Gaffney High School



Student & Family Handbook

2026-2027

A Guide to Success at GHS



GAFFNEY HIGH SCHOOL

149 Twin Lake Road
Gaffney, South Carolina 29341

Phone: (864)206-2000
Fax: (864)902-3628
Website: ghs.cherokee1.org

Dr. Shannon Gibson
PRINCIPAL

Purpose

This handbook is intended to provide students and parents with important information regarding school procedures, expectations, and available resources. It is not intended to create contractual rights. The Cherokee County School District Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend policies, procedures, and regulations at any time. When changes occur after publication, district policy and applicable law take precedence.

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Welcome Message from the Principal

Dear Gaffney High School Students and Families,

Welcome to Gaffney High School! On behalf of our faculty, staff, and administration, I am pleased to welcome you to a new school year. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are excited to have you as part of the Gaffney High School family.

Gaffney High School has a long-standing tradition of excellence built on the dedication of our students, the commitment of our educators, and the unwavering support of our families and community. Together, we are committed to providing a safe, challenging, and supportive learning environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Our mission is to prepare every student for success beyond high school. We strive to develop resilient young adults who are prepared for college, the military, technical education, or the workforce. We encourage all students to take advantage of the many academic, athletic, artistic, and extracurricular opportunities available to them and to become actively involved in the life of our school.

This Student Handbook has been designed to serve as a valuable resource for students and families throughout the school year. It contains important information about school policies, procedures, academic expectations, student services, and opportunities for involvement. Becoming familiar with the contents of this handbook will help ensure a successful and positive school experience.

As members of the Gaffney High School community, we are all responsible for creating an environment built on respect, integrity, responsibility, and kindness. We encourage every student to make choices that reflect these values, demonstrate pride in our school, and contribute positively to our culture.

Thank you for being a part of Gaffney High School. I look forward to a successful school year filled with learning, growth, and achievement. Together, we will continue to honor our proud traditions while preparing every student for a bright future.

Go Indians!

Dr. Shannon Gibson
Principal

Cherokee County School District

Every Student, Every Day

141 Twin Lake Road
Post Office Box 460
Gaffney, South Carolina 29342
864-206-2201

Mission Statement

Leading the way, every student, every day, through academics, athletics, and the arts.

Board of Trustees

Ms. Shanese Dawkins, Chairperson
Mr. Johnny Sarratt, Jr., Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Lynne Shackleford, Secretary
Mrs. Carol Gallman
Mr. Clay Greer
Mr. Jeff Martin
Mr. DJ McBee
Mrs. Kathy Phillips
Mrs. Crystal Shippy

Superintendent

Dr. Raashad Fitzpatrick

Secondary School Administration

Gaffney High School: Dr. Shannon Gibson, *Principal*
Blacksburg High School: Mr. Michael Mullinax, *Principal*
Institute of Innovation: Mr. Roy Hale, *Director*
Copeland Academy: Dr. Lyman Dawkins, III, *Director of Alternative Education*

Non-Discrimination Notice: *The Cherokee County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its program or activities. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies should be directed to the Director of Personnel, Cherokee County School District, PO Box 460, Gaffney, SC 29342.*

Gaffney High School

Important Phone Numbers

Athletic Department	Phone: (864)206-2139	Fax: (864)902-3599
Adult Ed./Alternative School	Phone: (864)206-6992	Fax: (864)487-1238
Guidance Department	Phone: (864)206-2055	Fax: (864)902-3608
9th Grade Campus	Phone: (864)206-2052	Fax: (864)488-0470
Transportation Office	Phone: (864)902-3646	Fax: (864)489-8346

Administration & Staff

Dr. Shannon Gibson.....Principal
Dr. Carter Baran.....Assistant Principal
Kevin Parker.....Assistant Principal
Hyacinth Phillips.....Assistant Principal
Dr. Shane Robertson.....Assistant Principal
Elizabeth Sartor.....Assistant Principal
Malcolm Long.....Athletic Director
Barbara Allison.....Athletic Secretary
Lindsay Clary.....9th Grade Office Secretary
Kimberly Dunlap.....Secretary
Anna Ellis.....Discipline Secretary
Tiffany Livsey.....Attendance Secretary
Paige Martin.....Guidance/Records Secretary Main Campus
Evetta Montgomery.....Secretary to the Principal/Power School Secretary
Debra Phillips.....Guidance Secretary Main Campus
Melissa Ponds.....Media Center Secretary
Caroline Ruff.....Guidance/Records Secretary 9th Grade Campus
Adeldra Smith.....Secretary/Receptionist
Kanisha Thompson.....Bookkeeper
TBD.....Main Campus Nurse
Alex Woodlief.....9th Grade Campus Nurse
Tira Shippy.....Credit Recovery
April Shelton.....MTSS/504 Coordinator
Caroline S. Phillips.....Permanent Substitute
Scott Simmons.....Permanent Substitute
Lisa France.....Computer Technician

Faculty of Gaffney High School

AFJROTC
Chief Mike Price
Major Jason Wood

AVID
Dr. Will deBorde

Business/Technology
Traci Scruggs, Department Chairperson

Kim Barnes
Trey Taylor
Josh Troutman
Brad Van Horn

Counseling Department
Donna Phillips, Department Chairperson

Lindsay Blanton
Penny Clontz
Phillip Goodson
Kristen Turney
Angel Watson
Charles Blue, Career Development Facilitator
Valerie Gurly, Mental Health
Labresha Ratchford, Graduation Coach

Instructional Coaches
Kristi Stollger
Dr. Gail Whisnant

Language Arts Department
Genetta McCluney, Department Chairperson

Megan Anderson
Susan Benson
Dawn Blackburn
Janet Davis
Anthony Fields
Desiree Glancy
Chase Huskey
Ashley Jolly
Michaela Lee
Dr. Britny Logan
Dr. Leslie Mullinax
Ashley Smith
Mollie Vassey
Dr. Brett Wallen

Mathematics Department
Emily Wallace, Department Chairperson

Brian Bolin
Mercedez Davidson
Gregory Earl
Todd Gardner
Micah Lamb
Immanuel Marshall
Jaylen McFadden
Matthew McMahon
Desmond Montgomery
Dr. Ruth Parker
Caroline B. Phillips
David Steeves

Media Center
Karen Denton, Department Chairperson

Multi-Language Learners
Kristen Bolin
Tina Frye

Physical Education Department
Kevin Phillips, Department Chairperson

Randy Birch
Kathy Jo Bratton
Brennen Canupp
Ian Cooper
Chris Dewberry, Assistant
Daniel Grellman
BJ Little
Donnie Littlejohn
Aaron McCarley, Trainer
Maggie McCraw, Trainer
Brandon Mullins
Brad Phillips
Maddie Pruitt
Tony Smith
Wayne Starkes
Julian Wright

Scholars Academy

Carron Dunton
Dr. James Hartman
Hunter McDaniel
Serena Rice
Stacey Smoke

Science Department
Farrah Bauman, Department Chairperson

James Beltrani
Julia Bolin
Brandi Burns
Cameron Downey
Jason Haltiwanger
Andy Holmes
Julie Hudson
Quint Little
Rhiannon Martinez
Mandy Ohler
Wendy Tindall

