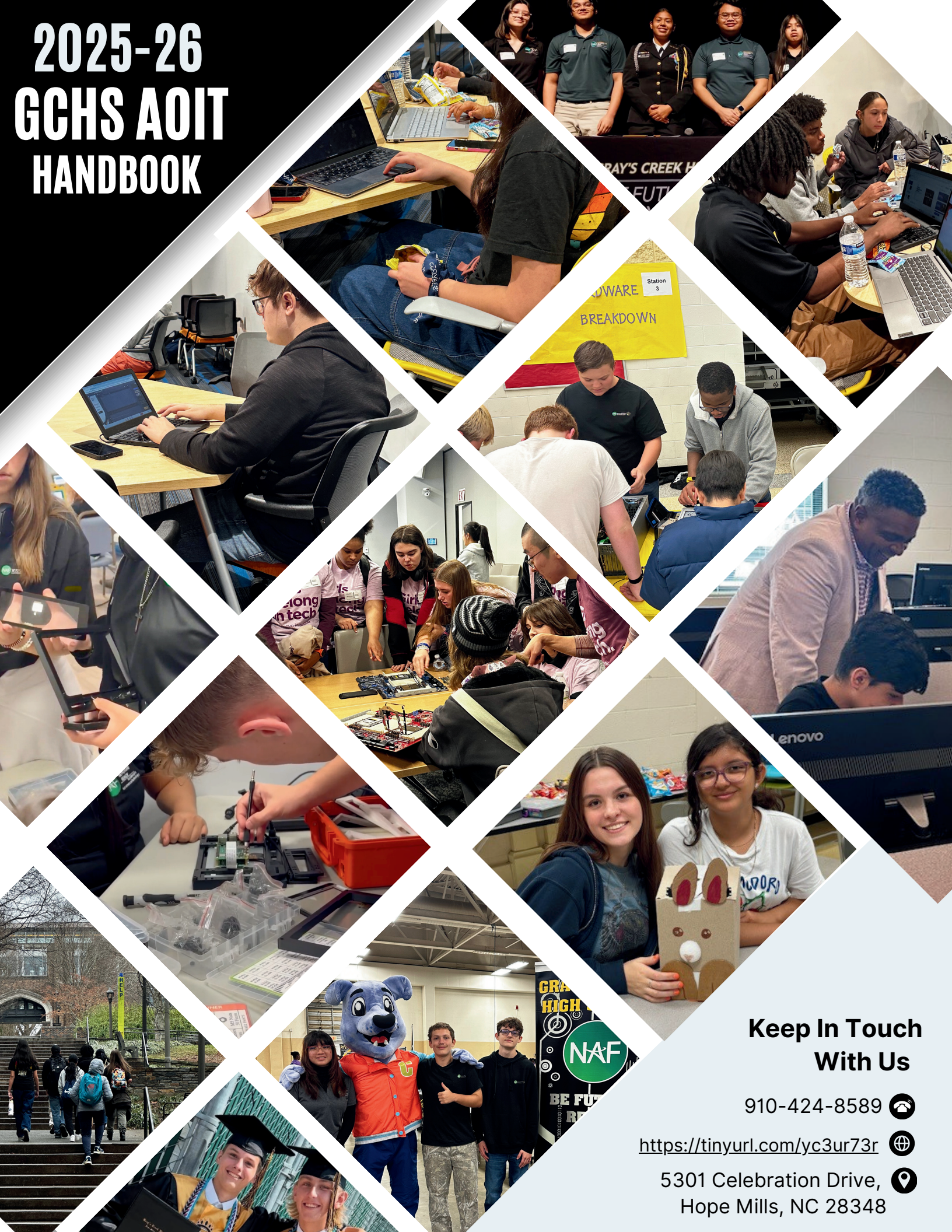
2025-26 GCHS AOIT HANDBOOK



Keep In Touch With Us

910-424-8589

https://tinyurl.com/yc3ur73r

5301 Celebration Drive,
Hope Mills, NC 28348



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910-424-8589

https://tinyurl.com/yc3ur73r

5301 Celebration Drive,
Hope Mills, NC 28348

Academy of Information Technology

Gray's Creek High School
5301 Celebration Drive
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910-424-8589
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Lisa G. Stewart, Principal
Tracy Hill - 9th grade Assistant Principal
Pattsy Drake - 10th grade Assistant Principal
Ryan Stone - 11th grade Assistant Principal, Athletic Director
Melanie Myrtle - 12th grade Assistant Principal

Amber House, NBCT, Academy Director
Cameilla Ellis - AOIT Teacher
Christlyn Page - AOIT Teacher
Latreece Battle - AOIT Teacher

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Welcome to AOIT!

