

**George County High School
Student Handbook 2023-2024**



APPROVED

JUL 06 2023

G C SCHOOL BOARD

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CIVIL RESPONSIBILITIES & RIGHTS

Notices of Assurance & Compliance

DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE SCHOOLS

It is the policy of George County High School to maintain a drug and alcohol free school and workplace. 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 class 5 offense.

SAFE SCHOOLS

The administration of George County High School believes that the school 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 than 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, 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.

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's status as homeless is prohibited.

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. If the victim is not satisfied with

and 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)

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.

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; 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. Misdemeanor

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, Chris West.

PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENTS

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

- Receipt of the George County High School 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, 5152 Main Street, Lucedale, MS 39452 or call 601-947-6993. You may also write or call the US Department of Health, 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.

Administration

Mr. Wade Whitney, Jr. Superintendent of Education
 George County High School ▪ 9284 Old 63 South ▪ Lucedale, MS 39452 ▪ 601-947-3116
 Fax: 601-947-1076 (Main Office) ▪ 601-766-7451 (Attendance Office)

Mr. Sid Taylor	GCHS Principal	sidney.taylor@gcsd.us
Mrs. Darlene Hearndon	Assistant Principal	hearndond@gcsd.us
Mrs. Kristin Davis	Assistant Principal	kristin.davis@gcsd.us
Ms. Brittany Brown	Assistant Principal	brittany.brown@gcsd.us
Mr. Jeff Mathis	CTE Director	jeff.mathis@gcsd.us
Mr. Jason Holland	Assistant CTE Director	jason.holland@gcsd.us
Coach James Ray	Head Football Coach	james.ray@gcsd.us

2023-2024 GCHS TESTING CALENDAR

State Tests

English II	CPAS
Algebra I	National Certs.
US History	
Biology I	
ACT	
ACT WorkKeys	

Term Tests/Exams

October 3-4	Exams for first 9 weeks
December 19-21	Exams for second 9 weeks
March 7-8	Exams for third 9 weeks
May 21-23	Exams for fourth 9 weeks

Monthly Calendar for ADA

August 4-August 31	20 days
September 1-September 29	20 days
October 2-October 31	18 days
November 1-November 30	17 days
December 1-December 21	15 days
January 4-January 31	19 days
February 1-February 29	19 days
March 1-March 29	14 days
April 2-April 30	21 days
May 1-May 23	17 days
Total	180 days

Term Calendar

August 4—October 4	Term 1
October 11—December 21	Term 2
January 4—March 8	Term 3
March 19—May 23	Term 4

Mid-Term Progress Reports/
Report Cards

September 7	First term progress reports
October 12	First term report cards
November 9	Second term progress reports
January 11	Second term report cards
February 8	Third term progress reports
March 21	Third term report cards
April 18	Fourth term progress reports
May 30	Fourth term report cards

August 1-3	Tuesday-Thursday	Prof. Dev./ Teacher Work Days
August 4	Friday	First Day for Students
September 4	Monday	Labor Day Holiday
September 7	Thursday	Progress Reports
October 3-4	Tuesday-Wednesday	First Nine Weeks Exams
October 4	Wednesday	End of First Nine Weeks
October 5-10	Thursday-Tuesday	Fall Break
October 10	Tuesday	Prof. Dev./ Teacher Work Days
October 11	Wednesday	Second Nine Weeks Begin
October 12	Thursday	Report Cards
November 9	Thursday	Progress Reports
November 20-24	Monday-Friday	Thanksgiving Holidays (Bad Weather Makeup Days)
December 19-21	Tuesday-Thursday	Second Nine Weeks Exams
December 21	Thursday	End of Second Nine Weeks – 60% Day
Dec. 22-Jan. 3	Friday-Wednesday	Christmas Holidays
January 3	Wednesday	Prof. Dev./Teacher Work Day
January 4	Thursday	Third Nine Weeks Begin – Students Return
January 11	Thursday	Report Cards
January 15	Monday	Martin Luther King Holiday
February 8	Thursday	Progress Reports
February 12-13	Monday-Tuesday	Winter Break
March 7-8	Thursday-Friday	Third Nine Weeks Exams
March 8	Friday	End of Third Nine Weeks
March 11-15	Monday-Friday	Spring Break
March 18	Monday	Prof. Dev./Teacher Work Day
March 19	Tuesday	Fourth Nine Weeks Begin
March 21	Thursday	Report Cards
March 29	Friday	Good Friday (Bad Weather Makeup Days)
April 1	Monday	Easter Holiday (Bad Weather Makeup Days)
April 18	Thursday	Progress Reports
May 21-23	Tuesday-Thursday	Fourth Nine Weeks Exams
May 23	Thursday	End of Fourth Nine Weeks – 60% Day
May 24	Friday	Prof. Dev./Teacher Workday
May 30	Thursday	Report Cards

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.