Social Studies Department
Daniel Gregory, Department Chairperson

April Bogan
Bradley Gruber
Jill Hanna
Chris Hardy
Kelly Henson
Jeff Osment
Darin Pall
Wright Parker
Austin Phillips
Maddi Pittman
Robert Stevens
Aaron Warren
Jason Winstead

Student Services Department
Tori Bush, Department Chairperson

Meg Allen
Janis Austin
Wendy Bly
Nekima Bonner, Aide
Crystal Cox
Ashley Dawkins-Hopper
Crystal Dunmire
Skylar Dunmire, Aide
Lori Grannis
Nikki Hames
Keith Higginbotham, Aide
Marcia Hill, Aide
Ashley Jefferies
Danny Jones
Mary McDaniel
Charles McGill, Aide
Kamisha Sims
Lorrie Smith, Aide
Nikki Stane, Aide
Lindsey Taylor
Brandon Thoms
Lisa Tomkins
Mary Turner, Aide
Susan Wade

Visual & Performing Arts Department
Dr. Traci Dill, Department Chairperson

Sarah Fulton
Yolanda Lee
Ashley Millwood
Angel Moss
Paul Singh
Jerry Smalls
Heather D. White

World Languages Department
Kristin Gautam, Department Chairperson

Jennifer Bedford
Dr. Laura Brooks
Tommy Gillis
Silvia Rica

In-School Suspension
DeShawn Thompson

School Resource Officers
Chance Dooley
Bobby Jamison

2026-2027 Gaffney High School Bell Schedule

1st Block	8:10	-	9:44
2nd Block	9:50	-	11:24
1st Lunch	11:30 – 12:05	**3rd Block**	12:11 – 1:45
2nd Lunch	1:10 – 1:45	**3rd Block**	11:30 – 1:04
4th Block	1:51	-	3:30

I²/GHS Bell Schedule

I² students must leave GHS at 7:55am

1st Block	8:15	-	9:25
2nd Block	10:05	-	11:15
3rd Block	12:25	-	1:35
4th Block	2:05	-	3:15

ABOUT GAFFNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Gaffney High School is committed to providing a rigorous, student-centered educational experience that prepares graduates to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners. Through strong academics, career and technical education, athletics, fine arts, leadership opportunities, and extracurricular involvement, students are encouraged to discover their strengths and pursue excellence in every aspect of school life.

Serving approximately 1,700 students in grades 9–12, Gaffney High School offers a wide variety of opportunities that support college readiness, career preparation, military pathways, and workforce development. Students are challenged to think critically, solve problems creatively, and demonstrate integrity both inside and outside the classroom.

The school values the partnership between students, families, staff, and the community in fostering an environment where everyone is respected, supported, and encouraged to succeed.

Mission Statement

The mission of Gaffney High School, in partnership with the local community, is to ensure an excellent education in a safe, diverse environment focused on academics, athletics, technology, and the arts, so all students are equipped to contribute as productive global citizens with pride and tradition.

Core Values

At Gaffney High School, we believe in:

- Respect – Treating others with kindness, dignity, and courtesy.
- Responsibility – Taking ownership of our actions and learning.
- Integrity – Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.
- Excellence – Striving to do our best every day.
- Perseverance – Meeting challenges with determination and resilience.
- Service – Contributing positively to our school and community.

Gaffney High School
Alma Mater

G.H.S. our Alma Mater
Thou art honor due,
Thou art growing ever dearer
We love only you.
May thine honor, name, and glory
Stand the test of time,
Trust we ever, doubting never
That Thou art sublime.

Proud her walls stand towering upward
Ever toward the sky,
Pointing us to paths of learning,
Wisdom from on high.
To our guardian, queen, and mother
We would glory bring,
In our hearts her knowledge hidden
To her now we sing.

CHORUS
Praise her, praise her, ever singing;
Tell her gloriousness.
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
Hail, hail, G.H.S.

-written by Ruth Littlejohn Burts
Class of 1925

ATTENDANCE

Every Day Counts

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a student's academic success. Every class period provides opportunities to learn, ask questions, collaborate with classmates, and build relationships with teachers. While occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable, students are encouraged to attend school each day, arrive on time, and remain engaged throughout the instructional day.

At Gaffney High School, we are committed to partnering with families to support student attendance and remove barriers whenever possible. Working together, we can help every student succeed.

Attendance at a Glance

Need to...	**What to Do**
Report an absence	Contact the attendance office as soon as possible.
Turn in an excuse	Submit required documentation within three days of the absence.
Arrive late	Sign in as tardy before going to class.
Leave early	A parent/guardian or approved contact must follow school check-out procedures.
Make up missed work	Contact each teacher promptly after returning to school.
Attendance Recovery	Contact the attendance office for eligibility requirements and scheduled sessions.

📞 **Need Attendance Help?**
The attendance office is located in the main office.
Attendance Secretary: Tiffany Livsey
Email: tiffany.livsey@cherokee1.org
Phone: (864)206-2134

Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance helps students:

- Build strong academic habits.
- Stay engaged with classroom instruction.
- Develop positive relationships with teachers and classmates.
- Participate in extracurricular activities and school events.
- Stay on track for graduation and future college or career opportunities.

Every school day matters. Even when make-up work is completed, classroom discussions, hands-on activities, labs, and collaborative learning experiences cannot always be fully recreated.

Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to attend school every day and arrive on time for each class. South Carolina law requires regular school attendance, and Cherokee County School District establishes attendance procedures that support student learning while complying with state requirements.

Students and parents are responsible for:

- Maintaining regular attendance.
- Providing appropriate documentation for absences when required.
- Communicating with the school regarding extended absences.
- Completing make-up assignments within the established timelines.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy JE/JE-R - Student Attendance**.

🩺 Excused Absences

An absence may be considered excused when it meets the criteria established by Cherokee County School District and South Carolina law.

Examples may include:

- Personal illness
- Medical or dental appointments
- Serious illness or death in the immediate family
- Court appearances
- Religious observances
- Other circumstances approved by school administration

All excuses must be turned in to the attendance secretary within three days of the absence from school. The principal may make an exception to the three day time limit for cause.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy JH - Student Absences and Excuses**.

🚫 Unexcused Absences

Absences that do not meet district guidelines or are not properly documented will be considered unexcused.

Excessive unexcused absences may result in attendance interventions, loss of privileges, or other actions required by district policy and state law.

⏰ Tardies

Arriving to class on time is an important part of student success.

Students arriving after the start of the school day **must sign in as tardy** before going to class.

Repeated tardiness disrupts learning and may result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with the **CCSD's Code of Conduct**.

🚪 Early Dismissal

Students who need to leave school before the end of the instructional day must follow established check-out procedures through the Attendance Office.

Only individuals authorized by the student's parent or guardian through the PowerSchool parent portal may sign a student out unless otherwise approved by school administration.

✓ Attendance Recovery (Absentee Make-Up Days)

Gaffney High School provides attendance recovery opportunities for eligible students in accordance with district guidelines.

Attendance recovery sessions are offered on designated Saturdays or Teacher Work Days throughout the school year.

Students should contact the Attendance Office for:

- Eligibility requirements
- Registration information
- Scheduled dates and times

Participation in attendance recovery does not qualify a student for perfect attendance recognition.