Congratulations on joining the Gray's Creek Academy of Information Technology (AOIT)! Our mission is to prepare students for higher education and careers in Information Technology, equipping them to be competitive in the 21st-century global job market. I encourage you to make the most of the opportunities available to you during your time in the academy.

Please take the time to review the handbook and familiarize yourself with the opportunities AOIT offers. **Students are responsible for understanding the contents of the Academy of Information Technology Student Handbook and must acknowledge receipt along with their parent or guardian.**

Sincerely,
Amber House
Amber House, NBCT
Academy Director



GCHS AOIT 2023-24
ETI X8 Lab in Pembroke

The Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) helps you explore cool careers in tech while earning college credit and industry certifications — all in high school!

You'll take hands-on classes in things like:

- Computer & IT basics
- Microsoft Office
- Coding, networking, and design
- College-level tech courses

🎓 Earn up to 18 hours of community college credit and choose a focus area:

- 🎮 Game Development
- 🎥 Audio & Video Editing
- 💻 Computer Science Transfer
- 🔐 Network Defense
- 🐍 Python Programming
- 🌐 Cisco Networking
- 🛠️ Hardware & Software
- 🎨 Graphic Design Basics
- 🧠 Computer Technologies



📃 Certifications you can earn:

- CompTIA ITF+ & A+
- Microsoft Office Specialist
- Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, InDesign, Dreamweaver
- Python (PCEP & PCAP)
- Network+ and Security+

AOIT gives you a head start on college, tech careers, and life after high school!

Cumberland County Schools has teamed up with NAF (formerly known as National Academy Foundation) to give you more than just a high school experience.
We're talking real-world skills, college credit, career prep, and a support network that lasts long after graduation.

The Academy benefits students by:

- 📈 100% of Academy students graduate high school
- 🎓 Based on historical data, 80% go on to college (2-year or 4-year)
- 🪖 Approximately 20% enter the military or workforce after graduation
- 🏅 Special graduation ceremonies, awards, and scholarship opportunities
- 🧠 Build problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership skills
- 💼 Be career-ready with industry certifications and experience
- 🌐 Get access to the NAF Alumni Network for:
  - Scholarships
  - Internships & jobs
  - Mentoring

What Is NAF?

Since 1980, NAF has helped millions of students by bringing together:

- 🎓 Schools
- 💼 Businesses
- 🌍 Communities

NAF academies are found across the U.S., preparing students for high-demand industries like tech, finance, health, and more.

💡 **NAF = Skills + Support + Opportunity**

No matter where you're headed — college, career, or beyond — AOIT + NAF helps you get there with confidence.

Mission Statement

The Academy of Information Technology's mission is to introduce high school students to the broad career opportunities in the information technology industry by providing a program of study in computer information systems, software installation and maintenance, and networking to equip them with skills necessary to compete in the information technology career field.

Vision

The vision for the Gray's Creek Academy of Information Technology is to prepare highly skilled graduates with a strong foundation in information technology, post-secondary education, and/or the workforce.

🎯AOIT Goals: What We're All About

AOIT is here to help you level up your future with real skills, experience, & opportunity.

💻Explore Tech Careers: Provide opportunities for students to explore careers in coding, cybersecurity, game design, networking, digital media, and more!

🎓Earn Community College Credit in High School: Earn up to 18 hours of free college credit through FTCC in the field of technology.

💼Get Certified: Earn industry-recognized certs (CompTIA, Adobe, Microsoft, and Python).

🌍Prepare for What's Next: Whether it's college, a career, or your own path — AOIT sets you up to succeed.