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.

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 at student registration. 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.

GED

- George County School District no longer offers the GED program.

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 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 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 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 enroll 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 Edmentum 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. Students should see 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.

Grading Scale

The academic standard for George County High School is as follows:

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

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.

Grading Policy

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

GPA/Rank in Class

The Grade Point Average for rank in class is calculated some time 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.

GPA's for transcripts or scholarships, unless otherwise specified, are calculated on an un-weighted 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)	
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/Phy	
CTE Year II Non-certification courses	

Weighted Grading Scale

Grade 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	100.1
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

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.

Parental Review of Progress

Parents are expected to keep up with their child's progress and encouraged to schedule conferences to meet with teachers in order to follow his/her academic progress. Parents can view grades, discipline, and attendance through Active Parent.

Progress Reports

The school year consists of four terms of nine weeks each. Progress reports are sent home mid-way 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.

Mississippi Virtual School

Students may enroll in the Mississippi Virtual School (MVS) provided permission is granted by the principal. Credits earned through MVS will count as earned credit but will not be counted towards class rank. MVS may be used only for electives. MVS courses will not be allowed for any subject requiring state testing (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and US History), or any classes that are pre-requisite for state-tested classes. One course per semester may be earned through MVS. Request for additional courses may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Students who have been unsuccessful with previously taken MVS classes will not be allowed to take additional courses without permission from the principal.

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, and US History from 1877. 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, MS-CPAS, 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.

Composite (Combined) Score Calculations provide opportunities for students who do not obtain a passing score on one or more EOC assessments. Students may utilize an additional graduation option by taking the average of all EOC assessments and achieving a minimal combined score of **1050**.

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 four areas: English, Reading, Math, and Science. 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.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Graduation Requirements

Each student graduating from George County High School 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.

December Completion

Students who potentially qualify for December Completion will be evaluated on a 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 (3) 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 one overall sport 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 GCHS graduation and 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	4 Credits
English I, II	
Mathematics	4 Credits
Alg. I, II, Geometry	
Any one Carnegie unit of comparable rigor and content	
Science	4 Credits
Bio. I, Chem. I	
Any two Carnegie units of comparable rigor and content	
Social Studies	4 Credits
World Geography, MS Studies, World History, US History, US Govt., Economics	
Arts	1 Credit
One Carnegie unit of visual and performing arts	
Advanced Electives	2 Credits
Foreign Language I, II or 5th Math/Science	
Any 2 Dual Credit Courses	

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 or unexcused)
- Letter of Recommendation from Principal or guidance counselor. No OSS Suspension.
- ACT– minimum 19 composite

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).

Requirements for Current MDE Career Pathway Track - Academic Course of Study:

English	4 Credits
*Mathematics	3 Credits
Math, Algebra I, Math above Algebra I (Course has to be related to program of study)	
*Geometry Mandatory	
Science	3 Credits
Biology I and 2 courses above Biology I	
Social Studies	3 Credits
American History, Government and MS Studies	
Computer	1 Credit
Health or PE	1/2 Credit
*Electives	9.5 Credits
Based on your program of study	
*CTE	4 Credits
In the same area of study	

Must have 28 minimum 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 36 ASVAB or Silver Level Work-Keys
- 2.5 high school GPA
- 95% school attendance during high school years
- No out of school suspension

Must attain a passing score, as establish by the MDE, on the CPAS2 or 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. The traditional track meets state and district requirements and requires 28 Carnegie units.

GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Traditional Diploma Track

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Curriculum Area	Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I, Geometry
Sciences	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3½	½ Mississippi 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 & Career	1	
Electives	2½	

Total Units Required 28

REQUIRED STATE TESTS

English II , Biology I, Algebra I, U.S. History

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

*** 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.**

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.

Additional Course Information

- ROTC I and II meets the health requirement.
- ROTC III and IV meets the PE requirement or College & Career requirement.
- Business Fundamentals 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.
- Two semesters of Work Based Learning meet the College & Career requirement.

