

Greenville County Schools and Blue Ridge Middle School
Student Handbook
2026-2027



One Community - Tiger Strong

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Attendance

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

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

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

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by his or her parent or legal guardian or a health care professional, for all absences within three (3) days of the student's return to school. The written excuse should include the reason for and the date of absence. If a student fails to bring a valid written excuse to school, his or her absence will be recorded as unlawful. School will use the criteria below when deciding whether an absence is lawful or unlawful.

Lawful Absences

- Absences caused by a student's illness and whose attendance in school would endanger his or her health or the health of others. These absences must be verified by a physician statement within three (3) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to an illness or death in the student's immediate family verified by a statement from the parent within three (3) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith when approved in advance. Such requests must be made to the principal in writing.
- Absences for students whose parents/guardians are experiencing a military deployment. Specifically absences when the parent or legal guardian of a student is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be excused as long as such absences are reasonable in duration as deemed by the principal so that the student can visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian.
- Absences due to activities that are approved in advance by the principal. This would include absences for extreme hardships. Such approval should be prearranged when possible.

Unlawful Absences

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

Absences

For students in grades K-12, principals shall promptly approve or disapprove any student's absence in excess of ten

(10) days, whether those absences are lawful, unlawful, or a combination of the two. Absences in excess of ten (10) days will not be considered excused with a parent/guardian note unless accompanied by official medical documentation or otherwise approved by the principal as a lawful absence.

Carnegie Credit

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

In order to receive high school credit after the 10th unlawful absence, "seat time recovery" is required for every subsequent absence that is unlawful. (Note: the 10 unlawful absence limit applies to each 180-day course and should be considered 5 days for each 90-day course and 3 days for each 45 day course.) A student may have up to 10 absences excused by a parent note in each 180-day course and 5 days excused by a parent note in each 90-day course. Parent notes in excess of 10 in a 180-day course, and 5 in a 90-day course, will be considered unexcused unless accompanied by official medical documentation or is otherwise approved by the principal as lawful. A student must attend the majority of a class session during a school day to receive credit for that class.

Truancy

Although the state requires students to only attend 170 of the 180-day school year, parents and students should be aware that SC Code of Regulations-Chapter 43-274 stipulates that a child ages 6 to 17 year is considered truant when the child has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences.

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Each school is responsible for overseeing the development of protocols and supervision that are tailored to the age and needs of students at each school facility. The protocols will include:

- Staff assigned to specific locations and related responsibilities;
- The area in which students will be retained awaiting designated transportation;
- Plan for supervision when a parent/escort is unable to pick up their child at the appropriate dismissal time.

Student Behavior Code

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

Students have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and District. Violations of such policies, rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions. The school directs students to the District's Behavior Code set forth in [Policy JCDA](#) and this handbook. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices to capture images, record or otherwise use electronic devices in a manner that harasses, humiliates, threatens, embarrasses, intimidates another person or otherwise violates law. Students may not use electronic devices to access and/or view websites, internet, or other content or images that are inappropriate or otherwise blocked to students at school while on school property or at a school-sponsored event. Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of electronic devices.

In accordance with state law and Board Policy/Administrative Rule JCDA, personal electronic devices cannot be used during the school day unless specifically authorized in writing by the school. Students cannot wear personal electronic devices, such as smart watches, during the school day and must keep personal electronic devices out of sight of others unless authorized by the school to utilize for school-related purposes. When outside of the classroom, students can use personal electronic devices for instructional reasons or for school-related purposes, such as emailing teachers, conducting research, checking class schedules, and working on assignments. The restrictions pertaining to the use of personal electronic devices starts at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m. for elementary schools and 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. for middle schools. The use of personal electronic devices before and after that time is permitted so long as that use does not violate the District's Behavior Code ([Policy JCDA](#)) or is otherwise disruptive to the school environment. For field trips, students will be provided additional information regarding the use of personal electronic devices based upon the specific trip. Students may be permitted to utilize personal electronic devices during the school day if necessary for that student in accordance with the student's IEP/504/Health Plan.

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

Levels of offenses

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

Disorderly conduct - Level I

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

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

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lying
- blackmail of other students or school personnel
- acting in a manner so as to interfere with the instructional process
- abusive language between or among students, to include profane language

- failure to complete assignments or carry out directions
- use of forged notes or excuses
- violation of school bus regulations
- cutting class
- school tardiness
- truancy
- use of obscene or profane language or gestures
- other disorderly acts as determined at the school level, which are not inconsistent with Board policy

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

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

Disruptive conduct - Level II

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

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

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

- fighting
- vandalism (minor)
- stealing
- use or possession of laser pointers, fireworks, smoke bombs, pepper-style sprays, and other similar devices or materials
- threats against others
- trespass
- abusive language to staff, to include profane language
- other disruptive acts which interfere with the educational process
- refusal to obey school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aids or chaperones) whose responsibilities include supervision of students

- possession or use of unauthorized substances, including tobacco and tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, non-prescription drugs, "look-a-like" drugs, and drug paraphernalia, including rolling papers
- illegally occupying or blocking in any way school property with the intent to deprive others of its use
- inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- misuse of District technology resources
- gambling on school property
- unlawful assembly
- disrupting lawful assembly
- harassment, intimidation or bullying
- intimidating, threatening, or physically abusing another student
- any other acts as determined at the school level that are not inconsistent with Board policy

