



Greer Middle College Charter High School 2022-2023 STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Principal's Message

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Greer Middle College Charter High School, I would like to take this time to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. This promises to be another great year as we continue our work making GMC the best high school in South Carolina.

We have included in this agenda some general information about our school that will give you the tools necessary to advance through GMC. In addition, this agenda includes a monthly calendar where a student may write class assignments or make note of important dates. Please treat this agenda as an important document and aid to help throughout the school year.

Our hope is that you are well rested and you are ready to be challenged and challenge yourself in what we believe will be a fantastic school year.

James E. Armstrong, Jr., Executive Director/Principal

Overview

A Greer Middle College (GMC) student accepts academic rigor as the main focus of high school, expects to attend college for training or a degree, has reached the maturity and skills level required to begin taking college courses, has reached a developmental level that allows independent work, and seeks the challenge to learn and to grow.

GMC is "Where the future begins" because of the possibilities available to its students. Located on the Benson campus of Greenville Technical College, this high school occupies a unique position in Greenville County. The students of GMC are able to use facilities on any of the Greenville Technical College (GTC) campuses as well as enroll in the College's classes.

With the combination of academic rigor and technical courses, GMC produces students who are capable of meeting the demands of other academic institutions and/or the workplace. GMC students become valued contributors to the community and their school by volunteering their time and energy. Each student must complete fifty hours of community service each school year. Our students' contributions make great things happen at Greer Middle College and in the community.

Steps for Student Success

To be successful, GMC students must:

- Believe in themselves.
- Promptly seek assistance from any faculty, staff, or administrator when necessary.
- Prepare for classes and bring all necessary materials to class.
- Ask for help. Each student is a member of a team that is working for success.
- Get involved in student government, athletics, and other school sponsored organizations and activities.

CODE OF RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

As a student at Greer Middle College, I pledge my best efforts to respect other people, my school, I and myself. I further pledge to work to my potential, to be responsible for my own behavior, and to act in caring compassionate ways both in and beyond the classroom.

GMC HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CODE

PREAMBLE

As members of the GMC community, we share a commitment of honor and integrity. We value those things that are right and decent; we reject any behavior that fails to meet those standards. Therefore, any act of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

CITIZENSHIP EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. To cooperate with all faculty, staff members, and peers
2. To conduct themselves as good citizens
3. To work hard and study in all classes

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

As a student at GMC, I understand the expectations of the school's Honor Code; I acknowledge the rules regarding academic integrity and realize the serious consequences of my violation of those rules.

Signature: _____

DISCIPLINE

An atmosphere of mutual respect between students and teachers is most conducive to good discipline. The general responsibility of discipline rests with the faculty. All faculty members have the authority and are expected to correct misconduct during any part of the school day or at any school function. Interpretation of discipline policy is at the discretion of the administrative team.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS

When accused of an offense a student will be given;

1. oral or written notice of the charges; and if disputed,
2. will be given an explanation of the evidence
3. will be given an opportunity to present his version.

DISCLAIMER

This handbook nor any part of it should be construed as a contract itself. The handbook is not intended to be comprehensive and none of its provisions should be interpreted as superseding the code of conduct set forth by the GMC Charter. It is to serve as a guide for the students, parents, and faculty of GMC. The school reserves the right to make changes or exception to statements in this handbook. All stakeholders will be notified of any changes when and if they are made and posted to the on-line version. **Final interpretation of all school rules and regulations is left to the administration of the school.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

All teachers have been given the authority and responsibility to insure compliance with properly adopted rules and regulations, even though violations may occur outside the classroom. Teachers may and should take appropriate action wherever they find a violation on the school grounds. The administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of behavior and dress. Authority to suspend students is prescribed by South Carolina Law.

STUDENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF

For safety and supervision purposes students are to be picked up/dropped off in the front of the school ONLY. Please do not drop off students in the student parking lot. Please pass this information along to whomever may be dropping off or picking up GMC students.

VISITORS: All visitors must have permission from the administration, sign in at the main office, and be issued a visitor's tag. Unauthorized visitors are subject to trespassing charges.

Academic Dishonesty (consequences are listed in the discipline matrix)

A. Cheating on Exams and Tests

1. Copying from others' homework, class work, or any other assignment for which a grade is given.
2. Having or using notes, formulas, or other information in a programmable calculator or any other electronic device without clear permission from the teacher.
3. Having or using a cell phone, smart watch, laptop, or any other communication device to send or receive information without permission from the teacher.
4. Taking an exam for another student or allowing this to be done.
5. Giving or receiving information about all or part of an exam, including, but not limited to answers.
6. Having or using a "cheat sheet" without specific permission from the teacher.
7. Changing a graded assignment and resubmitting for a better grade unless given permission by the teacher.
8. Completing a test in class while answers are being discussed and submitting the test as one's own work.
9. Working together on a take-home test unless specifically given permission to do so.
10. Sharing test materials with other students without permission from the teacher.
11. Copying and pasting from the Internet.