📚 Make-Up Work

Students are responsible for contacting their teachers promptly after returning from an absence to arrange for make-up work. Teachers will provide opportunities for students to complete missed assignments in accordance with district guidelines.

Truancy

The Cherokee County School District follows South Carolina laws and regulations regarding truancy.

Students with excessive unlawful absences may be referred for attendance interventions as outlined by district procedures and state law.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy JH-R - Student Absences and Excuses**.

❓ Frequently Asked Attendance Questions

- **What if my student has a doctor's appointment?**
  Students should follow the school's check-in/check-out procedures and submit appropriate documentation.
- **How do I find out about Attendance Recovery dates?**
  The attendance office will announce scheduled sessions throughout the school year.
- **Can students make up missed assignments?**
  Yes. Students should contact each teacher as soon as they return to school.
- **Does Attendance Recovery count toward Perfect Attendance?**
  No.

🩺 HEALTH & STUDENT SERVICES

Supporting student health and wellness throughout the school day.

💊 Medication at School

Students who need medication during the school day must:

- Have written permission from a parent/guardian.
- Have written authorization from a healthcare provider.
- Bring medication to school in the original labeled container.
- Have medication delivered to the school by an adult.

Students should never share medication with others.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete requirements, see **CCSD Board Policy JLCD – Administering Medications to Students.**

🚑 Emergency Medications

Students with approved emergency medications (such as inhalers, epinephrine, or diabetic supplies) should work with the school nurse to develop an appropriate care plan.

❤️‍🩹 Individual Health Care Plans (IHP)

Students with chronic medical conditions may qualify for an Individual Health Care Plan developed by the school nurse.

📞 **Need Health Services?**
Main Campus Nurse: TBD
Email:
Phone: (864)206-2138
9th Grade Campus Nurse: Alex Woodlief
Email: alex.woodlief@cherokee1.org
Phone: (864)206-3150

♿ Section 504 Services

Students who qualify under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may receive accommodations and support services designed to provide equal access to educational opportunities.

Gaffney High School has a MTSS/504 Coordinator that assists families with:

- Section 504 plans
- Accommodation questions
- MTSS support
- Student intervention services

> 📞 **Need MTSS/504 Assistance?**
> MTSS/504 Coordinator: April Shelton
> Email: april.shelton@cherokee1.org
> Phone: (864)206-2133

📘 Special Education (IDEA)

Students who qualify under IDEA may receive services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

For information, contact your student's case manager or school administration.

📁 Student Records (FERPA)

Parents and eligible students have rights regarding educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including the right to:

- Inspect education records
- Request corrections
- Control disclosure of certain information
- File a complaint if rights have been violated

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information, see CCSD Board Policy JRA/JRA-R - Student Records.

🏫 CAMPUS LIFE

Gaffney High School offers a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment where students are encouraged to learn, participate, and make the most of their high school experience.

🏫 Arriving at School

Starting your day safely and on time helps set you up for success.

🚗 Student Drop-Off

Students should not be dropped off before 7:30 a.m. unless they are participating in a school-sponsored activity under staff supervision. Staff members are not available to supervise students before this time.

To help keep traffic flowing safely:

- Use designated drop-off areas.
- Follow the directions of school staff.
- Drive slowly and remain alert for pedestrians.
- Do not stop in fire lanes or unauthorized areas.

🚶 Student Pick-Up

Students should be picked up no later than 3:45 p.m. unless they are participating in a supervised school activity.

Parents and guardians should use the designated pick-up locations and follow the directions of school staff to ensure a safe dismissal for everyone.

💡 GHS Success Tip

Allow a few extra minutes during the first weeks of school and on rainy days, as traffic is often heavier.

🪪 Student Identification

Students are required to wear their official Gaffney High School student identification (ID) badge at all times while on campus. The ID badge must be worn around the neck and remain clearly visible.

Student IDs help promote a safe and secure learning environment and are used for student identification, attendance, and other school-related purposes.

Magic Readers (MOOV)

During the 2026–2027 school year, Gaffney High School will begin utilizing MOOV Magic Readers to enhance campus safety, support attendance procedures, and manage student movement throughout the school day.

Students will be expected to:

- Wear their student ID where it is visible throughout the school day.
- Tap their student ID on the reader when entering or exiting classrooms and other designated locations, as directed. **Students who do not tap their ID when entering a classroom will be marked absent or tardy.**
- Present their student ID when requested by any faculty or staff member.
- Report a lost or damaged student ID to the appropriate school office as soon as possible.

Failure to wear or present a student ID may result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Cherokee County School District Code of Conduct.

> 📞 **Need ID Assistance?**
> Students who have lost or damaged their student ID should contact Melissa Ponds in the Media Center for replacement information.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Wear your student ID every day before leaving home. Keeping it visible throughout the school day helps you move efficiently around campus and supports a safe school environment.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy/Code of Conduct Reference**
Students are expected to comply with all district expectations regarding student identification and must present their ID when requested by school personnel. Please refer to the **CCSD Student Code of Conduct** for complete disciplinary procedures related to student identification.

🚙 Student Parking

Driving to school is a privilege. Students who drive are expected to operate their vehicles safely and follow all school parking procedures.

Parking Permits

Students who drive to school must obtain a valid Gaffney High School parking permit. Parking permits should be displayed as directed by the school.

Parking Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Park only in designated student parking areas.
- Display a valid parking permit.
- Drive safely and obey the posted speed limit on campus.
- Follow directions from school administrators and staff.
- Secure their vehicles before entering the building.

Student Vehicles

Students should leave their vehicles immediately after arriving on campus. During the school day, students may not return to their vehicles without permission from school administration, unless he/she has early dismissal/late arrival or is traveling to/from the Institute of Innovation.

Parking Violations

Failure to follow parking regulations may result in consequences that could include:

- Warning
- Progressive fines
- Loss of parking privileges
- School disciplinary action
- Towing of vehicle

****Vehicles with repeated parking violations, as well as vehicles whose ownership cannot be identified, may be towed without warning.**

🚦 Safety Reminder

Please drive responsibly on campus. Help keep our students, staff, and visitors safe by following traffic patterns, observing speed limits, and remaining alert for pedestrians at all times.

> **📞 Need Parking Assistance?**
> Main Office: Kanisha Thompson
> Email: kanisha.thompson@cherokee1.org
> Phone: (864)206-2119

🚌 Bus Transportation

Riding the school bus is a safe and convenient way for students to travel to and from school. Students are expected to follow school and district expectations to help ensure a safe ride for everyone.

Riding the Bus

School bus transportation is a privilege provided by the Cherokee County School District. Students are expected to:

- Be at their assigned bus stop on time.
- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion unless directed otherwise by the driver.
- Keep hands, feet, and personal belongings inside the bus.
- Treat other students, the bus driver, and school property with respect.

Bus Safety

To help ensure a safe ride for everyone:

- Arrive at your bus stop a few minutes early.
- Wait in a safe location away from traffic.
- Cross the street only when directed by the bus driver.
- Keep aisles and emergency exits clear.
- Report any safety concerns to the bus driver or school administration.

Transportation Changes

Transportation arrangements should be made before the school day begins whenever possible.