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

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

Criminal conduct - Level III

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

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

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

- bomb threat

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dress Code

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

- Clothing and/or hair should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the education process. Therefore, clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive will not be permitted.
- Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to oneself or others is not allowed.
- Hoods, hats and sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term.
- Proper shoes must be worn at all times. No bedroom shoes or slippers are permitted
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent or offensive.
- The length of shorts and skirts when standing upright must come to the bottom of the student's fingertips
- Holes in garments or exposed skin are prohibited above the required short/skirt length
- Clothing that inappropriately exposes body parts is not permitted. Students shall not expose undergarments.
- The width of top straps must be at least the width of a student ID card (2.125 inches)
- Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and undergarments are not to be visible. Pants and slacks must not bag, sag, or drag. Pajamas are prohibited.
- No clothing, jewelry, or tattoos are permitted that display profanity, suggestive phrases, or advertisements for, or messages or pictures depicting or suggesting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or sex.
- For middle school student ID cards must be worn and visible

In the event the administration determines a student's dress is inappropriate for school in accordance with this policy, schools will either have clothes available to provide to students who are in violation or will permit the students to have clothes brought to the school to correct the dress code violation. Students will wait in a designated location until that violation of the dress code is remedied. Students who would like to make a request for accommodations to the dress code related to a disability or religious belief should notify the school's administration of that request in advance.

Students shall be subject to the following consequences for violating the dress code.

- 1st Offense: Warning/Parent Contact
- 2nd Offense: Detention
- 3rd Offense: Referral for Additional Discipline

Transportation

Discipline

In order to ensure the safety of all students riding buses in Greenville County Schools, appropriate behavior is required for all students. Transportation to and from school is an extension of the classroom

and should be considered part of the school day. The issue of safety requires students to be on their best behavior while on school buses or vehicles.

Violations of school bus rules will be addressed in the manner listed below.

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

Level I Offenses - Disorderly Conduct

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

Level I Consequences

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

Level II Offenses

- Use of tobacco products, e- cigarettes, or vaping devices
- Throwing objects out of bus
- Profanity directed at staff
- Rude, discourteous behavior directed at staff
- Vandalism [restitution may be required]
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating another student
- Fighting
- Stealing
- Inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- Other safety violations that may interfere with the safe operation of the school bus

- The school administration may classify a Level II offense as a Level III offense if the infraction seriously jeopardizes the health and/or safety of others.

Level II Consequences

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

Level III Offenses

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

Level III Consequences

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

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

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

Anti-Bullying and Safe Schools

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

Reporting Bullying, Harassment & Discrimination

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

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

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

Investigation

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

Appeals

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

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

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

Title IX Complaints (Sex-Based Discrimination/Harassment)

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

Reporting & Investigation

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

The District prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a report. The District also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another person.

Additional information pertaining to Title IX, including contact information for the District's Title IX Coordinator, training received by District employees, and the process for appeals can be found under [Title IX](#) on the District's website.

Homework

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

- Homework shall include one or more of the three generally recognized types of homework: Practice: reinforces newly acquired skills taught in class

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uniform Grading Scale

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

The SC Grading Scale is as follows:

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

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

NP=no value [SC Uniform Grading Scale](#)

2nd-12th Grade

The following grade scale will be applied to students in
grades 2-12. A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70
D=69-60 F=0-59

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

Grading Floors

In accordance with state law, no school may adopt or utilize any type of grading system that requires a teacher to assign a minimum grade or score that exceeds a student's actual performance on required assignments.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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

- The right to inspect and review a student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should write a letter to the school principal and identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access to those records and will notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where they may inspect them.

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

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

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

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

Directory Information

Information that the District has designated as "directory information" regarding a student may be released to outside organizations without prior written consent from the parent/eligible student. The District defines directory information as a student's name, photograph, grade level, school to which he/she is assigned, years of attendance at that school, awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, student email address, and weight and height of athletic team members. Outside organizations requesting directory information include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, the law requires that local high schools must provide military recruiters, upon request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and

telephone listings. If you do not wish for the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the School in writing no later than 30 calendar days after the first day of school.

Student Speakers at School-Sponsored Activities

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

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

School Insurance

Student accident insurance is offered as a service to parents. The available insurance coverage includes school-only or 24-hour coverage. Coverage, cost, and enrollment information is provided on the District's website.

[Insurance](#)

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

Parent's Right to Know

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

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

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

Student Use of Technology

Students must use school technology in an appropriate manner and in accordance with [Board Policy EFE](#) and Administrative [Rule EFE](#). This school technology includes District email, network, equipment, and assigned devices to students, and the District in accordance with applicable law may monitor all school technology.

Students will be disciplined in accordance with the District's Behavior Code (JCDA) for any misuse of school technology. While the District implements filters and safeguards for school technology, the District cannot guarantee that these measures will detect or prevent inappropriate use of technology by students. Parents and students should immediately contact the student's school with any concerns pertaining to the use of technology.

Generative AI

GCS recognizes that Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers innovative opportunities to enhance learning, independent research, and problem-solving. When used appropriately, AI serves as a powerful supplemental tool to support personalized instruction. GCS has updated Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA to include specific parameters on AI use in the classroom. To ensure a safe and effective learning environment, GCS adheres to the following commitments:

- **Educational Purpose:** AI is used to enhance, not replace, instruction and to promote critical thinking in alignment with South Carolina Standards.
- **Privacy & Security:** All AI tools are rigorously evaluated for safety and comply with all laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to protect student data.
- **Ethics & Accessibility:** We are committed to using AI in an unbiased manner and leveraging it as assistive technology to ensure all students have equal access to learning.
- **Transparency & Accountability:** We believe in keeping parents and guardians informed about the specific technologies used in our classrooms.

Student Responsibility

While AI is a valuable resource, it does not replace the necessity of foundational learning and original work.