B. Plagiarism in papers and assignments

1. Copying any assignment meant to be individual work or allowing one's paper to be copied. Giving or getting improper assistance on an assignment meant to be individual work.
2. Including in any assignment turned in for credit any materials not based on one's own research and writing. This includes, but is not limited to using the services of a commercial term paper company or the Internet, and/or using the services of another student.
3. Failing to cite quoted or paraphrased material.
4. Making up data or citing nonexistent sources.

C. Other forms of Academic Dishonesty

1. Changing one's grade, such as by tampering with computer records including report cards and progress reports.
2. Deceiving a teacher or making up a false reason or excuse to get special consideration on an exam or an extension for an exam, assignment, or paper.
3. Forging a signature (for a graded assignment).
4. Facilitating academic dishonesty by knowingly helping another violate any part of this code.

GMC DRESS CODE

At GMC, our dress code is not only to maintain appropriate attire, but to distinguished our students from college students, visitors, and trespassers. *GMC Administration reserves the right of final interpretation of the dress code. Consequences are not appealable.

A detailed description of required dress for GMC students includes the following:

1. **Students are to be in uniform at all times while on any part of the GMC or GTC campuses.** This includes any other event requested or required by school officials (such as SLCs, etc.). All clothes must be neat and without rips, tears, or holes; including at the hem (NO cut-off's).
2. **Shorts and Pants:**
 - a. **Color choices:** khaki or black. NOTHING athletic.
 - b. **Shorts and skirts:** no shorter than 3" above the top of the knee.
 - c. **Pants:** must fit at the waist and not drag the ground.
 - d. **Prohibited:** leggings/yoga pants, athletic pants/shorts, joggers, sweatpants, any type of jean fabric (denim) short/pants, overalls, and jumpers.
3. **Shirts:**
 - a. **Color choices:** **MUST** be plain/solid navy, black, light blue, or white golf/polo shirts with a collar; short or long sleeves.
 - b. **Other specifications:** one small logo may be present on the shirt. Shirrtails must be tucked in at all times for all students. If a shirrtail does not remain tucked in when hands are raised, the shirt is too short.
4. **Coats, Jackets, Sweaters, Three-Quarter Zip, other outerwear:**
 - a. **Color choices:** plain/solid: navy, black, light blue, or white. (GMC SCHOOL COLORS!)
 - b. **Other specifications:** one small logo may be present on the outerwear, and sleeves must be $\frac{3}{4}$ or longer. Denim jackets of any color are NOT allowed.
 - c. **NO PLAIN/SOLID/NON-GMC HOODIES OR SWEATSHIRTS (CREW NECKS)!**
5. **GMC Hoodies and Sweatshirts and long-sleeve outerwear:**
 - a. **Specifications:** OFFICIAL GMC hoodies or OFFICIAL GMC sweatshirts or long-sleeve outerwear are approved outerwear. "Official GMC" gear is outerwear purchased from GMC (athletics or a school-sponsored fundraiser) or a school-approved vendor, such as Land's End.
 - b. **Other specifications:** No other garments outside of the two descriptions (#s 4 & 5) above may be worn over the polo. Vests, short-sleeve tops, trench coats, long-sleeve T's, hoodies or sweatshirts, etc., that are NOT OFFICIAL GMC gear are a violation of the GMC dress code.
6. Footwear is to be worn at all times. NO bedroom shoes.
7. Facial jewelry other than the ears must be stud only. Spiked bracelets or necklaces and chains are prohibited.
8. Head-coverings are unacceptable inside buildings. No bandanas or rags.
9. Any other personal appearance issue(s) that are deemed as a distraction to learning OR are outside the parameters of the representation of a GMC student will also be considered a violation of the dress code.

***GMC Administration reserves the right of final interpretation of the dress code. Consequences are not appealable.**

GMC DRESS-DOWN DRESS CODE

On a GMC Dress Down Fundraiser Day, participating students may pay to dress down. All of the above GMC Dress Code rules apply in addition to these exceptions:

1. All clothes must be neat and without rips, tears, or holes.

2. **Shorts and Pants:**

- a. **Color choices:** khaki or black pants or blue jeans.
- b. **Shorts and skirts:** no shorter than 3" above the top of the knee.
- c. **Pants:** must fit at the waist and not drag the ground.
- d. **Prohibited:** leggings, athletic pants/shorts, joggers, sweatpants, overalls, and jumpers.

3. **Shirts:** if a shirttail does not remain at the waist when hands are raised, the shirt is too short.

4. Any other personal appearance issue(s) that are deemed as a distraction to learning OR are outside the parameters of the representation of a GMC student will also be considered a violation of the dress code.

***GMC Administration reserves the right of final interpretation of the dress code. Consequences are not appealable.**

Dress Code Violation Consequences:

Students out of dress code may be asked to correct their attire AND be assigned the following consequences:

- 1st offense: 30 min After School Detention (ASD)
- 2nd offense: 60 min ASD
- 3rd offense: 2 hour Saturday Detention. Student MAY have certain attire privileges revoked. (No Short/Skirts for remainder of the semester.)
- 4th + offense: 4 hour Saturday Detention.

