

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

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Greater Ohio Virtual School

Governing Board

Patrick Dubbs – Board President Larry Hook – Board Vice President Michael Sander – Board Member Tom Isaacs – Board Member Randy Gebhardt – Board Member Alleyn Unversaw – Treasurer

BOARD MEETING DATE/PLACE:

Place: Warren County ESC/Board Room Time: 11:00 A.M. unless otherwise noted.

Meetings are generally scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Schedule is always available on our website www.mygovs.com.

Greater Ohio Virtual School – Main Office 1879 Deerfield Road Lebanon, OH 45036 513.695.2924 Greater Ohio Virtual School – Student Center WCESC Western Row Campus 755 Western Row Road Mason, OH 45040 513.695.GOVS 513.695.4687

<u>The Greater Ohio Virtual School</u> does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital status, sex or age in providing education or access to benefits of education services, activities and programs in accordance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX and other civil rights or discrimination issues; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Greater Ohio Virtual School AT RISK CONVERSION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Brief Overview

The Greater Ohio Virtual School is an innovative school that is a cooperative effort with the Warren County Educational Service Center. GOVS uses technology to reach a diverse student population. The school is designed for students in grades 7 – 12 who have a desire for, and whose education can be optimized by, a program of online instruction in an independent environment that does not include most ancillary components of a more traditional education. Because the focus is on distance learning, the ability of students to learn independently in their own homes using an online educational program is an essential element of the school's program. A majority of the students will be between the ages of 16 and 22 and who are at risk. The definition of at risk may include but are not limited to: lack of academic success, unsuccessful in the home district, health risk, social issues, financial hardship, transient students, home schooled children, children with special physical and mental needs, religious reason and behavioral issues. The program will permit the use of a "blended" approach to the delivery of educational services designed to provide the optimum balance between online and traditional instruction for each student.

The at-risk charter school will provide a unique opportunity to attract and serve certain students who may be currently functioning outside the regular public-school setting and who may benefit from the more fully rounded educational experience which can be achieved through a combination of online and traditional school settings.

Mission Statement

Greater Ohio Virtual School's mission is to provide students with a highly personal and continuous connection to learning through an online based education. The school deems that this quality instructional alternative will serve individual needs and prepare the student to transition into their next phase of life, be it entering the work force, military, or continuing their education.

Educational Philosophy and Beliefs

Greater Ohio Virtual School's educational philosophy can be summarized with the following statements: Deliver instruction to students in a cost-effective manner and in a manner that allows them to earn high school credit at a self-determined pace. We will strive to take students at their current academic levels, build upon that foundation, and increase achievement at developmentally appropriate rates and levels. We will do this with the assistance of technology and appropriately licensed Ohio teachers. Our ultimate goal is to provide applicable skills that will allow students to be lifelong learners and intelligent decision-makers. Another important factor woven into the school is the belief that effective education is a cooperative venture between the students, parents/guardians, teachers, and support staff. Furthermore, in many instances the local public schools, organizations, and social services can provide valuable support. In short, a teaming process will be critical to the success of the program.

Beliefs: Our core beliefs are succinctly stated as follows:

- The effective delivery of educational services and resources is critical to our mission.
- Ongoing planning, assessment, and evaluation drive a growing, dynamic organization and provide for the effective use of resources.
- Empowering the learning community through technology is a vital necessity.
- Sound educational decisions are driven by accurate data.
- A well-trained and talented staff that continually upgrades its skills is a requirement for a successful organization.
- A spirit of teamwork and cooperation within the organization and with the SPONSOR, our educational partner, must be encouraged and nurtured.
- The school will foster resiliency in students by building on student's strengths. (Resiliency is the ability to adapt and succeed despite risk and adversity.)
- Stakeholders will adhere to the belief that all students can succeed. And they communicate this belief to their students.
- Students will participate in meaningful, engaged learning and experience opportunities to succeed in the school.
- Students will be held to high educational standards and communicate the belief that all students can succeed.
- The school will provide varied opportunities to remediate past failures or academic setbacks in the student's career.
- The school's climate will be marked by caring and support, high expectations, and opportunities for meaningful participation that can counteract the risk factors in child's life.

Greater Ohio Virtual School

The material covered within this student handbook is intended as a method of communicating to students and parents regarding general school information, rules and procedures and are not intended to either enlarge or diminish any Board policy or administrative regulation. Material contained herein may therefore be superseded by such Board policy or administrative regulation. Any information contained in this student handbook is subject to unilateral revision or elimination from time to time without notice.

Greater Ohio Virtual School ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Greater Ohio Virtual School (GOVS) is a non-traditional school designed to serve students who are not reaching their full learning potential in more traditional educational environments. Because GOVS is a distance learning online school, the ability of its students to learn independently in their own homes, using an online educational program, is an essential element of the GOVS program.

The school is open tuition-free to students in grades 7-12 residing in any school district in the state of Ohio.

Additionally, as GOVS is chartered as a Dropout Prevention and Recovery (DOPR) school, which requires that the majority of students enrolled are between the ages of 16-21 and are at risk of graduating, preference will be given to students meeting the at-risk definitions.

The GOVS curriculum is particularly designed for at-risk students. At-risk students are defined as:

- Students who experience crises that significantly interfere with their academic progress such that they are prevented from continuing their traditional programs.

- Students who are at least one grade level behind their cohort age groups and who wish to focus their education exclusively on an independent online course of study, starting at the student's current skill and knowledge level and building forward at a pace determined by the student in collaboration with online instructors, tutors, and mentors.
- Students who have been removed from school for disciplinary reasons but who are committed to, and capable of, regaining their focus on academic pursuits in the independent and solitary context of online instruction delivered in their homes.
- Students who are performing at or above grade level but who seek a more challenging curriculum and, in particular, who wish to capitalize upon the enrichment potential of individually paced and independently completed online instruction. Students who are already successfully learning at home but whose home schooling would be complimented with GOVS comprehensive, formal, and standards-based online curriculum.

Suspended/Expelled

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the school during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend the school. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired may be temporarily denied admission to the school during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the school had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the school. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

If a student has recently been discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the school, the student will not be admitted until the following records required to be released by DYS to the Superintendent have been received:

- 1. An updated copy of the student's transcript.
- 2. A report of the student's behavior while in DYS custody.
- 3. The student's current individualized education program (IEP), if an IEP has been developed for the child.
- 4. A summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior.