- **Guidance:** Student use of AI during school hours should occur under the direction and supervision of teachers, following specific procedures for each class or assignment.
- **Integrity:** Any inappropriate use of AI, including plagiarism or using AI to bypass learning objectives, is considered a violation of the Behavior Code (Policy JCDA) and will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Board Policies and Administrative Rules

All current policies of the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees and administrative rules [can be found](#) on the District's [website](#).

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Academic Information

Homework:

BRMS follows GCS District policy on homework.

Late Work:

Greenville County Schools is committed to Building a Better Graduate by creating college and career-ready students. As such, students must develop character traits that align with workplace expectations. Some examples of these include responsibility, a strong work ethic, and self-direction. Students are expected to give their best effort when completing assignments and should strive to complete them by the due date. Students are expected to turn in ALL assignments. Extra opportunities are available for students to make up work through tutoring times and at other times designated by the teacher.

- Teachers will accept late work with no penalty to the student up to 5 days after the original due date.
- A teacher may extend the deadline for accepting late work, but cannot reduce the time allowed.

The work, although submitted late, will not receive a point reduction. Work can be accepted late across grading periods **only** by notable exception and approval of the teacher and/or administrator.

Makeup Work:

To receive full credit for make-up work, all work must be submitted within five school days, immediately following an absence. In cases of prolonged illness beyond 5 days, special consideration will be given. It is the responsibility of the students, not the teachers, to arrange for make-up work.

- Work assigned before the absence or field trip will be due the day the student returns.
- Tests assigned before the absence will be taken on the scheduled test date or the date arranged with the teacher.
- If a student misses a test or quiz while absent, on the first day back, arrangements should be made with the teacher to make up the assessment within 5 days.
- In general, work is done before or after school to avoid missing class time. Arrangements may also be made with the teacher to make up assignments during support times, such as tutoring times or after-school remediation. Arrangements should be made with the teacher to complete this on time.
- Students are expected to check teacher websites and Google classrooms for assignments during any absence.

Retake/Redo/Revise Expectations:

Since the goal is for students to master content and skills, students will be allowed to retake/redo major tests only; however, students must commit to doing their part in preparing for the re-test. **Students must initiate the request** to retake/redo a test within 5 days of receiving the grade on the test. Students are allowed to retake/redo a major test one time. The student and parent must complete this form and submit it to the teacher. Students must complete teacher-directed remediation or relearning and all minor assessment associated with the unit must be completed before reassessment. An alternate assessment or revised learning task may be used to demonstrate mastery of the same standards measured by the original assessment. The highest score earned will replace the previous score in the gradebook. The teacher and student will coordinate the reassessment during an agreed-upon intervention time, such as before school, ROAR, lunch, or after school. **Teachers** may also identify students that need to retake an assessment based on assessment results.

Athletics

Students in grades seven and eight are eligible to participate in athletics. All students must have a valid, up-to-date physical completed by a certified physician before trying out for an athletic team. All students must try out for a team and if selected as a team member, must follow the GCS Student Extracurricular Code of Conduct as stated in the GCS Middle School Athletics Handbook. Sports offered include football, volleyball, tennis, golf, soccer, basketball, cheerleading, baseball, softball, wrestling, track, and cross-country.

[GCS Athletics Website](#)

[GCS Student Extracurricular Code of Conduct](#)

[BRMS Athletic Code of Conduct](#)

Board Policy JHE

Suspended Student Athletes:

Student athletes who are suspended from school may not participate in practices or games until the suspension is complete and all disciplinary requirements have been met.

Spectator Attendance:

Spectators are required to have a clear bag to enter any athletic facility. Live animals and pets are not allowed at any athletic event.

Arrival at School

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Each school is responsible for overseeing the development of protocols and supervision that are tailored to the age and needs of students at each school facility. The protocols will include:

- Staff assigned to specific locations and related responsibilities;
- The area in which students will be retained awaiting designated transportation;
- Plan for supervision when a parent/escort is unable to pick up their child at the appropriate dismissal time.

Arrival Procedures:

Doors will open at 7:30 a.m., and students will report to holding areas by grade level. All students may eat breakfast, which is free. Students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria first, and upon finishing breakfast if before 7:45, they will report to their assigned holding area below. If a student arrives after 7:45 or finishes eating breakfast after 7:45, they will report to their grade level hall. Students are not allowed to use electronics during breakfast. Students may be asked to leave the breakfast area and report to holding or their ROAR classroom after ample time has been given for eating breakfast.

-6th grade reports to the gym until 7:45

-7th grade reports to the gym until 7:45

-8th grade reports to the cafeteria until 7:45

-Students will be released at 7:45 to report to their grade level hall..

Tardy to School:

School begins at 8:30 a.m. for all grades. Students who are not in the building by 8:30 a.m. are tardy. Students who are tardy to school should report to the front office. Students will be given a tardy slip and will be sent to class. The tardiness will be documented in PowerSchool and addressed according to the Greenville County Schools Behavior Code. Tardiness is considered disorderly conduct and is a Level 1 offense. Therefore, approved sanctions will be issued to chronically tardy students. Examples of these consequences include but are not limited to a verbal reprimand, withdrawal of privileges, detention, or in-school suspension/out-of-school suspension.

Attendance

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

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

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

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by his or her parent or legal guardian or a health care professional, for all absences within three (3) days of the student's return to school. The written excuse should include the reason for and the date of absence. If a student fails to bring a valid written excuse to school, his or her

absence will be recorded as unlawful. The school will use the criteria below when deciding whether an absence is lawful or unlawful.

