HODGES ELEMENTARY

GREENWOOD SCHOOL OF INQUIRY

2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook



We are buzzing with knowledge!

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Christine Rogers, Principal

www.gwd50.org

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Hodges Elementary School of Inquiry. Our school motto is "We are buzzing with knowledge." The faculty and staff at Hodges GSI believe that questioning and real world inquiry based on student interests and experiences are at the heart of learning. Each day, students are challenged to cultivate a deeper understanding of the world around them. Students at our school are viewed as scientists, mathematicians, linguists, readers, writers, social scientists, and engineers, who are expected to work together as problem solvers. We have a very important responsibility in the educational process of your child. We are committed to providing meaningful programs and services to encourage your child to be a lifelong learner and scholar.

The people of Hodges have an excellent reputation for their support of the faculty, staff and school. We look forward to the endless possibilities this partnership provides for the development and overall growth of the children at Hodges GSI.

This handbook has been prepared to provide you with important information about our school. Please take time to review the handbook and discuss it with your child so everyone will understand our procedures. I also encourage you to discuss expectations and progress with your student. We are happy to have you and your child with us at Hodges Elementary School of Inquiry!

Best wishes for a wonderful year,

Christine Rogers

Principal

OUR SHARED MISSION, VISION, PHILOSOPHY, AND BELIEFS WILL BE REVISITED THIS YEAR AS WE WORK TOGETHER AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY ON OUR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SCHOOL RENEWAL.

MISSION

Hodges Elementary School prepares all students to become leaders who respect, appreciate and learn from the world around them.

VISION

To equip students to be lifelong learners and leaders

PHILOSOPHY

The total school program at Hodges Elementary School is based on the belief that it is our responsibility to provide each individual with those basic and essential tools of learning that will enable him/her to live satisfactorily and productively in our democratic society.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe that quality education is the responsibility of the school, home, and community. We strive to see that the three work together for our children, tomorrow's leaders.



School Mascot: Honey Bee

School Colors: Black and Gold

School Motto: “We are Buzzing With Knowledge”

School Pledge: I am a student full of wonder, eager to ask questions and make connections. I will respect, appreciate and learn from the world around me. I am proud to be a Honeybee!

ORGANIZATION AND CURRICULUM

Hodges Greenwood School of Inquiry serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Language arts (reading, writing, spelling, English), social studies, science, math, physical education, art and music instruction are based on the State Academic Achievement Standards. Instruction in the areas of art, music, and physical education is provided by special area teachers. Gifted and talented, resource and speech classes are provided for students who qualify for these services.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSALS

Parents should follow school check in procedures at all times. Parents will not be allowed to walk their children to class. This is to ensure the safety of all students and maximize our instructional time in the classroom.

There is no early dismissal from the elementary schools after 2:00 pm. If you must pick up your student early from school, please do so prior to 2:00 pm. We encourage parents to schedule appointments after school hours so the child does not miss any instructional time.

Work ethic and perseverance can be built through establishing appropriate routines to start our day. Help your child to be on time. The schedule is as follows:

7:00 am Bus riders begin arriving and report to the cafeteria.
7:00 am Car riders begin arriving. Prior to 7:15, all students will report to the cafeteria. After 7:15, students will report to the cafeteria if they need breakfast or directly to the classroom if they are not eating breakfast.
7:40 am Cafeteria will serve breakfast until this time.
7:50 am School begins. Students should be in their classrooms. At 7:50, students are considered tardy and must be signed in by a parent or guardian.
2:40 pm Car riders and bus riders are dismissed.

All Students K4-5th will be dropped off in the front of the building at the main entrance.

K4 Car-Rider Pick-Up at Literacy Lane

K4 students will be picked up in the loop in front of the Media Center (Literacy Lane.)

K5-Fifth Grade Car-Rider Pick up

Honeybee Drive is used for K5 through fifth grade pick-up. Please remain in your car at all times during the arrival/dismissal time.

During dismissal, students will remain in the gym until called. Please stay in your car and in the appropriate lane during the dismissal time. Adults will be on duty to supervise students during dismissal. Parents of car riders must pick up their children between 2:40 pm and 3:00 pm.