AOIT Core Values: What We Believe

✅Set Goals & Go After Them: Set big goals & take steps to reach them.

📚Own Your Learning: Challenge yourself academically and take pride in doing your best.

🤝Show Integrity: Be honest, dependable, and respectful, in and out of class.

💬Communicate & Collaborate: Work as a team, share ideas, and grow through feedback.

🌟Be Respectful: Respect yourself, your peers, your teachers, and the learning environment.

🛠️Be Open to Growth: Accept feedback like a pro, it's how we get better, together.

📝 AOIT Handbook Agreement

At the start of each school year, students and parents will receive an AOIT Handbook Agreement Form from the Academy Director. **Both the student and a parent/guardian must sign it to confirm they've read and understand the handbook and program expectations.** It's a quick way to make sure we're all set for a successful year in AOIT!

✨ Enrollment & Admission: Join the AOIT Family!

Enrollment in the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) is open to all 8th-grade students enrolled at Gray's Creek Middle School and all students at Gray's Creek High School who are interested in exploring the world of technology.

We believe in ***potential over perfection,*** so if you're curious about tech, enjoy hands-on learning, and are ready to grow, AOIT is for you!

✅ How to Apply

📌 For 8th Grade Students (Rising 9th Graders):

- A C average or higher in your middle school classes
- A completed AOIT application (get this from Gray's Creek High School)
- 3 teacher recommendations (your current teachers can help!)

📌 For Current Gray's Creek High School Students:

- A C average or higher in your classes
- A completed AOIT application
- A copy of your most recent high school transcript

AOIT is your chance to explore tech careers, earn college credit, and gain real-world experience — all while still in high school! Let's get started on your future! 💻🎓🚀

📚 Academic Expectations & Support

To stay in the AOIT program, students need to maintain a 70 or higher in all academy classes. But don't worry — if you're facing challenges, we're here to help you succeed.
We review student report cards **each quarter** to make sure everyone is on track to reach their goals. If a student starts to struggle, we'll step in with support — using one or more of the following:

- 🤝 Parent/Guardian Communication
- 🎯 Student Conferences
- 📝 Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) to guide progress
- 📚 Tutoring opportunities
- 👫 Peer support
- 💬 Regular check-ins
- 🚀 Goal-setting sessions



🎓 Taking College Classes Through FTCC

AOIT students have the exciting opportunity to earn **community college credit** through **Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC)** during their junior and senior years!
To be eligible, the State of North Carolina requires that students have at least a 2.8 unweighted GPA by the end of 10th grade. This is important because it allows you to take **free community college courses** while still in high school — saving time and money while building your future!

We're here to support you every step of the way so you can meet this goal and take full advantage of everything AOIT has to offer.

*Individual Learning Plan (ILP): Developed to help struggling students with the support of teachers, including goals and student action steps

Certification Testing

💻 Microsoft Certifications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)

✅ Your 1st test voucher is free
🔁 If you don't pass the first time, you'll get 1 free retest voucher

🛠️ IT Fundamentals, Network+, Security+ (Tested at FTCC Pearson VUE Center)

✅ Your 1st test voucher is free
🔁 If you need to retest, a voucher may be available (if supplies allow)
💸 If no free retest vouchers are available, you may need to pay for the retest
⚠️ If you schedule a test but don't show up or forget your ID, your account will be charged the cost of the missed voucher

💾 A+ Computer Technician (Core 1 & Core 2 – Tested at FTCC)

✅ The initial vouchers are provided for both Core 1 and Core 2
🔁 If you don't pass either section, you may receive a free retest voucher (based on voucher availability)
💸 If no free retest vouchers are available, you'll need to pay for the retest
⚠️ If you miss your test appointment or don't have proper ID, your account will be charged the cost of the voucher

🎨 Adobe Certifications (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, etc.)

✅ 1st test voucher is free
🔁 You'll also get 1 free retest if needed

🐍 Python Programming (PCEP/PCAP)

✅ Your 1st voucher is free
🔁 If needed, you get 1 free retest voucher (after a 5-day waiting period)

📌 Quick Reminders:

- Testing is a valuable part of your AOIT experience; it shows what you know and builds your résumé
- Be prepared and on time for all scheduled tests
- If you need help or aren't sure how testing works, we're here to support you!