Lawful Absences

- Absences caused by a student's illness and whose attendance in school would endanger his or her health or the health of others. These absences must be verified by a physician statement within three (3) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to an illness or death in the student's immediate family verified by a statement from the parent within three (3) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith when approved in advance. Such requests must be made to the principal in writing.
- Absences for students whose parents/guardians are experiencing a military deployment. Specifically absences when the parent or legal guardian of a student is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be excused as long as such absences are reasonable in duration as deemed by the principal so that the student can visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian.
- Absences due to activities that are approved in advance by the principal. This would include absences for extreme hardships. Such approval should be prearranged when possible.

Unlawful Absences

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

Absences

For students in grades K-12, principals shall promptly approve or disapprove any student's absence in excess of ten (10) days, whether those absences are lawful, unlawful, or a combination of the two. Absences in excess of ten (10) days will not be considered excused with a parent/guardian note unless

Carnegie Credit

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

In order to receive high school credit after the 10th unlawful absence, "seat time recovery" is required for every subsequent absence that is unlawful. (Note: the 10 unlawful absence limit applies to each 180-day course and should be considered 5 days for each 90-day course and 3 days for each 45 day course.) A student may have up to 10 absences excused by a parent note in each 180-day course and 5 days excused by a parent note in each 90-day course. Parent notes in excess of 10 in a 180-day course, and 5 in a 90-day course, will be considered unexcused unless accompanied by official medical documentation or is otherwise approved by the principal as lawful. A student must attend the majority of a class session during a school day to receive credit for that class.

Truancy

Although the state requires students to only attend 170 of the 180-day school year, parents and students should be aware that SC Code of Regulations-Chapter 43-274 stipulates that a child ages 6 to 17 years is considered truant when the child has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences.

Backpack Information

Parents are encouraged to monitor student grades through the Parent Backpack actively. Parents can access grades, attendance, and account balances at any time through this system. Parents should create their Parent Backpack through the [Greenville County District Website](#).

Students can monitor their grades through the Student Backpack and should do so frequently. Students are responsible for turning in all assignments.

BRMS Discipline Matrix for Teachers & Students 2026-2027

Behavior and Discipline Expectations

The District expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. This requirement refers to their actions toward other students and teachers, their language, their dress and their manners. Students have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and District. Violations of such policies, rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions. The school directs students to the District's Behavior Code set forth in Policy JCDA and this handbook. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices to capture images, record or otherwise use electronic devices in a manner that harasses, humiliates, threatens, embarrasses, intimidates another person or otherwise violates law. Students may not use electronic devices to access and/or view websites, internet, or other content or images that are inappropriate or otherwise blocked to students at school while on school property or at a school-sponsored event. Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of electronic devices.

In accordance with state law and Board Policy/Administrative Rule JCDA, personal electronic devices cannot be used during the school day unless specifically authorized in writing by the school. Students cannot wear personal electronic devices, such as smart watches, during the school day and must keep personal electronic devices out of sight of others unless authorized by the school to utilize for school-related purposes. When outside of the classroom, students can use personal electronic devices for instructional reasons or for school-related purposes, such as emailing teachers, conducting research, checking class schedules, and working on assignments. The restrictions pertaining to the use of personal electronic devices starts at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m. for elementary schools and 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. for middle schools. The use of personal electronic devices before and after that time is permitted so long as that use does not violate the District's Behavior Code (Policy JCDA) or is otherwise disruptive to the school environment. For field trips, students will be provided additional information regarding the use of personal electronic devices based upon the specific trip. Students may be permitted to utilize personal electronic devices during the school day if necessary for that student in accordance with the student's IEP/504/Health Plan.

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

Levels of offenses

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

Level I - Disorderly Conduct

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

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

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

Team Process for Level 1 Disciplinary Infractions:

Warning:

- **Student Conference**
- **Documented in Contact Log**

Offense 1:

- **Student Conference**
- **Parent Contact by Teacher (Email or Phone)**
- **Documented in Contact Log**

Offense 2:

- **Parent Contact by Teacher via Phone**
- **Parent Conference with Teacher(s) & Administration (set up by teacher who gives 2nd offense)**
- **Team Consequence to be determined by the Team**

Offenses 3 & Above:

- **Referral to Admin**
- **Parent Contact by Teacher via Phone**
- **Parent Contact by Administration in follow-up**
- **Consequences in the Matrix Below**

All Level I Offenses will start over 2nd Semester.

ASD – After School Detention

ISS- In-School Suspension

OSS – Out-of-School Suspension

PD – Principal Discretion

RP - Removal of Privileges

[Blue Ridge Middle Discipline Matrix](#)

Debts and Valuables

Debts:

Students are responsible for all supplies, materials, or equipment checked out in their name. Debt sheets will be issued periodically during the school year for lost or damaged textbooks, library materials, Chromebooks, Chromebook chargers, and IDs. Debts are held over from year to year and from school to school within the Greenville County School District. Students are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities or grade level/reward days until debts are paid.

Items that have been checked out to students, such as textbooks, library books, Chromebooks, and Chromebook chargers must be returned. To receive credit for returning items, the bar code of the returned item must be readable and must match the barcode on the item checked out to the student. If a lost item is found, the student may receive a refund by presenting the receipt for the paid item.

The cafeteria no longer allows students to charge for additional breakfast, additional lunch, or extra sales items. Students must have money in their account to purchase additional breakfast items, lunch items and extra sales items. Please monitor your account carefully. For a balance, call the cafeteria manager at 355-1908, or check Parent Backpack.

Valuables at School:

The school does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen articles left unsecured. Students should not bring large sums of money or valuables to school. Examples include airpods, cell phones, and other electronic devices.

Departure Procedures

Early Dismissals:

Students with a planned early dismissal during the school day should submit a parent note to the main office prior to the start of the school day. The student will be issued an early dismissal pass. The student will present the pass to the teacher at the appropriate time to come to the office for dismissal.