Questions regarding bus routes, bus stops, or transportation concerns should be directed to the Cherokee County School District Transportation Office.

Bus Conduct

Students are expected to follow the same standards of behavior on the school bus as they do on campus. Misconduct on the bus may result in disciplinary action or the loss of bus riding privileges.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**

For complete transportation expectations and disciplinary procedures, please refer to the **CCSD Board Policy EEAEC/EEAEC-R – Student Conduct on Buses.**

📞 **Need Transportation Assistance?**
Cherokee County School District Transportation Office
Phone: (864) 902-3646
Questions regarding bus routes, pickup or drop-off locations, transportation concerns, or lost items on a bus should be directed to the Transportation Office.

🚦 **Safety Reminder**
Help make every bus ride safe by following the driver's instructions, respecting others, and keeping the bus clean.

📱 Personal Electronic Communication Devices

To support student learning and comply with South Carolina law and Cherokee County School District policy, student access to personal electronic communication devices is prohibited during the school day.

Student Expectations

During the school day, students must:

- Turn off all personal electronic communication devices.
- Store devices and accessories in a locker, backpack, or pocket.
- Refrain from accessing or using devices unless specifically permitted under district policy.

Personal electronic communication devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Earbuds and headphones
- Tablets or other personal internet-enabled devices

Exceptions

Limited exceptions may be permitted in accordance with district policy, including:

- Students whose approved IEP, Section 504 Plan, or Medical Plan requires access to a device.
- Students who receive written authorization from the District Superintendent or designee as members of a volunteer firefighting or emergency organization.
- Access to emergency resources or safety reporting systems as permitted by district policy.

Responsible Use

Personal electronic communication devices may **never** be used to:

- Disrupt the educational environment.
- Photograph, video, or record others without permission.

- Violate student privacy.
- Engage in behavior that violates school rules or the Student Code of Conduct.
- Interfere with school operations or activities.

Electronic devices are prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, and other areas where their use may compromise the privacy or safety of others.

Loss or Damage

Students are responsible for any personal electronic communication devices brought to school. The Cherokee County School District and Gaffney High School are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Consequences

Students who violate the district's Personal Electronic Communication Device Policy will be subject to progressive disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Cherokee County School District Student Code of Conduct.

✅ **Parent Tip**
Parents and guardians who need to contact a student during the school day should call the Gaffney High School Main Office. Students who need to contact a parent or guardian during the school day should do so through the school office.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information, please refer to the **CCSD Board Policy JICJ - Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Communication Devices**.

👕 Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in a manner that promotes a safe, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment. Clothing should support learning while meeting Cherokee County School District dress code expectations.

Student Expectations

Students should wear clothing that:

- Is appropriate for a school setting.
- Promotes a safe and positive learning environment.
- Does not disrupt instruction or the educational process.
- Meets health and safety requirements.
- Reflects good judgment and respect for themselves and others.

Clothing that is Not Permitted

Examples of clothing or accessories that are not permitted include:

- Clothing that is excessively tight, revealing, see-through, or exposes the midriff, undergarments, or excessive cleavage.
- Tank tops.
- Clothing or accessories displaying obscene, offensive, or suggestive language or images, or promoting alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal drugs, sex, or violence.
- Hats, bandanas, head coverings, or dark glasses worn inside the building unless approved for religious, medical, or school-authorized purposes.
- Pajamas, nightwear, or bedroom slippers.
- Clothing or accessories with spikes or chains that create a safety concern.
- Leggings worn without a shirt, dress, or top that extends to at least fingertip length.
- Jeans or pants with holes above fingertip length.
- Pants, shorts, or trousers worn below the natural waistline.
- Any clothing determined by school administration to be inappropriate or disruptive to the school environment.

Dress Code Violations

Students whose attire does not meet district expectations may be required to change into appropriate clothing before returning to class. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Cherokee County School District Student Code of Conduct.

🥼 Special Programs

Certain classes and activities, such as Career & Technical Education courses, science labs, physical education, athletics, or other specialized programs, may require additional attire or safety equipment.

❓ Questions About Dress Code

If there is a question regarding whether an item of clothing is appropriate, school administrators will make the final determination in accordance with district policy.

💡 GHS Success Tip

Choosing appropriate attire each day helps create a respectful learning environment where everyone can focus on learning.

📖 CCSD Board Policy Reference

For complete information, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy JICA/JICA-R – Student Dress**.

🍽️ Cafeteria Services

The Gaffney High School cafeteria provides nutritious breakfast and lunch options each school day. Students are encouraged to make healthy choices while helping maintain a clean, safe, and respectful dining environment.

School Meals

Breakfast and lunch are available each school day. **School meals are provided at no cost to all students.**

Students may purchase **additional meal portions** or select food items available for purchase in the Commons Area that are not included as part of the free school meal.

Meal Purchases

Students who wish to purchase additional food items or snacks should have funds available in their meal account or another approved payment method, if applicable.

Cafeteria Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Follow cafeteria procedures and staff directions.
- Enter and exit the cafeteria in an orderly manner.
- Keep their eating area clean.
- Dispose of trash before leaving.
- Demonstrate respect for cafeteria staff, fellow students, and school property.

Outside Food

To help maintain campus safety and support school nutrition procedures, **outside restaurant or fast food meals may not be delivered to or brought into the school for students during the school day.**

Students should plan to eat meals provided by the school cafeteria or approved food items available for purchase on campus.

🥗 Food Allergies & Special Dietary Needs

Students with food allergies or medically necessary dietary accommodations should contact the school nurse or School Nutrition staff for assistance.

> 📞 **Need Cafeteria Assistance?**
> Questions regarding school meals, meal accounts, or special dietary accommodations may be directed to the Gaffney High School Cafeteria Manager.
> Cafeteria Manager: Kathy Peeler
> Email: kathy.peeler@cherokee1.org
> Phone: (864)206-2092

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Take advantage of the free breakfast and lunch offered each day and remember to clean up your table before leaving the cafeteria.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy EF/EF-R – Food Services**.

📚 Media Center

The Gaffney High School Media Center is more than a library. It's a place where students can discover new books, conduct research, collaborate with classmates, develop digital literacy skills, and receive personalized support for academic success.

What the Media Center Offers

The Media Center offers students access to:

- A wide variety of print and digital books
- Research databases and online resources
- A fiction collection organized by genre to help students discover books they'll enjoy
- Printing services
- Research support and guidance from the Media Specialist

More Than Books

The Media Center is more than a place to check out books. Students are encouraged to enjoy a variety of activities, including:

- Board games and puzzles
- Reading and literacy activities
- Collaborative learning opportunities
- Quiet study and independent reading

The Media Center is a welcoming space where students can learn, explore, and connect with others in a positive environment.

Visiting the Media Center

Students are welcome to visit the Media Center during scheduled class visits, with teacher permission, or at other approved times during the school day. Before leaving class, students must obtain a hall pass from their teacher that includes the reason for their visit.

The Media Center is a place for reading, studying, researching, and collaborating. Students are expected to help maintain a quiet, respectful learning environment.

Borrowing Materials

Students are encouraged to check out books and other library materials for both academic and recreational reading.

Borrowed materials should be returned or renewed by the due date so they remain available for other students.

