the day of the student's return to school for any medically related absences. In order for a doctor's excuse or parent note to qualify it must be presented to the school not later than two (2) days after the student's return to school after the illness, injury, or treatment that resulted in a doctor's visit or consultation.***

NOTE: School-sanctioned events, such as athletics, band, choir, or other events sponsored by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, shall not be counted as absences. School-sanctioned academic or club events shall not be counted as absences.

Important Note

The GCSD does not receive blanket excuse for groups of students on trips outside of the school. (Church trips, clubs, etc.) A parent note is required for the absence to be excused.

Student Attendance – GCMS

Excused Absence -GCMS

An absence is excused when it results from:

1. Attendance of an authorized school activity with prior approval
2. Illness or injury
3. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family.
4. Medical or Dental appointments
5. Required attendance at a court proceeding
6. Religion which requires the observance of a religious event
7. Taking advantage of a valid education opportunity with prior approval.

A student who is in school cannot be absent from a class without permission of the principal. A student who is absent from school cannot participate in school activities or events that day or night; the only exception of this policy is when a student is absent due to a death in the family or attendance of a funeral. A student placed in In-School-Suspension or suspended Out of School cannot participate in school activities or events that day or night. *Any absence after the 3rd consecutive absence must be documented by a written excuse by medical provider.*

NOTE: **PERFECT ATTENDANCE for the year requires FULL DAY ATTENDANCE. Students who are checked out for any reason will not qualify for perfect attendance. Students should not arrive on campus prior to 7:05 a.m.. Regular attendance and promptness to class are necessary to assure continuity of the educational program. School attendance is ultimately the responsibility of the student and his/her family. Students should remain out of school only when absolutely necessary. Mississippi's Compulsory Attendance law provides legal penalties for parents or guardians who neglect their child's school attendance. The law also requires school officials to report such neglect to the court's attendance officer. The Mississippi compulsory attendance law mandates that a student that is not at school for 66% of the school day be reported absent. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT, STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-8 WILL BE ALLOWED NOT MORE THAN 12 UNLAWFUL ABSENCES PER YEAR. Extenuating circumstances such as extended serious illness or death in the family will be considered in the decision to give credit. Punctual and regular attendance is an extremely important part of a student's permanent school record. Therefore, each student should attend school each day. A STUDENT WHO IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETING MISSED ASSIGNMENTS. ALL STUDENTS UPON RETURN TO SCHOOL (OR WITHIN 2 DAYS) MUST HAVE A DOCTOR'S EXCUSE, COURT PAPER, FUNERAL NOTICE, OR PARENT NOTE STATING THE REASON FOR THEIR ABSENCE TO RECEIVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL.**

Tardiness- GCMS

Promptness is a virtue that becomes a habit with practice. Students are expected to be at school and in class on time. **A student is considered tardy after 7:40am. After that time it will be considered a check in.** Excessive tardiness will result in disciplinary action by the teacher or school administrators. Late check-ins should report to the Registrar's office.

SCHOOL TARDIES - MORNINGS – Disciplinary action will be as follows:
3rd Tardy—Parent Contact
4th Tardy - 1 day ISD
1 Day ISD for every day tardy after 4th.

SCHOOL TARDIES-BETWEEN CLASSES - Each teacher will keep a record of all class tardiness. The teacher will contact the parent on the second tardy.

1st Tardy - Warning
2nd Tardy - Parent Contact
3rd Tardy - Office Referral– ISD
4th Tardy -1 day ISD for each tardy after 4th.

Chronic Illness Documentation:
Absences excused due to a chronic illness must be supported by appropriate medical documentation. This documentation is required to clearly specify both a beginning date and an end date for the period during which the illness impacts the student's attendance. *The excuse will have to be resubmitted each semester.* Open-ended or indefinite notes will not be accepted.

Student Attendance- GCHS

Limitation on Excused Absences: Policy JBA: Compulsory School Attendance

Unless an exception applies, no student shall be granted more than five (5) excused absences per semester. Any additional excused absences beyond this limit must be specifically approved by the superintendent, or his or her designee, upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

Each student is allowed five (5) excuses per semester for the year. A parent note can only be for one day. A parent note does not automatically excuse the absence. Doctor's excuses shall be furnished on the day of the student's return to school for any medically related absences. In order for a doctor's excuse or parent note to qualify, it must be presented to the school not later than two (2) days after the student's return to school after the illness, injury, or treatment that resulted in a doctor's visit or consultation.

- Only five (5) days absences per block per semester can be excused by a parent note.
- For any unexcused absence, students may make-up in the time allotted.
- It is the student's responsibility to make up any excused work missed. Make-up work should begin immediately upon the student's report to school.
- Only official medical or legal documentation can be used for exam make-ups.

***All excuses must include the first and last name, date of absence, and a reason for the absence**

Excused Absence Procedures- GCHS

- Doctor's excuses or parent notes must be submitted to the attendance office within two (2) days after the student returns to school.
- Excuses not presented to the school within two (2) days after the student returns to school will not be accepted.

- After two days, doctor's excuses or parent notes will not be deducted from the total days absent, and the days missed will be unexcused.
- Students who are out of school due to extended medical reasons or other emergencies must notify the attendance office as soon as the absence is known. Doctor's excuses must be submitted weekly to excuse these absences.

Students on school-approved activities shall contact their teachers to find out what the day's assignment will be and shall do the work missed that day. Students must be in compliance with school attendance policy to be eligible to participate in field trips and other school functions during the school day
Tests that are pre-assigned prior to a student's absence will be taken on the day the student returns to class.

The superintendent or designee may excuse the following types of absences unless reasonable grounds exist to not provide for education:

1. Attendance for authorized school activity with prior approval of the superintendent or his designee.
2. Required presence of a student in a court proceeding.
3. Valid educational opportunities with prior approval of school official.
4. Superintendent or designee determines conditions are sufficient to warrant non-attendance.
5. Funeral for immediate family members (mom, dad, sibling, grandma, grandpa).

Other days missed, regardless of the reason, will be counted toward the maximum days allowed for the student to be absent from school attendance. In all cases of excused absences, a student is required to make up all work missed.

For suspended or OSS students, assigned work will be due within 2 days of the student's return to school.

Students with five (5) unexcused absences or six (6) school tardies will be reported to the attendance officer. All absences and excuses must be handled through the attendance office, and make-up for missed work will be handled according to the school policy for absences.

Seniors who have not missed more than 10 allotted days excused or unexcused will be excused up to two days to visit colleges on orientation days. If the student has not exceeded the allotted number of days, these days for college visits will be counted as a school function and will not count as an absence. Proper documentation from the college will be required and must be submitted to the attendance the following day.

- George County High School does not recognize or condone "skip days." Work missed during such absences may not be made up.

All medical excuses must be for the student. The school does not accept legal/medical excuses with names of grandparents, siblings, parents, etc. Students are not excused from school for vacation time.

- No class absence (due to late check in or early checkout) is excused unless written documentation is provided to the school office within two days and provided the student has not reached the maximum excuses allowed.

Make-Up Work

Time permitted for work to be made up shall be in proportion to the number of days missed. One day absent equals one day to make up work. For example, if a student misses Monday and returns to school on Tuesday, then the missed work is due Wednesday. If the work is not made up and turned in on time, the student will receive a zero.

Tardies- Check In/Class Tardies:

Any student who arrives to school after the 7:40 a.m. tardy bell, including check-ins after first block, will be considered tardy. Students must be present 60% of a class to be considered present for the class.

- By law students not present 66% of the instructional day will automatically be assigned an absent code. *Note: Excessive class absences due to check in or checkouts will be reported as truant.*

ALL students arriving at school after morning tardy bell must report to the assistant principal/attendance office for a "late arrival to school" slip. TEACHERS WILL NOT ADMIT students to class without a slip from the attendance office. Students who sign in later in the day must be present 60% of each block to be counted as present. (see p. 48 for bell schedule)
Students who arrive late to school may receive an excused tardy if a verifiable doctor's excuse or court document is submitted at the time of the check-in. These documents must include the date, time, and telephone number for verification by the attendance office.

- Students are allowed ample time to pass from one class to another. They should not be tardy. If a student should be delayed for any reason, he/she must have an admission slip from office personnel or a note from his/her previous classroom teacher. Any unexcused tardy will be punished by appropriate disciplinary action. Students more than 10 minutes late to class are considered skipping. Teachers will notify parents on the third unexcused class tardy.
- Students who are ill must report to the school nurse. Students who are ill must not go to the restroom without a teacher pass.
- Students who do not report to class and miss any class time because of illness must have a note from the nurse or will be considered skipping class.