If a parent needs to have an unplanned dismissal with no note, please call the front office (355-1900) with more than an hour's notice so that we may get a pass to the student without interrupting class.

A parent or guardian who comes to the office to pick his or her child up for an early dismissal and who has not provided the school with the opportunity to get a pass to the student will be permitted to get the child during the next class change. This will assist us in ensuring that there are no interruptions to the instruction taking place in the classroom. All early dismissals should take place prior to 2:30 pm.

During District and State Testing, early dismissals will not be allowed until testing has concluded.

Dismissal Procedures:

6th & 7th CAR RIDERS:

Will be dismissed to the front of the school using the Student Accountability System (SAS), with each student assigned a dismissal number. Car riders are dismissed from 7th period class when their name appears on the board in the classroom. To expedite this process, parents should have the car number assigned to your child clearly visible in the front window of the car. School staff will enter the numbers which notify the system that your child should leave the classroom for pickup.

Students are not allowed to leave their classrooms until their name appears on the board. Students who leave class without authorization are subject to disciplinary action. For the safety of our students, a phone call or text to the student from a parent is not authorization to leave the classroom or building and parents/others who pick up the student should have the car tag with them.

6th Grade Car Riders: will exit the building using the main hallway and exit the doors in the cafeteria.

7th Grade Car Riders: will exit the building using the door at the flagpole, near the 7th grade hallway.

Note: When exiting the parking lot, cars must turn right to leave the school. No cars will be allowed to turn left.

8th CAR RIDERS:

Will be dismissed in the 8th grade lot, which is the lot nearest the softball field. These students will not use the SAS number system, but will be released at 3:15. Younger siblings of 8th grade students should also report to the 8th Grade Lot to meet their 8th grade sibling and car. These students should notify their 7th period teacher they are riding with an 8th grade sibling and should be released to the 8th grade lot at dismissal. Any students not picked up in the lower lot by 3:40 will walk to the upper lot and should be picked up from there. **In the event of a rainy-day dismissal, 8th grade students will be dismissed up front and parents MUST use the student assigned number system (SAS) to obtain their child(ren).**

Note: When exiting the parking lot, cars must turn left to leave the school/8th parking lot. No cars will be allowed to turn right.

WALKERS:

Will be dismissed by announcement from the front office. Only students who are identified as walkers in Power School are allowed to walk from school. Parents are not allowed to pick up students in unauthorized areas including bus loading, along the side of the road, or in neighborhoods close to the school. Parents are expected to obey all traffic signs during the posted hours. Law enforcement will be utilized to ensure all traffic rules are followed during drop off and dismissal.

BUS RIDERS:

Will be dismissed by the Student Accountability System (SAS). Bus route numbers will be posted on the dismissal system in each classroom. Students should not be dismissed from their classroom until their bus number is posted on the board. Students who ride a bus should report directly to their assigned location and wait for instructions to load their bus. Students who are in unauthorized areas are subject to disciplinary action.

All Bus Riders: will exit the building using the main hallway and walk through the cafeteria to the bus area.

Dress Code

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

BRMS Dress Code

Shirts:

- Must not be made of "see-through" fabric.
- No exposed midriff areas.
- Width of straps on tops must be at least the width of a student ID card (2.125 inches).
- No visible undergarments or items worn as undergarments.
- No pajama tops.
- Shirts should not hang off the shoulders.
- Shirts should not reveal any parts of the torso area: cleavage, belly, etc.

Outerwear:

- Includes hoodies, sweatshirts, jackets and coats and sweaters.
- No exposed midriff areas.
- If wearing a hoodie, you cannot wear the hood on your head at any time.
- No visible undergarments or items worn as undergarments.
- A shirt that meets the above requirements must be worn underneath any outerwear.

Pants:

- Holes or rips in pants or slacks or exposed skin must come to the bottom of the fingertips when standing upright.
- No visible undergarments or items worn as undergarments.
- No pajama pants. This may include sweatpants that look like pajama pants.
- No pants that sag, to reveal undergarments.
- Leggings-shirts should be long enough to cover the student's front and back side at all times.

Shorts/Skirts/Jumpers:

- Measurement using fingertips when standing upright; shorts, skirts, or bottom hem must come to the bottom of the fingertips.
- Waistline must be worn no lower than the top of the hips.
- No visible undergarments or items worn as undergarments.
- Holes and rips in garments or exposed skin are prohibited above the required skirt/short length.
- No pajamas are allowed.
- No biker shorts or compression shorts (tight legging type shorts).

Shoes:

- No bedroom shoes or slippers.

Reminders:

- You will need sneakers for Health and PE.
- Crocs on rainy days are slippery and should not be worn on rainy days.

Accessories:

Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to oneself or others is not allowed.

- Students are not permitted to wear lanyards of personal choice. The school will provide the first lanyard and students must purchase any future lanyards from the school.
- Articles hanging from clothing such as chains may not be worn.
- No jewelry with spikes may be worn.
- No flags, blankets, capes, etc. may be worn.
- No confederate flag items (clothing or accessories) may be worn.
- No hats or other types of head coverings may be worn. Examples include toboggans, durags, skull caps, headbands with ears, etc.
- No sunglasses or items that cover the face.

- No hood on heads (Examples: hoods on hoodies, jackets, or other shirts/sweatshirts).
- No bandanas.
- No visible undergarments or items worn as undergarments.
- No blankets may be worn or used during the school day.

The administration will make the final judgment on the appropriateness of clothing and/or appearance and reserves the right to prohibit students from wearing any articles of clothing or other items which lead to or may foreseeably result in the disruption of or interference with the school environment. In the event the administration determines that a dress code violation occurs, a parent or designee will be expected to provide appropriate clothing which complies with the dress code. Students who are out of dress code will not be allowed to attend class. They will stay in ISS until appropriate clothing is provided. Repeated violations of the dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the District's Behavior Code.