If you have an occasional appointment or other emergency that makes it necessary for you to pick up your child before the regular dismissal time, **please come into the school bv 2:00 pm. You will be asked to sign your student out as an early dismissal. Early dismissal will end at 2:00 pm.**

If your student changes his mode of transportation to and from school, He/she should bring from home a written explanation of the change. **Changes by telephone will not be taken** in **the school office.**

ATTENDANCE

A student must be present every day and must not accumulate more than a total of 4 early dismissals or tardies within a school year.

The board believes that attendance is a key factor in student achievement. Any absence from school represents an educational loss to the student. However, the board recognizes that some absences are unavoidable.

1. Students are required to bring written documentation for absences within five (5) days from the day of the absence.

2. Parents' notes will be accepted but are limited to ten (10) absences per year. Thereafter, a medical note will be required.

3. For elementary and middle school students, principal judgment will be used to excuse absences above 10, which total no more than 15 days of lawful and/or unlawful absences.

4. For secondary students, principal judgment will be used to excuse absences above five days per semester, which total no more than eight days of lawful and/or unlawful absences.

5. Absences with no documentation are automatically considered unlawful.

6. In accordance with SBE Regulation 43-274, Section B (1):

. When a child between the ages of 6 to 17 years has three consecutive unlawful absences or five unlawful absences, that child is determined to be truant.

. Once a child is determined to be truant, school officials must meet with the parent(s) or guardian (s) to identify reasons for absences.

. A written “Intervention Plan” must be developed to address the student’s continued absences.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast and lunch are **free for all** students. Students will be eating breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

All bus transportation is arranged by Mr. Michael White, District 50 Director of Transportation. Questions concerning the bus routes, drivers, and schedules should be directed to Mr. white. Students are to ride the same bus mornings and afternoons, Any request for changes must be in writing from the parent. Parents should send a written note to their child’s teacher when a student who normally rides a bus is to be picked up by a car.

Second and third grade students will receive a green bus tag for book bags. This means they DO NOT require an escort to proceed from the bus stop. District wide K4 through 1st grade students will receive a red bus tag for book bags indicating they must have an authorized escort for pick up at the bus stop. **An authorized escort card must be presented to retrieve K4 through 1st grade students from the bus stop.** In the event that an escort card is unavailable, a picture ID must be presented and will be checked with the Student Transportation Form. If the individual is not listed as an escort, the student CANNOT be released and must return to their school.

Your child is expected to follow all school bus rules and regulations. If your child does not follow the bus rules, he/she will be reported to the school administrator. The referral will be reviewed and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. Parents will receive a copy of the bus discipline referral to sign and return to the child’s homeroom teacher. Rules and regulations regarding bus transportation can be found on the district website.

DISCIPLINE PHILOSOPHY

We expect students to behave properly at school. Discipline will be administered when any individual's actions interfere with the right of teachers to teach and students to learn. The Student's Rights and Responsibility and Code of Conduct handbook may be found on our school

and district website. This handbook outlines rules and consequences for discipline. Please be sure to review this information with your child. If you feel that there is ever an issue with bullying, please contact Mrs. Rogers or Mrs. Thomas in the front office immediately at 864-374-5000 or complete a Quick Tip form on-line at the district website, www.gwd50.org or at the "Report Bullying" link posted on our GSI webpage. Your report will be investigated immediately with prompt follow-up.

SCHOOL RULES

- Follow all schoolwide expectations- reviewed and posted throughout the school year
- Keep you hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- Respect the rights, responsibilities, property, and feelings of others.
- Use the appropriate voice when you are inside the school

DRESS

Students are expected to dress in an appropriate, decent manner. Greenwood District 50 Board of Trustees Policy states the following:

- All pants must be worn above the hips.
- Clothing that depicts alcohol, drugs, tobacco, racial slurs/epithets, sexual suggestions/insinuation, inappropriate language, or gang association is prohibited.
- No halter tops, tank tops, or see-through clothing permitted.
- Hats will not be worn in the building.
- Extremely short clothing, low-cut tops, and mid-drift tops are also examples of inappropriate clothing

EARLY CLOSINGS (Weather Days) EMERGENCIES

The closing of school due to extreme weather conditions will be posted on the D50 Webpage and social media and announced on local radio stations during early morning hours. If bad weather develops during the day, please listen to the radio/tv for dismissal announcements. Please discuss with your child in advance the procedure you will follow in getting your child home early.