NO students will be allowed to checkout during exam blocks

Consequences for unexcused class tardies are as follows:

5th Tardy	1 day ISS
6th Tardy	1 days ISS
7th Tardy	2 days ISS
8th Tardy	2 days ISS
9th Tardy	3 days ISS

Each additional tardy 3 days ISS and/or principal discretion.

**Excessive tardies may result in suspension of student driving privileges

Check-OUT:

Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds without their parent(s)/guardian(s) making pre-arrangements with the principal through a note which indicates the student's name, reason for checking out, telephone number where the parent or a relative can be contacted by school officials, and the student's schedule. All notes must be in the attendance office no later than 8 a.m. on the day of the checkout.

Please note the following:

- Excused checkouts must have proper documentation.
- If a student checks out, they must have a doctor's note, legal documentation, funeral documentation of an immediate family member or MDOT documentation to check back in during the school day. Additionally, each student is also allotted one (1) parent note per semester as acceptable documentation to be allowed to be checked back in during the school day.
- Classes missed due to checkouts will be unexcused unless proper documentation (doctor's excuse or parent note) is submitted the following day.
- Parent notes submitted for missed classes due to checkouts will be counted toward the four (5) notes allotted per semester.
- Once a student boards a school bus or arrives on campus by other means, the student must check out through the back office before leaving school for any reason. Failure to do so will result in the time missed being unexcused and will result in disciplinary action.
- Any student who has permission to leave campus early and takes another student with him/her, who has not properly checked out through the office, will receive the same punishment as the student leaving without permission.
- Except for extreme emergencies, parents may not check out students after 2:15 p.m.
- Students cannot be checked out or leave campus until an all clear is given during a drill or an emergency.
- Checkouts by telephone will not be allowed.

Early Release- GCHS

Graduating seniors are required to take at least one course per semester. Additional courses may be taken when needed or desired. The senior may then early release for the remainder of the school day. For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT Work Keys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:

- Have a 2.5 GPA
- Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation.
- On track to meet diploma requirements
- • Enrolled in a higher level math or English than taken in junior year

The school requires a letter signed by a parent/guardian giving permission for early release on file with the school academic counselor. Early release students must leave campus at the end of their last block.

Seniors who return to campus at the end of the school day to pick up siblings or other students must report to parent pickup.

Note: Schedule adjustments may be made at the administration's discretion.

Student Conduct and Discipline

The rules and guidelines in this handbook are to be followed by all GCMS and GCHS students at all times. This includes the time the student is on campus, off campus for any school sponsored activity, and bus transportation to and from school and events.

In implementing conduct and personal appearance regulations, it should be kept in mind that the primary responsibility for the conduct and personal appearance of a student rests with the student and the parents. Every effort should be made to impress upon the students and the parents that discipline and order can be maintained in the school only when the school is not used as a vehicle for disruptive influences.

Administrators and teachers shall hold students to strict account for disorderly conduct or misconduct at any school, on the way to and from school (bus and vehicle transportation), at school meetings, programs, functions and activities, and on the school buses. The superintendent or principal may suspend any pupil from school for good cause.

The superintendent or principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the Board of Education; but such action of the superintendent or principal shall be subject to review by and approval or disapproval of the Board of Education.

Courts have ruled that teachers must maintain their effectiveness and respect in order to perform their duties as a teacher. The effectiveness and respect must be maintained on or off the school premises and during or after school hours. (Ref. MS Code 37-11-21)

Severe Offense Ladder

Any student may be expelled from school due to multiple severe infractions. The student will have the right to appeal this decision to a disciplinary review committee. Students may appeal this decision to the school. Parents will be notified on each step by telephone or mail.

Step One	Warning
Step Two	One day ISS
Step Three	Two days ISS
Step Four	Three days ISS
Step Five	Maximum 5 days Suspension
Step Six	Maximum 10 days Suspension/Alternative School/Expulsion

Note: All appeals for bus or school suspension must be made to a school administrator within 10 days.

Note: All consequences are subject to administrator discretion.
Note: Students who repeat an infraction could advance to the next step.
Note: After step four, placement in the alternative school becomes an option. Standard alternative school placement assignment is 45 days; however, any days up to 60 may be assigned. For 60 days assignments, students will have the ability to work off days through good behavior and other incentives. Second offense alternative placement will be for remainder of the year. Special Education student will be assigned max 45 days.

STEP ONE - Warning

- Cutting lunch line
- Public display of affection
- Excessive running or playing in halls or restrooms
- Sleeping in class
- Leaving tray in cafeteria
- Name calling/picking on another student
- Personal appearance violation
- Talking during tests
- Horseplay
- Cheating (a zero will be given for work involved)
- Throwing food or other objects
- Misbehavior in assembly programs
- Disrespect/defiance
- Any other offense deemed reasonable by the principal.

Students who are dressed inappropriately will be required to call parents to bring a change of clothes that conforms to the dress code, or they will be referred to the discipline ladder.
Students will remain in ISS until parent/guardian can bring a change of clothes.

STEP 2 – One day In-School Suspension (ISS)

- Using another student's ID number in the cafeteria or library
- Using another student's computer login
- Not returning BPA
- Not paying for food in cafeteria.
- Forging notes
- Possession of noise making device
- Possession of laser pointing device
- Leaving class without permission
- Vandalizing or destroying textbooks
- Disrupting class
- Misbehavior in cafeteria
- Selling any item on campus without permission (illegal sales)
- Inappropriate Internet search/computer use
- Any other offense deemed reasonable by the principal.

STEP 3 – Two days In-School Suspension (ISS)

- Use of gambling paraphernalia
- Profanity, vulgar gestures, actions, or writing
- Any other offense deemed reasonable by the principal.

STEP 4 –Three days In-School Suspension (ISS)

- Providing false names to teachers/administrators
- Out of area/skipping class
- Physical contact during horseplay (pushing, shoving, slapping, etc.)
- Tampering with computers, networks and internet accounts.
- Any other offense deemed reasonable by the principal.

STEP 5 –Maximum 5 days Suspension

- Harassment
- Possession or use of tobacco or paraphernalia
- Possession and/or use of e-cigarettes/vapes
- Vandalism or destruction of school property

Possession of Vape: (Non-THC)

1st Offense:	**3 days ISS**
2nd Offense:	**5 days OSS**
3rd Offense:	**10 days OSS**
4th Offense:	**45 Days Alternative School**

- Possession of mace/pepper spray, or fake weapons. etc.
- Fighting, instigating a fight, stalking, bullying, intimidation, videoing fight and posting to social media.
- Contaminating food in the cafeteria
- Inciting/participating in a major school disorder/disorderly conduct
- Disrespect/defiance to any staff member.
- Injuring another student with any object.(spray, fluids,etc..)
- Disorderly conduct while in ISS
- Tampering with door locks
- Gang markings/paraphernalia/cult/racism
- Possession or display of pornography
- Entering another student's vehicle/Trespassing
- Leaving campus without permission
- Possession of sharp or projectile objects (razor blades included)
- Stealing
- Failure to adhere to the BYOD Policy (cyberbullying, cyberstalking, harassment, etc.)
- Tampering with fire extinguisher
- Any other offense deemed reasonable by the principal.

1st Offense: 5 days OSS
2nd Offense:10 days OSS
3rd Offense: 45 days alternative school

School principal may declare the school a no-device zone during school hours.



STEP 6 – Maximum 10 days suspension and/or Alternative School/Expulsion
NOTE: The 10 days suspension is the time period to appeal alternative school placement or expulsion.

- Indecent exposure
- Use or possession of drugs including alcohol, spice, marijuana, paraphernalia or other similar drugs.
- Possession or use of weapons.
- Use of any object as weapon to cause bodily harm.
- Possession or use of fireworks
- Hostile or severely disrespectful actions toward a teacher/administrator
- Sexual activity on campus.
- Bomb threats, written or communicated
- Assault or battery on school official.
- Entering school unauthorized
- Verbal or written threats to faculty/students
- Any other offense deemed reasonable by the principal.

1st Offense of Drugs or Alcohol is automatic suspension and referral to 45 days of alternative school.

2nd offense: Recommendation for Expulsion.

