



2022-2023

**Greer Middle  
School  
Student Handbook**

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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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 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a child is not six years of age on or before the first day of September in a particular school year, parents and guardians may choose not to send their children to kindergarten; however, they must sign a waiver which may be obtained at the local school.

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

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

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

### **Lawful Absences**

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

### **Unlawful Absences**

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

## **Absences**

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

## **Carnegie Credit**

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

In order to receive high school credit after the 10<sup>th</sup> unlawful absence, "seat time recovery" is required for every subsequent absence that is unlawful. (Note: the 10 unlawful absence limit applies to each 180-day course and should be considered

5 days for each 90-day course and 3 days for each 45 day course.) A student may have up to 10 absences excused by a parent note in each 180-day course and 5 days excused by a parent note in each 90-day course. Parent notes in excess of 10 in a 180-day course, and 5 in a 90-day course, will be considered unexcused and will count towards the unlawful absences a student has in the respective course. A student must attend the majority of a class session during a school day to receive credit for that class.)

## **Truancy**

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

## **Student Behavior Code**

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

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

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

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

### **Levels of offenses**

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

#### **Disorderly conduct - Level I**

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

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

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lying
- blackmail of other students or school personnel
- acting in a manner so as to interfere with the instructional process

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

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

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

### **Disruptive conduct - Level II**

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

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

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

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

- o did any other acts as determined at the school level that are not inconsistent with Board policy

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

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

### **Criminal conduct - Level III**

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

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

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

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

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

- vandalism (major)

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

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

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

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

### **Dress Code**

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

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

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

### **Transportation**

#### **Discipline**

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

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

### **Level I Offenses - Disorderly Conduct**

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

### **Level I Consequences**

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

### **Level II Offenses**

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

### **Level II Consequences**

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

### **Level III Offenses**

- Possession, use or transfer of weapons
- Sexual offenses (which include sexual acts that do not result in criminal offense)
- Arson



- Impeding the operation of a school bus
- Distribution, sale, purchase, use or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance
- Threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm to a school employee
- Ganging
- Bomb threat

### **Level III Consequences**

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

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Parent Responsibilities:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Anti-Bullying and Safe Schools**

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

### **Reporting Bullying, Harassment & Discrimination**

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

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

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

### **Investigation**

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

### **Appeals**

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

The appeal shall state the reasons for which the complainant is appealing the initial decision. The coordinator will examine the evidence presented by all the parties, and may conduct a meeting with both the complainant and the school principal or designee if needed. The coordinator must provide a written decision to the complainant within 10 working days of receiving the complainant's written appeal. The coordinator shall inform the complainant of

the right to appeal to the Superintendent or his/her designee. If a coordinator or the Superintendent or his/her designee is alleged to be involved in the complaint, the District will appoint an objective and impartial administrator to address the complainant's appeal at that level.

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

## **Title IX Complaints (Sex-Based Discrimination/Harassment)**

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

### **Reporting**

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

### **Investigation**

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

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

Additional information pertaining to Title IX, including contact information for the District's Title IX Coordinator, training received by District employees, and the process for appeals can be found at <https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Parents/main.asp?titleid=titleix>

## **Homework**

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

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

Practice: reinforces newly acquired skills taught in class

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

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

Homework shall be carefully planned and explained to the students. Content and duration of homework shall be personalized to accommodate the age, grade, ability, and readiness of the students. Homework shall be assigned with

awareness of the home resources available to the student and the family and alternative options offered, where necessary. Since involvement in extracurricular activities is encouraged and valued, homework assignments that are lengthy shall be scheduled as far in advance as possible.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Uniform Grading Scale**

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

### **The SC Grading Scale is as follows:**

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

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

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

### **PreKindergarten**

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

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

#### **Academic Skills Indicators:**

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

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

Art Music Physical Education	M=Meets related arts standards P=making progress towards related arts standards
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**2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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

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

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

**Grading Floors**

- Elementary School Students (Grades 2-5)**  
 A floor of 50 will be applied to quarter report cards for elementary students (2-5). The floor will not be applied to Interim Progress Reports.
- Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)**  
 A floor of 50 will be applied to all grades for middle school students (6-8)
- High School Students (Grades 9-12)**  
 A floor of 50 will be applied to quarter report cards for High School Students (9-12). The floor will not be applied to Interim Progress reports.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that affords parents (including legal guardians) and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to students' education records. "Student education records" include any records maintained by a school or the district that are directly related to the student. These rights are: The right to inspect and review a student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should write a letter to the school principal and identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access to those records and will notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where they may inspect them.