O.R.C. 3314.06 Statements

The School will not discriminate in admitting students to the School on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, or sex.

The School will not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability. Unless the total School is filled to capacity, no student with any disability shall be denied admission on the basis of that disability. Upon admitting any student with a disability, the community school will comply with all federal and state laws regarding the education of students with disabilities.

The School will not exceed the capacity of the School's programs, classes, grade levels, or facilities. If the number of applicants exceeds the School's capacity, students shall be admitted by lottery from all those submitting applications. Preference shall be first given to students attending the School the previous year and then to students who reside in the school district in which the School is located. Preference will be given to siblings of students attending the school the previous year.

In the event the racial composition of the enrollment of the School violates a federal desegregation order, the School will take any and all corrective measures to comply with the order.

Enrollment Procedure

To enroll, parents/guardians must submit the following to the School:

- 1. Completed registration form (using Registration Gateway Website)
- 2. Student's birth certificate
- 3. Photo identification of parent/guardian enrolling the student
- 4. Student's current immunization record

- 5. If applicable, Custody paperwork;
- 6. Proof of Residency/Address Verification one (1) of the following in the parent/guardian/student name, showing the complete address, and date:
 - a. A deed, mortgage, lease, current homeowner's or renter's insurance declaration page, or current real property tax bill;
 - b. A utility bill or receipt of utility installation issued within ninety days of enrollment;
 - c. A paycheck or paystub issued to the parent or student within ninety days of the date of enrollment that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence;
 - d. The most current available bank statement issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence;
 - e. Any other official document issued to the parent or student that includes the parent's or student's primary residence;
 - f. Any other official document approved by the Ohio Department of Education that may be used to determine proof of residency.
- Grade Card/Transcript (these will assist in placing your child in the appropriate courses required for graduation).
 Make sure to pay your fees and return books at the school your child presently attends as they will not release your grades/transcripts.
- 8. Special Education (IEP-Individualized Education Program), (ETR-Evaluation Team Report), if applicable
- 9. 504 Educational Plan, if applicable

When a student loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 11434a, or when a child who is such a homeless child or youth changes temporary living arrangements, the district in which the student is entitled to attend school shall be determined in accordance with division (F)(13) of section 3313.64 of the Revised Code and the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act," 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

ASSESSMENTS (STATE/DISTRICT)

Unless exempted, all students must participate in all state required testing.

House Bill 66, section 3314.26 ORC, Students who fail to participate in required testing 2 consecutive years will not be permitted to attend any online school in Ohio.

House Bill 487 updated Ohio's graduation requirements to ensure that all students are ready for success in college and work. The new requirements take effect with the class of 2018 and beyond, in addition, allowing the opportunity to take a nationally recognized college admission exam free of charge in the 11th grade. Under these requirements, students must earn a cumulative score.

STAR Testing will be administered to students two times a year to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests help the staff to determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests/course tests may be given to students to assess progress and assign grades.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The truancy laws in Ohio require electronic schools to keep track of the number of hours each student is completing lessons on-line or participating in off-line educational activities. Each student will be required to complete on-line/off-line educational opportunities totaling twenty-five (25) hours per week. In addition to this requirement, each student will have an attendance intervention plan developed at the beginning of their attendance at the Greater Ohio Virtual School. If a student fails to participate in seventy-two (72) consecutive hours of learning without a legitimate excuse, the student will be withdrawn according to GOVS procedures. Students are also limited to 10 hours of schoolwork per day, maximum. Once 10 hours has been accumulated for the day, VLA will be locked and not available until the next day. Students may not accumulate time on the home page in VLA and there is an automatic log off after 45 mins of inactivity or idle time.

Truancy Notifications

Families will receive notification after three (3) days of inactivity.

• Families will receive notification if a student is thirty-eight (38) total hours behind within a 30-day period or if a student is sixty-five (65) total hours behind within a school year.

Truancy Mediation Meeting

• Families will be contacted by the truancy officer to schedule a truancy mediation meeting after six (6) consecutive school days of inactivity or after forty-two (42) total hours behind within a thirty (30) day period.

Truancy Charges

- If significant progress has not been made as outlined in the individual attendance plan for each student, then charges may be filed.
- Nothing in this attendance policy shall prohibit or restrict the school from initiating legal action against a student and parent for failure to follow the attendance policy at any time (within the provisions of the law).

Missed Hours

Students are expected to make up missed hours of instruction within a one-week period or complete additional hours leading up to planned events. Excuses for missed hours will be accepted in the following circumstances:

- 1. Original Doctor's notes may be submitted to excuse a student from missed learning opportunities beyond twenty-five (25) hours due to personal illness, injury or birth of a child. The doctor's note must state that the student was unable to access online learning during a specific time frame (exact dates must be included).
- 2. Students may be excused due to the death of a parent, guardian or sibling, as well as any good cause that may be acceptable to the Superintendent.

The Ohio Department of Education will be notified whenever a student meets the definition of habitual truant and notice to the family is sent, when the child has been absent without legitimate excuse for the number of hours to qualify as habitual truant, when a student is adjudicated an unruly minor in juvenile court as a result of being a habitual truant, and when an attendance intervention plan has been developed for a student.

Legal References in the Ohio Revised Code

RC 2151.011 (B)(5). A child is a person under eighteen (18) years of age. If a child is adjudicated unruly or delinquent, juvenile court may exercise jurisdiction over them until twenty-one (21) years of age.

RC 2151.011 (B)(17). Habitual Truancy. Absent w/o legitimate excuse thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) hours in a month, and seventy-two (72) hours per school year.

RC 2151.022 (A/B). An "unruly child" is one who fails to submit to the reasonable control of a parent, teacher, guardian, or custodian.

RC 2919.24. Contributing. Any adult who aids, abets, causes, encourages, or contributes to a child becoming unruly or a delinquent.

RC 3313.609. Truant means absent without excuse.

RC 3321.01 (A)(1). Children between 6-18 years are of compulsory school age in Ohio.

RC 3321.03. It is the duty of each parent to cause his/her child to attend school.

RC 3321.04 (C). The board of education shall prescribe excused occurrences for good and sufficient reasons.

RC 3321.16. An attendance officer shall investigate any case of non-attendance of school for any child under the age of eighteen (18) years of age and a Truancy Intervention Team will be assigned to assist student and parents to re-engage in school.