Tardies

Tardies are defined as a student being 10 or less minutes late to class without permission or a pass. More than 10 minutes late may be interpreted as cutting class. More than 45 minutes late and the student will be given an unexcused absence.

Tardies to 1st block (handled by the office; restarts each semester):

- 1st – 3rd: Parent notified via PowerSchool
- 4th: 30 min ASD
- 5th: 60 min ASD
- 6th: 2 hour Saturday Detention
- 7th+: 4 hour Saturday Detention

Tardies to 2nd, 3rd, or 4th block classes (handled by the classroom teacher; restarts each semester):

- 1st – 3rd: Teacher Notifies Parent (TNP)
- 4th: Teacher assigns 30 min ASD
- 5th+: Referral to office

Student Parking Lot/Driving on Campus

Driving to school is a privilege. An application for student parking permission must be completed at the beginning of each school year along with paying the \$25 fee. Parking permits purchased AFTER spring break are \$10. Violations of the following regulations will result in disciplinary referrals (see discipline matrix). Repeated failure to abide by GMC parking regulations may result in the revocation of the driving privilege. Any student who drives must display a current parking decal from GMC. Students with classes at OTHER Greenville Tech campuses must obtain a second parking sticker from GTC. **The GTC PD has legal jurisdiction in the GMC parking lot and will enforce parking and other laws as they see fit. They will also be notified by GMC administration in the event of any accident or legal incident.**

1. Students must park only in the designated lot for GMC students. Students are not allowed to park in any GTC, GMC faculty or GMC visitor area or spaces.
2. Student's vehicles must have the GMC parking decal displayed in the rear exterior windshield, in the lower, driver's side corner. Student must park in space as he or she enters. Student cannot drive through a space.
3. Students are not allowed to enter campus unless it is a school day or they have permission from a GMC faculty member.
4. Students must park within marked spaces.
5. Students should exit their vehicle upon parking. Students are NOT to remain in their vehicles, any other student vehicle, or in the parking lot after arriving to school.
6. No loud or inappropriate music.
7. Any and all parking lots are off-limits areas during school hours.
8. No student should leave campus without following the procedures, including signing out in the main office.
9. Items in student's vehicles (tobacco, drugs, weapons, etc.) are subject to punishment as possession under the Discipline Referral Matrix.
10. Posted speed limits must be obeyed.
11. No reckless driving.

Off-Limits Areas

Students are not allowed in any off-limits area without specific permission from a GMC faculty member. See the discipline referral matrix for consequences. The off-limits areas are (but are not limited to) the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| All parking lots | Faculty workrooms, offices, and restrooms |
| Remote areas of campus, including the nature trail. | Loitering in stairwells |
| The elevators | The balcony |
| Storage Rooms | |

OUT OF CLASS PASSES

Other than emergencies, the expectation is that students will remain in class. Hallway passes are given at the discretion of each teacher. Student name, destination, time out and time back to class must be indicated for each use.

BULLYING

A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself. This definition includes three important components:

1. Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

(http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/recognizing_bullying.page)

This includes cyberbullying, which is the use of cell phones, instant messaging, email, chat rooms, or social networking sites including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, and Twitter that is reasonably perceived to have been used to exhibit bullying behavior.

Any student who believes he/she has been subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying may file an oral or written complaint with the administration. Reports by students or employees may be made anonymously, although disciplinary action may not be taken against any person solely on the basis of an anonymous report. The administration will determine whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. Reports of violations and complaints will be promptly investigated. The administration will address the results of any violations and complaints including corrective or disciplinary action to be taken.

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Greer Middle College Charter High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or immigrant status in its programs and activities. For questions pertaining to the school's Title IX policy, or to report sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and/or assault, contact the school's Title IX Coordinator, James Dillard, jdillard@greermiddlecollege.org, at 138 W. McElhanev Road, Taylors, SC 29687 or 864-468-7571. For more information, go to <https://www.greermiddlecollege.org/about/school-policies/>

Discipline Referral Matrix

Teachers are expected to apply sanctions in the classroom for minor misbehavior and/or disruptions prior to submitting a discipline referral. The listed behaviors and subsequent consequences below will be used as the major guide by the administration for processing discipline referrals that are submitted by faculty.