Possession of weapon: Automatic expulsion

Ref: Policy JCDAC: Drugs & Alcohol

Students who are suspended for major infractions or who serve OSS may not be on campus at any time during the suspension. Suspended students may not attend an athletic, club, or school-sponsored activities on campus on days suspended. If suspension days are carried over to a weekend and/or holiday, that weekend and/or holiday is included in the days the student cannot be on school grounds, on school buses, or at any school-sponsored activity/event on campus.

Students who receive multiple discipline referrals while serving ISS may no longer have ISS available as consequence for any future actions.

Note: Any senior who commits a Step 6 infraction (as defined by the discipline code of the district) during the last 3 weeks of the school year shall have his/her right to participate in the graduation exercises revoked. This policy does not restrict the ability of the administration to address severe discipline issues that may occur during an earlier term of the school year in any way.

For students receiving out of school suspension, the parent is responsible for picking up assignments in the main office. All assignments are due when the student returns from suspension. A grade of "0" will be recorded for

incomplete assignments. Students may not be on campus at any time during a suspension.

Students and/or parents are monetarily responsible for damages occurred during rule violations.

Major Disturbance

Any student causing a disturbance (including, but not limited to fighting) to and from school (including bus), while on campus, or at any
school-sponsored activity, will be subject to disciplinary action:

1. Charges will be filed against the student for disturbing the peace, or disorderly conduct, and/or other appropriate charges.
2. Any student who hits another for any reason will be suspended. Hitting back is not defending oneself; it is fighting which is punishable under the discipline code. The office must handle retaliation.
3. Any other violation that the principal or his/her designee deems appropriate will result in disciplinary action.

STUDENT EXPULSION PROCEDURES

Step I - Notification of District Office

- Notify Director of Student Services- Mr. Sid Taylor, 601-947-6993 ext. 2004

Step II - Investigation of Incident

- Inform the student of the accusation(s). If violation involves criminal activity, notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

- If the student denies the accusations(s), he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence that has accumulated against him/her and shall be given an opportunity to refute the accusation(s). No time delay is necessary between the time a student is informed of the accusation(s) and the time the student is given the opportunity to refute the charges before the principal and/or principal designee.

- Interview the accused student in the presence of a certified staff member. Obtain a signed statement from the accused student if at all possible. Keep written documentation of the interview signed by the principal and certified witness.

- Interview and obtain signed statements from any and all witnesses. A certified staff member should be present as a witness.

- Collect and hold evidence or turn the evidence over to GCSD School Resource Officer.

NOTE: The principal should consider all evidence, inclusive of the student's age and the circumstances surrounding the incident when determining his recommendation relative to length of suspension and/or expulsion.

Step Ill - Suspension of Student

- Inform the student that he/she is being suspended.

- Notify the parent/guardian/custodian of the suspension and the reason for the suspension.

- The length of the suspension may be until the investigation and/or expulsion process is completed.

Step IV – Student Rights/Due Process

- Upon completion of the investigation, inform the parent/guardian and student of the findings and the disciplinary action you will impose and/or the recommendation you will make to the Superintendent of Education. (This should be done in a conference with the parent, student and a certified staff member.)

- Inform the parent and student of their rights to a hearing and that they will be contacted with a time and date to meet with the Discipline Review Board. Be sure to provide the parent with a copy of the JDE and JCAA policies.

STEP V - Hearing Request

- If the student/parent does not agree with the decision of the Discipline Review Board, he/she can appeal to the George County School District School Board by contacting Mrs. Susan Moore at the GCSD Superintendent's office within 24 hours to be placed on the next school board meeting agenda.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Bus Transportation:

The privilege of riding the bus carries with it some responsibilities on the part of the student and the student's parents or guardians. Drivers are expected to keep order and discipline on the bus, but their major responsibility must be driving the bus. A student's failure to conform to acceptable standards of behavior and courtesy will result in his/her being subject to disciplinary actions by the building principal or assistant principal at the discretion of the administrator. Therefore, students are expected to cooperate with the following regulations.

For the safety of the student, afternoon transportation changes are not allowed over the phone. All transportation changes must be in writing from the parent or guardian for verification by school personnel. Bus can only transport to and from address student is registered to.

Note: Any infraction on the bus may also include appropriate school discipline.

Step One	Written warning
Step Two	Maximum five (5) days off bus
Step Three	Maximum ten(10) days off bus
Step Four	Maximum forty-five (45) days off bus
Step Five	Maximum Expulsion off bus for a calendar year, also may result in Alternative School Placement

- Students who repeat an infraction could advance to the next step.
- These rules will apply on the bus, at all bus stops, and on all campuses.
- Bus suspension includes ALL buses. If a student is suspended off a bus, he/she is suspended off all buses.
- Students breaking rules on the bus may be suspended, recommended to a discipline review board or expelled from school.
- If a student disrupts at another school while transferring buses, he/she may be banned from that campus, thus not being able to transfer buses.
- All school rules apply to students while on buses, on other school campuses, and while transferring business in the mornings and afternoons.

STEP ONE or HIGHER

- Be at assigned bus stop at the designated loading time
- Body parts are not to be placed outside the bus windows
- Upon boarding the bus, sit immediately and remain seated
- Students must sit in seats assigned by the driver
- Loud talking or other distracting noises on the bus
- No food or beverages
- No playing on the bus or at the bus stop
- Follow directions of the bus driver at all times
- Talking back to a driver
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before boarding bus or unloading
- Yelling out windows
- Any offense deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee.

STEP TWO or HIGHER

- Profanity, vulgar gestures or actions
- Harassing other students; Name calling
- Possession of pornographic or inappropriate material
- Students changing buses must do so immediately
- Possession of any objects that could be used to cause damage or harm.
- Public display of affection
- Throwing objects on the bus
- Any offense deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee.

STEP THREE or HIGHER

- Possession or use of tobacco or paraphernalia
- Providing false names/notes to driver
- Exiting/boarding bus without permission
- Not following the hands-off policy
- Horseplay/pushing and /or shoving
- Any offense deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee.

STEP FOUR or HIGHER

- Indecent exposure
- Riding any school bus before a suspension is complete
- Bullying, intimidating other students
- Student repeatedly fails to obey all orders of the bus driver, does not show proper courtesy and respect to the driver.
- Not following directions of teachers/admin. while changing buses on any campus
- Hostile or severely disrespectful action toward driver and faculty/staff on duty.
- Severe disrespect to administrator on any school campus
- Throwing object(s) on school bus causing injury or damage, throwing objects out window. Restitution required for damaging private property.
- Damaging/tampering bus in any way, to the interior or exterior, including camera systems(restitution is mandatory before student returns on bus.)
- Cursing bus driver or severe disrespect toward bus driver.
- Improper use of any emergency exit on the bus.
- Any offense deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee.

STEP FIVE or HIGHER

- Use or possession of drugs
- Possession or use of firearms
- Use or possession of knife or any object as a weapon
- Fighting on bus, at bus stop, or while changing busses at other schools.
- Threatening and/or assaulting a driver
- Blatant sexual act/sexual harassment
- Any offense deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee.

All appeals for bus or school suspension must be made to a school administrator within 10 days.

Private Vehicles (GCHS)

Parents dropping off and//or picking up students should use the street by Antioch Church and enter/exit through the east side of the parking lot
(closest to the stadium). Let your student out by the covered walk-way, circle around the parking lot and exit using the same street. The North lot and exit using the same street. The north school entrance (student parking) will be one way in the mornings until 8 a.m. and one way out in the afternoons beginning at 2:00 p.m. School dismissal is at 2:49 p.m. All students should be picked up by 3:15 p.m. each day.

Parents will not be allowed to drop off or pick up at the front entrance, bus entrance, faculty or student parking area. Parents must not use the North school entrance/exit for student drop off/pickup.

All students and parents should exit campus by 3:15 p.m. each day unless on campus for a scheduled, supervised activity. There should not be any loitering in any of the school parking areas after 3:15 p.m. each day.