RC 3321.18. The attendance officer shall initiate proceedings against any parent, guardian, or student to enforce compulsory attendance.

RC 3321.19 (B). No parent, without good cause, shall fail to attend an educational program or compel their child to attend school.

RC 3321.19 (C). The attendance officer shall warn parents, in writing, of the legal consequences of habitual truancy.

RC 3321.16. For truancy, the district may provide intervention strategies or request charges be filed in Juvenile court.

RC 3321.99. Parents may be fined \$500 for truancy violations and may be ordered to perform seventy (70) hours of community service.

RC 3314.03(A)(6)(b) A student is automatically withdrawn from school if the student without a legitimate excuse fails to participate in one hundred five (105) consecutive hours of the learning opportunities offered to the student. Legitimate excuse is defined as a doctor's note with student's name and specified dates excused. The legitimate excuse must be submitted and received in the central office before the student has missed 105 consecutive hours of learning opportunities. Only original doctor notes are accepted, or notes faxed directly from the doctor's office to GOVS.

Greater Ohio Virtual School Durational Documentation Procedures

Participation at the Greater Ohio Virtual School is defined by accumulating a minimum of 25 hours of combined online and offline hours per week documented by the Virtual Learning Academy Curriculum Program while completing a minimum of 5 lessons per week to accumulate the appropriate number of credits towards a diploma. The Greater Ohio Virtual School Week runs from Monday through Sunday evening. Students are only permitted to complete a maximum of 10 hours per day of combined online and offline hours and may accumulate hours 7 days a week and 24 hours a day.

Summary of Attendance/Documentation of Hours Procedures

- Students must accumulate a total of 25 online/offline hours per week
- The Greater Ohio Virtual School week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday evening
- Online Hours = Any hours accumulated while logged in and actively completing assignments in VLA
- Offline Hours = Any teacher approved hours accumulated while not logged into VLA.
- Students are permitted to accumulate hours 7 days a week/24 hours per day
- Students are not permitted to accumulate more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period
- If a student reaches the 10-hour maximum, the system will be locked until the next day
- Online and offline hours may not overlap
- Students may not accumulate hours on the homepage in VLA
- There is an automatic log off after 45 mins of inactivity or idle time.

Online Hours

Online Classroom Hours are any hours documented and tracked by the Virtual Learning Academy Curriculum program while logged in and actively completing assignments.

Offline Hours

Any teacher approved hours worked while not logged into the Virtual Learning Academy Curriculum Program. These hours are linked to Activity Logs which serve as guidelines for students and teachers. Work Study hours and time spent taking state tests are also considered offline hours.

Tracking of Online Hours

The Greater Ohio Virtual School uses the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) as its curriculum. Time is tracked from the moment a student logs into VLA until the student has completed their work and logs out. The documentation of this time is represented at the top of each student home page in the "Time Credited" counter under "Online Today". A weekly total of online hours will also be displayed under "Online this week" and will reset each week at 11:59 Sunday evening.

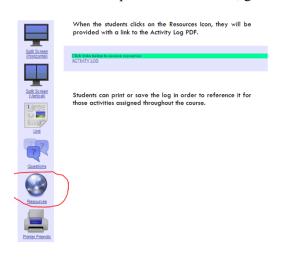
Time Credited							
ONLINE TODAY	ONLINE THIS WEEK	OFFLINE THIS WEEK	OVERLAP THIS WEEK	TOTAL CREDIT THIS WEEK			
2 hours & 14 minutes	2 hours & 58 minutes	4 hours & 30 minutes	46 minutes	6 hours & 42 minutes			

Please be aware that there is an <u>automatic log off after 45 mins of inactivity</u>. This means there have been no keystrokes or mouse clicks for 45 consecutive minutes. The time between the last activity and the automatic log off are not calculated into the student's seat time. Students are not permitted to log into VLA and click on the page once every 45 minutes in an attempt to accumulate hours without doing any coursework. This is monitored daily and if detected will result in disciplinary action. <u>Additionally, students will not be given credit for time spent on the homepage.</u>
<u>Students must be logged into VLA and completing coursework in a class to receive credit for their online work.</u>

Tracking of Offline Hours

Offline hours are hours spent doing coursework while not logged into VLA and are tracked by the use of Activity Logs located under the resource tab in the first lesson of every class. Activities such as reading, watching instructional videos, or working on worksheets are all examples of activities that may be utilized for the documentation of offline hours. Over 200 Activity Logs have been created for every class offered. These logs and the recording of these hours are a part of each lesson and are approved by individual teachers. Activity Logs are used as guides for students and rubrics for teachers. We do not require students to sign and submit these forms, rather to use them as a guideline for the number of hours they may submit for teacher approval. The teacher will determine, based on achievement in the lesson, if the appropriate number of hours are listed.

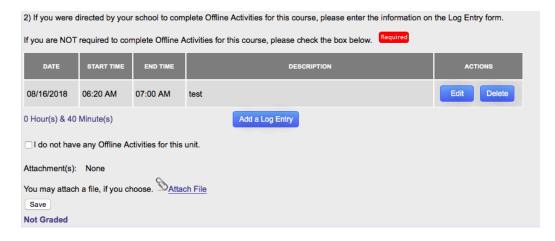
To find some sample offline activities, go to the Resources Section of each VLA unit.



	U.S. History							
Unit	Activity	Estimated Time of Activity						
Unit 1	N/A							
Unit 2	Internet research for opinion questions	.50						
Unit 3	Internet research for opinion questions	.25						
Unit 4	Videos	.10						
	Internet research for opinion questions	.25						
	Research on the impact of an invention	.25						
Unit 5	Videos	.10						
	Internet research for opinion questions	.25						
Unit 6	Videos	.25						
	Internet research on turn-of-the- century ethnic neighborhoods	.50						
Unit 7	Videos	.10						
	Internet research for opinion questions	.50						
Unit 8	Videos	.10						

	Integrated Math I							
Unit	Activity	Estimated Time of Activity						
Unit 1	Discovery Education Videos	21 min						
	Question 32	10 min						
	http://www.deadsea.co.il/ENA/Pict ure_Gallery/Pic/55.jpg							
	Question 32	10min						
	http://www.deadsea.co.il/ENA/Pict ure_Gallery/Pic/55.jpg							
	Practice Worksheet	30 min						
	Practice Worksheet	30 min						
	Practice Worksheet	30 min						
	Practice Worksheet	30 min						
Unit 2	Discovery Education Videos	30 min						
	Website	10 min						

Every lesson has the following question that each student is required to complete in order to submit the lesson for grading:



If you would like to log offline hours, click on "Add a Log Entry" and the following will be displayed:



This is where each student will type in the time they spent working on the class while NOT logged into VLA. Each log entry will capture the Date, Start Time, End Time, and Description of the activity. Multiple log entries may be made for

each question and can be made on the same day but must not "overlap" online hours (Computer Seat Time) for the day. Students may delete, add, or change log entries until the unit is submitted to their teacher. Any description or hours total different from what is suggested in the Activity Log may be questioned by the teacher and sent back as a redo for further explanation. Every student will be required to answer this question in order to complete the lesson. Students who do not have offline hours to log for the lesson may click the "I do not have any Offline Activities for this unit" box and hit save. Once approved by the teacher, these hours will be documented in the "Time Credited" counter under "Offline Hours This Week".