| | 1st Offense | 2nd Offense | 3rd Offense | 4th Offense |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Academic Dishonesty/Cheating/Plagiarism *Possible consequences for inappropriate behavior online during e-Learning. | TNP; 60 min ASD; resubmit assignment for 70% credit (teacher MAY adjust assessment and/or rubric as needed) | TNP; Saturday Detention; resubmit assignment for 50% credit (teacher MAY adjust assessment and/or rubric as needed) | TNP; Saturday Detention; student receives a score of Zero for assignment | Admin Discretion |
| Inappropriate Use/Misuse/Abuse of Technology (hardware and/or software) at school, including personal electronic devices. | 30 min ASD; 1 Day loss of access to technology, including personal electronic devices, during the school day. | 60 min ASD; 3 Day loss of access to technology, including personal electronic devices, during the school day. | 2 hour Saturday Detention; 5 Day loss of access to technology, including personal electronic devices, during the school day. | 4 hour Saturday Detention; 10 Day loss of access to technology, including personal electronic devices, during the school day. |
| Vandalism/Destruction of School Property/Pranks | 30 min ASD and restitution | 60 min ASD and restitution | 2 hour Sat. Detention ASD's and restitution | 4 hour Saturday Detention and restitution |
| Public Display of Affection | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |
| Disrupting Class/School Function | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |
| Failure to Follow Instructions of Faculty | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |
| Forgery/Lying | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |
| Use of Profanity or profane gesture | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |
| Disrespect | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Being in Off-Limits Areas; More than 1 individual in a restroom stall | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |
| Gambling | 30 min ASD | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention |
| Racial Slur | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Sat. Detention | OSS |
| Cutting Class | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention | OSS |
| Leaving Campus without permission | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention | OSS |
| Reckless Driving/Parking Lot Violations/Horseplay | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention | OSS |
| Theft | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention | OSS |
| Possession/Use of Tobacco and/or Vaping Products and/or Paraphernalia | 1 day OSS; CON; NLE | 2 days OSS; CON; NLE | 3 days OSS; CON; NLE | 5+ days OSS; CON; NLE |
| Failure to serve detention | The next detention, progressing/increasing in length each time. | | | |
| Inappropriate (Aggressive) Physical Contact/Unwanted Touching | 1-3 Days OSS; NLE | 3-5 Days OSS; NLE | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE | |
| Fighting | 3-5 Days OSS; NLE | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE | | |
| Minor Harassing/Threatening/Pranking other Students (Including online/social media) | 60 min ASD | 2 hour Sat. Detention | 4 hour Saturday Detention (Possible shift to Bullying Consequence) | OSS (refer to Bullying consequence) |
| Major Harassment/Intimidation of another student (Including online/social media) | 1 Day OSS | 2-3 Days OSS | 3-5 Days OSS (refer to Bullying Consequences) | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Bullying (Including online/social media); Verbal Sexual Harassment (Including online/social media) | 1-3 Days OSS; NLE | 3-5 Days OSS; NLE | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE | |
| Unauthorized Possession and/or use of laser pointers, fireworks, smoke bombs, pepper-style sprays, and/or similar devices | 1-3 Days OSS; CON | 3-5 Days OSS; CON | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE; CON | |
| Sexual Act (including electronic) | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE | | | |
| Harassing/Using Profanity toward/Threatening a faculty member and/or their property | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE | | | |
| Possession and/or Use of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, controlled substances, and/or medications | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE; CON | | | |
| Possession and/or use of weapons or objects that might be interpreted as weapons (SC 16-23-430) | 5-10 Days OSS; RAP; NLE; CON | | | |
| Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by GMC Administration | TBD by GMC Administration based on the behavior | | | |

*GMC Administration reserves the right to final interpretation of the discipline policy, code, and matrix - including dress code, tardies, and computer/technology misuse. Neither this handbook nor any part of it should be construed as a contract itself. This handbook is not intended to be comprehensive and none of its provisions should be interpreted as superseding the code of conduct set forth by the GMC Charter. It is to serve as a guide for the students, parents, and faculty of GMC. The school reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to statements in this handbook. Out of school suspension and/or expulsion are the **ONLY** appealable consequences.

Discipline Referral Matrix Key

- TNP: Teacher Notify Parent
- ASD: After School Detention (Ms. Allen's room; begins at 3:15 every Tuesday and Thursday)
- SD: Saturday Detention
- OSS: Out of School Suspension (Student is not allowed on campus or at any school function during any part of the date of suspension.)
- NLE: Notify Law Enforcement
- RAP: Recommended for Alternative Placement
- CON: Item(s) confiscated; Parent may pick up at the END of the school year

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The school administration has the right to search a student's person and property (including the use of metal detectors, recorded video/audio, and drug dogs if deemed necessary). If there is a reasonable suspicion that drugs, weapons, dangerous or illegal or prohibited items, or stolen goods are likely to be found. (SC 59-63-1120) Under SC law anyone who comes onto school grounds has been deemed to have consented to a search of their person and property, including vehicles.

GUN FREE SCHOOLS ACT

Any student who possesses, uses, or transfers a firearm on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity will be recommended for expulsion for one calendar year. A firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive. The term firearm also includes any explosive, incendiary, poison gas, bomb, or grenade. On a case-by-case basis, the SCPCSD Superintendent with the recommendation of the [school leader and/or school board] may modify the one calendar year expulsion recommendation.