Student Parking

Student who provide their own transportation to and from school must observe the same regulations as students who ride a bus. Bringing an automobile on campus is a privilege that may be revoked. Students who bring a vehicle to school must adhere to these regulations:

- Students must purchase and display parking decal at all times. A $15 fine will be assessed for driving without a parking sticker.
- The driver must have a valid driver's license.
- The driver must observe all safety rules on campus. Quick starts and/or speeding are not tolerated in school zones or in school parking areas. Violations of these regulations result in severe disciplinary action and possible loss of privileges to drive a motor vehicle to school.
- Other students are not permitted to ride on the outside of the vehicle.
- Students are not allowed to sit in school buses or vehicles during the school day. Upon arriving at school, students are to park their vehicles, lock them, and leave the parking lot immediately. Students are not to loiter in the parking lot before, during, or after school. When a student is ready to leave school, he/she is to go directly to the car and leave the school grounds
- Students must have permission from the principal or designee to go to their cars during the school day.
- Once on campus, the student may not leave without permission from the principal or designee.
- Each vehicle must have a current valid license tag.
- Parents must certify that liability insurance is and will be maintained on the vehicle during the school year.
- Parking is to be in designated areas on the school campus only. No off-campus parking is permitted for student drivers. Students are not permitted to park in the faculty/visitor parking areas.

- Illegal vehicles parked on campus may be towed at owner's expense.
- Students may not haul trailers, boats, etc. behind their vehicles while on campus.
- All students will park in the student parking lot on the north side of the school

Consequences for Driving Violations

- Step one– warning
- Step 2– 10.00 ticket/fine
- Step 3– 25.00 ticket/fine and driver's suspension for 5 days up to the remainder of the semester
- Step 4– 50.00 ticket/fine and loss of driving privileges for up to the remainder of year

Student Parking Lot/Driving Rules and Consequences- *George County High School*

Students are reminded that the county provides bus transportation and driving a car/truck to school is a privilege, not a right. As with any privilege, inappropriate behavior can result in the suspension of those privileges. Students may drive cars/trucks to school as long as they obey the rules. Abandoned vehicles left in the parking lot will be towed at owner's expense after attempts are made to have the vehicle removed.

Listed below are parking/driving violations. Students violating these rules will receive disciplinary action and may receive tickets issued by school police officers.



- Speeding-anytime, anywhere on campus
- Reckless driving
- Careless driving
- Improper passing
- Improper parking
- Parking in an unauthorized area
- Illegal lane change
- Failure to stop at a stop sign
- Driving in an unauthorized area
- Failure to have a parking decal
- Failure to have parking decal visible
- Failure to provide or have vehicle insurance
- Failure to have a license plate on vehicle
- Failure to have a driver's license while operating a motor vehicle
- Failure to obey traffic signs/traffic officer
- Excessively loud or profane music
- Leaving campus without permission
- Failure to yield to school buses
- Graffiti on vehicles
- Malicious mischief
- Harassment
- Driving on grass
- Driving over curbs
- Entering or exiting through unauthorized gates, roads, or entrances/exits
- Returning to campus after early dismissal
- Picking up students from unauthorized areas
- Taking other students off campus during the day without permission
- Driving with other students outside the vehicle or in the bed of pickup trucks

**Excessive tardies may result in suspension of student driving privileges.

No bicycles, ATVs, or skateboards are allowed on campus at any time.

All students should be off campus by 3:15 p.m. each day unless scheduled for an after school activity and are under the supervision of a school official.

Early release students must leave campus upon dismissal.

Entering/Exiting Student Parking Lot: GCHS
Students must use the North entrance to the school when entering and exiting the student parking lot.

In the mornings, the North entrance/exit will be one way in from 7:15 a.m. until 8 a.m.

In the afternoons, the North entrance/exit will be one way out from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.
In the afternoons, two lanes will be utilized for exiting the campus. Students desiring to turn south onto Highway 63 should be in the left lane and students desiring to turn north onto Highway 63 should be in the right lane.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE – *GCHS and GCMS*

Parents who wish to transport students to and from school must drop off and pick them up in the designated areas during the designated times.

GATHERING

Upon arriving at school, students may assemble in designated areas only. Students who choose to eat breakfast should go directly to the cafeteria. Students are not allowed in the hallways until the bell rings. Students should not arrive at school prior to 7:05 a.m. each morning.



TECHNOLOGY

Computers

It is the belief of George County High School and George County Middle School that computer-aided instruction and the internet can enhance the educational experience for our students. However, students are not permitted unauthorized and/or unsupervised access to any computer. Students in violation of the George County School District Acceptable Use Policy may be subject to discipline consequences and/or loss of privileges.

School Device Damage, Loss or Theft

If a school device is damaged, lost or stolen, the student or parent/guardian should immediately notify the school administration. At that time, the parent/guardian must file a police report. If a school device is lost, stolen or damaged because of irresponsible behavior, the parent may be responsible for replacement cost.

In the event that a school device is damaged, lost or stolen, the school device user may be assessed a fine for the repair or replacement of the school device. Power adapters and cases (if applicable) must be returned or paid in full. If a device is damaged and needs repair, the student will be assigned a loaner device until the device is returned. The loaner device falls under all of the same user agreements and responsibilities as the original device.

LOST AND FOUND ARTICLES

Students should label all personal items including book bags, notebooks, clothing, etc. Items found at school should be taken to the library. Students should not bring to school expensive personal items or more cash than is needed for the day as these types of items become targets for theft. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

TELEPHONE

To help students comply with the cell phone policy, students are allowed to use the school phones to contact parents during the school day for specific purposes only such as needing to let a parent know about a change in practice schedule, to clarify how they're getting home, etc. Students needing to use office phones should get permission from their teacher and ask office staff for permission. Likewise, parents are encouraged to call the school if it is necessary to speak to the student during the school day. After the caller has properly identified himself and explained the nature of the call, messages will be relayed or the student will be called to the phone.

FUNDRAISERS

The purpose of fundraisers is to generate funds to supplement or support school-related student activities and/or opportunities. Soliciting money or fundraising on behalf of George High School or George Middle School without approval of the school board is not allowed. Students are responsible for returning any unsold products and/or any monies collected for the products. Any monies or products unaccounted for will become the responsibility of the student and parents. Personal-gain fundraising of any type is not allowed.

ACCEPTABLE USE COMPUTER POLICY

George County School District (GCSD) recognizes that access to technology and other electronic resources in school gives students greater opportunities to learn, engage, communicate, and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life, and citizenship. GCSD is dedicated to nurturing students' technological and communication skills.

GCSD is committed to providing educational opportunities for all students and maintaining compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).

To that end, GCSD provides the privilege of access to technologies and Intranet (internal) and Internet (external) connections for student and staff use.

In order to access District services such as the Intranet and Internet via the District Network, each student must sign an Internet Access Agreement to acknowledge agreement with this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) stating that they have read and acknowledged all sections below. An employee must sign an Employee Acceptable Use Policy Agreement to acknowledge agreement with this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) stating that they have acknowledged all sections below.

The operation of the GCSD network is guided by policies set forth by the Board of Education of George County School District, District administration, the Mississippi Department of Education, and/or all applicable local, state and federal Laws. This AUP does not list every applicable policy or law, but sets forth specific policies particular to GCSD.

This Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) outlines the guidelines and behaviors that all users are expected to follow when using school technologies or when using personally-owned devices on school property, including:

- The George County School District's network is intended for educational use.
- All activity over the network or use of District technologies will be monitored, documented and retained.
- Access to online content via the network will be restricted in accordance with District policies, procedures and federal regulations, such as the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- Students are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as offline.
- Misuse of school resources can result in disciplinary action and financial responsibility.
- The District makes a reasonable effort to ensure students' safety and security online by using an internet filter, but it will not be held accountable for any harm or damages resulting or arising from use of GCSD technologies.
- Users of the District network or other technologies are expected to alert the GCSD Technology Department immediately of any concerns for safety or security.
- Users should have no expectation of privacy.

Technologies Covered

GCSD may provide the privilege of internet access, desktop computers, mobile computers or devices, video conferencing capabilities, online collaboration capabilities, message boards, email, and more.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to District-owned technology equipment utilizing the GCSD network, the GCSD Internet connection, and/or private networks/Internet connections. This AUP also applies to privately owned devices accessing the GCSD network, the GCSD Internet connection, and/or private networks/Internet connections while on school property in addition to participating in school functions or events off campus. GCSD policies outlined in this document cover all available technologies now, and in the future, not just those specifically listed or currently available.

Usage Policies

All technologies provided by the District are intended for educational purposes. All users are expected to use good judgment by following the policies laid out in the technology handbook. Users should be safe, appropriate, careful, and kind; should not try to disable or bypass technological protection measures; use good common sense; and ask if they don't know.