Tracking of Work Study Hours

In order to have hours counted, students will utilize the same procedures as the documenting of off-line hours. Work study students would document the time that they worked at their job in the last question of the lesson. This time may not overlap with any other offline hours (Activity Logs) or online time (Computer Seat Time). These times will have to be verified by the submission of a paystub which can be uploaded as an attachment in the last question. Students may earn up to 120 hours per transcripted credit of student work experience toward their minimum of 920 required instructional hours.

Year to Date Hourly Totals

Each student/parent/guardian is sent a "Attendance Report" on a weekly basis throughout the school year. It is delivered via the One Call Now messaging system as an email, voice message, and text message. This report tracks the total number of combined hours the student has accumulated throughout the year and compares it to the number of hours the student should have accumulated as determined by the date of enrollment. An Example of the Email sent to Student/Parents/Guardians each week is shown below. The Voice Message and text message contain the same information.

Notification from: Greater Ohio Virtual School



Performance Report:

Greater Ohio Virtual School Students are expected to complete both five hours of work each school day (may be a combination of online and offline activity) and a minimum of one lesson. Shawn 's Progress Through Sunday, September 17th, 2017:

The student has logged a total of 106 hours and 48 minutes, out of a required 105 hours this school year. He or she is averaging 5 hours and 5 minutes per school day.

In addition, the student has completed 21 lessons, out of an expected 21 lessons.

If Shawn is on track, keep up the good work! If not, the student should complete additional hours and/or lessons to remain in good standing and avoid the truancy process.

10 Hour Max Hours Per Day and Overlapping Hours

Per state law, electronic school students are not permitted to document over 10 hours of combined online and offline hours per day. Once 10 hours has been accumulated for the day, VLA will be locked and not available until the next day. Additionally, hours may not overlap meaning that students need to be aware of their online time and the hours they are submitting for offline hours (Activity Logs & Work Study Hours) each day.

For example, if a student was online completing work in a math class from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and then submitted Activity Log from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in another class on the same day, the overlapping hour between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. would not be counted towards their daily/weekly totals. Similarly, if a student submitted 6.5 hours of off-line work study hours and then worked for 5 hours online completing a project in an English class on the same day, the 1.5 hours over the 10-hour limit would not be counted toward the daily and weekly totals.

Any overlapping hours will be displayed in the "Time Credited" counter under "Overlap This Week". Credit will not be given for Overlapping Hours.

Multiple Screens – Students are not permitted to sign into the VLA program with multiple browsers, windows, or tabs. Signing into the VLA program with multiple screens will prevent your time from being tabulated. The vertical split screen option found on the left side of the screen within each lesson will permit students the ability to view the course material and answer questions. Utilizing this option will ensure student's time will be captured.

Testing Hours

Students can earn offline time for each state test they complete: Ohio State Tests, STAR Tests, OELPA, and ACT. The administration will add this time to the student's account after each test is completed.

Greater Ohio Virtual School Resources

Academic Coaches

Academic Coaches serve as a resource for students at the Greater Ohio Virtual School. They track weekly engagement in hours and completed lessons and provide feedback and support. Coaches serve as the student's main contact at GOVS and provide information about testing, social events, updates, and any other important GOVS information. Coaches assist students and parents in creating plans based on their educational goals for the year and help motivate and inspire students to reach these goals. They help students navigate our virtual learning platform, set up tutoring opportunities, connect with our mental health department, refer to the resource coordinator for personal hygiene, food, clothing, and shelter needs and provide answers to students' questions and concerns throughout the school year.

GOVS Student Center

The GOVS Student Center is a privilege and resource for students. The intent of the facility is to provide students with a place to:

- Work on VLA lessons in a quiet classroom or with classmates in the student lounge
- Meet with academic coaches
- Utilize tutoring services
- Talk with counselors & resource coordinators
- Attend special school events and activities

GOVS students will earn offline hours towards their required weekly attendance while signed in at the Student Center.

In addition to the Code of Conduct section of the Student Handbook, all students are expected to follow the Student Center rules and procedures as follows:

- 1. GOVS students may visit the Student Center from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Students will be required to sign in and sign out in the front office.
- 2. GOVS staff will supervise students while they are signed into the Student Center. Staff not responsible for students once they have signed out and left the building.
- 3. GOVS students can come to the Student Center for tutoring or extra help with VLA lessons. Tutoring labs will be offered throughout the week. Students can also sign up for individual tutoring via our website.
- 4. Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress while utilizing the student center. The expectation is that students will complete a minimum of one lesson while at the student center for extended periods of time.
- 5. GOVS is an online school and does not provide cafeteria services or transportation services.
- 6. While at the Student Center, GOVS students should only be working on VLA lessons or utilizing the other services provided. Accessing websites other than those necessary to complete work is strictly prohibited.

- 7. Only GOVS students and their parents/guardians may enter the student center. Friends or non-parental family members who are not active GOVS students are strictly prohibited from entering the building.
- 8. The GOVS Student Center shares a public building with students and staff from other school groups. Our students are expected to be polite and respectful if interacting with neighboring students and staff members.
- 9. While at the GOVS Student center, students are required to stay in the marked GOVS wing. Other areas of the campus are off-limits for GOVS students.
- 10. GOVS students must sign in when arriving at the Student Center and must sign out when leaving. Students are expected to leave the campus in a timely manner after signing out.
- 11. The GOVS Student Center is a "Smoke-Free School." Smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or other smoking device containing tobacco. This includes vaporization devices. The State of Ohio prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco in any school building or on school grounds.
- 12. Additional rules governing student behavior are listed within the Code of Conduct section of the Student Handbook. The GOVS Student Center is a privilege that can be restricted for any violation of any rule in the student handbook.