Cell Phones/Mobile Electronic Devices

Cell phones must be powered off and out of sight during instructional time, unless given explicit permission from the teacher. Cell phones may be used before school, after school, during lunch, and during class changes. Students may use communication devices in offices only with the permission of the staff member present. When in use, cell phones must be in "silent" mode. The camera/video/sound recording functions may not be used without permission from a faculty member. **DISTRIBUTION OF RECORDINGS AND/OR PICTURES OF ANY PERSON, THING, AND/OR EVENT ASSOCIATED WITH GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GMC ADMINISTRATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Music or conversations should not be heard by others. This policy is for the user as well as the owner of the phone. Lost or stolen phones will not be the responsibility of GMC. If the policy is violated, the student will be disciplined according to the discipline referral matrix based on the type of misuse of the device.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

A substitute teacher has the same authority as a "regular" teacher and should be treated with respect and courtesy. Any attempts to take advantage of substitutes will result in disciplinary action at the appropriate level.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Students should not arrive before 7:30 am unless there is a supervised meeting, pre-arranged by a faculty member. General campus supervision is from 7:30 am until 3:20 pm. School starts at 8:00 am and ends at 2:50 pm, Monday through Thursday; student release time on Fridays is 1:30.

Early dismissals for appointments should be arranged prior to departure. Students may NOT leave campus without permission from their parent **AND SIGN OUT** in the main office.

In order to ensure the safety of all students, GMC maintains the right to not release students to people who are NOT on their sign-out/emergency contact list. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that this list is accurate with the school, including court documents with respect to custody or custody restrictions, if applicable.

ATTENDANCE

Greer Middle College Charter High School has adopted uniform rules to assure that students attend school regularly. Each day that students are not in school they are missing valuable instruction. All children are required to attend a public or private school beginning at age five and continuing until their seventeenth birthday. Students are counted present only when they are actually in school, on homebound, or are present at an activity authorized by the school principal. Credit may be denied to students who miss more than three (3) days of a half unit course or five (5) days of a one unit course, regardless of the grade earned.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

South Carolina State Law requires a minimum class attendance of 170 days during the academic school year for a student to receive credit. Under a A/B schedule, any absence that *exceeds 3 days* in a *semester class* and **5 days in a yearlong class must be medically necessary and documented by a physician**. Medical excuses must be submitted to the Attendance Office within 5 days after returning to school.

Excused Absences are defined as absences that occur because of one or more of the following:

- Illness
- Medical/dental related, including appointments (verification needed)
- School sanctioned activities
- Absences related to the legal system
- Family emergencies
- Bereavement/funerals
- Religious observances
- Corporate shadowing
- Short-term suspensions resulting in absences

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

An absence from school is unexcused if it does not meet criteria categorized as an excused absence (above). Signed notes from parents are considered unexcused. An unexcused absence may be defined as **“truancy”** if the student is absent without the parent’s or guardian’s knowledge. Failure to document absences will result in the loss of credit restoration privileges once the absence limit (3 in a semester class and 5 in a yearlong class) is exceeded.

PROCEDURES FOLLOWING ABSENCE

It is the student’s responsibility to arrange all class make-up work following an absence. Assignments made during the absence must be made up within a time set by the teacher and not to exceed five days unless compelling evidence warrants an extension. Assignments made prior to the absence are due upon student’s return to school.

1. Absences must be cleared *on the day of return* by submitting a written excuse signed by a parent/guardian/doctor. A student’s absence is considered excused *only* when verified by a parent/guardian/doctor. If absences are not cleared upon return, the student will receive an “unexcused absence.” Students must remember that it is their responsibility to have their parents/guardians prepare and send documentation to verify excuses for absences *on time*.
2. Falsely representing a parent/guardian’s documentation in any way will result in disciplinary action.
3. Re-admittance notes (excuses) must contain the following: student’s full name, specific dates and class periods of absence, reason for the absence, and signature of the parent/guardian or doctor, along with daytime telephone numbers for home or work.

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Students are classified according to the number of credits earned.

Sophomores: Five (5) units - must include English I and one (1) unit of math.

Juniors: Eleven (11) units - must include English I and II, two (2) units of math, and one (1) unit of science.

Seniors: Seventeen (17) units - must include English I, II, and III, three (3) units of math, and two (2) science units.

Uniform GMC Late-work Grading Policy

A 10-point penalty will be assessed for each school day **ANY and ALL** assignments are late, up to 3 school days. After 3 days, the assignment will receive 50% of credit earned. Minor assignments that have not been turned in by the end of the quarter in which they were assigned, will receive a grade of 0 that **cannot** be changed. Major assignments that have not been turned in or completed by the end of the semester in which they were assigned, will receive a grade of 0 for the initial attempt that **cannot** be changed. Students with 0's for major assignments may not be allowed to participate in certain functions (ie: EduScape).

TEXTBOOKS

Students are financially responsible for textbooks if the book is lost, stolen or damaged. Students may write their name in their textbooks using ink BUT ONLY IN THE DESIGNATED AREA ON THE FRONT, INSIDE COVER. Students will not leave textbooks in teacher's classrooms. Students must use book bags for textbook storage as teachers will not be responsible for textbooks left in rooms. Students returning textbooks with the bar code missing or damaged will be charged a \$5 fine. Failure to return a textbook will result in a student's report card being held. Overdue books must be returned or paid for before attending extracurricular activities, prom, or receiving a diploma. Students will return textbooks only to the textbook manager.