Technology & Research Support

The Media Center staff is available to assist students with:

- Finding books and other resources
- Conducting research
- Evaluating information sources
- Using digital databases
- Citation assistance
- Technology questions related to academic work

Library Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Treat library materials and equipment with care.
- Return borrowed materials on time.
- Respect the learning environment by using appropriate voice levels.
- Follow directions from Media Center staff.
- Use technology responsibly and for educational purposes.

📞 **Need Library Assistance?**
Media Specialist: Karen Denton
Media Center Assistant: Melissa Ponds
Hours: 7:40 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Phone: (864)206-2002, (864)206-2612
Email: karen.denton@cherokee1.org, melissa.ponds@cherokee1.org

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Stop by the Media Center often! Whether you're looking for your next favorite book, a quiet place to study, research help, or a quick game with friends before school, there's always something waiting for you.

💻 Technology Resources

Technology plays an important role in learning at Gaffney High School. Students are expected to use district-issued technology responsibly while taking advantage of the resources available to support their academic success.

District-Issued Devices

Gaffney High School is a 1:1 technology school, providing each student with a district-issued device to support instruction and learning.

Device Care & Responsibility

Students are responsible for taking reasonable care of their assigned district-issued device and charger.

Students should:

- Bring their fully charged device to school each day.
- Keep the device and charger in good condition.
- Protect the device from damage.
- Never leave the device unattended.
- Report damage or technical issues promptly.

Lost or Damaged Devices

If a district-issued device or charger is lost, stolen, or damaged, students should notify a teacher or school administrator immediately.

If a device is lost or stolen, the student must complete a report with one of the school's IT technicians before a replacement device can be issued.

Current replacement fees include:

Item	Replacement Fee
Lost Charger	$50
Lost Laptop	$350

*Replacement fees are subject to change based on Cherokee County School District guidelines.

⚠️ Important Reminder

District-issued devices are an important learning tool. Taking good care of your device helps ensure it is available when you need it and can help you avoid replacement costs.

Technical Support

If a student experiences a problem with their district-issued device, they should notify their teacher.

Teachers will submit a 1:1 Technology Support Ticket on the student's behalf. Once a ticket has been submitted, the student will be contacted by one of the school's technology technicians when it is time to report to the IT Office, located in the back of the Media Center.

Students should **not** report directly to the IT Office unless they have been called by a technology technician or directed by a staff member.

Responsible Technology Use

District technology is provided to support teaching and learning. Students are expected to use technology responsibly, respectfully, and for educational purposes.
Examples of responsible technology use include:

- Accessing educational resources.
- Completing school assignments.
- Protecting personal usernames and passwords.
- Respecting the privacy of others.
- Following teacher directions regarding technology use.

📞 **Need Technology Assistance?**
Technology Support
Students needing assistance with their district-issued device should first notify their teacher so a 1:1 Technology Support Ticket can be submitted.
IT Office Location: Back of the Media Center

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Charge your device every night and bring it to school fully charged each day. A fully charged device helps you stay prepared and ready to learn.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information regarding the responsible use of district technology and electronic resources, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy IJNDB – Use of Technology in Instruction**.

🏛️ Student Government

Student Government provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills, represent their classmates, and make a positive impact on the Gaffney High School community. Student Government serves as a liaison between students, school administration, staff, and the community while promoting school spirit, citizenship, scholarship, and leadership.

Purpose

The Gaffney High School Student Government strives to:

- Represent the interests and ideas of the student body.
- Promote school spirit and student involvement.
- Encourage leadership, citizenship, and scholarship.
- Support activities that strengthen the school community.
- Foster positive relationships among students, staff, administration, and the community.
- Provide opportunities for personal growth and leadership development.

Student Leadership Positions

Student Government includes elected officers for both the student body and each grade level.

Student Body Officers

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Class Officers

Each class elects the following officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Elections

Student Body, Senior, Junior, and Sophomore Class officers are elected during the spring semester to serve during the following school year.

Freshman Class officers are elected during the first part of the school year.
Students interested in serving should listen for announcements regarding election procedures, eligibility requirements, and important deadlines.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**

Serving in Student Government is a great way to develop leadership skills, represent your classmates, and help shape the student experience at Gaffney High School.

📖 **Additional Resource**
The Gaffney High School Student Government operates in accordance with the GHS Student Government Constitution, which outlines eligibility requirements, election procedures, officer responsibilities, and organizational guidelines.

🎭 Clubs & Student Organizations

Gaffney High School offers a variety of clubs, organizations, honor societies, and leadership opportunities that encourage students to explore their interests, serve others, and become involved in school life.

Get Involved

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities that match their interests and talents.

Participation in school clubs and organizations helps students:

- Develop leadership skills.
- Build friendships.
- Explore career and academic interests.
- Serve the school and community.
- Create lasting high school memories.

Finding a Club

Information about clubs and student organizations is shared throughout the school year through school announcements, the Gaffney High School website, social media, and school staff.

Students who are interested in joining a club should contact the club sponsor or the Main Office for additional information. Students are encouraged to visit the Gaffney High School website and follow the school's official social media accounts for information about clubs, meetings, and upcoming events.

Student Expectations

Students participating in extracurricular activities are expected to:

- Demonstrate good citizenship.
- Follow school and district policies.
- Meet academic and behavioral expectations.
- Represent Gaffney High School in a positive manner.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, and students are expected to contribute positively to their organization and the school community.

📞 **Need More Information?**
Questions about clubs and student organizations may be directed to the Main Office or the faculty sponsor of the organization.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Getting involved in just one club or organization is a great way to meet new people, discover new interests, and make your high school experience more rewarding.

🏈 Athletics & School Activities

Participation in athletics and school activities helps students develop leadership, teamwork, school pride, and lifelong skills. Students are encouraged to get involved while maintaining high standards of academic achievement and personal responsibility.

Participation

Students participating in athletics and other school-sponsored activities are expected to:

- Meet all eligibility requirements established by the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) and the Cherokee County School District.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and citizenship.
- Follow school and team expectations.
- Represent Gaffney High School in a positive manner both on and off campus.

Eligibility

Students participating in athletics must meet all academic, attendance, and eligibility requirements established by the SCHSL and Cherokee County School District.
Questions regarding athletic eligibility should be directed to the Athletic Department.

Sportsmanship

Students, athletes, and spectators are expected to:

- Show respect for officials, coaches, teammates, opponents, and spectators.
- Demonstrate positive sportsmanship at all school-sponsored events.
- Follow school and event expectations while attending athletic contests and performances.

Athletic Physicals

Students participating in interscholastic athletics must have a current athletic physical and complete all required participation forms before practicing or competing.

📞 **Need Athletic Information?**
Questions regarding athletic programs, eligibility, schedules, or participation should be directed to the Gaffney High School Athletic Department.
Athletic Director: Malcolm Long
Athletic Secretary: Barbara Allison
Phone: (864)206-2031, (864)206-2139
Email: malcolm.long@cherokee1.org, barbara.allison@cherokee1.org

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Supporting fellow students at athletic events, performances, and competitions is a great way to build school spirit and encourage your classmates.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information regarding athletics and extracurricular participation, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy JJI – Student Athletics**, **the CCSD Code of Conduct**, and **SCHSL regulations**.