In case of an emergency situation during the school day, parents are asked not to call the school for information. In an emergency, it is vital that the phones be available for use by those who are directing emergency procedures.

FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The parent or eligible student has the right to:

- Inspect and review the student's educational records;
- Request the amendment of a student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the act and the regulations in this part authorize disclosure without consent;

- File with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by the agency or institution to comply with requirements of the act and this part; and
- Obtain a copy of the policy adopted under

FEES

Students are expected to return any district or school owned materials. In the event that items are not returned, parents may be required to pay any fees associated with those items.

GREENWOOD SCHOOL OF INQUIRY CHOICE PROGRAM

The Greenwood School of Inquiry (GSI) is a school wide choice option. This program serves kindergarten through fifth grade at Hodges Elementary. The intent of the program is to develop inquisitive and expressive students who contribute to their school and local community as they prepare to achieve their individual life goals. Students will access core content standards with a multi-sensory approach that utilizes research, data, and technology as primary learning tools. Acceptance will be based on application and lottery.

GSI CHOICE PROGRAM POLICIES

Participation in the GSI program goes beyond the services provided within the regular school program and allows students maximum opportunities to achieve their potential. Students who join GSI are expected to maintain above average grades, have good attendance, and demonstrate positive school behavior. Expectations for student achievement are high. Failure to meet academic, attendance, and/or behavioral expectations will lead to academic or disciplinary probation. Continued failure to meet academic, attendance, and/or behavioral expectations will lead to removal from the GSI Choice Program.

Can students be removed from the Greenwood School of Inquiry Choice Program?

Removal from GSI is defined as discontinuing the participation of a student in the program. Though it is highly discouraged, removing students who qualified and entered the program is possible. The Director of the GSI choice program plays an integral part in determining the manner in which a request of this nature occurs. Parents may make a request in writing to terminate a student's participation. The need may arise when the Director must remove a student from the program. Prior to removal from the program by the Director, a student must be placed on probation.

Academic Probation

Students who are not showing adequate academic growth during the interim or reporting period will be placed on academic probation until adequate improvement occurs. During this probationary period there is a critical examination of student performance followed by prescribed interventions for a determined period. The student remains in the program during the probationary period. Students who continue to show little

or no improvement are at significant risk of being removed from GSI. Both probation and removal require appropriate counseling with the student and documented conferences with the student, the student's parent, and teacher. Records of any assessments, evaluative measures, and other relevant student information must be maintained in a confidential manner. If these interventions are not successful, the next step includes a removal meeting with the parent, student, and teachers.Students who are removed from the GSI program will return to the general population at their zoned elementary school.

Disciplinary Probation

Students who receive an out-of-school suspension for any reason are placed on disciplinary probation upon their return to school. Disciplinary probation continues until the last school day of the current year. During this probationary period there is a critical examination of student behavior and behavioral interventions are identified. If these behavioral interventions are not successful and if the student experiences another out-of-school suspension while on disciplinary probation the next step includes a removal meeting with the parent, student, and teacher. Removal from a choice/magnet school setting for disciplinary reasons will constitute an automatic removal from that choice/magnet program and the student will attend their zoned school. The student will be allowed to reapply if the program/grade level reopens in the future.

Attendance Probation

Attendance is critical to the academic success of a student. Parents must embrace the importance of school and make attending school a priority for their child. Students who accumulate five absences or tardies will be placed on attendance probation for the GSI program. During this probationary period there is a critical examination of the student's attendance followed by prescribed interventions for a determined period of time while the student remains in the program. Both probation and removal require appropriate counseling with the student, attendance plan, and documented conferences with the student, the student's parents, and teachers. Records must be maintained in a confidential manner. If these interventions are not successful and the student accumulates ten total absences, the next step includes a removal meeting with the parents, student, and teachers. Students who are removed from the GSI program will return to the general population at their zoned elementary school.