Textbooks are loaned free of charge to students, with the exception of summer college classes. Each student issued a textbook has the responsibility to return it in the same condition as when it was issued, less normal wear. Students are encouraged to place a protective cover on each textbook issued. Some academic courses will require calculators. Students need to purchase their own calculators (please refer to each course's required supply/materials list) and book bags.

Reimbursement for lost or damaged textbooks, lost college books or access codes, computer software, library books, or other school property is charged to the student using current replacement costs. The year-end report card and the following year's schedule will be withheld until the school's business office receives reimbursement monies.

COMPUTER USE

A computer acceptable use policy, procedures, and permission form must be signed by students and parents/guardians and be on file before computer access is given to GMC students. Computer resources include hardware, software, and the Internet. Such resources are to be used as learning tools for academic research and growth. Inappropriate or unethical use of computer resources and the Internet is strictly prohibited. Students are expected to abide by all GMC lab and technology user rules as well as state and national laws regarding use. In addition to detention time, violation of rules or laws will result in students losing the privilege of using technology at GMC. (See discipline matrix.)

GMC STUDENT EMAIL

All students are issued a school email. All activities related to student email are the property of GMC and is for school/academic use only. Students are not allowed to send mass emails inside or outside of the school domain without permission from a faculty member. Students are expected to check this email at least once each school day. Violations of student email usage fall under the computer use policy.

FIELD TRIPS

Any student wishing to participate in a field trip or similar activity must comply with the dress code, behavioral standards, and parent/guardian permission requirements as outlined by the supervising faculty member. In addition, all transportation for field trips and related activities must be in faculty vehicles, the school bus, or a regular bus or mini-bus. Participating students must be passing all subjects and have submitted signed permission slips prior to the activity.

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OF STOLEN PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Students bringing personal property, (such as: cell phones, hats, iPods, mp3 players, etc.) do so at their own risk. These items should be locked up at all times during school hours. These items will be subject to confiscation if visible during the school day.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR GMCCHS STUDENTS TAKING GTC COLLEGE CLASSES

To Qualify for College Courses GMC Students must:

- Successfully pass the Accuplacer placement test (SAT/ACT scores can also be used).
- Be at mastery in all GMC classes.
- Be proficient (C or above) in all Greenville Tech courses.
- Show initiative, determination, commitment, discipline and responsibility.
- Have great attendance.
- Have the recommendation of their school counselor and teachers.

Students will adhere to the course limits set by GMC/GTC:

- 1st year: two college classes per semester (GMC pays for 3 credit hours per semester)
 - 2nd year: three college classes per semester (GMC pays for 6 credit hours per semester)
 - 3rd year: four college classes per semester (GMC pays for 9 credit hours per semester)
 - After the first year of taking college classes, students may take up to two college classes during the summer.
- All summer courses will be paid by the student.

-Payments:

- Parents/Guardians will receive a bill from GMC at the beginning of the semester
- Varies and subject to change. Please see your school counselor.

Based on the above guidelines, students will be encouraged to take classes at GTC. Our sincere desire is that all students have the opportunity to take college classes during their tenure at GMC. The number and type of courses allowed is at the discretion of GMC and Greenville Technical College.

Any student who decides not to complete their senior year at GMC will be responsible for refunding the school for the college courses, textbooks, and access codes taken the previous semester.

**When students are in a Greenville Technical College class, the rules of GMC and Greenville Tech apply. This includes adhering to the high school dress code.

By state law, a student has 5 days to drop a semester class. If a GMC student withdraws from a Greenville Technical College class after the initial drop date, he/she will:

- · Receive a "W" on the college transcript
- · Be required to pay GMC for the textbook and course
- · Receive a grade of 50 for that course on the high school transcript.

If a GMC student earns a "D" or "F" in a Greenville Technical College course, he/she will:

- Be required to retake the same course but must wait one semester before retaking that course or any other Greenville Tech course. (unless administration approves retaking the course the following semester)
- Pay for the same course at his/her own expense prior to enrolling in another Greenville Tech course.
- Both attempts will remain on the student's high school transcript, but only the higher grade will be calculated into the student's college and high school GPA.

GTC LIBRARY & WRITING AND MATH CENTERS

All GMC students are eligible for a Greenville Technical College library card and to utilize the Greenville Technical College libraries. Students who take Greenville Tech classes can get help with writing assignments at the College Writing Center. Students taking GTC mathematics classes can get math assistance at the Math Center. Hours of operation are posted at the College. These two areas are staffed with GTC faculty and peer tutors. Greenville Technical College instructors are available to assist students during their posted office hours.

GUIDELINES FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

*Students and parents need to choose courses carefully. Students may not withdraw from a course after 5 days in a 90-day course or 10 days in a 180-day course.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| ENGLISH | 4 units |
| MATH | 4 units |
| SCIENCE | 3 units |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION | 1 unit |
| SOCIAL STUDIES | |
| US History | 1 unit |
| Government | 1/2 unit |
| Economics | 1/2 unit |
| Other social studies | 1 unit |
| COMPUTER SCIENCE | 1 unit |
| FOREIGN LANGUAGE | 1 units |
| ELECTIVES | <u>7 units</u> (including senior project) |
| TOTAL | 24 units |

GMC also requires that each student successfully complete a minimum of 200 hours of community and/or school service (50 hours per year), a Senior Project, and the Senior Project class.