🎉 School-Sponsored Activities

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an important part of the Gaffney High School experience. Whether attending a field trip, competing in athletics, performing with a school organization, or participating in an extracurricular activity, students are expected to represent Gaffney High School with integrity, responsibility, and respect.

Student Expectations

All Cherokee County School District Board of Education policies, student expectations, and the Student Code of Conduct remain in effect during **all school-sponsored and school-related activities**.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Field trips
- Athletic events and competitions
- Extracurricular activities
- Club meetings and events
- Performances
- End-of-year activities
- Activities held on or off school property that are organized, supervised, or sanctioned by the Cherokee County School District

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on themselves, their school, and the district. Behavior that violates district policies or the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, regardless of where the activity takes place. Participation in school-sponsored activities is a privilege, and students are expected to demonstrate responsibility, respect, and appropriate behavior at all times.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For complete information, please refer to the **CCSD Student Code of Conduct** and applicable **CCSD Board Policies**.

🎉 TRADITIONS & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Some of the best memories of high school are made outside the classroom. Gaffney High School offers students many opportunities to participate in traditions that build school pride, celebrate achievement, and create lasting memories.

👑 Homecoming

Homecoming is one of Gaffney High School's most celebrated traditions. The week includes Spirit Week, special activities, and events that bring together current students and generations of Gaffney graduates.

A highlight of Homecoming Week is the Homecoming Assembly, where alumni celebrating class reunions return to campus to enjoy student performances, skits, and dances that celebrate the history and traditions of Gaffney High School.

During the assembly:

- Senior football players, managers, and trainers are recognized with student sponsors.
- The Homecoming Court is introduced.
- The Homecoming King is crowned.

The Homecoming Queen is crowned during halftime of the Homecoming football game.

Spirit Week

Spirit Week provides opportunities for students and staff to celebrate Gaffney High School through themed dress-up days and school-wide activities.

Students are encouraged to participate while following the school's Dress Code and demonstrating appropriate behavior.

Student Participation

Participation in Homecoming activities and other school traditions is a privilege.
Students are expected to:

- Demonstrate school pride.
- Treat others with respect.
- Follow school rules and expectations.
- Represent Gaffney High School in a positive manner during all activities.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Some of your favorite high school memories will happen outside the classroom. Get involved, show your school spirit, and enjoy the traditions that make Gaffney High School unique!

👑 Miss Cherokeean Pageant

The Miss Cherokeean Pageant is a long-standing Gaffney High School tradition that celebrates leadership, school spirit, service, poise, and academic achievement. The annual pageant recognizes outstanding students from each grade level and culminates in the crowning of Miss Cherokeean.

Eligibility

Students interested in participating must meet the eligibility requirements established each year by the pageant committee and school administration. Requirements include:

- Maintaining a **"B" average** in all classes.
- Maintaining a satisfactory discipline record.
- Meeting grade-level eligibility requirements.
- Attending required rehearsals and pageant activities.
- Paying the required participation fee.

The **Homecoming Queen** is not eligible to compete for Miss Cherokeean but participates in the pageant ceremonies and crowning.

Additional Pageant Information

Complete pageant guidelines, eligibility requirements, important dates, rehearsal schedules, ticket information, and competition details are provided to interested students each year.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Participating in the Miss Cherokeean Pageant is an opportunity to represent Gaffney High School through leadership, confidence, school spirit, and service.

📖 **Additional Resource**
The Miss Cherokeean Pageant Guidelines are published annually and contain complete eligibility requirements, judging procedures, participation expectations, and event information.

🪩 Junior-Senior Prom

The Junior-Senior Prom is a semi-formal event held each spring to celebrate one of the most memorable traditions of high school.

Eligibility

Prom is open to eligible Gaffney High School juniors and seniors who meet school expectations for attendance and behavior.

Guest Information

- Seniors may invite one approved guest.
- Guests may be an approved outside guest or an eligible GHS sophomore.
- Outside guests must be 20 years of age or younger.
- All guests must be approved by school administration before tickets are issued.
- Juniors may not bring outside guests.

Additional information regarding guest approval forms, ticket sales, and deadlines will be shared each spring.

Student Expectations

Prom is a school-sponsored event. Students and guests are expected to:

- Follow all Gaffney High School and Cherokee County School District policies.
- Dress in accordance with the annual Prom Dress Code.
- Conduct themselves in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Failure to follow school expectations may result in removal from the event without a refund.

> 📞 **Need More Information?**
> Questions regarding Prom eligibility, guest approval, or tickets should be directed to the Prom Committee Chairperson or Main Office.

> 💡 **GHS Success Tip**
> Prom is one of the highlights of the school year. Celebrate responsibly, respect others, and enjoy making memories with your classmates.

🎡 Prom Bash

Prom Bash is a long-standing Gaffney High School tradition held during the school day on the Friday before Prom. Designed exclusively for juniors and seniors, Prom Bash celebrates students while promoting safe choices during Prom weekend.

Students participating in Prom Bash enjoy a variety of activities that may include:

- Inflatables
- Rides
- Games
- Food
- Prize giveaways

Additional information regarding Prom Bash activities and participation will be shared with juniors and seniors each spring.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Take advantage of Prom Bash! It's a fun opportunity to celebrate with classmates before Prom and enjoy one of Gaffney High School's favorite traditions.

🎓 Senior Traditions

The senior year is filled with memorable experiences that celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class. Throughout the year, seniors have opportunities to participate in traditions that recognize their achievements and mark the transition to graduation.

🎨 Paint It, Park It

As part of the senior experience, eligible seniors may participate in the Paint It, Park It tradition by purchasing the opportunity to personalize their assigned parking space in the senior parking lot.
To participate:

- Students must purchase a senior parking space in accordance with school procedures.
- Parking space designs must be submitted and **approved** before painting.
- Artwork must comply with school expectations and may not include inappropriate language, images, or references to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, violence, or other prohibited content.
- Additional guidelines and painting dates will be announced each school year.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Be creative! Your parking space is a fun way to showcase your personality while helping celebrate your senior year.

🌅 Senior Sunrise

Senior Sunrise provides members of the graduating class an opportunity to gather before school to celebrate the beginning of their final year at Gaffney High School.

🌇 Senior Sunset

Senior Sunset is held near the end of the school year as seniors come together one final time to reflect on their high school experience and celebrate the friendships and memories they've made.

🏆 Senior Awards Night

Senior Awards Night recognizes graduating seniors for outstanding academic achievement, scholarships, leadership, service, and other accomplishments.

Attendance is **by invitation** for seniors receiving awards or scholarships.

🎓 Graduation Activities

As graduation approaches, seniors will receive information regarding:

- Graduation practice
- Cap and gown distribution
- Senior obligations
- Graduation ceremony expectations
- Other senior activities and important dates

Participation in graduation-related activities requires students to meet all school and district requirements.

💡 GHS Success Tip

Enjoy every moment of your senior year! Participate in traditions, celebrate your accomplishments, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

📊 ACADEMICS

Gaffney High School is committed to helping every student achieve academic success. Students are encouraged to attend class regularly, complete assignments, seek assistance when needed, and take advantage of the many academic opportunities available throughout the school year.