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS

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

Requirements

- Students should identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission.
- 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
 - . Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

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 ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I English II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I
Science	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3 1/2	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Stud
PE	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	
Additional Electives	5 1/2	
Total Units Required	28	

Additional Requirements

- . Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- . Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- . 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

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

<u>Curriculum Area</u>	<u>Carnegie Units</u>	<u>Required Subjects</u>
English	4	English I English 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 1/2	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Stud
PE	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year se quence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	9 1/2	Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

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
- . 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 academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

<u>Curriculum Area</u>	<u>Carnegie Units</u>	<u>Required Subjects</u>
English	4	English I English 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 Stud
PE	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year se quence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	10	Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	30	

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 sub score.
- . 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 academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS**New Student Registration**

A **parent or legal guardian** must accompany registering students before they will be permitted to register for school. They must meet the following requirements:

- Present a withdrawal form from the school from which he/she is transferring.
- Present Form 121 indicating he/she is in compliance with State Law (Senate Bill 2650), which indicates he/she has been vaccinated against those diseases specified by State Law.
- Present a copy of the student's certified birth certificate.
- If student is living with only one parent or other persons, a legal document must be provided to show proof of custody or guardianship.
- Present two proofs of residency in the George County School District (driver's license that does not expire before school begins, cable bill, gas bill, mortgage documents or property deed, filed homestead exemption form, home insurance policy, automobile registration, apartment or home lease.) in accordance with MS Code 37-15-31.
- The school of last attendance must provide the student's records within a reasonable period of time. If the records are not received within nine (9) weeks, the student will be asked to withdraw until such time as the records are received.
- Students transferring in from a training school, a mental or behavioral institution, or an alternative program may be placed in the GCHS Alternative School.

Transferring from Non-Accredited Programs

For information about home schooling/transfer student testing, please review the George County School District's policies JBCD, JBCDE, and JBAB.

Returning Students

Prior to registering for the next school year, students must adhere to the following procedures.

- All textbooks, uniforms, and outstanding materials turned in or paid for.
- Settle all outstanding debts from the previous year.
- Complete a residency verification sheet and provide two proofs of residency in accordance with MS Code 37-15-31. If a utility bill is used, it must be the July bill of the current year or within 30 days of the enrollment date.
- Attend pre-registration and complete all necessary paperwork.
- A **parent or legal guardian** must accompany registering students
- If student is living with only one parent or other persons, a legal document must be provided to show proof of custody or guardianship.

Students who do not meet the above requirements will not be given a schedule.

Materials Fees

Some courses at GCHS require reasonable class fees to cover supplemental instructional materials and supplies. These fees are set by the individual teachers.

Late Enrollment

If a student resides in the district and enrolls after the beginning date of the school year, days missed because of late enrollment will be counted as absences. If that student resides in the district and did not attend another school, he/she must make up all work missed. Students will be allowed one day makeup for each day absent. Any work not made up will result in a grade of zero.

Driver's License School Enrollment Requirement

In accordance with MS Code §63-1-10, 1972, as amended, any applicant for a driver's license less than 18 years of age must submit documentation from the appropriate school authority that the applicant is a full-time student at George County High School. These forms can be obtained in the front office. These forms are verified for school attendance, signed by a principal, and notarized. Attendance verification forms are valid for 30 days from the day the student is issued the signed/notarized form.

Students must be in compliance with the school attendance policy and must be in attendance 5 consecutive days to be issued the form. (See Attendance, below) State law does not allow issuance of compliance forms if a student has more than 12 unexcused absences. In order for a student to receive an attendance form in the summer, the student must not have more than 12 unexcused absences for the year. During the summer, the 5 consecutive days present will be waived.

Note: Attendance forms are only available during school hours, not holidays.

Registration Forms

Appropriate registration forms must be completed annually and signed by the student's parent, legal guardian or other person having lawful control.

Withdrawal Procedure

Students who withdraw from GCHS are to follow the procedures listed below.

- A parent must accompany the student to sign the withdrawal form before any student may be withdrawn. Prior to withdrawing, the George County school attendance officer must be notified and permission granted.
- Students will have each teacher, including librarian, complete his/her portion of the form. The student should turn in all books, uniforms, and equipment to the teachers who ISSUED them to receive credit for them.
- Pay all fines for overdue books, band, JROTC, athletics, or other activities.
- Return the completed forms to the Registrar. The Registrar will keep one copy and give the student a copy to take with him/her to enroll in his/her next school.
- If a student returns to enroll in school and has any outstanding debts, he/she will not be enrolled until the debt is paid.

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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
 - 10 accumulated unexcused absences
 - 12 accumulated unexcused absences
 - Been suspended or expelled.

Absentee Policy

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.

For any unexcused absence, students may make-up the work, but a zero will be given for the work.