Consequences for Dress Code Violations:

1st Offense: Parent called, student goes to ISS, awaits clothing, referral with conference code

2nd Offense: Detention

3rd Offense and above:ISS or OSS - document w/referral

*If a student intentionally brings clothing to change from non-dress code clothing into dress code appropriate clothing, consequences are still applied.

Students who come to school inappropriately dressed will be asked to call home to have an appropriate garment(s) brought and will wait in the ISS room or designated location.

Electronic Devices

Cell Phones, Bluetooth and Electronic Devices:

Cell phone usage is not permitted at Blue Ridge Middle School from breakfast and the start of school until the end of the day (3:15 pm). If a student has a cell phone at school, that student is expected to keep the phone turned off and in their bookbag at all times during the school day. Failure to do so will result in a disciplinary action.

Air pods, Bluetooth earbuds, and wired headphones can be used for instructional use in the classroom ONLY when approved by the teacher. Students should not have earbuds or wired headphones in their ears in the hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, or classrooms.

Phones and/or Bluetooth earbuds that are out, visible, or used during the school day will result in a referral, beginning with the first offense.

Smartwatches-Electronic devices such as Smartwatches and electronic games should not be brought to school. Smartwatches that are out, visible, or used during the school day will result in a referral, beginning with the first offense.

Consequences for Electronic Devices:

1st Offense: Referral; ASD

2nd Offense: Referral; ISS

3rd Offense and Above: Referral; ISS and/or OSS determined by administration

Chromebook/Personalized Learning

Chromebook Policy & Procedures:

BRMS administration and Greenville County Schools reserve the right to alter, edit and update this policy throughout the year. Students and parents will be notified of these changes as they happen. **Greenville County Schools can monitor and track all actions, websites, key strokes, and activities on Chromebooks while at home and at school.** Chromebooks are instructional tools to be used for instructional purposes and should be charged overnight and brought to school daily, like any other instructional material.

No Technology Days:

Technology-Free Days will be observed three days a week to promote student engagement, collaboration, and focused learning. Students are still required to bring a fully charged Chromebook to school each day, as devices may be needed for

specific classes, assignments, assessments, or instructional activities. Classes that require technology as part of instruction or coursework will continue to use devices as needed. Teachers and administrators reserve the right to adjust technology-free days when necessary to accommodate testing, projects, assessments, or other instructional needs.

Gaggle:

Gaggle is a student safety monitoring software used by schools to help identify potential concerns related to student well-being. It monitors content and keystrokes within school-managed accounts, such as email, documents, chats, and online activity, for indicators of bullying, self-harm, violence, threats, or other safety concerns. While students may sometimes believe they are simply joking or playing around online, comments involving violence, weapons, threats, or other inappropriate topics can trigger safety alerts and require administrative review. Because schools must take all potential safety concerns seriously, such incidents may result in disciplinary action, even when a student claims the comment was intended as a joke. When potential risks are identified, trained safety representatives review the content and notify school personnel so appropriate follow-up, intervention, and support can occur.

School District Artificial Intelligence Board Policy

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used to support teaching and learning by helping students develop research, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. AI is intended to enhance instruction, not replace teachers, and all use must follow district guidelines for privacy, security, ethical practices, and accessibility. Students are only permitted to use AI programs that have been approved by Greenville County Schools (currently Magic School AI is the only approved program) and authorized by their teacher for instructional purposes. Teachers will provide guidance and supervision when AI is used for learning activities, and students are expected to use AI responsibly and appropriately. Misuse of AI, including plagiarism, academic dishonesty, or the use of unapproved AI tools, may result in disciplinary action in accordance with school and district policies.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Procedures/Expectations for Accidental Damage:

Almost all accidental damage is covered under warranty. Water damage may not be covered and depends on the severity of the water damage. Any device that suffers accidental damage should be taken immediately to the ITS designee so it can be sent off for repair. Students will be given a loaner while the device is being fixed. BRMS reserves the right to limit use of the Chromebook for students at any time. Repeated accidental damage will result in the student being responsible to pay for damages. Repeated accidental damage may also result in the revocation of a student's use of a school device. Deliberate damage to a Chromebook by a student (or by family member or peer) does not fall under the accidental damage procedure listed above. Damage to keyboards (example-keys broken or removed) is generally not considered accidental damage.

Accidental Damage:

1st Incident: The cost to repair the device will be covered by the repair company. If the Chromebook assigned to your child is damaged again, it will be your responsibility to pay to repair the device.

Additional Accidental Damage:

The cost of the repair will be the responsibility of the student and/or parent.

Procedures/Expectations for Deliberate Damage:

1st Offense of Deliberate Damage:

- Referred to Administration
- Parent Contact
- Student required to pay for repair or replacement
- ISS or OSS may be assigned as determined by administration

2nd Offense of Deliberate Damage:

- Referred to Administration
- Parent Contact and/or Conference
- Student required to pay for repair or replacement
- ISS or OSS as determined by administration
- Rights of the student to use the Chromebook could be limited.

Procedures for Chromebook Service:

Students who have Chromebook issues should bring their Chromebook to the Media Center from 7:50-9:00.

Food & Drink Expectations

General Guidelines for Food and Drink:

Students should refrain from eating or drinking outside of the school cafeteria unless allowed by a staff member. Students may carry only water in a container with a lid during the day. Water purchased from the cafeteria that has a lid, and contains only water may be brought into the classroom. No glass containers are allowed. Students are not allowed to drink energy drinks at school and will be asked to dispose of them. These drinks include but are not limited to Monster, Ghost, and Alani.