***The price is subject to change and is dictated by the company that issues the vouchers.**

📊 FTCC Grades & Canvas Access

Because FTCC courses are college-level, grades won't show up on the regular high school report card until the **end of the semester.**

👀 **How to Check Grades:**

Students and parents can view grades on the **FTCC Canvas website**.

➡️ Students must share their login info with parents if they want them to see progress in real time — **the Academy Director does NOT have access to FTCC grades.**

📉 **GPA Requirement:**

By the end of **fall semester senior year**, students must have at least a **2.0 GPA in their FTCC courses.**

If the GPA falls below 2.0, the student will no longer be eligible to take FTCC classes and will instead take academy classes at Gray's Creek in the spring.

🚌 FTCC Quick Tips for Students & Families

Need a ride? Students can **ride a bus to and from FTCC** for their college classes.

No worries — the bus gets back to **Gray's Creek in time for after-school activities and regular bus rides home**.

Tech Trouble?

If you're having issues logging into Canvas, Office 365, Student Email, or Self-Service, the **FTCC IT Service Desk** can help!

📞 Call: **910-678-8502** for support.



💼 AOIT Summer Internship Requirement

All AOIT students are required to complete an **80-hour internship** (paid or unpaid) during the **summer between junior and senior year**.
This is a critical step required to earn your **NAFTrack Certification** — a big plus for college and career!

🔍 **Finding an Internship**:

- You can get help from the Academy Director to find an internship
- Or you can find your own, just make sure it's approved by the Academy Director first

🕒 **Tracking Hours:**

- Students must submit verified timesheets signed by their internship supervisor
- Timesheets must be turned in to the Academy Director after completing the internship

⚠️ **Important:**

If a student quits or is fired from their internship, they will not receive credit for the experience and may not meet the NAFTrack certification criteria and AOIT Honors requirements.
Internships are your chance to gain real-world experience, grow your resume, and take a meaningful step toward your future!

🌟 Work-Based Learning & Community Service

To help students build real-world skills and prepare for future careers, AOIT encourages all students to take part in work-based learning and community service throughout the year.

These experiences also help students meet NAF certification requirements and work toward earning AOIT Honors at graduation!

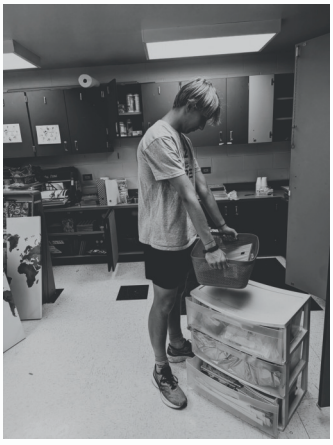
📝 What You Need to Know:

- Students must use official forms to log their hours
- After each activity, students must complete a quick NAF survey
- All hours must be verified and will be added to your AOIT student record
- You can earn hours during the school year or the summer
- Make sure to submit your hours by the end of the semester in which they were completed.

💼 Examples of Activities That Count:

- AOIT field trips
- Volunteering at Summer Technology Camps (with approval)
- Participating in FBLA or SkillsUSA events
- Attending sessions with guest speakers

These opportunities are a fun and meaningful way to explore careers, give back, and stand out on college and job applications!







🕒 Work-Based Learning & Community Service Hours

To graduate with **AOIT Honors**, students need to complete a total of 200 hours by the end of senior year. These hours can come from a mix of:

✅ Community service
✅ Field trips
✅ Work-based learning
✅ Internships

📌 Important Notes:

- At least 80 of these hours must be from a verified internship, which is required to earn the NAFTrack Certification
- Students are encouraged to track their hours each year to stay on pace

📝 Tips for Students & Families:

- You can mix and match how you earn hours — field trips, tech camps, service projects, guest speakers, FBLA/SkillsUSA events, etc., all count!
- Don’t wait until senior year — start early to avoid last-minute stress
- Verified timesheets and approval forms are required for all activities
- Need help tracking your hours? Talk to the Academy Director

🎉 AOIT Fundraising & Student Support

In AOIT, we don't charge fees or dues, but we do ask all students to participate in fundraising activities throughout the year to help support the awesome things we do together!