Excused Absences

1. Only four (4) days absences per block per semester can be excused by a parent note.
2. After (4) parent-note-excused absences, a doctor's excuse must be presented for each absence thereafter.
3. For any unexcused absence, students may make-up the work, but a zero will be given for the work.
4. Missed work for excused absences must be made up in the time allotted.
5. It is the students responsibility to make up any excused work missed. Make-up work should begin immediately upon the student's report to school.
6. 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.**

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.

Excused Absence Procedures

- 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.
- Parent notes may excuse only four (4) total days per semester.
- 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 school principal 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 12 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.

Early Release

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
- Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

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.

Note: Students who participate in athletics/activities are not allowed to early release. They will be required to have a full schedule during the semester of their sport/activity.

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. Faxed checkouts will not be accepted.

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 (4) 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.

Students who check out through the school nurse because of illness may submit a doctor's excuse upon their return to receive an excused checkout. All other checkouts will be unexcused.

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 63% 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.	

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STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The rules and guidelines in this handbook are to be followed by all 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)

Personal Appearance Regulations

All students are expected to observe minimum standards of hygiene, sanitation, and personal appearance. The following regulations are to be observed by all students. Any student violating any such regulations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

1. No gauges of any kind including hollow centers designed to expand earlobe.
2. Male students are allowed facial hair that is neatly groomed.
3. Bandannas, picks, and combs are not to be exposed in any manner.
4. Chains (not jewelry) hanging from pockets, belts or wallets are prohibited.
5. Any other offense deemed inappropriate or distracting by school administration.

Caps needed for shop classes or other school activities may not be exposed in any manner in the hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, or on buses.

Consequences for personal appearance violations will be the same as for dress code violations.

Assertive Discipline Policy

Assertive discipline will be used in each classroom at GCHS. Each teacher will provide class rules that will be approved by the principal, sent to the parents, and placed on display in each classroom. Each violation of these rules will result in various punishments made up by the teacher and approved by the principal. After four classroom violations in a given class, the students will be referred to the assistant principal. The discipline ladder is a guideline for the assistant principal and he may take mitigating circumstances into consideration.

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 (Steps 6 and 7). 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: 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 year. Special ed. students will be assigned max 45 days.

STEP ONE OR HIGHER

- 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
- Tampering with teacher's desk or material.
- 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.

STEP 2 OR HIGHER

- 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 OR HIGHER

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

STEP 4 OR HIGHER

- 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 OR HIGHER

- Harassment
- Instigating a fight, stalking, bullying, intimidation
- Possession or use of tobacco or paraphernalia
- Possession and/or use of e-cigarettes/vapes
- Vandalism or destruction of school property
- Possession of knife, mace/pepper spray, or fake weapons. etc.
- Fighting
- 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.

STEP 6 OR HIGHER

- 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.

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.

Employee Protection

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.

Electronic Device/Cell Phone

GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES

At their own risk, students may bring their cell phones/electronic devices to school. **The phone/device must remain on silent or vibrate 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 cell phones/electronic devices in their classrooms will be allowed to take up student’s devices when used without permission and hold it for the remainder of class. Inappropriate use of cell phone/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.**

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

1st offense – Warning

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 cell phones. If a student has a cell phone 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 the cell phone or cell phone charges.

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

Any student caught using or in possession of an electronic device (i.e. cell phone) during State Testing will have their test invalidated, which means they fail the test.

Approved 6-7-16

Any student caught using or in possession of an electronic device during state testing will Have their test invalidated, which means they fail the test.

Search and Seizure

Courts have ruled that teachers and school administrators are “loco parentis” of students. This means that teachers and administrators are acting in place of parents during the school day and may do anything a parent would do to maintain discipline.

In addition, school officials must protect all students from possible harm. Therefore, courts have ruled that school officials may conduct searches of students when there is reasonable suspicion that the student might possess items that might harm themselves or other students (drugs or drug paraphernalia, alcohol, weapons, stolen items, tobacco, or any other items that might cause harm to that student or other students.)

These court rulings were made in order to protect all students from possible harm. “Emerging First and Fourth Amendment Right of the Student.” 1. J. Law and Education 49, 451 (1972) in re Donaldson, 269 Cal. App. 2nd 509, 75 Cal. Rptr. 220 (1969) Mercer v. State, 450 S.W.2d 715 (1970).

Searches may be conducted at any time during the school year. These searches may include the use of hand held metal detectors and the use of drug dogs, handled by law enforcement agency officials. Any contraband found will be subject to the George County High School discipline code and any/all applicable state statutes. Searches may include any vehicle or electronic devices on the George County High School Campus based upon suspicion of the administration. The district school officers will assist in the searches and the George County Sheriff’s Department may be called to assist in the search.