- The right to request an amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend an education record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the school principal. In that letter, they should not only clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, but also specify why they believe it is inaccurate or misleading. They should also provide any evidence to support their claim. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a district-level hearing regarding the request for amendment. The school will provide additional information regarding the district's hearing procedures when they notify the parent or eligible student of the decision. After the hearing, if the district still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his/her view about the contested information.

- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. FERPA allows the district to disclose education records to school officials with a legitimate educational interest in the information contained in the record without consent from the parent or eligible student. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health and law enforcement staff); a person serving on the School Board; and a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor or therapist). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if that official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request and without consent, the district forwards and discloses education records to officials of another school district in which a student seeks/intends to enroll, specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes, appropriate parties in connection with financial aid, organizations conducting certain studies for the school, accrediting organizations, to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, to appropriate offices in cases of health and safety emergencies, and to state and local authorities within a juvenile system.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

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

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

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

## **Directory Information**

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

## **Student Speakers at School-Sponsored Activities**

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

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

## **School Insurance**

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

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

## **Parent's Right to Know**

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

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

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

## **Student Use of Technology**

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

## **Board Policies and Administrative Rules**

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

# **Greer Middle School Information**

## **Personalized Learning Device**

The mission of the [1:1 Chromebook Initiative](#) at Greer Middle School is to collaboratively foster learning with an engaging and challenging environment that will prepare our students for high school and beyond. The Chromebook will enable teachers to create a student-centered, student-driven environment that encourages innovation and creativity. In an ever-growing, globalized society, students will be able to use their personal device as a gateway to information, and as a means to collaborate with others. The staff will be provided with

continual support and professional development to assist in the development of high-quality instruction for all students.

#### Goals of the Program

- Increase literacy skills through classroom instruction for students including fluency and reading for pleasure and to gain information for personal and academic
- Increase student achievement by implementing common core and state standards through the use of technological applications of informational text.
- Greer Middle School teachers will utilize available technology to prepare and engage students in 21st Century learning.

### **Cell Phone and Wireless Headphone Policy**

There is no reason for middle school students to use a cell phone or have wireless headphones during school hours at GMS. This includes calling or texting parents during the school day without permission from administration. Students who choose to bring cell phones or wireless headphones to school may not access them during the school day. During school hours while on school grounds, no student may use, or have turned on a cell phone without the prior permission of the principal. The use of a smartwatch or headphones as a communication device will be considered a violation of the cell phone policy.

Neither the school nor the district will be responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones, headphones, or smartwatches brought onto school property. A student in possession of a cell phone or wireless headphones is in violation of this policy, and will be referred to the school's administration. We will no longer confiscate student phones; instead, if a student is using their cell phone or wireless headphones at Greer Middle School, a teacher should direct the student to put the device. If the student complies, a referral is to be written for "phone violation." and we will follow the matrix below:

**First offense** – 1 day In School Suspension (ISS).

**Second offense**-1 day Out School Suspension (OSS).

**Third and subsequent offenses** - 2 days Out of School Suspension (OSS).

If the student refuses to put the device/phone away, after the teacher has directed the student to do so, a referral is to be written for "refusal to obey." Refusal to put away the device/phone will result in an automatic 3 day out of school suspension from school.