Student Center Consequences

- 1. Verbal Warning
- 2. Written Warning/Phone Call to Parent (Guardian)
- 3. Immediate Dismissal from the Student Center for the rest of the day
- 4. Loss of Student Center Privilege for 3 School Days
- 5. Loss of Student Center Privilege for the remainder of the school year.
- Students who have had their student center privilege taken away for the school year and return to GOVS the following year will be required to meet with administration to determine reinstatement of student center privileges during the new school year.

Mental Health Services

Tier 1:

'Check Ins'

Mental health promotion services and supports (Tier 1) are mental health-related activities, including promotion of positive social, emotional, and behavioral skills and well-being, which are designed to meet the needs of all students regardless of whether or not they are at risk for mental health problems. Tier 1 services include *social emotional learning* for *all students*.

Tier 2: Mental Health Specialist available on site

'Tailored Interventions and Strategies'

Early intervention services and supports (Tier 2) address mental health concerns for *students who have been identified* as *experiencing mild to moderate distress, functional impairment, or being at risk for a given problem or concern.*Sometimes these are referred to as "selective" mental health "prevention" or "secondary prevention" services.

Tier 2 services are provided by school-based mental health professionals and can include (but are not limited to) small group interventions for students identified with similar needs, individualized interventions, motivational interviewing, skill development in the areas of stress management, problem solving, effective coping strategies, and developing healthy relationships, as well as mentoring/guidance in overcoming barriers to success.

Tier 3: Licensed Clinical Therapist available on site

'Tertiary Services'- Clinical

Student will be referred to a community based Clinical Therapeutic Support: Inpatient or Outpatient and will continue to be followed to ensure continuity of care.

Resource Coordinator

The resource coordinator helps with any non-academic needs that create barriers to learning. Some barriers could include food insecurity, transportation issues, unexpected pregnancy resources, emergency housing opportunities, and hygiene needs.

TUTORING

Tutoring is available at no charge by request from students and/or parents. Tutoring is available through remote tutoring using Skype or face-to-face tutoring in the GOVS offices or public space such as a library. Tutoring is limited to 3 hours per student per week. Anything above 3 hours per student per week requires approval from the director of GOVS. Tutoring requests can be made by clicking on the "Tutor Request" link on the www.mygovs.com home page. Tutoring labs are also offered on a regular basis at the student center. Tutoring is also a privilege and a student resource that may be taken away.

CONFERENCES

Students and parents may request a conference (1) if the student is not maintaining passing grades or achieving the expected level of performance; (2) if the student is not maintaining behavior expectations or (3) in any other case the teacher considers necessary. These conferences may be held via telephone, e-mail or face-to-face. The school encourages a student or parent in need of additional information or with questions or concerns to confer with the appropriate teacher, School Counselor or Principal. A parent who wishes to confer with their child's teacher may call the office to arrange a mutually convenient time.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Our school counselors support our GOVS students with academic achievement and future planning. Our counselors handle all scheduling for students, including class placements, class changes and class additions and subtractions. The counselors ensure students are placed in appropriate classes that are necessary to meet graduation requirements. It is the responsibility of students to contact their counselor if schedule changes are desired. The counselors handle all graduation related questions and have the final review of graduate candidacy.

In addition to graduation tracking, our counselors provide academic support, including career focus and planning. The counselors can assist with the college admission process, the FAFSA, scholarship opportunities, and college admission testing.

The counseling department oversees state required testing, College Credit Plus, and Career Center interest, as well.

CAREER ADVISORY

Career counseling will be provided to all students. Students at risk, identified by excessive attendance, will be contacted along with the parent/guardian to create a Student Success Plan.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

Through College Credit Plus, students may earn college credit in high school free of charge. Credit may count for both high school and college credit. Contact your school counselor to find a pathway that will be suitable for your high school and college goals. The Greater Ohio Virtual School will provide an informative meeting prior to March 1st. The school will notify students of an information session including all surrounding colleges prior to March 30th. An intent form needs to be completed and turned into the Greater Ohio Virtual School's main office by April 1st. At this point, students and their families should contact colleges of their choice to gather information about applications and acceptance into their College Credit Plus program. Prior to class attendance contact your school counselor to fit the class into your schedule and determine credit. One high school credit will be earned per three plus college credits. Under three college credits will be prorated. If you are a CCP student who also carries a VLA account, you MUST log into your VLA account at least once a week to avoid truancy.

CAREER TECH

- 11th and 12th grade students have the option of completing their academic core classes with GOVS and their electives (lab work) at a local vocational school.
- GOVS 10th graders will be offered a tour of the Warren County Career Center sometime in December to ask questions and see what that school is all about.
- If you are interested in this, please reach out to your Guidance Counselor (either Mrs. Manchak or Mrs. Burke).

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Program Goals

The goal of the English Learner (EL) Program is to increase the acquisition of academic English and English literacy in students who have been identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) in grades 7-12. The program provides EL instruction and consultative services to LEP students and monitors the progress of students who have obtained "Fully English Proficient" (FEP) status for two years. It is our goal to promote the development of academic skills for LEP students with instruction that will improve their proficiency level. The EL Program is designed to meet both federal and state guidelines and to maximize each student's potential for success.

English Learner Assessment

Students will be screened upon enrollment into the Greater Ohio Virtual School to determine services and will be responsible for all required state testing.

English Learner Services

LEP students will receive a bilingual education through the EL Program at the Greater Ohio Virtual School. The philosophy behind this approach is that students are more likely to learn anything, including English, if they understand what they are being taught. Additionally, students who are not proficient in English will not fall behind their English-speaking peers if they are able to continue learning subject matter in their native languages. The focus of the program is on teaching them to read, write and speak English. The important element of bilingual programs is that both the students' native language and English are used as means of instruction. LEP students will be provided tutoring services throughout the year to aid in both English proficiency and academic coursework.

COMPUTER USE

Students will be permitted to use the school's computers only to conduct business related to the management or instructional needs of the school or conduct research related to education consistent with the school's mission or goals.