Water Fountains:

BRMS has several touchless water bottle filling stations installed on grade-level halls. Students may use these stations to refill water bottles as needed throughout the day. Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottles.

Cafeteria Procedures for Lunch:

School lunch is **free** to all students. Students will be escorted to the cafeteria for lunch and seated at their assigned lunch tables. Students will be dismissed to the lunch line by an administrator or teacher. Students should remain single file while in the lunch line to receive lunch. Students who break in line will go to the end of the line. Students will sit in assigned areas for their team. Students are expected to clean their area before leaving the cafeteria. All trash must be placed in the trash cans. Students will leave the cafeteria as instructed by their teacher.

No Lunch Deliveries from Outside Sources:

Students are not allowed to receive lunch from outside sources. The office will not accept any type of lunch deliveries. This includes parents bringing lunch from restaurants, Grub Hub or other delivery services.

Parents may reserve the student lounge for \$10 to have lunch with their student. If a reservation is made, the parent may bring lunch from a restaurant and eat with their child in the designated student lounge. Parents can also reserve the student lounge for birthday celebrations. Cupcakes and other birthday items are not permitted to be shared with others in the cafeteria. Parents should complete the reservation request form below and submit for approval. Once approved, payment can be made online through My School Bucks.

[Student Lounge Reservation Form](#)

Guidance Information

Visit the BRMS Counseling website for more information regarding counseling services at [BRMS Counseling](#)

6 th Grade	Allyson Kilgore	355-1961	ankilgore@greenville.k12.sc.us
7 th Grade	Sara Broome	355-1913	sbroome@greenville.k12.sc.us
8 th Grade	Zane Shipman	355-1904	zshipman@greenville.k12.sc.us
Counselor, Career Development Facilitator & 504 Coordinator	Beverly Wilbanks	355-1994	Bewilban@greenville.k12.sc.us
Guidance Clerk	Cindy Batson	355-1903	cybatson@greenville.k12.sc.us

Health Room Procedures

Basic Information:

[Policy JGCD:](#)

All medication must be delivered to the School Nurse or other designated school employee by the student's parent, legal guardian or a previously designated adult. It is against the School District Policy for a student to carry ANY medication on their person without physician permission, parent permission and school district permission to self-administer and self-monitor (SC Law S144). All medication will be maintained in the health room.

A child will not be allowed to attend any school without a valid SC Certificate of Immunization or a medical, religious, or special exemption. **All 7th through 12th graders will be required to have a Tdap vaccine and must provide proof before beginning 7th grade.**

Please refer to the Greenville County Schools Health Services website ([Student Health Services](#)) for a more in-depth explanation of Health Services information, policies, and permission forms.

Emergency phone numbers should be kept up to date with the health room.

Medication Procedures:

All medications to be dispensed by school personnel must be delivered to the school nurse or other designated school employee by the student's parent or legal guardian, or previously designated adult. It is against the School District Policy for a student to carry ANY medication on their person without physician permission, parent permission and school district permission to self-administer and self-monitor (SC Law S144). **All medication will be maintained in the health room.**

- ALL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION must have written parental and physician authorization before medication can be administered at school. Form MED-1.
- All PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION must be administered as labeled and OTC medications may not exceed package directions.
- ALL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION must be brought to school by a legal guardian or designated person over 18 years of age and given directly to the school nurse or designated school personnel.
- OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS may be provided by the parent if it is in a new - unopened container, clearly labeled with the student's name and is accompanied by written parental permission. Form MED-3.
- ALL MEDICATION MUST BE IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER.
- If your child forgets to take a morning dose of medication, school nurses are not allowed to give that dose at school. Parents may come to the Health Room to give the missed dose.
- Students who self-administer a medication such as an inhaler or an EpiPen, must obtain signed permission from the parent and physician. Additional backup medications are strongly encouraged to be kept in the health room with the nurse.

Other Procedures & Rules:

- Unless there is a scheduled medication, procedure or emergency, students are allowed to visit the health room after obtaining a health room pass from their teacher.
- The use of crutches, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices requires a note from a doctor stating the number of days they need to be used.

Health & Wellness Education

Greenville County School District Health Education Department is responsible for developing, supporting, and teaching the Erin's Law lessons and the Sexual Health and Responsibility curriculum in Greenville County Schools. This department consists of six health educators that teach, assist in instructional planning with school staff, and develop support materials for planning and implementation of the district's sexual health and responsibility programs.

Middle School Sexual Health & Responsibility Unit and Erin's Law Lesson - is developed and maintained by the district health education department and taught each year through the physical education class by the school's PE teachers.

[Health & Physical Education Department Website](#)

[Curriculum Design: Wellness and Health Education Board Policy](#)

[Curriculum Design: Sexuality Education Board Policy](#)

School Insurance

Student Accident Insurance: Student accident insurance is offered as a service to parents. The available insurance coverage includes school-only or 24-hour coverage. Coverage, cost, and enrollment information is provided on the District's website.

[Insurance](#)

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

Athletic Insurance: Pupil accident insurance made available by the District **shall be required** for all students who participate in athletic programs. In addition, special football insurance may be required for all students who participate in

interscholastic football. The administration shall ensure that appropriate coverage is available for students to purchase.

Board Policy JHE

Lockers

Hallway Lockers: Hallway lockers are not issued to students. In the event of a special circumstance or documented need, a written request for a locker may be submitted to the school administration for consideration. Approval of any locker assignment is at the discretion of the administration. Students are expected to use a bookbag to transport and store instructional materials, including notebooks, binders, Chromebooks, and other school supplies. To maintain an organized learning environment, students will be assigned designated locations within classrooms to store their bookbags during instructional time.