### **Tardies**

School begins at 8:30 for all grades. Students not in 1<sup>st</sup> Period at 8:30 are **tardy**. If a student arrives after 8:30, he/she must report to the lobby for an admittance slip to be admitted to class. Class tardies are covered in the discipline code below:

**First offense** – Verbal warning by the teacher.

**Second and Third offense** – Verbal warning by the teacher, parent contacted by the teacher.

**Fourth offense** – Referral to appropriate Principal and Principal Detention assigned. Failure to attend Principal Detention will result in ISS.

**Fifth offense** -- Referral to appropriate Principal and ISS will be assigned.

**Sixth offense (plus)** – Referral to appropriate Principal and Out of School Suspension assigned.



## **Early Dismissal**

Parents who wish to get their student out of school early must report to the main office and sign their student out of school. Please send a note in advance of the time that you want to sign out your student. This will make it faster and easier for you to sign out your student. The last early dismissal of the day will be at 2:30 p.m. Any early dismissals after 2:30 must have pre-approval from Mrs. Lackey or your grade-level administrator.

## **Visitors and Volunteers**

Parents are encouraged to become involved in the life of our school by joining the PTSA or participating on the School Improvement Committee. These parent-centered organizations represent your voice in our school. In addition to participation in these important organizations, volunteers are always needed to participate as chaperones at dances and other school events such as our pageants or assist with fundraising activities. You may sign up by contacting the school for the Volunteer Chairperson's name and contact information.

## **Health Room**

A student who needs to go to the health room must obtain a pass from his classroom teacher. Students reporting to the nurse for illness must remain in the health room until released by the nurse to return to class or go home. If the health room is not open, the office staff will call the parent or send the student back to class. All medication needs to be brought in by a parent/guardian with appropriate forms. Students are not to be in possession of any medication.

## **Accidents, Emergencies, Medical Conditions**

Every effort is made to prevent accidents. If an accident occurs, school officials will administer first aid as appropriate and the parents will be contacted as necessary. Any injured or ill child will be sent to the Nurse's office. The Nurse is responsible for contacting parents and following District Policy if a child requires transportation for emergency care. **It is critical that contact information is up to date.**

## **Athletics**

Greer Middle School Student Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is reflective of the school. You can find the Student Athlete Code of Conduct and all Academic Eligibility requirements here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FA4hTj4uQpMUPKyYdKRpvFq37QMHRu8PYTQredsFPAE/edit>

Other information regarding athletics can be found on the school's athletics website: <https://sites.google.com/greenvilleschools.us/gmsathletics/home?authuser=4>

## **Cafeteria**

Students may deposit money into their cafeteria account during lunch in the cafeteria or online at the address listed below. Students wishing to pay on a daily basis may pay the cashier. Families that are eligible for free or reduced-price meals (\$0.40) must apply to receive them, and all other students must pay full price (\$2.50) for their lunches. Breakfast is provided free of charge to all Greenville County students, regardless of their meal status. [Free and Reduced Meal applications](#) must be completed, annually.

*Lunch accounts may be managed online at:*

<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>

## Greer Middle School Bell Schedule 2022-2023

6th Grade		
1st	8:30 - 8:55	BUZZ TIME
2nd	9:00 - 9:55	Academics
3rd	10:00 - 10:55	Academics
4th	11:00 - 11:55	Academics
Lunch	12:00 - 12:30	Lunch w/4th
5th	12:35 - 1:35	Academics
6th	1:38 - 2:24	Related Arts
7th	2:29 - 3:15	Related Arts

7th Grade		
1st	8:30 - 8:55	BUZZ TIME
2nd	9:00 - 9:55	Academics
3rd	10:00 - 10:55	Academics
Lunch	11:00 - 11:35	Lunch w/3rd
4th	11:38 - 12:24	Related Arts
5th	12:28 - 1:14	Related Arts
6th	1:20 - 2:15	Academics
7th	2:20 - 3:15	Academics

8th Grade		
1st	8:30 - 8:55	BUZZ TIME
2nd	9:00 - 9:46	Related Arts
3rd	9:51 - 10:37	Related Arts
4th	10:45 - 11:40	Academics
5th	11:45 - 12:40	Academics
Lunch	12:44 - 1:14	Lunch w/5th
6th	1:19 - 2:14	Academics
7th	2:19 - 3:15	Academics