Consequences of Policy Violation(s)

The use of the District Network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges. Any student or District employee, including contract services (outside parties), who violate any policy, regulation or law regarding use of the District Network will be identified and corrective and /or punitive actions will be taken.

All users of the GCSD network are charged with reporting violations or misconduct to their teachers, supervisors, or the GCSD Technology Department. Users who fail to report violations are subject to the same disciplinary actions as those who violate the policy.

Violations of these procedures may result in, but is not limited to, loss of access privileges, disciplinary action by the District, and/or involvement of law enforcement authorities.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying including, but not limited to, harassing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyber stalking will not be tolerated. Users should refrain from harmful behavior such as sending emails and posting comments with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate or harm the targeted student or staff member. Creating a hostile school/working environment is unacceptable.

Engaging in these behaviors or in any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyberbullying can be a crime. Users should remember that online activities may be monitored.

District Access to Email/Network Accounts

When a student leaves or graduates from the school district, access to school district programs such as email or other accounts is suspended the last day they are a student of the school district.

When an employee leaves or retires from the school district, access to school district programs such as email or other accounts is suspended the last day they are an employee of the school district.

Email & Electronic Communication

GCSD provides faculty, staff, and students in grades K-12 with the privilege of email accounts for the purpose of school-related communication. Availability and use may be restricted based on school policies.

Users provided with email accounts should use these accounts with care. Users should not send personal information and should not attempt to open files or follow links from unknown or untrusted origins. Users should use appropriate language and should only communicate with other people as allowed by District policy, teacher or administrator.

Any official communications, e.g. teacher to parent, teacher to student, student to teacher, staff to staff, must be via the District's email system or District purchased software. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers who guide extracurricular activities such as clubs, choirs, bands, athletic teams, etc.

Users are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous manner online as offline. Email usage will be monitored and archived.
Students are not allowed to send mass emails, unless first approved by a teacher or administrator. Students will not respond to unsolicited online contact and will report any suspicious emails to their teacher or administrator. Users will not use their school district email address for any personal social media accounts.

Filtering

GCSD uses an aggressive Content Filter and SPAM filter. GCSD complies with the regulations of CIPA, the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], to provide Internet content filtering services for staff and students. Filtering services are a means of protection from objectionable sites, but cannot provide a 100% protection. Therefore, GCSD provides no guarantees, but will attempt to protect employees and students from accessing such objectionable Internet sites. In the event that inappropriate material is accessible, GCSD will not be held liable.

Internet/Network Access

GCSD provides its users the privilege of access to the Internet, including web sites, resources, content, and online tools. Access to the Internet will be restricted as required to comply with CIPA regulations and school policies. Web browsing may be monitored, and web activity records may be retained indefinitely.

In order for a student to gain access to the Internet, the student and student's parent(s) / guardian(s) must sign an Internet Access Agreement.

Users are expected to respect the web filter as a safety precaution, and shall not attempt to circumvent the web filter when browsing the Internet. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate is based solely on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on whether a website has been blocked or not. If a user believes a site is unnecessarily blocked, the user should submit a request for website review through the GCSD Technology Help Desk.

All data transferred and/or transmitted over the GCSD network can be monitored and recorded at any time. All data transferred or transmitted over the network can be tracked and identified, and originating users can be held liable if their use of the network violates any established policy, regulation or law. Any data stored on District-owned equipment may be archived and preserved by the District for an indefinite period. Such data includes, but is not limited, to email, text documents, digital photographs, music and other digital or electronic files.

All data transferred over the District network or stored on any District-owned equipment/media is the property of GCSD. File storage on the network or google drive that is not directly related to school work can be removed by the Technology Department.

In some cases, a separate network may be provided for personally-owned devices. Please remember, this Acceptable Use Policy applies to personally-owned devices accessing the GCSD network, the GCSD Internet connection, and private networks/Internet connections while on school property.
Users should recognize that among the valuable content online there is also unverified, incorrect or inappropriate content. Users should only use known or trusted sources when conducting research via the Internet.

Users should always use the Internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner.

Users should remember not to post anything online that they would not want students, parents, teachers, future colleges or employers to see. Once something is online, it cannot be completely retracted and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways the user never intended.

Limitation of Liability

GCSD will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware.

While GCSD employs filtering and other safety and security mechanisms, and attempts to ensure their proper function, it makes no guarantees as to their effectiveness.

GCSD will not be responsible or liable for unauthorized transactions conducted over the GCSD network, financially or otherwise.

GCSD shall also not be responsible for:

- Any damages a student or employee may suffer, including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruption of services.
- For the accuracy or quality of information obtained from or stored on any of its network or client systems.
- Theft, loss or damage to personal electronic devices.
- Any actions or obligations of a student or employee while accessing the Internet outside of GCSD for any purpose.

Mobile Devices

The term mobile device in this policy denotes mobile phones, laptops, MP3 players, tablets, smart watches or any similar mobile device that can access the George County School District's network.

Mobile devices with internet access capabilities will be able to access the internet only through the school's filtered network and any use of a Virtual-Private-Network (VPN) or proxies will result in the termination of this privilege.

Mobile devices should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the class/school. This prohibition extends to activities that occur off school property and outside of school hours, if the result of that activity causes a substantial disruption to the education environment.

Parents should be aware of and accept the potential disadvantages of mobile devices being allowed at school:

- Mobile devices may be damaged, lost or stolen.
- Students can be bullied by text messaging or other means.
- Mobile devices can be used to access, store and communicate inappropriate material.
- They can disrupt the learning environment.
- Students with mobile devices that have cellular access plans have the capability of accessing an unfiltered internet while at school.
- Camera functions can lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to

inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images.
- In some instances, data or usage fees on mobile devices may increase.

Personal Safety

The District complies with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) that was signed into law on October 21, 1998 and was effective as of April 21, 2000. The purpose of COPPA is to regulate the online collection and use of personal information provided by and concerning children under the age of thirteen.

Students should never share personal information, including phone number, address, social security number, birthday or financial information over the Internet without parental permission. Users should recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others. Users should never agree to meet in person with someone they meet online without parental permission.

If users see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety or the safety of someone else, they should immediately bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or administrator if at school or parent if using the device at home).

Plagiarism

Users should not plagiarize (or use as their own, without citing the original creator) content, including words or images, from the Internet. Users should not take credit for things they did not create themselves, or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of something they found online.

Information obtained via the Internet should be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author.

Obtaining improper assistance or generating content submitted for grading using artificial intelligence tools including, but not limited to, language model-based chatbots such as ChatGPT is strictly prohibited.

Prohibited Action(s)

The following actions on the District Network are specifically prohibited, and this list is not all inclusive, but by way of example:

- Accessing documents, files, folders or directories of others without permission from the owner of the files.
- Attempt to bypass network controls and filters, with Virtual-Private-Networks (VPN) or other methods.
- Conducting business other than what is deemed academic in nature over the network.
- Creating, downloading, storing, sending, or displaying offensive messages or pictures including, but not limited to pornographic or other sexually explicit material.
- Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) which is strictly forbidden and is a cybercrime.

- Downloading entertainment/music/video/movie software or other files for transfer to a user's home computer, other personal computer, DVD or any music/movie device. This prohibition pertains to freeware, shareware, copyrighted commercial and non-commercial software, and all other forms of software and files not directly related to the instructional and administrative purposes of the HCSD. Software, files, and/or licenses owned by GCSD cannot be transferred to staff or student personal or home computers.
- Engaging in any practice(s) that threaten the network and other technology devices.
- Giving out personal information about another person such as home address or phone number.
- Harassing, insulting, intimidating or attacking others.
- Installing software, software applications, utilities, plug-ins or other such operations without the approval of the technology department.
- Misusing the resources of the district's network, electronic information, computer- driven software or telecommunications service equipment and supplies.
- Using obscene, profane or vulgar language.
- Using the network and telecommunication services for commercial promotion, product endorsement or advertisement not previously approved by HCSD.
- Using the network, electronic information, computer-driven software, and telecommunication services for personal gain or convenience.
- Using the password of others to access the network or any other electronic information or telecommunication services.
- Vandalism includes any malicious attempt to access, damage, delete, infect, destroy or alter data files, folders, or directories.
- Violating copyright laws.

Prohibited Device(s)

The following technology device(s) on school campuses are specifically prohibited, and this list is not all inclusive, but by way of example. If for some reason one of these devices are needed for educational purposes by a staff member, please reach out to the Technology Department to get approval on use of equipment before bringing it on campus.