PE Lockers:

No PE Lockers will be issued.

Schedule Information

The school day begins at 8:30. All students should be in class by this time to avoid tardy issues and consequences. The school day ends at 3:15 and students should follow the departure procedures described above. When operating on a normal schedule, school lunch times are as follows:

7th Grade: 11:00-11:30

6th Grade: 12:00-12:30

8th Grade: 12:45-1:15

School ID Requirement/Procedures

All BRMS student are required to wear their ID while attending school or riding the bus.

- Students will be given two IDs and lanyards at the beginning of the school year free of charge. They will keep one lanyard and ID in their ROAR teacher's classroom in case they forget the other one.
- Students may purchase additional IDs for \$5 each.
- If a student forgets their IDs and does not have their extra ID they will be required to purchase another one and will be charged \$5. If students receive 3 Unpaid IDs, they will receive a referral w/ISS and continue with each ID that is unpaid
- Students with ID debts will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities such as dances, pep rallies, intramurals, or end-of-the-year activities.

SmartPass

We use an electronic pass system to monitor students' time out of class. Students abuse of pass privileges may result in reduction of pass numbers and a parent conference will be held to discuss. Students that need frequent access to the restroom must provide medical documentation.

Student Activities

Field Trips:

Designed to stimulate student interest and inquiry, well planned and executed field trips enhance classroom learning through real life contact with the topic of study. Field trips must directly relate to the academic standards being addressed in classroom learning.

The following expectations must be met regarding field trips.

- Chaperones will be screened and approved. **Board policy [IFCD](#)**
- The student's parent or legal guardian has provided written consent for participation.
- Provision has been made to assist students who may not be able to participate due to inability to pay.
- Appropriate written instructional plans have been provided for non-participating students who remain at school.

Expectations:

- Medication required for field trips must be given to and administered by an employee of Greenville County Schools designated by the principal. There are separate permission forms for medications on field trips.

- Students are expected to follow the school dress code on all field trips unless otherwise informed. Students are expected to make up any missed work due to a field trip.
- Educational experiences outside of the classroom enhance and complement the academic instruction taking place at school. However, because these trips require leaving campus, the principal may exclude a student from a field trip, if the period of a student's suspension covers the date(s) of the trip or the student's current pattern of behavior would disrupt the orderly execution of the trip and lessen its educational value for other students. The principal must approve all decisions to deny a student access to a field trip.

PBIS & ROAR:

Blue Ridge Middle School follows the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model for discipline expectations. Using ROAR as our motto, students are expected to display Respect (R), remain Organized (O), have a positive Attitude (A), and be Responsible (R). Emphasis will be placed on positive responses and behaviors, which will be rewarded based on guidelines set by the ROAR Committee. ROAR expectations will be followed in all parts of the school community: classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, car rider and bus loading areas, and others.

Although a positive approach will be established, students who make poor choices may receive consequences according to the Greenville County School District's Behavior Code.

Incentives & Rewards:

- The PBIS Committee will establish expectations and rewards. Students must meet all requirements to participate in rewards. Example rewards include grade level days, PBIS celebrations, and others as determined by the PBIS Committee.
- Only students who have met ROAR expectations will be allowed to participate in reward activities. Students who have not met ROAR expectations will not be allowed to participate in reward activities. For example, students who have repeated behavior issues, excessive absences or tardies, unpaid debts or fines, missing assignments (NHIs), course failures, or other acts as deemed by the PBIS Committee will not be able to participate in reward activities and school dances. Students may also lose portions or all of Grade Level Days and/or the 8th Grade Dance due to behavioral infractions.
- The final decision of a student's eligibility to participate in a field trip or reward/grade level day will be determined by the school administration and guided by teacher input.

Honor Roll and All A's Honor Roll

Students are recognized at the end of each quarter for achieving Honor Roll and All A's Honor Roll. Recognition at the end of the year awards assembly is based on grades in all classes (including related arts) for quarters 1, 2, and 3 combined.

Release Time:

Students who have the written consent of their parents, may receive moral or religious instruction at a suitable place away from the school, designated by the religious group. Students at Blue Ridge Middle School can participate in release time at the Blue Ridge Christian Learning Center. More information can be obtained by calling 864-525-6190. Pupils shall be excused from school for such purposes no more than one class period per week and in each case the pupils so excused shall attend school at least the legal minimum school day. A "class period" is the time set aside for instruction in a single subject, as determined by each school.

Visitors & Volunteers

Visitors & Mentors:

[Policy KM](#); [Rule KM](#)

All visitors, including parents, must report to the office, obtain permission, sign-in, and receive a name tag before reporting to any other area of the school. When visitors and/or mentors eat lunch with students, they must check in with the front office upon arrival. They should sit at a designated table in the cafeteria with only their child or mentee unless the other parents provide a note giving permission for the child to eat with the visitor. Once lunch is over, visitors/mentors should leave the cafeteria at the designated time and report directly to the front office to sign out.

No Deliveries for Students Accepted:

The school will not accept deliveries for students such as flowers, gifts, etc. The school also does not accept food deliveries for student lunches (i.e. Zaxby's, Chick-fil-A, other restaurants).

Volunteers:

[Rule KM](#)

Members of the public must be cleared each time that he/she visits a GCS facility through the National Sex Offender Registry by using the electronic sign-in system. Parents/guardians, visitors, volunteers, vendors who seek permission to enter school premises during the day or during any school-sanctioned event not open to the general public, including field trips and dances, must be checked against the system. However, individuals working or attending events open to the general public, such as an athletic event or school carnival, are not required to be checked against the system.