💡Why Fundraise? Fundraising helps cover the cost of:

- AOIT t-shirts and polos
- Special events and grade-level activities
- Lunch stipends for students when we're away from school during lunch
- Senior graduation gifts and honor cords, and graduation celebrations

🎓 What Fundraising Supports by Grade:

- 9th Grade
  - 👕 AOIT Black Polo (for formal events)
  - 👕 AOIT T-shirt
  - 🎉 Freshman events and activities
  - 🚌 Field trips + lunch stipend
- 10th Grade
  - 👕 New AOIT T-shirt design
  - 🎉 Sophomore events and experiences
  - 🚌 Field trips + lunch stipend
- 11th Grade
  - 👕 Updated AOIT T-shirt
  - 🎉 Junior events and activities
  - 🚌 Field trips + lunch stipend
- 12th Grade
  - 👕 Senior AOIT T-shirt
  - 🎓 AOIT Graduation Celebration
  - 🎓 Honor Cords
  - 🎁 Senior Gift
  - 🎉 Senior events and experiences
  - 🚌 Field trips + lunch stipend

🤝 How You Can Help

We'll organize fun fundraising opportunities throughout the year, and we encourage all students to participate. It's a great way to build community, practice leadership, and make sure every student can enjoy all that AOIT has to offer, at no cost to families. Questions or ideas? Reach out to the Academy Director or AOIT team — we're here to help!

👕 AOIT Uniform Expectations

All AOIT students are expected to dress neatly and represent the Academy with pride. Uniforms help us look professional for field trips, guest speakers, competitions, and special events.

Students receive an AOIT polo and t-shirt during their first year in the Academy.

Need an extra shirt later? Please see the Academy Director for more information.

👔 AOIT Polo Uniform

What to wear:

- ✅ AOIT Black Polo Shirt with NAF logo (tucked or untucked)
- ✅ Khaki or black pants/skirt or dark jeans (no holes, rips, or tears)
- ✅ Uniform-style shorts are okay
- ✅ Belt (only if shirt is tucked in — black or brown)
- ✅ Clean shoes — no dirt, rips, or heavy wear

👕 AOIT T-Shirt Attire

What to wear:

- ✅ AOIT T-shirt — clean, fitted (not too tight or oversized), in good condition
- ✅ Khaki, black pants/skirt, or jeans with no holes or rips
- ✅ Uniform-style shorts are allowed
- ✅ Clean shoes — no stains, scuffs, or damage

🧼 Quick Tips:

- Keep your uniform shirts clean and in good shape
- Damaged, stained, or overly faded shirts should be replaced
- Wearing your AOIT gear shows you're part of something special, represent with pride!

👕 AOIT Uniform Thursdays & Check-In Guidelines

Every Thursday morning, all AOIT students are expected to check in in uniform with the Academy Director, ***even if they don't have an academy class that semester.***

✅ Why It Matters:

- 🔔 You'll get important updates and event info
- 💼 It shows you're part of something professional and awesome
- 🕒 You'll earn credit toward your required AOIT hours!

⏰ Check-In Time & Location:
🕗 Thursdays from 8:00–8:25 a.m.
📍 By the AOIT Classroom
(CTE Wing, downstairs)

🎉 New This Year: Earn Hours + Perks!

🕒 Wear your AOIT shirt on check-in days and earn:

- .25 hours (15 minutes) of community service time each Thursday you're in uniform
- 1-hour bonus if you show up in uniform every check-in all year!
- A Uniform Free Pass can be earned (get credit without wearing the shirt one time) when you complete all AOIT paperwork for the year within the first 2 weeks of school

🎓 Seniors Off Campus?

No worries! Just email the Academy Director by 8:30 a.m. every Thursday. That counts as your check-in and keeps you connected.

🤔 What If I Miss Thursday?