Behavior in Cafeteria

Students should observe the following guidelines while in the cafeteria.

- Enter the cafeteria as if it is a restaurant
- Stay in line and wait your turn
- Display a pleasant manner
- Refrain from open complaints about the food. If you have a complaint, make it to the principal in a courteous manner. You will be heard and your complaint will be considered.
- Use your table manners
- Always respect the rights of others
- Be responsible, pick up your trash and tray

Try to leave the cafeteria in better condition that you found it; remember other people eat after you have finished!

Standing or sitting on the stage during lunch in the cafeteria is prohibited unless prior approval is granted by administration.

Miscellaneous

There shall be no lettering, signs, placards, decals, or other such objects pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to any surface of the school inside or outside without special permission from the principal. Also, pamphlets, leaflets, brochures, petitions, or other literature shall not be distributed to students by anyone without permission from the principal.

Students shall not wear campaign pins, publicity insignias, unless it supports a recognized candidate for political office during an election year, or any other objects that are not part of their natural dress. Flags and banners brought to GCHS and school activities must be in support of the activity or class and relate to the activity.

Violations will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

COMPUTER AND NETWORK GUIDELINES

Computer and Network Use

Computer technology provides the students of George County High School with unique opportunities for acquiring information and sharing information, knowledge, and ideas that can positively impact learning and future success. The high school continues to implement technology to enhance instruction and encourages students to take full advantage of the facilities available to them. With access to computers, computer networks, and the Internet comes responsibility for proper conduct.

Inappropriate use of computers/Internet will result in disciplinary action.

Terms and Conditions for Use

The user is held responsible for his/her actions while using a stand-alone computer or network station and activity within any of his/her user accounts. Unacceptable uses or intentional damage of equipment, data or accounts will result in suspension or revocation of use privileges, as well as being subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school and criminal prosecution

- All use of computers and networks or on-line accounts must be in support of education and research consistent with the goals of the George County School District.
- Any use of computers, networks or on-line accounts that is deemed by the supervising staff member and/or school administration to be dangerous, objectionable, pornographic, distracting to education, or otherwise offensive in nature is prohibited.
- Any use of computers, networks or on-line accounts is subject to system administrator perusal, and logging for virus scanning or inappropriate use investigation.
- Any use of computers, networks, or on-line accounts for personal and private business or for profit purposes are prohibited.
- Any use of computers, networks or on-line accounts requires a signed User Agreement to be on file with the school.

Inappropriate Use

Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to intentional uses that violate the law, that violate the rules set forth in this handbook or any other use that threatens the integrity or security of computers, networks or on-line user accounts provided by the George County School district.

Guidelines

Users of computers, networks, or on-line accounts may:

- Only use the passwords assigned to them and not seek to misrepresent themselves as other users or to discover the password of another user.
- Not authorize anyone else to use his/her name, files for any purpose.
- Not copy, change, or transfer any software or files provided by the George County School district. The use of illegally copied software or files is considered a criminal offense and is subject to criminal prosecution.
- Not load, execute, or download any programs, macros or executable files on any computer or network of the George County School District.
- Not intentionally write, produce, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any virus or computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, alter, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system or software.

Limitations of Liability

George County School District makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, that the function of the services provided through the District system will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer including but not limited to, loss of data or interruption of service. The District is not responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized or inappropriate use of computers, networks, or on-line accounts.

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 will 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

Student Drop Off & Pick Up

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

Students 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– 10.00 ticket/fine and driver's suspension.
- Step 4– 10.00 ticket/fine and loss of driving privileges for remainder of semester.

Student Parking Lot/Driving Rules and Consequences

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 drivers 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

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

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.

This dress code outlines the only acceptable form of attire approved to be worn by students in this district. Any deviations however slight, are disallowed.

Every component of the student attire should be appropriate in length and/or size. No tight fitting, body forming pants, shorts, capris, skirts or dresses of any type. Appropriate is defined as that which properly covers the body and which is in good taste as determined by school administration.

The principal shall have the final decision about the appropriateness of the length/size of clothing. All teachers will monitor dress code and send those students who appear to be out of compliance to the principal at the beginning of the day. School artwork must be site approved. Any clothing or appearance styles that are deemed as a distraction by the administration will not be permitted. All clothing should be free of rips and tears.

The principal may designate days each 9-weeks as a "Special Day." Students would be allowed to wear school spirit shirts with jeans on that day.