- Flipper Zeros
- Personal home network equipment such as internet routers or Wi-Fi access points.
- Raspberry Pi devices

Security

Users are expected to take reasonable safeguards against the transmission of security threats over the GCSD network. This includes not opening or distributing infected files or programs and not opening files or programs of unknown or untrusted origin. Users should never share personal information.

If users believe a computer or Chromebook they are using might be infected with a virus, they should alert the GCSD Technology Department. Users should not attempt

to remove the virus themselves or download any programs to help remove the virus.

While GCSD takes steps to protect users from inappropriate material, to intercept unlawful and malicious actions from affecting users, to safeguard users, no system is perfect. Those risks must be recognized and accepted by users who sign the Student Internet Access Agreement or the Employee Acceptable Use Policy Agreement.

Social Media

Access of social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited. Employees, faculty and staff should not give social networking website passwords to students.

All employees, faculty and staff of this school district who participate in social media shall not post any data, documents, photos or inappropriate information on any website that might result in a disruption of classroom activity. This determination will be made by the Superintendent or site principal.

Fraternization via the internet between employees, faculty or staff and students is prohibited and violation of any of these policies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Reference Board Policy Code GABBA.

School district email addresses are not allowed to be used for personal social media accounts.

George County School District Facebook page is intended to inform the public of accomplishments of our students, teachers and schools share important news and communicate event information. As a result, no interactive space is created on these pages allowing for comments or questions. Comments or questions made to reposts or shares on other social media pages will not be monitored. If you should have questions about any information found on our schools' social media pages, please contact the school. If you have any questions about information posted on the district social media outlets, please contact the district office at 601-947-6993.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Fundraisers:
The George County School district recognizes the need for limited student fundraising activities. The type of and extent of these activities, however, are restricted and limited to activities that have recognized educational value. Fund raising projects will be limited to the ones authorized by the principal. No other moneymaking projects will be allowed. All club funds are to be handled by the school. All fundraisers MUST be board approved.

School Newspaper- GCHS:
George County High School publishes a school paper entitled the STUDENT PRESS. The Journalism students under the supervision of the Journalism teacher print this publication five times during the school year.

School Year Book: GCHS
The George County High School Yearbook Staff produces an annual, "REFLECTIONS" each year. The cost of the annual varies according to size; therefore, the price cannot be quoted until the book is completed. The annual staff, with its advisors, directs the publication of the yearbook
Photographs for the yearbook are taken prior to the school year on student and parent orientation days. These photos are also used for school-related identification purposes.

Initiations:
Initiations are strictly prohibited. No student at GCHS or GCMS shall be initiated for any reason whatsoever. This applies to off campus as well as on campus and to all activities of the school or sponsored by the school.

Athletic Eligibility:
All athletics at GCHS and GCMS will function under the rules and regulations set forth in the official handbook of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. The handbook states that to be eligible to participate in any athletics a student must maintain a 2.0 GPA or a C average and have satisfactory progress toward graduation.

Athletic Participation:
Any student who is absent during the school day in which an athletic event is sponsored on the same night will be ineligible to participate. If the athletic event is scheduled for Saturday night, the student who participates must be present at school the previous Friday. The same rule applies to cheerleaders, dance team and band members. Students cannot participate in an athletic event if the student has received at home suspension (or has been sent home from school) on the day of the contest. The principal or athletic director, in writing,. must approve any exception.

Athletic Contests:
GCSD is a member of District VIII of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Therefore, all school athletic and band programs adhere strictly to the rules and regulations set up by this organization. It is the responsibility of the school to provide for proper treatment and safety of visiting teams, bands, cheerleaders, pep squads, game officials, and fans. As visitors to contests on other school campuses, GCHS and GCMS students conduct should be such that it will reflect dignity and honor on the GCSD. Therefore, all students should be good hosts and good visitors at all school sponsored activities.

Students and fans who are ejected from any athletic event due to poor sportsmanship or disorderly conduct may be banned from all further events on the GCHS and GCMS campus for the remainder of the year.

Sportsmanship

Students:

Students' habits and reaction as spectators determine the quality of sportsmanship which reflects upon the reputation of the school. Profane and abusive language and obnoxious behavior have no place at an athletic contest.

1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship. **Good sportsmanship means always being positive with your response to the contest.**
2. Respect and cooperate with the cheerleaders.
3. Respect the property of the school and the authority of the school officials.
4. Show respect for an injured player and do not heckle or jeer the opposing team.
5. Remember athletic contest and mood altering substances do not mix.
6. Do not use profanity in cheers or direct profane statements at officials, players, coaches or opposing cheering sections.
7. Do not single out opposing players personally and heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements/chant at them. Racist remarks are never acceptable.
8. Do not advance on the court or field to protest or communicate with officials, coaches or players.
9. Do not direct offensive cheers/chants at opposing cheering sections.
10. Shirts must be worn at all contests.
11. Ejected students will be banned from all home games for the remainder of the year and disciplined by the school.
12. Any student caught with drugs or alcohol will be arrested, suspended, and recommended for expulsion from George County Schools.

Spectators:

Fan behavior whether at home or away at athletic contests reflect on the entire community. Hometown fans should treat out of-town guests with respect.

Similarly, visiting fans should treat their host—both individuals and property — with proper appreciation.

1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
2. Be positive. Cheer for your team rather than against the opposition.
3. Refrain from booing and name calling.
4. Respect the officials' point of view. He/she is in charge and is doing his/her best.
5. Remember, athletic contests are, in one respect, just like driving, they do not mix with mood altering substances. No drugs or alcohol.
6. Do not use profanity in cheers or direct profane statements at officials, players, coaches or opposing cheering sections.
7. Do not single out opposing players personally and heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements/chants at them. Racist remarks are never acceptable.
8. Do not advance on the court or field to protest or communicate with officials, coaches or players.

Athletic Ticket Sales:

All tickets to athletic events must be purchased through the GoFan app or at the gate.

Student Council :

The Student Council serves as the students' voice of their campus. During the year, in addition to their set duties, the Student Council sponsors special days or events. The members of the student council are elected by popular vote by the student body. *See requirements listed under "Student Elections."*

Student Elections: Class officer, Club officer, & Homecoming

GCHS/GCMS offers a variety of voluntary activities, organizations and leadership positions to enhance the educational process for our students. These opportunities serve to increase community and school awareness and pride as well as develop leadership skills. Students should keep in mind that in making the decision to run and accept leadership positions, they serve as ambassadors for our schools and should conduct themselves accordingly. The leadership positions include but are not limited to class and club officers as well as homecoming representatives, and any position which is voted on by the student body. In order for a student to run for these positions, the following requirements must be met.

- Students must maintain required grade average that is set by the school administration
- Students should not have received discipline referrals which resulted in ISS or OSS for the student during the current or previous semesters.
- Students will ask for references from at least 4 current and former teachers. These references will be completed confidentially by the teacher and returned to the front office prior to a student's name being added to a ballot.
- Students must obtain the written signatures of 20 fellow classmates in order to have their name included on the ballot.
- An administrator must check the student's discipline record and approve a student's name to the ballot.
- Students and their parents must read and sign a contract of the requirements, expectations, and duties of an officer or anyone choosing to represent our school in any way prior to the balloting process.

Who's Who Regulations: GCHS

In order for a person to be nominated for the following, he/she must have an 80 average for last semester and have guidance counselor's approval of grade before petition is turned back in. Mr. and Miss GCHS must be a senior and may be nominated by and voted on by all students in grades 9-12. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 may nominate a candidate for any or all of the following honors: Most Versatile Boy, Most Versatile Girl, Most Courteous Boy, Most Courteous Girl, Friendliest Boy, Friendliest Girl, Campus Favorite Boy, Campus Favorite Girl, Beauties, and Beaus. Students who are nominated for more than one honor must choose an honor before the first balloting. In order to compete for any of these honors, candidates must be passing all subjects and be academically aligned. A student may not represent the same class two years in a row (i.e. you cannot represent the sophomore class as sophomore class favorite two years in a row). A student body (10-12) will vote by secret ballot for the candidates of their choice. Ninth grade will nominate, elect, and vote for a candidate for the following honors: Class Favorite Boy and Girl and Friendliest Boy and Girl.