Related Arts		
1st	8:30 - 8:55	Planning
2nd	9:00 - 9:46	8th Grade
3rd	9:51 - 10:37	8th Grade
Planning	10:37 - 11:30	Planning
4th	11:38 - 12:24	7th Grade
5th	12:28 - 1:14	7th Grade
Planning	1:14 - 1:38	Planning
6th	1:38 - 2:24	6th Grade
7th	2:29 - 3:15	6th Grade

### **School Day**

The school day for Greer Middle School will be from 8:30 to 3:15 pm. The school will be opened to students at 7:30 a.m. and no student can be dropped off prior to 7:30 a.m. Students are expected to be seated in their first

period class when it begins at 8:30. Students should be picked up in the afternoon no later than 4:00 pm. A parent or guardian must come inside to sign out the student if it is after 4:00 pm. After three late pickups have occurred, parents or guardians will meet with a school official to develop a plan for the future.

## **Student ID's**

For safety reasons, all Greenville County middle school students are required to wear ID Badges while on campus. At the beginning of the school year, all students will be issued an ID Badge and lanyard at no cost. If the badge is lost, stolen, damaged, or defaced; the student must pay \$5 to purchase a replacement or \$6 with a lanyard. ID Badges must be in possession of the student to whom it was issued. Students are also encouraged to purchase an extra ID Badge for \$5 and leave it in their backpack as a backup in the event they fail to bring their ID Badge to school.

Each morning, staff members on duty and 1<sup>st</sup> Period teachers will complete an ID Check to ensure all students have the ID Badge. If a student does not have their ID Badge, they will report to the Media Center to receive a temporary badge. This temporary badge must be worn all day in place of the ID Badge. Students will receive one temporary badge per semester. Once students have used this temporary badge, they will be issued a new permanent ID and be charged accordingly. Students can pay off all ID fines in the library before 8:30.

Students will be counted as having their ID if brought in by a parent before the end of 1st period.

## **School Counseling Department**

The School Counseling Program at Greer Middle School will provide a comprehensive, developmental, and professional counseling services to all students through collaborative efforts with Greer Middle staff and its community. By stressing academic achievement, career and educational decision-making, and personal and social development, our students will continue to be lifelong learners and productive citizens who will make a positive difference in society. Our mission is to provide a school counseling program that facilitates the healthy development of students through intentional efforts of quality and supportive services. Our counseling staff serves as student advocates who collaborate with administration, teachers, parents, students, and the community to ensure a safe and effective learning environment. This allows our students to become productive citizens who are equipped to meet the challenges of a global society.

For more information visit our website:

<https://sites.google.com/greenvilleschools.us/greermiddleschoolcounseling/home?authuser=0>

## **Student and Parent Backpack**

Parent Backpack is a valuable tool to help schools and families communicate with one another. It also allows parents/guardians to monitor their children's grades, assignments, and attendance, and gives parents/guardians access to update the list of individuals who can pick up their children from school. Parents will also be able to invite others (i.e., grandparents, babysitters, etc.) to have viewing rights to their child's information without giving them access to change any data or pick up rights.

## **Procedures for Makeup Work**

In order to receive full credit for make-up work, all work must be submitted within five days, immediately following the absence. In cases of prolonged illness beyond five 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 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 five days. In general, work is to be made up before or after school in order not to miss more class time. Students are encouraged to check teacher websites, google classroom, and google calendars for assignments during any absence.

## **Redo/Retake Policy**

Greer Middle School is implementing a Redo/Retake Plan as a strategy to help ensure the mastery of content for our students and encourage our students to have a growth mindset regarding their academic work. Mastery is considered 80 percent or higher. Our guidelines for a redo/retake plan have been designed with input from teachers, administrators, parents, and students to ensure consistent implementation school-wide.

When are students allowed to redo/retake?