Students who are pregnant or become pregnant are expected to abide by the school dress code. Any deviations will be handled on a case by case basis and must be approved by the school nurse and school administrator.

The consequences for dress code and/or personal appearance violations **do not** start over at second semester. Consequences for both are handled on a per year basis.

BUTTON UP & POLO SHIRTS

- K-12 Solid color: white, blue, maroon
- Tuck in all shirts

ALTERNATE SHIRTS

Alternate color polos have been approved as follows: CES – Orange; GCHS – Gray; GCMS – Purple; LCHES – Yellow; LIS – Red; RCES – Kelly Green; AES – Black; BES – Gray.

BELTS REQUIRED (7-12)

**PULLOVER SWEATSHIRTS/HOODIES
SWEATERS/TURTLENECKS**

- Solid color: gray, blue, maroon, white or school/district-approved artwork in these same colors.

SHOES

- K-12—Closed toe and closed heel
- Dress shoes, athletic shoes, saddle oxfords, boots, loafers.

JACKETS/COATS

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

**PANTS/SKIRTS/WALKING SHORTS/
JUMPERS/POLO STYLE DRESSES**

- Solid color: navy blue or khaki (tan)
- Skirts and jumpers may also be Royal Park No. 34 and 39.
- Shorts, skirts, jumpers must be approximately knee length or longer.
- Construction shall be of uniform quality, wash-n-wear, or permanent press fabric.

SKORTS

7-12 No skorts

DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS

On these days, students will be allowed to wear a school approved spirit T-shirt, sweatshirt, hoodie and jeans.

Students serving ISS must be in school dress code and may not participate in special dress days.

The administration at the school shall confer with the parent of each student who fails to comply with the dress code in an effort to ascertain the reason(s) for non-compliance.

Consequences for Non-Compliance of Dress Code

First Offense

Warning—Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian can bring required clothing.

Second Offense

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension for one (1) day.

Third Offense

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian picks up the student and the student will receive one (1) day Out-of-school suspension to be served on the next school day.

Fourth Offense

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian picks up the student, and the student will receive two (2) days Out-of-school suspension to be served on the next school day.

Fifth Offense

If a suspension is issued for non-compliance, the remainder of the suspension will be revoked upon compliance. During the suspension period, students may return to school after one day if properly attired.

6th Offense

Alternative Opportunity Center for 45 days.

SCHOOL DAY

12

School Day

The regular school day for George County High School is from 7:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bus transportation is considered part of the regular school day, therefore, the school day is extended for students using bus transportation to include the students' bus travel to and from school as well as time spent on all school campuses and on all shuttle buses in the mornings and afternoons. Bus students will be under school rules/guidelines from the time they are picked up at their home until they exit the bus at their home or drop-off location in the afternoons. Students are not expected to arrive on campus any earlier than 7:15 a.m. and all students should have exited the campus by 3:15 p.m. unless under the supervision of a teacher or coach for a scheduled before or after school activity. There is no school supervision for students before 7:15 a.m. or after 3:15 p.m. unless they are attending a teacher/coach scheduled activity.

Parking

See Transportation, p. 40.

Delayed Start of School Day Due to Inclement Weather

If a delayed start of school day is called, the following will occur:

- No breakfast program

- Buses will run at 8:30 and run on the regular schedule at the end of the day.
- Car riders should arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m.
- Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at the usual time at the end of the day.
- Employees will report to work at regular time or as soon as safe to do so.

The students are our first priority, and we feel strongly that any change in procedure be thoroughly communicated to avoid confusion and difficulty for our students, parents, and staff.

In the event of inclement weather, the Superintendent, after communicating with School Board President, will make the decision to close schools or announce a delayed start of the school day via the District's AIM System. This information will be broadcast on the local radio station WRBE 106.9 FM/1440 AM.

Arrival/Departure

Students who do not participate in the school bus transportation program and who choose to drive to school must purchase a parking permit and must park only in the designated areas for student parking. 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 the courtyard or the breezeway. Students may not remain in the parking lot or in their vehicle. Students who choose to eat breakfast should go directly to the cafeteria. Students are not allowed in the building until the 7:30 a.m. bell. Students should not arrive at school prior to 7:15 a.m. each morning. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:15 a.m.

Homerooms

Students are assigned to homerooms for administrative (record-keeping) purposes.

Class Scheduling

GCHS operates on a block schedule. State tested classes and/or their prerequisites may be year long classes. Students are assigned four classes per semester. Students pre-register for classes in the spring of each year.

Schedule Changes

Adding or dropping classes is only allowed for valid educational. 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 offices. 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.