🅰️ Grading

Student achievement is measured using the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy and the grading procedures established by the Cherokee County School District.
Students and parents may monitor academic progress throughout the school year using the district's student information system.

Grading Scale

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
90–100	A
80–89	B
70–79	C
60–69	D
Below 60	F

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A Student's Grade Point Average (GPA) Is Calculated According To The South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy And Is Used For Purposes Such As:

- Class Rank
- Graduation Honors
- Scholarship Eligibility
- Academic Recognition

Monitoring Academic Progress

Students and parents are encouraged to monitor academic progress throughout the school year using the **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.

PowerSchool provides access to:

- Current grades
- Attendance
- Class schedules
- Teacher information
- Other important academic information

Students who have questions about grades or assignments should communicate directly with their teachers as soon as concerns arise.

Academic Responsibility

Students are expected to:

- Attend class regularly.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Prepare for quizzes, tests, and examinations.
- Communicate with teachers when additional help is needed.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all academic work.

📞 Need Academic Assistance?

Students who need additional academic support should speak with:

- Their classroom teacher
- Their school counselor
- An administrator, if additional assistance is needed

Parents who need assistance accessing PowerSchool Parent Portal should contact the Gaffney High School Main Office.

💡 GHS Success Tip

Check PowerSchool regularly—not just when report cards are issued. Monitoring your grades throughout the semester helps you identify concerns early and stay on track for success.

✅ Parent Tip

Review your student's grades and attendance in **PowerSchool Parent Portal** regularly. Staying informed throughout the semester allows families to address concerns before they become larger issues.

📖 CCSD Board Policy Reference

For complete information regarding grading and academic progress, please refer to **CCSD Board Policy IKA-R – Grading/Assessment Systems** and the **South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy**.

📋 Course Registration & Schedule Changes

Choosing the right courses is an important part of preparing for graduation and planning for college, career, or military opportunities. Gaffney High School offers a wide variety of academic, career and technical, honors, Advanced Placement (AP), dual credit, and specialized programs to help students achieve their goals.

Annual Course Registration

Each spring, students register for courses for the upcoming school year with guidance from their school counselor and input from parents or guardians.

Students are encouraged to carefully consider their academic interests, graduation requirements, and future plans when selecting courses. Because course requests are used to build the school's master schedule, students should make selections thoughtfully.

Course Availability

Course offerings are based on:

- Student enrollment
- Teacher availability
- Scheduling considerations
- Graduation requirements

Although every effort is made to honor student requests, enrollment or scheduling limitations may require adjustments. Students are encouraged to select alternate course choices during registration.

Schedule Changes

Schedule changes are limited and are approved only under specific circumstances. Examples may include:

- A scheduling error
- Credit previously earned for a requested course
- Placement in a required graduation course
- Failure to meet course prerequisites
- Other administrative considerations

Students may not request schedule changes based on teacher preference or preferred class periods. Schedule changes are subject to district timelines and procedures.

Course Overrides

If a parent or guardian wishes to enroll a student in a course that differs from the teacher's recommendation, the district provides a course override process. Families should contact the student's teacher and school counselor to discuss available options and applicable deadlines.

Registration Guide

Each year, Cherokee County School District makes available a High School Registration Guide containing detailed information about:

- Graduation requirements
- Course descriptions
- Honors, AP, and Dual Credit opportunities
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways
- Academic programs
- College and career planning resources

Students and parents are encouraged to review the Registration Guide carefully during the course selection process.

> 📞 **Need Registration Assistance?**
> Questions about course selection, graduation planning, or schedule changes should be directed to the student's assigned school counselor.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**

Choose courses that both challenge you and prepare you for your future goals**.** Your school counselor is an excellent resource for planning a path toward college, career, military service, or other postsecondary opportunities.

✅ **Parent Tip**

Review your student's course selections each spring before they are finalized. Thoughtful planning helps ensure your student stays on track for graduation while exploring academic and career interests.

📖 **Additional Resource**

The Cherokee County School District High School Registration Guide is published annually during course registration and contains detailed information about course descriptions, graduation pathways, academic programs, and postsecondary planning opportunities.

📓 Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the foundation of learning at Gaffney High School. Students are expected to complete their own work, demonstrate honesty, and take responsibility for their academic efforts.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to:

- Complete their own assignments unless collaboration is specifically permitted.
- Give proper credit when using the ideas or work of others.
- Follow teacher directions for assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests.
- Ask questions when they are unsure about assignment expectations.

Academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to:

- Cheating on assignments or assessments.
- Plagiarism.
- Copying another student's work.
- Allowing another student to copy your work.
- Using unauthorized materials or electronic resources during assignments or assessments.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Digital Tools

Technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), can be a valuable learning tool when used appropriately.

Students may use AI tools **only when permitted by their teacher** and in accordance with assignment expectations.

Using AI or other digital tools to complete work without permission or submitting AI-generated work as one's own may be considered academic dishonesty.

Consequences

Students who violate academic integrity expectations may be subject to academic and/or disciplinary consequences in accordance with teacher expectations, school procedures, the Student Code of Conduct, and applicable district policies.

> 📞 **Need Clarification?**
> If you are unsure whether a resource or technology may be used for an assignment, ask your teacher **before** submitting your work.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Learning is about developing your own knowledge and skills. Doing your own work prepares you for success in college, careers, and beyond.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy/Code of Conduct Reference**
For additional information regarding student conduct and academic expectations, please refer to the **Student Code of Conduct**.

📝 Testing & Assessments

Throughout high school, students participate in a variety of assessments designed to measure academic progress, fulfill graduation requirements, and prepare for college and career opportunities.

State Assessments

Students enrolled in designated courses are required to participate in South Carolina state assessments, including End-of-Course (EOC) examinations, as required by the South Carolina Department of Education.

State assessments help measure student achievement and may be included as part of a student's final course grade in accordance with state requirements.

College Readiness Assessments

Students may have opportunities to participate in assessments that support college planning and admissions, including:

- PSAT/NMSQT
- SAT
- ACT
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

These assessments may help students qualify for college admission, scholarships, and college credit.

Career Readiness Assessments

Gaffney High School provides students with opportunities to demonstrate college and career readiness through assessments and industry-recognized credentials.
These may include:

- **WIN Career Readiness Assessment (Ready to Work)** – Administered to students as part of South Carolina's College and Career Readiness indicators to measure essential workplace skills and career readiness.

- **ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)** – Assesses strengths and interests while providing valuable career exploration information. Military service is **not** required to take the ASVAB.
- **Industry Certification Exams** – Available through selected Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.
- **Other career readiness assessments** as determined by the South Carolina Department of Education or Cherokee County School District.

Participation may vary based on a student's grade level, courses, and academic program.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Many colleges, employers, and scholarship programs consider more than grades. Doing your best on career readiness assessments can open doors to future educational and career opportunities.

Testing Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time for testing.
- Bring required materials.
- Follow all testing procedures and directions.
- Maintain academic honesty during all assessments.

Electronic devices and other unauthorized materials are prohibited during testing unless specifically permitted.

📞 **Questions About Testing?**
Students and parents with questions about required assessments should contact the student's school counselor or Dr. Shane Robertson.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Do your best on every assessment. Test results can provide valuable information about your academic progress and may open doors to scholarships, college opportunities, and career pathways.