The faculty will secretly nominate the candidates for Senior Most Likely to Succeed (boy and girl) and Most Intellectual (boy and girl). Most Intellectual must be a senior. The top three nominees will be placed on secret ballot and voted for by members of the faculty. In the selection of the Best Athletes, the varsity coaches of the athletes will make the selection.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Student Emergency Information

For our student's safety, only adults (over the age of 18) listed on the student's emergency information may check out a student. Proof of identification will be required prior to the school releasing a student for check out.

Emergency Information Updates
Any time there is a change in address, telephone number, or emergency contact, the legal parent/guardian must come in person to the registrar or front office secretary to update the database to ensure student safety.

Employee Safety
The George County School District will be vigorous in its protection of all employees from physical and/or psychological abuse. Personnel are also protected by Section 37-11-21 of the Mississippi Code. It will be the policy of the Board to interpret the statute to include any striking, assaulting, or physical attack, as well as verbal abuse or insult. In order to protect employees of the George County School District, if during a fight between students, an employee is injured in any way, directly or indirectly, the student will be suspended from school with a recommendation for expulsion.

Emergency Operations
In order to provide a safe environment for students and faculty, fire drills and other disaster preparedness measures are a regular part of the school's program. Students are expected to learn the procedures to be followed under emergency conditions and to cooperate fully with the supervising teacher. Students cannot be checked out or leave campus until an all clear is given during a drill or emergency.

Fire alarms are a continuous bell. Students, under the guidance of a faculty member, should proceed in an orderly manner to their nearest exit and to their assigned waiting area.

Campus Police
The George County School District Police Department is dedicated to developing partnerships with the community we serve, including students, parents, and faculty in order to enhance the goal of providing quality education in a safe and secure atmosphere. Through these partnerships, we will preserve a learning environment that supports academic freedom, respect for diversity, fair and equal treatment to all, and an open exchange of ideas.

Loss, Theft, or Damage to Personal Items
The school will not be responsible or liable for the recovery of any items or for any damages incurred. It is essential that classroom instruction not be interrupted for unnecessary searches for items that should not be brought onto campus.

STUDENT SERVICES

School Nurse
Students may visit the nurse for illnesses and emergencies that occur during school hours. Students must have a hall pass to visit the nurse. If it is determined that the student should be sent home, the nurse will call the parent for permission.

Medication
Students are prohibited from carrying medication on campus. Any exceptions must be made through the school nurse. Prescription medication will not be administered to any student unless prescribed by a physician and required to be taken during school hours. Parents/guardians are responsible for completing the medication form (available from school nurse or during pre-registration) for mandatory daily prescriptions. In addition, over the counter medications will not be administered to any student unless a parent/guardian has signed a permission form that is also available from the school nurse or during pre-registration.

Telephone:
To help students comply with the cell phone policy, students are allowed to use the school phones to contact parents during the school day for specific purposes only such as needing to let a parent know about a change in practice schedule, to clarify how they are getting home, etc. Students needing to use office phones should get permission from their teacher and ask office staff to for permission. Likewise, parents are encouraged to call the school if it is necessary to speak to the student during the school day. After the caller has properly identified himself and explained the nature of the call, messages will be relayed or the student will be called to the phone.

Food Services
The school cafeteria is operated on a non-profit plan in cooperation with the State and Federal Lunchroom Program. Outside lunches are not to be brought to any student during the school day by anyone.

There will be no eating lunch in the halls of the school. Those who desire to bring their lunch from home will eat it in the cafeteria. Free or reduced lunches are available for those students who qualify for them. In order for students to receive free or reduced lunches, an application must be made to the principal. These applications are available during pre-registration and must be completed by all students.

Special Education
Special education services are offered based on identified and approved student needs. Classes are provided for students with disabilities who have been evaluated and determined eligible for placement in a program. Services are under the direction of trained and certified teachers of exceptional children.

School Insurance
Each year the school offers a group accident insurance policy for the benefit of any student who pays the required premium. It will be required that all students involved in athletics have either a special insurance policy recommended by the school or insurance provided by parents to cover injuries in those sports. Applications are available during pre-registration as well as from the office, coaches, and Athletic Director.

Counseling
In an effort to helps students profit as much as possible from their school program experiences and to assist them in planning for employment or further educational study, academic and CTE counselors are available to discuss with students and/or parents any problems or questions that arise relative to student life. Students should make appointments to see a counselor when needed.

Parents are invited to contact their child's teacher(s) if they feel their child is not doing well or having problems in a class. Teachers are available after school most days for conferences with students or parents. To schedule a parent/teacher conference, parents should call the school's front office.

Schedule Changes

Adding or dropping classes is only allowed for valid educational reasons. Changes will not be made for reasons such as dislike of teacher, dislike of subject, or dislike of classmates. In the event that an administrator approves a class change, a class of equal weight or value must be taken in its place.

Visitors
No one other than regular school employees is allowed on campus without clearance from the principal's office. All visitors, including parents, district employees, community members, and consultants and other officials, must check in and out of the principal's office upon arrival on campus (as required by state law). Visitors

should park in the front of the school, and the front office will issue visitor passes if approval is granted for the visitor to be on campus. All visitor passes must be returned.

GCHS students who drive to school and are not accompanied by a parent should check in at the back office when late for school.

Visitors must adhere to all GCSD policies while on campus.

Students are not to bring brothers, sisters, or friends to school for any reason. **Visitors who fail to secure written permission from the principal's office to be on campus may be referred to campus police.**

STUDENT RECORDS

Policy JR: Student Records-

It is the policy of the George County Board of Education that the principal of each school will be legal custodian of all student records for that school. Students and parents will have access to their school records.

The school will notify parents and adult students annually of the following:

1. The type of record kept;
2. The procedure for inspecting and copying these records;
3. The right for interpretation;
4. The right to challenge data thought to be erroneous, the procedures for correcting or expunging erroneous data or inserting a rebuttal statement;

The right to lodge a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if mandates are not adequately implemented

Policy JRA: Student Directory Information-

Within the first month of each school year, the school district will give public notice of the categories of information which it considers directory information regarding students in the district. This notice will include a statement notifying parents whether or not the categories set forth as directory information may be used on a school-authorized internet web page. If the district chooses to use student directory information on its internet web page this will be specified in the annual notice. This notice will also include a disclaimer to the effect that the school district shall not be responsible for the posting of any student information on the internet web page not authorized by the George County Board of Education.

The school will allow ten (10) days from date of such public notice for parents to inform the superintendent in writing of specific directory information pertaining to such student that should not be released without prior written consent of the parents. If the school has notified the parents that it intends to use the directory information on a school-sponsored internet web page, the parents shall be allowed to object to the use of their child's information on the internet web page, yet still consent to the school's use of their child's information in other formats. If the parents provide no such objection within ten (10) days of the official notification, the information will be classified as directory information until the beginning of the next school year.

The school district will maintain and release directory information without the parent's prior written consent, unless the parent, or student if over 18, informs the district that any or all of the following information should not be released without prior written consent. Directory information includes the student's name, date of birth, and grade.

As authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, public schools are required

to provide the military with the same access to secondary school students and directory information about such students as it provided to post-secondary institutions and prospective employers, unless the school board formally adopts a policy that restricts or denies access to such information by military recruiters.

This school board adopts the following to address this issue:

The George County School District may disclose any of the items listed as directory information without prior written consent, unless notified in writing to the contrary. Subject to the provisions of state and federal laws, this district shall provide the same directory information and on-campus recruiting opportunities to representatives of the United States armed forces and state armed services as are offered to nonmilitary recruiters, recruiters for commercial concerns, and recruiters representing institutions of higher education.

Directory information or class lists of student names and/or addresses shall not be distributed without the consent of the parent or legal guardian of the student or the consent of the student if 18 years of age or older. The superintendent or designee shall determine when recruitment meetings are to take place and shall take appropriate steps to ensure that such meetings do not interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the schools in the district.

Organizations wishing to recruit at the high school must make arrangements with the principal or designee who will determine the schedule for the recruitment meeting. Scheduled visits by recruiters will be made known to the student body. On-campus follow-up meetings with individual students will be permitted only upon the request of the students and with the approval of the building principal or designee.

Any person or organization denied the rights accorded under this policy shall have the right to request a review of the decision by the school board by filing a written request with the superintendent.

Policy JRAA: Student Recruitment and Student Directory Information-

The George County School District allows recruiting access to any of the items listed as directory information in policy JRBA, unless notified in writing to the contrary. The parent, legal guardian of the student, or the student age 18 or older may also provide written notification to the school administration requesting directory information not to be released to military service recruiters.