- Absent? Wear your AOIT shirt on Friday for a makeup check-in
- Athlete with a game?
- If you're required to dress up, wear your AOIT uniform
- If you're wearing your game jersey, wear your AOIT shirt on Friday instead, and check in
- Be sure to let the Academy Director know about your game

👕 Uniform Must Be Worn All Day (Unless Excused)

You must wear your AOIT shirt in every class throughout the day, except during:

- 🤸‍♂️ PE classes (not Health)
- 🪖 ROTC PT Days

Dress the part, represent AOIT, and rack up those hours! 💪👕

🕒 Attendance Expectations

Being part of AOIT means showing up — just like in a real job. Good attendance keeps you on track, informed, and prepared for success in school and beyond.

📚 In the Classroom:

Students must follow Gray's Creek High School and CCS attendance policies. Regular attendance is key to staying in good standing with AOIT.

🎉 Academy Events:

Events like field trips, guest speakers, and workshops are designed to build skills and open doors.

📅 All students are expected to attend unless an absence is approved in advance by the Academy Director.

🎁 Earn a "Uniform Free Pass!"

We reward reliability and professionalism!

✅ To earn a pass, students must:

- Attend every Academy event in a full quarter (Q1, Q2, or Q3 — no mixing)
- Be on time every Thursday for uniform check-in
- Once both are met in the same quarter, you'll earn a pass to skip the uniform one Thursday and still receive check-in credit.

⚠️ Keep in Mind:

Three tardies in any AOIT or FTCC class = discipline per GCHS policy.

Repeated issues may result in probation or removal from AOIT.

🕒 Attendance Expectations

📚 Important Attendance Info for Juniors & Seniors in FTCC Classes

If you're taking FTCC (CCP) classes, your attendance really matters — and it follows both community college and high school rules.

Here's what you need to know:

✅ You must attend during the first 10% of the class to stay enrolled. If you miss those early days, you could be dropped automatically.

❌ If you miss more than 20% of the class hours OR 14 calendar days in a row (whichever comes first), FTCC may withdraw you from the course.

🗓️ It's your responsibility to know:

- The start and end dates of your FTCC class
- What days and times your class meets

Being dropped can have serious consequences:

- A WF (Withdraw Failing) on your college transcript
- A 55 on your high school transcript
- Possible removal from AOIT after an exit conference

📖 Students and parents should review the FTCC Student Handbook and the High School Student Handbook to fully understand attendance expectations and policies.

🧠 Stay informed, stay responsible, and show up — your future depends on it!

📏 AOIT Rules, Expectations & Discipline

AOIT students are expected to uphold high standards in academics, attendance, and behavior. All students must follow the rules outlined in the Cumberland County Schools (CCS) and Gray's Creek High School Code of Conduct — and it's the student's responsibility to know and follow those rules.

🚫 What Happens If Rules Are Broken?

If an AOIT student violates the CCS Student Code of Conduct, they may be placed on Academy probation for up to 90 school days.

Students placed on probation will receive a formal letter that includes:

- The reason for probation
- What probation means
- Steps to return to good standing
- What will happen if the student does not meet expectations

🔒 While on probation, students will not be allowed to attend off-campus trips/events.

The Academy Director may also recommend support strategies or tiered interventions to help the student succeed.

🚨 If the student breaks another rule during the probation period, they may be removed from the Academy.

⚠️ Reasons for Probation May Include:

- Falling behind academically
- Ongoing behavior problems
- In-School Suspension (ISS)
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

❌ Removal from the Academy

If a student is removed from AOIT:

- They will be withdrawn from all AOIT classes
- Any discipline infraction that leads to a suspension and referral to an alternative school may result in immediate dismissal from the program

⚠️ Academy Probation & Removal

Being part of AOIT comes with responsibility — in the classroom, online, and in the community. Students are expected to meet academic and behavior expectations at all times.

🚫 Immediate Removal from AOIT

Students will be immediately removed from the Academy for serious infractions, including but not limited to:

- Harassment or bullying behavior
- Cyberbullying
- Aggravating or threatening behavior
- Any Level 4 or Level 5 violations as listed in the Cumberland County Schools Student Code of Conduct

These actions go against the values of AOIT and will not be tolerated.