✅ **Parent Tip**
Testing dates and detailed information are shared with students and families throughout the school year. Encourage your student to be present, well-rested, and prepared on testing days.

📖 **Additional Resources**
Information regarding state assessments, college entrance exams, and testing schedules is provided throughout the school year as applicable.

🔄 Assignment Retakes

Gaffney High School supports mastery learning by providing students with opportunities to improve their understanding through reteaching and assignment retakes.
Students may retake **up to two graded assignments** within a unit or topic of study when the following conditions are met:

- The original grade is below **70%**.
- The student or parent contacts the teacher within **three school days** of the grade being posted in **PowerSchool**.
- Each assignment may be retaken **one time only**.
- The highest grade earned will be recorded, with a maximum retake grade of **70%**.

Assignments Not Eligible

The following are not eligible for retakes:

- Final exams
- Unit tests

Teachers may also provide additional opportunities for learning through instructional platforms or other assignments at their professional discretion.

⬆️ Promotion & Grade Placement

Students advance to the next grade level by earning the required number of state-approved credits.

Grade Level	Credits Required
Grade 9 to Grade 10	6
Grade 10 to Grade 11	12
Grade 11 to Grade 12	18

Students must also complete the required English, mathematics, science, and social studies coursework associated with each grade level.

Grade placement is updated at the end of each school year unless additional credits are earned through approved credit recovery, then they are updated at the end of first semester.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For additional information on student promotion and grade placement, please refer to the CCSD Board Policy IKE/IKE-R - Promotion and Retention of Students.

📝 Final Exams

Final examinations are an important part of the instructional program.

Seniors may qualify for final exam exemptions when they:

- Maintain an 80 or higher course average
- Have no more than three unexcused absences during the semester
- Have no Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) during the semester

Exceptions

Exam exemptions do not apply to:

- State End-of-Course (EOC) examinations
- Dual Credit course exams
- Advanced Placement (AP) exams

Students in grades 9–11 are required to take final exams in all courses.

🏆 Academic Recognition

Gaffney High School is proud to recognize students who demonstrate excellence in academics, leadership, citizenship, service, and extracurricular involvement. Throughout the school year, students have opportunities to earn recognition for their hard work and accomplishments.

⭐ Honor Roll

Gaffney High School recognizes students who demonstrate consistent academic excellence through the Honor Roll.

Quarterly Honor Roll
To qualify for the Honor Roll for a grading period, a student must earn a grade of 80 or higher in every course, including Dual Enrollment courses taken during that grading period.

Yearly Honor Roll
Students who earn Honor Roll status during each quarter of the school year are recognized as Yearly Honor Roll students. Semester grades earned in Dual Enrollment courses are included when determining eligibility for Yearly Honor Roll.

🏆 Honor Graduates

Students whose cumulative grade point average places them in the **top five percent (5%)** of the graduating class are recognized as Honor Graduates. Honor Graduates are announced during Senior Awards and recognized at graduation.

🏅 Outstanding Senior

Each year, Gaffney High School recognizes seniors who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in academics, leadership, athletics, fine arts, school involvement, and community service as Outstanding Seniors.

Students are selected through an application process based on established eligibility requirements and a point system. Information about the application process is provided to seniors at the end of the third quarter each year. Outstanding Seniors are announced during Senior Awards.

🎓 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian are recognized as the graduating seniors with the highest and second-highest cumulative grade point averages, respectively, based on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale.

To be eligible, students must:

- Meet all graduation requirements with their graduating class.
- Be enrolled at Gaffney High School for **at least one full academic year.**
- Meet all district eligibility requirements.

Students who:

- Graduate early,
- Complete graduation requirements in December, or
- Are enrolled in the Scholars Academy

are not eligible to be named Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Academic Awards

Students may be recognized throughout the school year for outstanding academic performance, leadership, service, career readiness, fine arts, athletics, and other achievements.

Recognition opportunities may include:

- Academic awards
- Scholarships
- Hall of Fame
- National Honor Society
- Beta Club

- Career and Technical Education recognitions
- Other school and district honors

📞 Questions about Academic Recognition?
Students interested in academic recognition opportunities should speak with their school counselor or the Awards Committee Chairperson.

💡 GHS Success Tip
Academic recognition begins with consistent effort. Attend class, complete your assignments, challenge yourself academically, and take advantage of the many opportunities available at Gaffney High School.

✅ Parent Tip
Celebrate your student's achievements throughout high school. Recognition often reflects years of consistent effort, involvement, and academic growth.

📖 Additional Information
Specific eligibility requirements and application procedures for academic awards and recognitions are shared with students throughout the school year.

🎓 Graduation Requirements

Graduation from Gaffney High School marks the successful completion of a rigorous academic program and the fulfillment of South Carolina diploma requirements. Students are encouraged to work closely with their school counselor throughout high school to ensure they remain on track for graduation.

✔ Graduation Checklist

To earn a South Carolina High School Diploma, students must:

- Complete **24 units of state-approved coursework**.
- Meet all state and district graduation requirements.
- Successfully complete all required courses.
- Resolve any outstanding school obligations before graduation.
- Participate in graduation practice if planning to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Required Units of Credit

Subject Area	Units Required
English/Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	3.0
U.S. History & Constitution	1.0
Economics	0.5
U.S. Government	0.5
Other Social Studies	1.0
Physical Education or JROTC	1.0
Computer Science	1.0
World Language or Career & Technical Education	1.0
Personal Finance	0.5
Electives	6.5
Total	**24.0**

Graduation Planning

Students should review their academic progress with their school counselor each year to ensure they are meeting graduation requirements and preparing for their postsecondary goals.

Graduation planning includes:

- Monitoring earned credits
- Completing required coursework
- Meeting state assessment requirements
- Exploring college and career opportunities
- Reviewing progress toward graduation

Graduation Ceremony

Students who successfully complete all graduation requirements are eligible to participate in the Gaffney High School commencement ceremony.

Information regarding graduation practice, cap and gown distribution, senior obligations, ceremony procedures, and rehearsal will be shared with seniors during the spring semester.

Attendance at graduation practice is required for students who wish to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Diploma Requirements

The South Carolina High School Diploma is awarded in accordance with requirements established by the South Carolina State Board of Education and the Cherokee County School District.

> 📞 **Questions About Graduation?**
> Students and parents with questions regarding graduation requirements should contact their assigned school counselor.

💡 **GHS Success Tip**
Don't wait until your senior year to check your graduation progress. Meeting with your school counselor each year helps ensure you're on track to graduate and prepared for your future.

✅ **Parent Tip**
Review your student's graduation progress annually with their school counselor. Early planning helps avoid scheduling issues and ensures all graduation requirements are completed on time.

📖 **Additional Resources**
Detailed graduation planning information is provided during the annual course registration process and through each student's school counselor.

📖 **CCSD Board Policy Reference**
For additional information on graduation requirements, please refer to the **CCSD Board Policy IKF/IKF-R - Graduation Requirements**.

STAY CONNECTED

Students and families are encouraged to stay informed by checking:

- The Gaffney High School website
- Official Gaffney High School social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and X)
- School announcements
- Student email