Only assignments that are categorized as major grades in the gradebook are available for redo/retake.

### Redo/Retake Information

- The student, parent, and teacher must sign Redo/Retake Request Form
- The student must submit the Redo/Retake Request Form within three (3) school days of the grades being posted in Backpack.
- The higher of the two grades will be recorded in the Gradebook.
- Redo/Retake assessments will cover the same standards, but the format and questions will be determined by the teacher. Alternative assignments may be required at the teacher's discretion.

### Redo/Retake Steps

- The student must complete and submit the Redo/Retake Request Form (found under Student tab on Greer Middle Website) within three (3) school days of the grades being posted in Backpack.
- Students must complete the Relearning Tasks assigned by their teacher on the Redo/Retake Request Form by the deadline given by the teacher.
- If a student will be retaking a test, they must take it at the pre-arranged date/time; if a student will be redoing an assignment that is not a test, they must turn it in by the redo deadline.
- If students miss the deadline and/or pre-arranged date/time, the redo/retake will not be allowed. If there are extenuating circumstances, contact the grade-level administrator.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WryDjDnXxWv9kUwcU06qQwQucMKenvZi/view>

## **Dismissal**

ALL students are to remain in their 7th period class until the car-line monitoring system has notified each student that their ride is here. ALL students found in the hallway or in the car pickup areas before their car/bus has been called will be disciplined by the administration. 6<sup>th</sup> Graders should be picked up in the front car loading area. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders should be picked up in the back car loading area. It is the responsibility of the student to look for parents in the car lines and enter the car in a timely manner to ensure a quick and safe car loading process. Students are not allowed to walk to Greer High School unless they are participating in an after school event at Greer High. All other GMS students should be picked up on GMS property.

## **Discipline Policy**

Greer Middle School will be a safe and orderly school to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn.

Acts that impair the ability of the school staff, teachers, and administrators to maintain a safe school environment will result in consequences. The discipline policy at Greer Middle School will reflect the Code of Conduct that has been approved by the Greenville County School Board.

**Principals will reserve the right to adjust consequences based on the severity of the incident. However, the consequences below will represent the minimum consequences for particular offenses.**

### **Discipline Abbreviation Index**

- PD Principal Detention.** PD will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the designated ISS room.
- TD Teacher Detention.** TD will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30-8:10 in the designated grade level classroom. Parents must have their child at school by 7:30 a.m.
- ISS In-School-Suspension.** Students will report to a predetermined room and remain the entire school day (including lunch). Students will be given assignments from their classes to work on. Students will not be allowed to talk, sleep, or work on computers (unless for school purposes). Students will be taken to the cafeteria for lunch separate from all other grade levels or a bag lunch will be provided for them in the ISS room. Disruptions in ISS will automatically result in students being sent home for an OSS consequence. ISS does not count against student attendance.
- OSS Out-Of-School-Suspension.** Students will not be allowed on campus (including Greer High School campus) during OSS. That includes times during the school day and during after school events (sporting events, dances, talent shows, etc.). OSS on a Friday will also mean that students are not allowed on campus for Friday night football games and/or weekend activities at the school or at Greer High School. OSS does not count against student attendance.

[Click here for the Greer Middle School Discipline Matrix.](#)

### **Maximum Number of Consequences**

Consequences for offenses vary depending on the severity of the action. Students that continue to disrupt school and receive consequences are subject to “maxing out” of a particular consequence. Below are the maximum times a student can receive a particular consequence. If a student exceeds this number, the next highest consequence will be given.

**Principal Detention - 3 Days Maximum**

**ISS - 3 Days Maximum**

**OSS- 3 suspendable offenses Maximum**

***If a student reaches their maximum number of the above detentions, the consequence will roll over to the next highest consequence. Once the maximum number of Principal Detentions, and ISS days have been consumed, all referrals will result in out-of-school suspension. Once a student has reached their maximum out of school suspension days, they will be placed on school probation. The next violation at the level two or higher will result in a recommendation to the alternative school.***