CLASS RANK

Computation of senior students' grade point average for class rank will be determined at the end of the seventh (7th) semester. Class rank is determined by adding the quality points and then dividing the total by the number of courses attempted using the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy.

GRADING AND GPA CALCULATION

Under the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale high school students receive a numerical grade for each subject based on the scale. The numeric grade and category of the course will determine the quality points earned for each subject. College Prep courses earn the base weight. Honors and dual credit courses have higher values.

GRADING SCALE

| | |
|---|-------------|
| A | 90 – 100 |
| B | 80 – 89 |
| C | 70 – 79 |
| D | 60 – 69 |
| F | 59 or below |

GMC follows the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale for grading and GPA calculations. However, to receive credit for a course at GMC, a student must complete instructional requirements at the mastery level (80 and above) and also must be in compliance with the attendance policy. A student who fails to comply will not receive credit for the course.

Grades earned by the student are numerical. A student's numerical average is determined by considering each unit grade along with semester and/or final exams and projects as a certain percentage of the overall course grade.

GRADING, PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS, AND RETESTING

If a student receives below proficiency (0-79) on a major graded assignment, another opportunity will be given to master the material with further instruction through remediation of the teacher's choice (usually Office Hours). Retesting will follow the additional remediation required by the teacher.

The grade for the re-do is calculated using 70% of the new grade and 30% of the original grade and is capped at an 80. Multiple attempts may be given at the discretion of the teacher.

Students receive report cards at the end of each nine-week grading period. Students and parents will be prompted to check the portal for a grade update at the midpoint of each nine-week grading period. Final grades for courses are determined by averaging both grading periods with the final exam. Numerical grades will be entered on the report cards for the nine weeks' grades and final grades. All grades are available online at any time through the Parent Portal.

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are held from 2:55-3:55 following the normal school day. Students receive peer tutoring, extra teacher assistance, review for proficiency of class objectives, or more time to work on assignments. Students are expected to use this time to work, not to socialize. Attendance at Office Hours is REQUIRED when a student scores below mastery (<80) on a major assessment and/or when a student's overall average drops below mastery (<80). Additionally, any student who would like extra help may attend. Office Hours take priority over all other activities including athletic events or practices, all clubs, etc. Students are responsible for making transportation arrangements when attending Office Hours.

OFFICE HOURS SCHEDULE

Monday – Social Studies/Career and Technology/Spanish

Tuesday – Science/Electives

Wednesday – English

Thursday – Math

Friday – Re-test (1:30)

SMART CENTER/AIP's

GMC's Smart Center is provided to assist students after school until 5 pm. Complete information concerning the Smart Center and Academic Intervention Plans can be found on GMC's website.

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

In order to be eligible to be valedictorian and or salutatorian at GMC a student must have been enrolled at GMC for the last four semesters prior to graduation (semesters 5, 6, 7, & 8).

GRADUATION HONORS REQUIREMENTS

Summa Cum Laude 5.0+; Magna Cum Laude 4.65-4.99; Cum Laude 4.4-4.64 (based on GPA after 7 semesters)

STATE DIPLOMAS

GMC only awards state diplomas to students who have met all GMC requirements for graduation. GMC does not award certificates of attendance.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Each student is required to conduct a conference with his/her parents and advisor at the end of 1st and 3rd quarters. The student-led conference provides an opportunity for the student to share his/her Individual Learning Plan and overall progress in school. This is an attendance day for all students. Students are expected to attend the conference in dress code, conduct the conference seriously and share important information from their

Individual Learning Plans and progress in school. Students will also be given first and third quarter report cards during these conferences.

EXAM POLICY

Exams are administered at the end of each semester. Mid-term exams count as 10% of the semester grade. Final exams count 10% of the overall yearly average. Students must return all books and clear all fines and debts prior to final exams. No "make-up" exams will be given unless the student's absence has been approved through the administration. There are **NO** exam exemptions. Some courses require students to take a state mandated End-of-Course Exam. EOC exams count as final exams in those courses (20% of overall average, per state law).

PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS

To be eligible to participate in a GMC extra-curricular activity, a student is required to:

Meet the academic requirements set forth by the school and (if applicable) the state organization governing the sport, activity, or program AND have and maintain a record of acceptable and appropriate citizenship, character, and personal conduct, both inside and outside the school.

Forms for eligibility must be signed by each teacher and given to the adult in charge of the activity. Also both parent/guardian and student must sign the form, which includes the advisor's name and an outline of the activity's functions and procedures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blazer News will be distributed through several avenues. Announcements will be emailed to all families that have submitted a working email address. If your email address changes for any reason, please contact the school office. Announcements will also be disseminated through the GMC website, monthly calendars, letters from the principal and board of directors, and through verbal statements from faculty and staff.