What infractions necessitate that the GSI Director will instigate removal procedures?

1. Inadequate academic growth with lack of effort may initiate removal from the program.
2. Continual disruption of the learning process and unwillingness to follow rules can necessitate removal from the program.
3. Failure to adhere to the South Carolina attendance policy will necessitate a written attendance intervention plan which must be followed or removal from GSI will occur.
4. A student's social, emotional, and physical health is factor which may necessitate removal from the program.

Each spring, students in the GSI program and their parents are asked to sign a letter of commitment to document their wish to remain in the program for the upcoming school year. A signed letter of commitment is required each year. If a parent wishes to remove his/her child from the GSI program at a time other than the end of the school year, the parent should request this in writing specifying the reasons for the request and this letter should be given to the school principal.

GRADING SYSTEM

The following grading system is used in the elementary schools in Greenwood District 50.

A	90-100	Excellent
B	80-89	Above Average
C	70-79	Average
D	60-69	Poor
U/F	59 and below	Unacceptable

Students in Grades K-5 are graded in Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science.

The Symbols listed below are used for Physical Education, Art, Music, and Conduct
S= Satisfactory
I= Shows Improvement
U= Needs Improvement

HOMEWORK

Homework is an extension of the classroom learning experiences and activities and will be given on Monday through Thursday of each week. Parents should provide the time, place, and proper atmosphere for the child to complete his or her homework. In many cases it will be helpful for the parent to participate by calling out spelling words, drilling of math facts, or listening to the child read. Students are expected to turn in their homework assignments when due. It is most important for the teacher and parent to work together and to impress upon the child the importance of doing homework for the skill reinforcement and application as well as for the creative and enrichment opportunities it provides. Parents who are enthusiastic about homework and understand its purpose find that their child's habits and responsibility, initiative, self-discipline, and independence are developed.

HONOR ROLL

To receive honor roll recognition, students must have an "A" or "B" in each core academic class and an “'S" in each-Related Arts Area. A list is published in the Index Journal

LOST AND FOUND

It is strongly recommended that names be put on coats, jackets, caps, and so forth. Students and parents are urged to check our lost and found area for lost items.

MEDICINE

In order for medication to be issued at school, written instructions by the physician and permission by the parent will be required and will be kept in the student's file. They should include: student' s name, name of medication, purpose of medication,
time to administer, dosage , and possible side effects. The parents of the student must assume the responsibility of informing the school of any change in the child's health or change in medication.

PROMOTION

South Carolina law states that students must not have more than 10 absences to be considered for promotion.

The following criteria have been established for promotion:

- The school will evaluate children in grades K-2 on their progress through the South Carolina performance standards and teacher judgment.
- The school will determine the progress of students in grades 3-5 using a combination of performance, assessment results, and teacher judgment.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine week grading period. Parent/Teacher conferences are held at the end of the first nine week grading period. Interim reports will be issued for first grade students and will be available online for second, third, fourth, and fifth grade students midway between report cards. Interim reports and student-led conferences are a unique component of our reporting to parents. Report cards should be signed and returned to your child's teacher.

TESTING

The following standardized tests are administered to students:

- MAP Tests: Students in grades K-5 will take this test each fall, winter, and spring. Results will show growth over a period of time.
- Cog AT/ SC Performance Task: This is an aptitude test given to identify academically gifted students.
- SC Ready: Grade 4 Science
- SC Ready: Grades 3-5 Math and ELA

There is no program for opting out of these mandatory tests. Dates for all assessments will be shared with parents and students upon communication from our state department of education.

TEXTBOOKS
The state of South Carolina provides books for each student. However, the student is responsible for the care of the textbook. Lost/damaged textbooks must be paid for by the parent.

VISITORS
Visitors are required to enter the building through the front entrance and report to the office. **All visitors must present a driver's license in order to enter the building.**

We look forward to working together as we strive for excellence!.