All student check in and checkouts by parents will be handled through the back office. Parking for checkouts will be in the south parking lot.

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 George County High School 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.**

After School Activities

After school tutorial and enrichment programs are provided throughout the year for students who need additional assistance in the subject area testing areas. Students may see their guidance counselor for dates and times. Parents should make sure that students are picked up on time following these sessions.

Students who remain on campus after school for activities or athletic practices must be under the supervision of a teacher or coach for these activities. Students must inform parents of the dismissal time for the activity. Coaches/teachers must remain with students until students have left campus. Students should notify teacher/coaches in the event a parent is late for pickup.

Students who are on campus for other after-hours events such as concerts, dances, athletic events, etc. are not permitted to loiter outside of the building, stadium, gym, auditorium, or in the parking lot.

Interruptions (Phone Calls/Messages)

School telephones are for school business only, and students are not permitted to use them. In case of emergency or illness, calls for students are made through the office or school nurse only.

Students will not be called from class to the telephone or to speak in person with visitors unless it is an emergency.

Students may not use any school telephones without permission from an administrator. Students who call/text parents (from any phone without permission) to arrive at the school for checkout or other reasons will receive disciplinary action.

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.

Students may never interrupt class to sale items to students or teachers.

Leaving Class

Students should not be permitted to leave class except in the case of an emergency. Any student outside of the classroom must have a WRITTEN TEACHER'S PASS which includes time and date of departure from class, destination, and the teacher's signature. Any student out of class without a pass will receive appropriate disciplinary action. Students missing from class more than 10 minutes are considered skipping.

Students are not allowed to leave a class to speak with a student(s) in other classes. Interrupting other classes disrupts instruction and is not conducive to the educational process.

Deliveries

No deliveries of flowers, balloons, gifts, or food are allowed for students during the normal school day. Please do not make arrangements for these items to be delivered to the school.

Distribution of Materials

Only educational materials or materials approved by the principal may be distributed by individuals or organized groups. Students are not allowed to distribute any materials unless authorized by the principal.

Late to Class

Students have ample time between classes. Students should not be late for the next class. Late students must have a pass from their previous teacher, the school nurse, or office personnel. Consequences for a class tardy will be the same as a morning tardy.

GCHS Bell Schedule

7:33 a.m.	Students Enter Building
7:40 a.m.	Tardy Bell
7:40-9:18	1st Block
9:22-11:00	2nd Block
11:04-1:07	3rd Block
11:04-11:29	1st Wave
11:37-12:02	2nd Wave
12:08-12:33	3rd Wave
12:41-1:07	4th Wave
1:11-2:49	4th Block
2:49 p.m.	Student Dismissal

PA Announcements

All intercom announcements must be approved by the school principal. School groups/teachers who wish to make an announcement should submit the announcement with the signature of an advisor, teacher, or coach one day in advance. Announcements should be kept as brief as possible. Announcements will only be made at the beginning and at the end of the day.

Students who are assigned announcement duties must strictly adhere to the copy/text provided. **No additional announcements may be added without permission. Violations will result in disciplinary action and announcement privileges may be revoked.**

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

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

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 at George County High School are strictly prohibited. No student at GCHS 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 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 in high school 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

GCHS 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 student conduct should be such that it will reflect dignity and honor on George County High School. 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 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 Physicals

In the spring of each year, physicals are provided for all athletes at no charge to the student and parent. The date for physicals will be announced by the athletic director and students must participate during these dates for the free physicals. All students who participate in athletics must pass a physical.

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 at George County High School. 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

George County High School 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 at GCHS, they serve as ambassadors for our school 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 have maintained an average of 80 or better for the previous school year on all course work and meet the same criteria for all grading periods of the current year prior to elections.
- 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

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 com-

pete 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.

14 SAFETY & 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 of 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.

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.

Food and Snacks

Diet Sodas, water, and juice is provided in vending machines around the campus. These are the only type of snacks that will be sold. Students will not be allowed to purchase these during lunch hours from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. These snacks or drinks should not be consumed in the cafeteria or on the carpeted areas of the school. No outside beverages or food are allowed unless prior approval is granted by administration.

Lockers

Lockers are available for students in grades 9 through 12. Students will not tamper with any other student's locker. They should also be kept closed except when the student is securing or depositing books, coats, or jackets. The student will be held responsible for the condition of the locker and held liable for any damage while the

locker is assigned to him. Lockers shall not be jammed to avoid locking.

Lockers are subject to inspection at anytime.

