

GHS 101 for Parents and Students

Attendance Policy

Students are not allowed to miss more than 8 days in any block class for any reason. If you are absent and have a medical note, it should be given to Ms. Maria Timmerman in the attendance office when you return. Medical days are considered excused but they still count toward your total days absent. Please remember when scheduling doctor's appointments that attendance is taken during each block. If a student misses more than 10 minutes in any class, then that is considered an absence. If you know you will be out for an extended period of time due to illness or possible hospitalization, contact Janey Kelley at 941-5639 to discuss homebound information.

Dismissal

If you know ahead of time that the student will need to be dismissed, parents should write a note and send it with the student to the attendance office before 8:25 a.m. on the day of the dismissal. The student will present the dismissal note to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the block that they will be dismissed from. Before leaving campus the student will need to sign out in the attendance office. If you return to school, you will need to check in at the attendance office and Ms. Timmerman will provide the student with a note to return to class.

Scheduling

The Program of Studies which lists information about courses being offered for the next school year is posted on the Greenwood District 50 website. This manual can be found by going to the "For Students" tab and selecting "Program of Studies." Thoughtful planning should be given to determine the courses a student wishes to take. All parents and students will have a scheduled IGP (Individual Graduation Plan) Conference with their counselor before selecting courses for the next school year. Please ask questions at that time. After IGP conferences are completed at the end of March, the number of seats in each course will be determined based on student requests. Once the schedule has been set, students may not be able to change to another class because of seat availability. No schedule changes can be made after the first three days of the semester.

Graduation Requirements

To obtain a SC High School diploma, students must earn a minimum of 24 credits. All students must take at least one unit of PE or ROTC. Students who plan to attend a four year college must take at least two units of the same foreign language (some colleges, like College of Charleston and Clemson, may require three units). Students are not allowed to take Spanish until their junior or senior year.

Four year colleges also expect students to have at least one Fine Arts credit (Art, Band, or Chorus). These students should also take at least three lab sciences. Students entering a two year college or technical school do not have to take a foreign language, but must take at least one CATE (Career and Technology Education) course at RTC (Russell Technology Center).

End of Course Exams

The SC Education Accountability Act mandates that students take EOC Exams at the end of each of the following courses: Algebra 1, Intermediate Algebra, English 2, Biology 1, and US History. These exams count 20% of the student's final grade in the course. In all other classes, the teachers are responsible for administering their own exam. Only seniors are allowed to exempt a final exam with an "A" average and teacher recommendation.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Piedmont Technical College

These courses are offered by PTC with most classes being taught at the PTC campus and some classes being offered online. Dual Enrollment courses at PTC are only for juniors and seniors who have at least a 3.0 GPA, have previously taken Honors level courses, and pass the Accuplacer test (placement test for PTC). Students may exempt the PTC placement test if they score at least a 510 in both the reading and math portions of the SAT. Students must provide their own transportation to PTC and pay for any textbooks that may be needed. Students in the top of their class during 10th grade that are recommended by their counselor may take up to four DE courses at PTC. These classes are Psychology 201, Sociology 101, Music Appreciation 105, and Art Appreciation 101.

Lander University

Juniors and seniors may also take Dual Enrollment courses at Lander if they have at least a 3.5 GPA, have previously taken Honors level courses, rank in the top 20% of their class based on class rank, and score a minimum of 1200 on the SAT or 25 on the ACT. Students must provide their own transportation to PTC and pay for these classes and any textbooks that may be needed.

Extra Curricular Activities

Students are encouraged to get involved in a variety of clubs, service organizations, music programs, and athletic teams offered at GHS. Students who are involved in extra activities are usually more focused and do better academically in school.

 [GHS Clubs_Organizations_Sports 2025-2026 - Sheet1.pdf](#)

ACADEMICS

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A student's GPA is an indicator of how well they are doing in school. Freshman will not have a valid GPA until the end of the 9th grade year. A student's GPA begins with the first Carnegie units earned for high school credit, usually at the beginning of 9th grade year (some may have taken courses in the 8th grade for high school credit such as English 1 or Algebra 1).

Greenwood High and other schools in SC use the UGP (Uniform Grading Policy) GPA. This GPA awards more points for students taking Honors level or AP level courses. Colleges use your GPA as well as other indicators to determine your acceptance.

Class Rank

This shows where a student ranks in relation to other students in the same grade level. The first number in the class rank represents your rank in the class and the second number represents the total number of students in the class. Class rank is another indicator that colleges use to determine acceptance.

Test Scores

Students planning to attend a four year college should plan to take the ACT or SAT during the spring of their junior year. Juniors will be allowed to take either the ACT or SAT on a school day for free. Colleges accept both tests equally. If students want to take the test at any other time, students must sign up for these tests online at www.actstudent.org or www.collegeboard.com

Colleges use the student's GPA, class rank, test scores and other factors to determine acceptance.

IGP (Individual Graduation Plan)

Every year the school counselor will schedule an IGP conference with students and parents to discuss the student's academic progress in their classes. Counselors will work with students to determine which cluster of study the student may be interested in. Within each cluster are various schools or academies geared towards a particular college major. As students plan for which courses they would like to take for the next school year, counselors will help to make sure that students are meeting the necessary graduation requirements and working toward their career goal.

High School Transcript

A high school transcript reflects the student's academic record during high school. It lists all of the courses taken for high school credit and the final grade in each course, the student's current GPA and class rank and the anticipated graduation date. When completing college applications, the college will need an official transcript, which usually has a seal or stamp and a signature to verify that it is authentic. Official transcripts should be requested on-line through Parchment. Go to the District 50 website and choose "Request a Transcript" from the menu on the left or go to www.parchment.com

Ms. Sharon Witt is the registrar who can assist you with any questions about GPA, class rank, or transcripts. Her office number is 941-5605.

HELPFUL HINTS

Parent Portal

If you have not already done so, go to the school and show your Driver's License to get your password for the Parent Portal through Power School. This gives you access to important information about your child's grades and attendance. You are able to see which days or classes your child has missed. You are also able to see a current grade for each class. You can click on that grade and it will open to the teacher's grade book where you can see the grades for all homework, class work, quizzes, tests, projects, etc. This is an awesome tool! Contact Ms. Nicole Otto at 941-5604 or email her at welchs@gwd50.org to get help with Parent Portal.

School Calendar

To obtain a copy of the school calendar which shows days students should be in school, holidays, the end of grading periods and teacher inservice days, go to the www.gwd50.org. Click on Parents on the horizontal menu in green and choose School Year Calendars from the drop down menu. This calendar will help you know when your child should be in school, upcoming school holidays, and when to expect interim reports and report cards.

Personal Information

Please let the school know if your address changes. If we do not have your correct address, you may not receive your student's report card, test scores, or other important information. It is also important to let the school know your home phone number, cell phone, work phone number and other ways to reach you in case of any emergency. You can contact your student's counselor or Ms. Otto at 941-5604 or by email at welchs@gwd50.org to update your student's information.

School website

Lots of information about PTO, Open House, and other school events are posted on the GHS website. Go to www.gwd50.org and click on the "Select a School" drop down menu at the very top of the page. Choose Greenwood High School and you will be able to find information specifically related to events at GHS.

Athletic Department

If you are interested in playing sports at Greenwood High, contact the Athletic Secretary, Ms. Crystal Huntsberger, at 941-5608 for more information.