The school's computers meet the following federal Children's Internet Protection Act requirements:

- 1. Technology protection measures have been installed and are in continuous operation to protect against Internet access by both adults and students to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or, with respect to the use of the computers by students, harmful to students;
- 2. The on-line activities of students are to be monitored by parent or guardian.
- 3. Access by students to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web is denied;
- 4. Procedures are in place to help ensure the safety and security of students when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- 5. Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking" and other unlawful activities by students on-line is prohibited;
- 6. Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding students are prohibited;
- 7. Measures designed to restrict students' access to materials harmful to students have been installed.

The school retains ownership of its computers, hardware, software and data at all times. All communications and stored information, transmitted, received or contained in the school's information system is the school's property and are to be used for authorized purposes only. Use of school computers or software for unauthorized purposes is strictly prohibited. Students are not to use the computers for commercial use, political use, financial gain, or any illegal activity. Students must not use the computers to encourage the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or to promote unethical practices or any activity prohibited by law or Board Policy. Students are not to use profanity, obscenity, or other language which may be offensive to others in computer transmission. Students are not to transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, citizenship status, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs. Students are not to place copyrighted material on the computer without the author's permission. Students are not to make their personal home address or phone number and those of other students or colleagues public on the computer. To maintain system integrity, monitor network etiquette, and ensure that those authorized to use the school's system are in compliance with Board policy, administrative regulations and law, school administrators may routinely review user files and communications. Files and other information, including E-mail, sent or received, generated or stored on school's computers are not private

and may be subject to monitoring. By using the school's system, individuals consent to have that use monitored by authorized district personnel. The school reserves the right to access and disclose, as appropriate, all information and data contained on school's computers. Students, who violate Board policy, administrative regulation, shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion and/or revocation of school's system access up to and including permanent loss of privileges. Violations of law will be reported to law enforcement officials.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY

Technology is the basis of operation for the Greater Ohio Virtual School. The Governing Board recognizes that careful planning is essential to ensure the successful and cost-effective implementation of technology-based materials, equipment, systems, and networks. The Internet allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks. All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and any accompanying regulations may result in the revocation of the user's privilege.

Unacceptable uses of the computer include but are not limited to:

- A. Violating the conditions of the Ohio Revised Code dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy.
- B. Using profanity, obscenity, or other language, which may be offensive to another user.
- C. Reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent.
- D. Copying commercial software in violation of copyright law.
- E. Using the internet for financial gain, for commercial activity, or for any illegal activity.
- F. Accessing inappropriate material.
- G. Downloading of freeware or shareware programs.

Because access to online services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users and parents of users who are under 18 years old must understand that the neither the school can control the content of the information available on these systems. Even though the school has installed a filtering program as prescribed by the Children's Internet Protection Act, some of the information available could be considered controversial and sometimes offensive.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting computers and users in the school with worldwide information. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, and databases. Access to such an incredible quantity of information and resources brings with it, however, certain unique challenges.

The Governing Board has implemented technology protection measures which block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and / or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services on the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume risks by consenting to allow their child to participate in the use of the Internet. Parents/Guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet.

Students and staff members are responsible for good behavior on the School's computers and the Internet. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The School does not sanction any use of the Internet that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with the School's Student Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy. Users who disregard the policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privilege suspend or revoked, and disciplinary action against them. Users granted access to the Internet through the School's computers assumes personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for uses of the Internet not authorized by the school policy and its accompanying guidelines.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students will not possess personal communication devices, such as cellular phones when participating in school required face—to-face meetings such as orientation, testing, or remediation sessions, etc. A "personal communication device" is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor.

CONDUCT

Students are responsible for conducting themselves properly, in accordance with the policies of the school and the lawful direction of staff. The school has the responsibility to afford students certain rights as guaranteed under federal and state constitutions and statutes.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The GOVS rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in an alternative environment. All students are expected to follow staff member's directions and to obey all school rules.

Adult students (age 18 or older) must follow all school rules and are encouraged to include their parents in their educational program.

If a student resides in the school service area with a grandparent and is the subject of a: 1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or 2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the School the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition free basis. However, in addition to the above referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the School with duly executed and a notarized copy of a power of attorney or caregiver authorization affidavit.

Among these student rights and responsibilities are the following:

- 1. Civil rights including the right to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination, the responsibility not to discriminate against others;
- 2. The right to attend free public schools, the responsibility to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school;
- 3. The right to due process of law with respect to suspension, expulsion and decisions which the student believes injure his/her rights;
- 4. The right to free inquiry and expression, the responsibility to observe reasonable rules regarding these rights;
- 5. The right to assemble informally, the responsibility to not disrupt the orderly operation of the educational process, nor infringe upon the rights of others;
- 6. The right to privacy, which includes privacy in respect to the student's education records;
- 7. The right to know the behavior standards expected and the responsibility to know the consequences of misbehavior.

Student Code of Conduct

The school has authority and control over a student when on site at school during the regular school day, at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location and while being transported in school-provided transportation.

Students will be subject to discipline including, suspension, expulsion, denial and/or loss of awards and privileges and/or referral to law enforcement officials for the following, including but not limited to:

- 1. Assault
- 2. Hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying or menacing Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Menacing and accompanying administrative regulation.
- 3. Coercion.
- 4. Violent behavior or threats of violence or harm.
- 5. Disorderly conduct, including disruption of the school environment.
- 6. Bringing, possessing, concealing or using a weapon.
- 7. Vandalism/Malicious Mischief/Theft [as prohibited by Board policies Care of School Property by Students including willful damage or injury to school property; or to private property on school premises or at school-sponsored activities.
- 8. Sexual Harassment.
- 9. Use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, including drug paraphernalia.
- 10. Use or display of profane or obscene language.

- 11. Open defiance of a teacher's authority, including persistent failure to comply with the lawful directions of teachers or school officials.
- 12. Violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation, school or classroom rules.

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

Ohio Senate Bill 311 allows students the option to seek alternative methods for high school credits by the use of a Credit Flexibility Plan. Credit Flexibility is the option for students who demonstrate the ability, interest, maturity, and personal responsibility for their learning to have the opportunity to pursue high school credit for demonstration of subject area competency. The purpose of a credit flexibility plan is to develop learners who plan their own learning, including learning objectives, and a plan whereby they will attain those objectives. This procedure provides for personalized educational options for students in which they will identify, acquire, and demonstrate competency in a given content area to earn graduation credit. Credit flexibility is an alternative learning experience, where students demonstrate competency in a particular content based on the Ohio Academic Content Standards for that content area. Greater Ohio Virtual School is not responsible for developing a Credit Flexibility Plan for a student or for the cost incurred by a student's participation in a Credit Flexibility Plan.

