



2026-27 GJSH Back to School FAQs, Changes and Reminders!

We are so excited to welcome everyone to the 2026-27 school year at Goodland Junior Senior High School! As we prepare for the year, we want to share some important information with all students and families. This includes updates on new policies, open house information, and what to expect for fall athletes. We encourage you to take a few moments to review what the next few weeks look like! More information can be found in our [2026-27 GJSH Handbook](#) (<----CLICK HERE!)

WHEN IS THE OPEN HOUSE? WHO IS IT FOR? WHEN DOES SCHOOL START AGAIN?

Open House is open to all GJSH enrolled students and will be held August 18th from 6:30 PM -7:30 PM. **We encourage all NEW students, especially incoming 7th graders, to join us for a quick orientation, which starts promptly at 6:30 PM in the auditorium.**

- New students and 7th graders, please enter through the west side of the auditorium to get your schedule
- Returning students in grades 8-12, please enter through the main doors to pick up your schedule.

The first day of school is on August 20th! Doors will open at 7:15 AM, and the tardy bell rings at 7:25 AM! Start the day by going to your “Cowboy Connections” or “CC” classroom. Mr. Rickett, and Mr. Gardner’s CC class will be in the Library, not in the Max Jones.



WHEN IS THE LAST OFFERING FOR FREE SPORTS PHYSICALS?

We will be offering our last FREE sports physicals in partnership with Goodland Regional Medical Center on August 11th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM MST.

- Enter through the Auditorium doors. **YOU CANNOT PRACTICE UNTIL A PHYSICAL IS ON FILE!** This is good for spring sports too, so don't delay :)

BELL SCHEDULE

GJSH BELL SCHEDULE

MONDAY

Tardy Bell	7:25
LP	7:30 - 8:00
1 st Hour	8:05 - 8:50
2 nd Hour	8:54 - 9:38
3 rd Hour	9:42 - 10:26
4 th Hour	10:30 - 11:14
HS CC / JH Lunch	11:18 - 11:58
JH CC / HS Lunch	11:58 - 12:38
5 th Hour	12:38 - 1:23
6 th Hour	1:27 - 2:11
7 th Hour	2:15 - 3:00

GJSH BELL SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

Tardy Bell	7:25
T, TH, F - LP W - FLEX	7:30 - 7:55
1 st Hour	7:59 - 8:50
2 nd Hour	8:54 - 9:45
3 rd Hour	9:49 - 10:40
4 th Hour	10:44 - 11:35
HS 5 th / JH Lunch	11:39 - 12:30/ 11:39 - 12:19
JH 5 th / HS Lunch	12:19 - 1:10/ 12:30 - 1:10
6 th Hour	1:14 - 2:05
7 th Hour	2:09 - 3:00

This year, Monday will be the only day students will meet during Cowboy Connection, where they are assigned FLEX for Wednesday and confirm whether or not they are on the “down list” for the week (more on the eligibility policy below.)



On Wednesdays, we will begin FLEX hour promptly at 7:30 AM for our students who are on the down list (have at least ONE “F”), need to make up a test, or would simply like more individualized instruction with a teacher. Those not on the down list must arrive at school by the first hour bell at 8:05 AM or the attendance policies will take effect.

All other days will start with Literacy Period (LP)

AUGUST 20 and 21 will have a different schedule, but school still starts at 7:30! We will send that out on OPEN HOUSE NIGHT!

WHAT DO I DO IF MY KID WILL BE LATE, IS SICK OR HAS AN APPOINTMENT?

CALL the High School, 785-890-5656, and let our secretaries know so that they can be accurately marked. Make sure that your students reach out to their teachers about what they might miss!

- Parents or guardians may also reach out by email to let the office know, heather.gillespie@usd352.org or heather.evert@usd352.org

Students will be marked Unexcused/Excused Absent for Dr/Dental appointments until a Dr note is brought in to the office. Then it will be changed to a Doctor’s Absence.

MONITORING YOUR STUDENT’S PROGRESS

The PowerSchool App is the best way to stay up to date on your students progress during the school year.

Parents can:

- View current grades and assignment scores
- Monitor/receive attendance updates
- See school fees, lunch balances

If you do not have a PowerSchool Parent account or need assistance logging in, please contact judy.goodwin@usd352.org at the District office.



CAN MY STUDENT CHANGE CLASSES?

Any changes must be made within the first 3 days. (No class SWAPPING the first day back)

- Be patient and flexible on your schedule, know that many of the things you want simply can't be changed or swapped :/
- After the **4th day of the semester**, courses may only be changed in the case of extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the principal and counselor.

WHAT IS THE LOCKER SITUATION? DO I NEED A BACKPACK?

Students do not have access to a locker in the GJSH building. Backpacks are encouraged and allowed in classrooms!