📉 Academic Probation & GPA Requirements

To stay on track and participate in AOIT opportunities (especially FTCC courses), students must maintain minimum GPA requirements:

- At the end of freshman year, students must have at least a 2.8 unweighted GPA (both overall and in Academy classes). If not, they will be placed on academic probation during their sophomore year.
- At the end of junior year, students must have an overall unweighted 2.8 GPA to enroll in required FTCC Academy courses.
- Once enrolled in FTCC classes, students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA every semester to remain in the program.

🎓 AOIT Honor Code – Academic Integrity

AOIT students are expected to uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity. If a student is caught cheating on coursework at Gray's Creek High School or FTCC, the following consequences apply:

- 1st Offense: Parent/student conference + possible classroom consequences
- 2nd Offense: Student will be placed on Academy probation
- 3rd Offense: Student will be dismissed from the Academy

🚨 FTCC students may also face additional consequences such as academic probation, suspension, or expulsion, which could affect their AOIT and high school standing.

📝 Dismissal from AOIT

Students who are dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons will be removed from all AOIT classes. Dismissals are made with full communication between:

- The school administration
- Academy staff
- Parents/Guardians

📌 It is the student's responsibility to work with their school counselor to review graduation status and course planning if dismissed from AOIT.

📱 AOIT Social Media Guidelines

As a student in the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) at Gray's Creek High School, you represent yourself, your family, AOIT, GCHS, and Cumberland County Schools — both in person and online. Social media is a powerful tool. Use it wisely.

💡 Think Before You Post

- Nothing is ever fully private. Once it's online, it can be shared, screenshotted, and saved — even if deleted.
- Colleges and employers check social media. Ensure your posts reflect the best version of yourself.

🚫 Not Allowed

AOIT will not tolerate:

- Hurtful or hateful language
- Inappropriate or illegal behavior
- Threats or posts that endanger others
- Ignoring or hiding school violations

⚠️ Know the Risks

Freedom of speech doesn't mean freedom from consequences. What you post is public — and it matters.

🚨 Consequences

Breaking these rules may result in

- Removal from AOIT
- School discipline, including suspension

🛡️ Represent with Pride

Your online presence is part of your personal brand. Use it to build a future you'll be proud of.

🛡️ Student Safety

AOIT students must always follow safety standards to protect themselves and others. These rules are set by:

- OSHA
- Academy guidelines
- Classroom instructors
- Cumberland County Schools (CCS)

Violations of safety policies may result in:

- Loss of equipment or classroom privileges
- Placement on 90-day probation
- Removal from the Academy

🚌 Field Trips

AOIT students will take part in career-focused field trips, which count as work-based learning hours.

To attend, students must:

- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing
- Wear the required AOIT uniform (students not dressed appropriately may be prohibited from attending)
- Submit a completed permission form by the deadline

✅ Academy students **do** need individual teacher permission to attend field trips and are responsible for all missed classwork.

🤝 Student Involvement

AOIT encourages all students to get involved in:

- Volunteering, peer tutoring, athletics
- Internships, camps, and workshops

Joining a Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO) builds leadership and career skills. AOIT students are encouraged to join:

- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- SkillsUSA

These groups provide meaningful opportunities at the local, state, and national levels.

🤝 AOIT Advisory Board

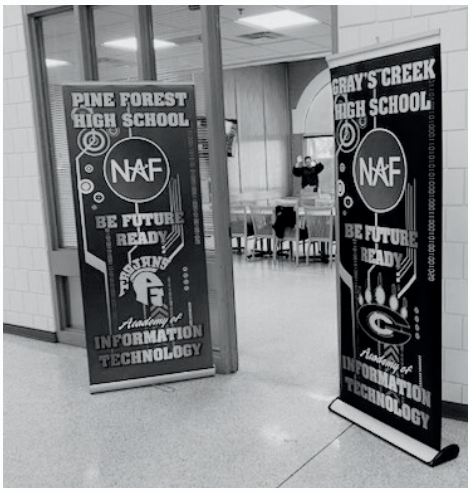
The AOIT Advisory Board is made up of local and state business leaders, IT professionals, post-secondary educators, parents, community leaders, Career and Technical Education administrators, alumni, and academy student representatives. The board meets at least three times a year to support and strengthen the Academy by helping students connect classroom learning to college and career opportunities.