TELEPHONES in the main office and teacher classrooms are not for student personal use and are to be used only in a case of emergency.

STUDENT MESSAGES of only an emergency nature will be given to students, and only those from a parent. Students should not use GMCCHS as a personal mailing address or for deliveries.

EMAIL ADDRESS, HOME ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES need to be reported to the main office so that changes may be made in the computer.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

No pamphlets, posters, advertisements, or literature of any type may be distributed or posted on campus without the approval of the principal. School personnel and students may not participate in political campaigns or activities on campus at any time. No school employee or student may distribute campaign materials at school. This does not apply to student government campaigns and election activities.

DELIVERIES

Deliveries should **not** be arranged by students or parents. Items ordered as a delivery to GMC by a student or parent will be turned away. This includes, but is not limited to, food and floral arrangements.

SENIOR INFORMATION

Students meeting all school and state diploma/certificate requirements are invited to participate in graduation ceremonies. These guidelines will be provided to and discussed with seniors during the school year. Seniors are responsible for clearing all accumulated financial obligations and school debts prior to graduation practices. Failure to do so will result in the student not being allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. All seniors may order caps and gowns, but purchase does not guarantee that a student will graduate or be allowed to participate in graduation. ****Seniors' service hour sheets (200 total hours) are DUE at their SPRING SLC! See the information on the updated service hour sheet itself for specific requirements and expectations.**

College visitations that require the senior to miss a school day should be prearranged through the administration. Class work for prearranged visit may be made up. Seniors are allowed 2 college visit days, without consequence, during the senior year.

Transcripts are generated through the counseling department and are distributed in August and after first semester.

STUDENT RECORDS

A student and his parent have a federal statutory right to review all official school related records, files, and data directly related to the student. Records will be made available to parents and students within a reasonable amount of time from the time of the request. Should the parent or the student dispute the accuracy or believe that the student's rights have been violated; the parent is to be provided a hearing to challenge the disputed information. Students eighteen (18) or older may have access to their records without parental permission.

STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is open to all students who would like to take a nation-wide test similar to the SAT. The PSAT is the instrument which is responsible for the National Merit Scholarships which result from a junior's test scores. The PSAT will be administered to all sophomores and juniors who sign up to take it. Every year, third-year students can choose to take the ACT or SAT. Students may also take these exams on a Saturday. Both tests are used for college admission purposes. Some colleges have recently waived the testing requirement (AKA, "Test Optional"). Families should check with colleges about their current admission policies.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

A planned program for evacuation of all personnel and students exists in our Emergency Preparedness Plan. A chart showing the evacuation plan is posted in each classroom and teachers are to inform students of routes. Students will practice evacuation and emergency drills (fire, tornado, earthquake, lockdown, etc.) at various times during the year.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

The ability to contact parents/guardians quickly is essential. Parent/guardians should keep updated address and telephone numbers on file with the school in the event of emergency situations. *Changes to this information after each school year's registration forms are submitted should be made immediately with the main office.*

INCLEMENT WEATHER / SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If school is closed for inclement weather or any emergency, announcements will go out via School Messenger to the primary email and phone number parents/guardians have provided to the school. Parents and students should also check GMC social media. GMC will generally follow Greenville County School District closings for inclement weather.

MEDICATIONS/HEALTH ROOM

Any student who is under the care of a physician and taking medication during school must have his or her parent/guardian and physician complete forms for dispensing the medication. State law only allows a nurse, school physician, or authorized personnel to dispense aspirin or any other medication and requires written permission. All medication must be supplied to the school by the parent/guardian and a current "permission to dispense" form must be on file. This includes both prescription and non-prescription medication. Health room policy and procedures can be found on GMC's website. ***STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE ANY TYPE OF MEDICATION ON THEIR PERSON AT SCHOOL** without a note from a doctor that specifically states that the student must have the medication with them at all times.

SERVICE ANIMALS

ONLY service animals approved by GMC administration AND with appropriate medical documentation on file with the school are allowed in either of the buildings, on the breezeway, or around students anywhere on campus.

FOOD SERVICE

The school does not have a full service kitchen, so food will be available for purchase from local vendors and a snack bar. All hot lunches are ordered through our Myfooddays website. Orders must be placed or cancelled by 8 am each school day. Snacks and drinks can be purchased with cash or preordered online. We recommend students have \$2 cash in the event they need to make a food purchase. Greer Middle College participates in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program for qualifying families. Contact the school office for more details 864-469-7571. Food deliveries during the school day are prohibited.

STUDENT DEBTS

Student incurred debts must be paid in full in order to participate in extracurricular activities such as, dances, prom, field trips, etc. as well as GMC's graduation ceremony. All student fees and debts must be cleared for report cards and schedules to be issued. Types of student debt include, but are not limited to: lost or damaged textbooks, dues, athletic uniforms/items, unpaid cafeteria balances, etc.

FUNDRAISING by any school organization must have the written approval of the Development Coordinator and the club sponsor. Private fund raising on campus and door-to-door fund raising is prohibited.

GO BLAZERS!!

Revised 6/3/22