PE lockers in the Max Jones will be checked out to students and will be able to be accessed during PE and weights classes starting the first few days of school.

- **EVERY STUDENT WILL BE OFFERED A LOCK AND IS ENCOURAGED TO USE IT!**

IS MY STUDENT ABLE TO LEAVE FOR LUNCH?

Students in grades 7th-9th are **not eligible** for Open Lunch.

- 7th-9th grade students will only be allowed to check out during lunch time if a parent or immediate family over 18 comes into the front office to sign them out.

Students in grades 10th-12th must have a signed parent or guardian Open Lunch permission form on file in the high school office that will be sent home the first week of school.



WHEN IS HOMECOMING?

Homecoming will be on October 9th. We play the Colby Eagles, so don't wear Orange to school! The dance will be on October 10th, outside date forms will be available closer to that time. All students must be academically eligible to attend.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT FALL SPORTS?

Every single event (including departing times!) that our students will be participating in this year for grades 7-12 will be on COWBOY INFORMATION, which can be found by clicking here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dIm63aTlA8x8fbBUuKx1sXuaVBw-q66T2gUyIKiJUww/edit#gid=1031875931>

IMPORTANT SPORT DATES:

- The Boot Camp will be held next week, Monday, August 10th to Thursday, August 14th, 6:00 AM-7:15 AM for any JH- HS student interested in preparing more for the Fall sports season.
- HS Volleyball Jamboree is August 21st in Colby starting at 3:30pm and the HS Football Jamboree is August 28th here at Goodland starting at 6pm
- The Sports Drink Scrimmage is on August 26th, 4:00 PM MST. This includes both JH and HS athletics. FALL SPORTS PICTURES STARTING AT 2:30 PM
- Homecoming Football game vs. Colby, October 9th

Feel free to call the GJSH front office (785-890-5656), and we can get you connected to a coach of a specific sport!

THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE WILL BE AUGUST 17TH. STUDENTS MUST HAVE OUR USD 352 PHYSICAL PACKET TURNED IN BEFORE YOU ARE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE



ATHLETES, PLEASE REPORT TO THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- HS Football- HS practice field (at the track)
- JH Football- JH practice field (west of track)
- HS/JH Cross Country- Max Jones Concession stand
- HS Girls Golf- Mrs. Livengood's classroom, room 283
- HS Girls Tennis- Steever tennis courts
- HS Volleyball 3:30 - Max Jones
- JH Volleyball- Auxiliary gym

HOW CAN A PARENT OR GUARDIAN GET INVOLVED IN GJSH?

We are always looking for fall sports referees, officials, activity bus drivers, and event workers! Contact Mr. Lehman at marty.lehman@usd352.org if interested!

Our first GJSH Site Council meeting will be held September 2nd, at 3:30 PM in the High School Library. Enter through the south entrance! Everyone is welcome!

WHAT WILL IT COST TO ATTEND SPORTING EVENTS?

High School Events admission is as follows, excluding tournaments and KSHSAA events.

- Adults: \$6
- Students (K-12): \$4
 - JH-HS students get in free with student ID

Junior High Events admission is as follows, excluding tournaments and KSHSAA events.

- Adults: \$4
- Students (K-12): \$3
 - JH-HS students get in free with student ID

Family passes: \$350

Senior passes (65+): FREE



Football reserved seating: \$50/seat

- If interested, please contact Jonna Miller at 785-890-5656 or by email jonna.miller@usd352.org

RESPECT AND COURTESY

The displaying of respect and courtesy toward teachers, school employees, visitors, and fellow students is a hallmark of a good school. Each of us, student and adult alike, should show consideration and compassion for the feelings of others.

While you may not always agree with the decisions made by your teachers or the administration, it is a sign of maturity and class to be able to express your disagreement in a respectful way. Persistent rudeness, or verbal insubordination, whether expressed by the use of profanity, a smart aleck tone of voice, gestures, or other ways, will result in disciplinary action according to our handbook.



POLICY REMINDERS

2026/2027 GOODLAND JR SR HIGH CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES POLICY

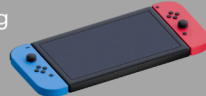


In accordance with **Kansas HB 2299**, students shall not use personal electronic communication devices during the school day in order to maintain a focused and productive learning environment.

This new Kansas law takes effect on July 1, 2026, and will prohibit all Goodland GJSH students from having or using their cell phones and other personal communication devices during the school day, including in-school lunch and passing periods.

Personal Devices Include, but are not limited to :

- Cell Phones
- Smart Watches
- Wireless earbuds/ headphones
- Any other personal device capable of communication, internet access, recording or entertainment functions.