Board members contribute by:

- Providing guidance and industry insight
- Mentoring students
- Supporting internships and job shadowing
- Promoting community service
- Assisting with fundraising, scholarships, and donations
- Supporting career and college readiness
- Helping organize events like the Academy Graduation, FBLA, and SkillsUSA
- Recommending curriculum updates based on industry needs

The Advisory Board plays a key role in helping AOIT students stay prepared, connected, and ready for what's next.





🎓 AOIT Graduation Requirements & Honors

All students who complete the AOIT program are expected to attend the AOIT Graduation Ceremony. The date and location will be shared with students and families in advance. While completing the Academy guarantees graduation from AOIT, not all students will qualify for NAF Certification or be recognized as AOIT Honor Graduates. See below for the criteria.

🏅 What It Takes to Be an AOIT Honor Graduate

To be recognized as an AOIT Honor Graduate, students must meet all of the following:

- Have an overall weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher (not rounded)
- Pass all AOIT classes with a 70 or above
- Complete a minimum of 200 total hours of combined community service and work-based learning, including the required 80-hour paid or unpaid internship
- Have no discipline referrals

📌 Students who join the Academy later will have adjusted requirements:

- Joined as a sophomore: 35 hours of community service + 92 hours of work-based learning (includes the 80-hour internship)
- Joined as a junior: 20 hours of community service + 86 hours of work-based learning (includes the 80-hour internship)

🏆 Honor graduate status will be finalized at the end of Q2 in the second semester of senior year.

📊 Checking Grades

- Gray's Creek High School classes: Check grades through Parent Portal
- FTCC classes: Students can check grades through their FTCC Canvas account

🎓 NAFTrack Certification & Senior Recognition

Students in AOIT have the chance to earn NAFTrack Certification, a nationally recognized credential that shows you're college- and career-ready. To earn it, students must complete the following during their time in the Academy:

✅ Pass all required NAF and CTE courses with a C or higher

✅ Participate in Work-Based Learning (WBL) that includes:

- Career Awareness (learning about careers)
- Career Exploration (interacting with professionals)
- Career Preparation (hands-on experience)

✅ Complete the NAF survey after each WBL activity

✅ Complete an 80-hour paid or unpaid internship and skills assessment.

🏆 Senior Awards & Recognition

At graduation, several students will be honored for their outstanding achievements in AOIT:

🕒 Highest Work-Based Learning Hours

Awarded to the senior who has completed the most work-based learning hours during their time in AOIT.

🤝 Outstanding Volunteer

Awarded to the senior with the highest number of community service hours.

📚 Highest Overall GPA

Awarded to the senior with the highest overall Grade Point Average at the end of high school.

📄 Certificate of Completion

Given to students who:

- Completed all courses in their AOIT program pathway with a 70 or higher
- Completed 200 hours total, combining work-based learning and community service

These recognitions celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students — and show colleges and employers what AOIT students are capable of!

🎓 Academy Graduation Recognition & Honor Cords

💜 Purple & White Cord – AOIT Honor Graduate

Awarded to students who meet all AOIT Honor Graduate requirements.
(See page 20 for full criteria, including GPA and service hours.)

🧡 Orange & Silver Cord – A+ Certification

Earned by students who:

- Successfully complete CTS120 (FTCC) and pass the Core 1 test
- Successfully complete CTS220 (FTCC) and pass the Core 2 test

🖤 Black & Gold Cord – FTCC Pathway Completion

Awarded to students who complete a full career pathway at FTCC and receive a Certificate of Completion.
➡️ Please note: FTCC and CTE no longer provide this cord. The Academy now purchases and provides the black and gold cord for eligible students.

💰 Cords & Cord Replacement

Honor cords are funded by Academy fundraising efforts. If a cord is lost or damaged, students may purchase a replacement cord from the Academy Director. Prices may vary depending on vendor costs

👔 AOIT Graduation Dress Code

Professional attire is required for the AOIT Graduation Ceremony.
The AOIT uniform is not required for this event, but students should dress neatly and appropriately to celebrate their achievement.

Disclaimer:
It is the policy of Cumberland County Schools and its Career and Technical Education programs to not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age in its activities and programs, including employment policies and practices.