Subject to the provisions of state and federal laws, this district shall provide the same directory information and on-campus recruiting opportunities to representatives of the armed forces of the United States of America and state armed services as are offered to nonmilitary recruiters, recruiters for commercial concerns, and recruiters representing institutions of higher education. The board shall also provide full access for the recruitment of students by regional career-technology centers, regional vocational agricultural centers, and trade schools.

The school administrator may make the determination of when the recruitment meetings are to take place and reserves the right to deny meeting where the holding of such meeting will materially and substantially interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the school. Organizations wishing to recruit at the high school must make arrangements with the principal or designee who will determine the schedule for the recruitment meeting. Scheduled visits by recruiters will be made known to the student body. On-campus follow-up meetings with individual students will be permitted only upon the request of the student(s) and with the approval of the building principal or designee.

Noncustodial Parent's Rights-

School Law 93-5-26. Noncustodial parent's right to access to records and information pertaining to minor children.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except those provisions protecting the confidentiality of adoption records and except for cases in which parental rights have been legally terminated, access to records and information pertaining to a minor child, including but not limited to medical, dental and school records, shall not be denied to a parent because the parent is not the child's custodial parent if such parent's parental rights have not been terminated by adoption or by a termination of parental rights proceeding.

For noncustodial parents to request records, the following steps must be followed:

1. Request of Non-Custodial Parent form must be completed and signed.
2. A copy of the divorce decree or other court records must be furnished to ensure person requesting information is the parent.
3. A driver's license or other ID must be provided.

Office personnel/registrar will ensure that all documentation has been provided and copies retained for school files.

Note: This does not add the noncustodial parent to the school contact information and does not give the parent the right to check out the student or meet with the student or teacher.

2026-2027 School Year

George County School District
Acceptable Use Computer Policy and Internet Access Agreement

In order for a student to gain access to the Internet, the student and student's parent(s) /guardian(s) must sign an Internet Access Agreement.

The superintendent is authorized to amend or revise the following board-approved initial administrative procedure, as he/she deems necessary and appropriate consistent with this policy. The superintendent is further authorized to amend or revise the Internet Network Access Agreement with the advice of board counsel.

It must be understood by all concerned that the global and fluid nature of the Internet network's contents make it extremely difficult for the board to completely regulate and monitor the information received or sent by students. As such, the board cannot assure parents that students will be prevented from accessing undesirable materials or sending or receiving objectionable communications.

Reference Board Policy Code IJ-R.

I hereby release George County School District, its personnel, and any institutions with which it is affiliated, from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my misuse of the District system.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Career and Technical Department

Memorandum of Understanding

If selected as a member of the Year 1 and/or Year 2 of a CTE Program, I understand that:

1. I am making a commitment to a minimum of one (1) year of the program.
2. Regular updates may be sent home via email to both the student and parent/guardian. It is necessary for me to have a valid email address on file.
3. I must dress appropriately when reporting to program activities, job shadowing, and internship opportunities.
4. I must maintain academic excellence. This includes striving to maintain a 3.0 GPA at the end of each academic year.
5. Automatic **dismissal from the program** will result from continuing disciplinary problems with **any** teacher, safety violations or concerns, or alternative placement during the school year.
6. I must participate in and support scheduled labs, meetings and activities. My participation will be documented in a work-based learning portfolio.
7. Participation in field experiences, industry visits, field trips, and competitions is determined by discipline, class participation, and attendance.
8. I must score 100% on the program safety test.
9. If I have any questions about or problems with any aspect of the program, I may contact the director or counselor.
10. To qualify for the MGCCC Career and Technical Full Tuition Scholarship, I must complete a 2-year CTE program and meet the requirements set by MGCCC.

In order to share with the community the great things happening in CTE at GCHS, we will be posting pictures throughout the year on the school website, in the newspaper, etc. Please mark one of the choices below.

_____ Yes, I give GCHS my permission to use my student's picture and name.

_____ No, I do not give GCHS my permission to use my student's picture and name.

To ensure success in Year 2 of this program, students should:

Complete Year 1 with 70 or Higher Teacher Recommendation

_____

Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

_____

Student Name Printed Date

George County High School does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

GCHS December Completion Contract & Application for December 2026 (2026-2027 School Year)

What is December Completion?

- Eligible seniors complete the school year and all completion requirements in December and do not report to school for second semester classes. They can attend school events, graduation, etc. If they come to campus, they must sign in at the back office and get a visitor's pass.

Who is <u>NOT</u> eligible for December Completion?

- Second year CTE students are **<u>not eligible</u>** due to CTE requirements.
- Seniors in a sport/activity that is in season during the second semester are **<u>not eligible</u>**.
- Seniors who have not passed one or more state tests are **<u>not eligible</u>**.
- Seniors who have not completed an endorsement area are **<u>not eligible</u>**.

Who is eligible for December Completion?

- All seniors who have met or will meet by the end of the first semester all credit, endorsement, testing, graduation requirements, and principal's discretion per the district and the Mississippi Department of Education, are eligible to apply for December Completion.

What is required for December Completion?

- Specifically in addition to credits, ACT and/or ACT WorkKeys, endorsement, state tests (including ELPA), graduation requirements, and principal's discretion being met, the student must have a legitimate school and/or work opportunity to pursue or continue.

Who is responsible for December Completion?

- It is the **<u>student's responsibility</u>** to initiate and complete the application process (contract and letter) which includes meeting all requirements. If requirements are not met, December Completion will be revoked.

When is the deadline to apply and who is the contact person?

- September 25, 2026; return to Ms. Brown, Assistant Principal; brittany.brown@gcsd.us

What is the next step in the process for December Completion?

1. Complete this contract **<u>(parent signature required)</u>** and return it to Ms. Brown in the front office (the return basket is labeled and outside her office door).
2. Ms. Brown will verify the student is eligible for December Completion.
3. Ms. Brown will share in Google Doc a template for the student letter.
4. The student completes the letter documenting the legitimate work/school opportunity.
5. The student shares their copy of the Google Doc with Ms. Brown by **September 25, 2026.**

Statement of Understanding

The student and parent/guardian understands the contract and agree to complete all necessary requirements by the end of the first semester in order to qualify for December Completion. I understand that it is the student's responsibility to ensure all paperwork and requirements are completed in order to December Complete.

_____ _____

Student's Signature *Date*

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature *Date*

December Completion Application - Due September 25, 2026

Student Name:_____ **Application Date:**_____

Check one option for why you are applying for December Completion and complete the sentence.

☐	**I will take classes at** _____ **beginning** _____. *(provide full name of junior college, university, or trade school)* *(start date)*
☐	**I will work** _____ **hours weekly at** _____ **beginning** _____. *(provide full name of business/employer)* *(start date)*
☐	**I will both take classes and work** _____ **hours weekly.** _____ *(provide junior college, university, or trade school)* _____ *(provide full name of business/employer)*

****

**** This portion will be completed by Ms. Brown.***

Number of Current Credits Earned:_____

Endorsement Area to Complete: **Distinguished** **Academic** **CTE** **JROTC**

Credits Remaining	Endorsement Requirements Remaining
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

☐ **All state test requirements are met.** **Yes or No** Test Needed:_____

☐ **The ACT has been taken.** **Yes or No** Superscore:_____

☐ **The ACT WorkKeys has been taken.** **Yes or No** Score:_____

☐ **There is Credit Recovery to complete.** **Yes or No** Course:_____

*Approved Pending Requirements*_____ *Denied*_____ *Admin Initials*_____

*Reason for Denial:*_____

GEORGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

24-CREDIT TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

Student Name: _____

School Year: _____

George County High School student handbook policy requires 28 credits for a high school diploma. This includes four additional credits beyond the 24 credits required by the Mississippi Department of Education for a traditional diploma. By signing below, I acknowledge that my student is earning a diploma based on MDE's approved traditional diploma option of 24 credits (shown in the table below) instead of the district's approved diploma of 28 credits.

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
The Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• See the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for implementation options.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Electives	5½	
Total Units Required: 24		

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature *Date*

_____

Student Signature *Date*

_____

School Administrator Signature *Date*

Alma Mater

Our strong bond shall ne're be broken;
It shall never die.
Loyal Hearts and Kindred Spirits,
Sealed by friendships tie.
Faithful loyal brave and true,
We shall ever be.
Hail to thee our Alma Mater,
GEORGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL-
HAIL!!