What GJSH students need to know

- **ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEAVE PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES AT HOME OR INSIDE VEHICLES IF APPLICABLE**

If students choose to bring devices into school, the following will apply:

- GJSH students who choose to bring a cell phone or other smart electronic device to school must turn the device off and turn it into their Literacy or 1st hour teacher (depending on the day of the week)
- The device will be collected and securely stored at the front office and returned to the student at dismissal.
- Students leaving for sports/activities will drop their phone off before school in the designated receptacle, and will receive it back from their coach
- If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the GJSH front office. Students who need to contact a parent or guardian during the school day may do so through the school office phone.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted when required by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, documented medical need, or other school-approved accommodation. The school administration reserves the right to determine and approve all exceptions to this policy

Consequences for Violations

1st VIOLATION

- The device will be confiscated and taken to the office
- No participation in activities/ practices allowed that day
- Parents/ guardians are notified and the device stays in the office until an adult meets with Administration
- The student will serve 1 day of in school suspension (ISS).

2nd VIOLATION

- SAME AS FIRST VIOLATION, except student will serve 3 days of in school suspension (ISS).

3rd VIOLATION

- SAME AS FIRST VIOLATION, except student will serve 3 days of out of school suspension (OSS).
- Before the completion of the short term suspension, parent, student, and principal will meet to sign an agreement with future consequences determined.



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES: In accordance with Kansas HB 2299, students shall not use personal electronic communication devices during the school day in order to maintain a focused and productive learning environment. Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, personal laptops, smart watches, tablets, wireless earbuds, and similar privately owned communication devices.

Devices must be turned off and stored away from the student's person during the school day unless use is authorized through an IEP, Section 504 Plan, documented medical need, or USD administrative approval. We encourage students to leave devices at home or in vehicles during the school day.

Students needing to contact parents or guardians may do so through the school office. Violations of this policy will result in confiscation of the device, parent contact, and progressive disciplinary consequences. The district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school.

TRUANCY/ CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Students who are 20+ minutes late to class or school will receive an unexcused absence for that period(s) and will not be allowed to practice in, participate in, or attend any school activity held on that day

Once a student reaches a point where 10 or more absences per semester are documented as unexcused, students will be required to attend Saturday school. Any non-documented absence after 10, will be entered as an unexcused absence.

Each student will be allowed no more than 15% of the total days per semester for absences. Grades but no credit will be given to those who exceed the 15% limit unless the administration determines there are sufficient grounds to make an exception. Truancy will be reported to the county attorney per Kansas Statutes.



GJSH ELIGIBILITY POLICY

- KSHSAA Rule 13 semester eligibility guidelines require having passed at least five new subjects (those not previously passed) of unit weight in the previous semester to be eligible.
- All grades pulled for eligibility reasons will be based on Semester grades, apart from the first two weeks following the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters, where the best of both 9 weeks or Semester grades will be taken.
- If a student is deemed ineligible on that first morning pull, they will be athletically ineligible immediately and for the rest of the week.
 - **INELIGIBLE**—Any student who is failing more than one class or has failed one class for more than two weeks.
 - **PROBATION**—Any student who is failing one class will receive a two-week probation period to get that grade up. If the student is still failing after two weeks of probation, the student will be placed on the ineligible list.
- Any student on the INELIGIBLE list will not be able to attend school dances, including homecoming and prom.
- It is the responsibility of the student and Cowboy Connections teacher to make sure the student is aware of their weekly eligibility status on the first school day of every week.

FINALS OPT-OUT GUIDELINES

Students may “Opt-out” of Final tests given at the end of each semester. Out of these five ways to earn an opt-out, students are only allowed to use up to FOUR. Excessive Discipline Referrals can see individual students lose all opt-out privileges. Students who miss 15% or more of a specific class will not be able to opt out of that class.

- GPA for Semester: 3.25 +
- 90%+ Grade in Literacy Period AND 90% Attendance (5 Tardies = 1 Absence, per the handbook)
- No Office Referrals



- Involvement in TWO GJSH clubs or activities IN THAT SEMESTER
- Attendance: 3 or fewer absences in a semester

DETERMINATION OF VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

- High school valedictorian and salutatorian will be based on grades earned in grades 9 through 12, based on a 4.0 grading scale, with weighted grades computed to determine class rank. Valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined based on the 8 semesters of their high school career.
- Weighted Class Rank Points Grade must be B- or better)
 - A+ = 15 pts.
 - A = 14 pts.
 - A- = 13 pts.
 - B+ = 12 pts.
 - B = 11 pts.
 - B- = 10 pts.
- Weighted classes include: Physics, Chemistry II, Trigonometry, Probability and Stats, Advanced Placement Courses, Academic College Classes and Foreign Language Classes 3, and 4.
- Dual Credit College classes taken during the high school day are counted as both high school and college credit.
- Students are responsible for their work and for finding out what needs to be done to achieve good academic standing, i.e., retaking a test or completing remedial exercises on the information covered.

***This will be in effect starting with the Class of 2028**

We cannot wait to start the year with you!