Students must clearly understand that the use of school furnishings/lockers implies consent for the administration to conduct a search of its contents. Students are responsible for the contents of school lockers. Students should not permit another student to share his/her assigned locker and should keep it locked at all times to safeguard items. The school assumes no responsibility for the safekeeping of items in students' lockers or desks.

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 help 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.

Library/Media Center

Use of the school library is important for students to form valuable habits in reading for pleasure and utilizing library resources for academic research. The GCHS library is open before and after school to give pupils an opportunity to make use of its facilities. The library/media center

1. Provides an organized collection of materials and equipment that represents a broad range of current learning media, including instructional technology.
2. Offers an organized program of service to students and staff by providing access to the materials and equipment, by providing training/instruction in the use of the materials/equipment, and by working with teachers and other staff members to design/provide learning activities for the students.
3. Can be utilized by teachers bringing their class to the library.

All students are entitled to and encouraged to use the library/media centers regularly. The following standards apply to library usage:

1. Reference books such as encyclopedias, periodicals and dictionaries are to be used only in the library.
2. Books may be checked out for a period of two weeks. Books may be renewed.
3. A 5 cent per day fine is assessed for each overdue book
4. Students will pay for lost books and fines on books that have been damaged.
5. No book may be taken from the library unless it is checked out to the borrower.
6. Students must present a valid pass upon entering the library unless coming with a class. If the student wishes to use a computer, the pass must be from the teacher who assigned the topic of research.
7. Students are not to use the library as a hallway during class change. No traffic will be allowed to pass through the library.

GCHS library/media center is a place to study and research as well as for pleasure. We will operate on a flexible schedule allowing usage based upon need.

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;
5. 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 infor-

mation 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 is 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 drivers 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.



**Career and Technical Department
Memorandum of Understanding**



If selected as a member of the Year 1 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 and score a minimum of 36 on ASVAB.
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 with an overall high school GPA of 3.0 or higher. To qualify for the MGCCC Career and Technical Half Tuition Scholarship, I must have an overall high school GPA of 2.5-2.9 and my final grades for Year I and Year II of my CTE program must equal an "A" average.

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

Score 70% or higher on CPAS

Score a minimum of PL 3 on MAAP tests

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.



**George County High School
December Completion Contract for December 2023
2023-2024 School Year**

What is December Completion?

Eligible seniors complete their school year in December and do not report to our high school campus for the second semester in January. December Completers can still attend school events/activities and graduation but cannot participate in sports/activities second semester.

Who can December Complete?

Second year CTE students are not eligible for December Completion due to CTE requirements. All other seniors who have met or will meet by the end of the first semester all credit and additional graduation requirements per the district and Mississippi Department of Education are eligible to apply for December Completion.

What is required for December Completion?

In addition to credit, ACT, and state tests requirements being met, the student must have a legitimate school and/or work opportunity in order to be approved.

Who is responsible for December Completion?

It is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the application process. The student should communicate with Ms. Brown, Administrator and Graduation Coach, and check school email daily. Her office is located in the front, and she may be reached any time at brittany.brown@gcsd.us.

When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply is **September 1, 2023**.

What is the process to apply for December Completion?

1. The student expresses interest in December Completion on the schedule selection sheet.
2. Ms. Brown determines student eligibility based on transcript and graduation requirements.
3. Qualifying students will be contacted to complete this contract, which requires parent signature, and to write the letter documenting the legitimate work/school opportunity.
4. The contract and letter are returned to Ms. Brown for verification.
5. Per Ms. Brown's approval, counselors add December Completion to the student's schedule.

**Please complete the contract front and back and return to Ms. Brown's office.*

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

I am applying for December Completion to pursue the following opportunity:

_____ I will attend school/take classes at _____

_____ I will work _____ hours weekly at _____

_____ I will both attend school at _____ AND work _____
hours weekly at _____

Student Name: _____

The above student has completed _____ credits and requires the following credits to complete in December with a total number of _____ credits.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

The student has taken the ACT. Yes or No Score: _____

The student has met all state test requirements. Yes or No Pending: _____

The student has Credit Recovery to complete. Yes or No Pending: _____

Statement of Understanding

I, the student, _____, understand 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 my responsibility to ensure all paperwork is completed in order to have December Completion added to my schedule.

Student Signature Date

Parent Name Print & Signature Date

Administrator Signature Date

Counselor Signature Date



George County High School Parent Acknowledgement of 24-Credit Diploma

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 table below) instead of the district's approved diploma of 28 credits.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

School Administrator Name

School Administrator Signature

Date

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English I • English II
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology
Social Studies	3½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for implementation options.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	24	