Greater Ohio Virtual School students who receive credit for a Credit Flexibility Plan are required to complete a detailed application process outlining learning goals and expectations, received prior approval from the Greater Ohio Virtual School Review Panel for their learning activity, stayed within the agreed upon timetable, and met measurable standards to ones specific to their particular CFP.

Credit Flexibility Requirements:

- 1. Written plan/agreement between the student, parents, possible credit flexible partner, a Greater Ohio Virtual School Highly Qualified Teacher/Dept. Chairperson, a guidance counselor and the principal/designee.
- 2. Grades will be reported to the guidance office and will be recorded on the student's report card and transcript in the same time frame as other courses at the high school.
- 3. All credit flexibility classes must be added or dropped within the same timelines of dropping and adding other classes. Otherwise, the student will receive an F for the class if work is not completed. Students may not drop a credit flexible course after the drop date. If they do drop after the drop date, they will receive an F on their transcript (see Course Planner for description).

How to Apply for a Credit Flexibility Program:

- 1. Pick up Credit Flexibility Packet from the Guidance Office and complete the agreement. Return the proposal to the Guidance Office when completed. Request to have your proposal assigned to a Highly Qualified Teacher (teacher who will assign the grade).
- 2. The Proposal, signed by both student and parent/guardian, must be turned in to the student's counselor.
- 3. A conference to evaluate the proposal will be scheduled with the student, the Highly Qualified Teacher (teacher who will issue the grade) and the student's counselor. Once these individuals approve and sign off on the plan, the principal/designee will evaluate and sign off on the plan.
- 4. The student will be notified of approval and the plan will be filed in the student's cumulative record. An administrative fee will be assessed.
- 5. The student is responsible for completing all assignments agreed upon in the Credit Flexibility Plan in order to receive a grade and credit. Plans must include defined goals which are tied directly to Ohio's Academic Content Standards and clearly describe activities that lead to the successful passage of the desired goals/objectives. Content Standards are located on the Ohio Department of Education's webpage at www.ode.state.oh.us. Procedural and Student Proposal Forms will be kept in the front office of GOVS.

CURRICULUM

We feel we have chosen one of the finest on-line curriculums that exist, VLA provided by Jefferson County ESC. Students use the web site https://virtuallearningacademy.net/vla/General/Login.aspx?orgID=56 to access their schoolwork. They can also go to our website, www.mygovs.com and click on the Student VLA login button.

VLA is a robust, online educational delivery system. It offers 250 full-year and semester courses for students in grades K-12. Each course is fully aligned to Ohio's Academic Content Standards. VLA can be used to service any student who the superintendent deems necessary including those who are:

- home-bound
- home schooled
- o in need of credit reclamation
- dropped out
- o special needs/at risk
- o assigned to alternative schools

Students may access the curriculum in three ways:

- o a content-only screen
- o an assessment-only screen
- o a split-screen showing both content and assessment

VLA also includes an internal email system, video streaming, audio features, and forum functionality.

DISCIPLINE/DUE PROCESS

A student who violates the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action.

A student's due process rights will be observed in all such instances, including the right to appeal the discipline decisions of staff and administrators.

The school's disciplinary options include using one or more discipline management techniques including counseling by teachers, counselors and administrators, detention, suspension, expulsion, loss of privileges, honors and awards. Disciplinary measures are applied depending on the nature of the offense. The age and past pattern of behavior of a student will be considered prior to any suspension or expulsion.

In addition, when a student commits substance abuse, drug or drug paraphernalia, alcohol- and/or tobacco-related offenses or any other criminal act, he/she may also be referred to law enforcement officials. Violations of the district's weapons policy, as required by law, shall be reported to law enforcement.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

All aspects of school-sponsored publications, including web pages, newsletters, are completely under the supervision of the teacher and principal. Students may be required to submit such publications to the administration for approval.

Written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes or other visual or auditory materials may not be sold, circulated or distributed by a student or a nonstudent without the approval of the administration.

Materials not under the editorial control of the school must be submitted to the principal for review and approval before being distributed to students. Materials shall be reviewed based on legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns include whether the material is defamatory; age appropriate to the grade level and/or maturity of the reading audience; poorly written, inadequately researched, is biased or prejudiced; not factual; or not free of racial, ethnic, religious or sexual bias. Materials include advertising that is in conflict with public school laws, rules and/or Board policy, deemed inappropriate for students or may be reasonably perceived by the public to bear the sanction for approval of the district.

If the material is not approved within 24 hours of the time that it was submitted, it must be considered disapproved. Disapprovals may be appealed by submitting the disapproved materials to the [superintendent]; material not approved by the [superintendent] within [three] days is considered disapproved. This disapproval may be appealed to the Board at its next regular meeting when the individual shall have a reasonable period of time to present his/her viewpoint.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The school's dress code is established to promote appropriate grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption and avoid safety hazards. This code is in effect when students of the GOVS meet in person with teachers, administrators, other students, or

school personnel. Students who represent the school in a voluntary activity may be required to meet additional dress and grooming standards approved by the principal and may be denied the opportunity to participate if those standards are not met.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT **Form Required!**

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the School. The Emergency Medical Authorization form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each school year thereafter.

If and when a student is on school site for any reason, and becomes ill or is injured at school, the student must notify his/her teacher or another staff member as soon as possible. In the case of a serious illness or injury, the school shall attempt to notify parents according to information provided on emergency forms and submitted by parents to the school. Parents are encouraged to update this information as often as necessary.

If the student is too ill to remain in school, the student will be released to the student's parents or to another person as directed by parents on the student's emergency form.

School staff may administer emergency or minor first aid, if possible. The school will contact emergency medical personnel, if necessary, and will attempt to notify the student's parents whenever the student has been transported for treatment.

FEDERAL NOTICES

The following notices are required by Federal law. We apologize for their length and technical nature, but they are included so that GOVS is in full compliance of the law and so that you are fully informed in these matters.

Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the GOVS, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, GOVS may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school district to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications such as Honor roll or other recognition lists.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories; names, addresses and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the LEA that do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want GOVS to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by the end of the second full week from the date of student enrollment.

The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name; dates of attendance; date of graduation; awards received.

Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make

- arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal {or appropriate school official}, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- 4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-5901

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education
 - 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 - 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 - 3. Sex Behavior or attitudes;
 - 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior,
 - 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 - 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 - 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:
 - 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 - 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law, and

- 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:
 - 1. Protected information surveys of students'
 - 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 - 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
- These rights transfer to from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.
- Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-5901

Military Recruitment and NCLB

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) govern how students' education records are handled. The Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 requires that schools provide military recruiters with student names, addresses, and telephone numbers on request unless specifically prohibited by parents in writing.

House Bill 66-Untested Students

House Bill 66, section 3314.26, requires e-community schools to withdraw from enrollment any student who was enrolled in any public-school district at the time of, and required to take the spring administration of their grade level Achievement or Graduation Tests, but who failed to take one or more of those grade level tests for the two consecutive years.

FEES AND FINES

The Greater Ohio Virtual School is a public school and does not charge tuition. If necessary, students are loaned a computer and internet connectivity free of charge. Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to a student. A student is expected to provide his/her own supplies of pencils, paper, erasers and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits.

Charges will be imposed for loss, damage, or destruction of school apparatus, equipment and for damage to school property. Students using school equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of equipment. Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges will result in the withholding of grades and credits. Please see the central office for instructions.

GED POLICY

Standards for Approving Students to the GED Program, also known as the "Ohio High School Equivalence Diploma"

In accordance with statue (3301-41-01), the Superintendent of the Greater Ohio Virtual School will approve applications for the Ohio High School Equivalence Diploma program under the following circumstances:

- The student must be officially withdrawn from the school and be nineteen years of age or older. However, exceptions to the age requirement may be granted as follows.
 - An applicant who is eighteen years of age is eligible if the class of which he/she was last a member has graduated or
 - An applicant who has been sworn into active military service in one of the armed forces is eligible if a statement, indicating the date of the swearing-in ceremony, is submitted with the application: or
 - o An applicant for the GED program has reached the age of majority (eighteen years old) is eligible with written approval from the superintendent or his/her designee.
 - An applicant that has reached the age of sixteen and is ordered by a court official to enroll in the GED program.

It will be the general policy of the school NOT to approve the application of the Ohio High School Equivalence Diploma program of any student prior to their nineteenth birthday or until their graduating class has graduated.

GRADING SCALE

Greater Ohio Virtual School has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that may indicate work in progress or incomplete work. Grades indicate the extent to which the student has acquired the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon written lessons and tests, projects, and participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas when determining a grade and will so inform the students at the beginning of the course. If a student is not sure how his/her grade will be determined, she/he should ask the teacher.

Grading Scale

98-100 A	+ 93-97 A	92-90 A-
88-89 E	8+ 83-87 B	80-82 B-
78-79 C	C+ 73-77 C	70-72 C
68-69 D	O + 63-67 Γ	60-62 D-
00-59 F	P-Pass	I-Incomplete
		W-Withdraw

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Diplomas are issued by the GOVS. The student does not participate in their home district's graduation ceremony.

Normally, a student will complete graduation requirements in four (4) years. In order to receive a diploma and graduate, a student must pass all State-mandated assessment/tests, meet the school requirements for basic coursework, and earn the total number of minimum credits. For Students enrolled in special education, the criteria for graduation and the extent of participation in the State-mandated assessment tests will be determined by their IEP team.

To earn a diploma from the Greater Ohio Virtual School, students must meet the requirements and standards adopted by the State of Ohio and the Greater Ohio Virtual School Board of Directors. The parents and students have the responsibility for tracking and completing courses necessary for graduation to be verified by school official.

Greater Ohio Virtual School Graduation Requirements

(Established by the Ohio Department of Education)

Courses Required

English/Language Arts 4 credits

Mathematics 4 credits and must include:

1 credit Algebra II or its equivalent

Science 3 credits and must include:

1 credit physical science 1 credit life/biological science 1 credit advanced study science

Social Studies 3 credits and must include:

½ credit American history ½ credit government ½ credit world studies

Health ½ credit

Physical Education ½ credit (School districts may adopt a policy to exempt from the P.E. requirement students who

participate in two (2) full seasons of interscholastic athletics, band, or cheerleading.

If exempted, these students must take another course of at least 60 contact hours (1/2 credit) in its place)

Electives

5 credits, and must include:

½ credit Economics/Personal Finance

1 credit fine arts (taken in grades 7-12) (JVS exempt) Other electives may include any one or combination of:

Foreign language

Fine Arts Business

Career-technical science Family and consumer science

Technology

Agricultural Education

English/mathematics/science/social studies classes which are not already required.

20 Total Credits Required

**If you intend to graduate before your junior year, you must apply through your school counselor and meet all Ohio State Graduation requirements and administrative approval.

Pathways to Graduation

You are eligible to graduate under your graduation cohort year's requirement. Please talk to your guidance counselor for details.

Classes of 2023 and Beyond: Earn at least 20 credits in the specified subjects and take your required tests, then show competency and readiness.

- a. **Show Competency:** earn a competency score of <u>684</u> or higher on Ohio's high school Algebra I and English II tests. Students who do not show competency on one or both tests will be offered additional support and must retake the tests at least once. **If testing is not your strength**, there are three additional ways to show competency after taking the tests at least twice each:
 - Demonstrate two career-focused activities: foundational (proficient scores on WebXams, a 12-point industry credential, or a pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into an approved apprenticeship program) and supporting (work-based learning, earn the required score on WorkKeys or earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal)
 - Enlist in the military
 - Complete college coursework earn credit for one college-level math and/or college-level English course through CCP.
 - **Beyond competency scores in English II and Algebra I, all students will test in Geometry, Biology, American Government, and American History. State law dictates that these exams must be taken by all students in the graduating class of 2023 and beyond. Proficient scores of <u>700</u> or higher on these tests may help with earning required seals.
- b. **Show Readiness**: earn two of the following diploma seals, choosing those that line up with your goals and interests. These seals give you the chance to demonstrate academic, technical, and professional skills and knowledge that align to your passions, interests, and planned next steps after high school.
 - At least one of the two seals must be Ohio-designed:
 - 1. OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal (Ohio)
 - 2. Industry-Recognized Credential Seal (Ohio)
 - 3. College-Ready Seal (Ohio)
 - 4. Military Enlistment Seal (Ohio)
 - 5. Citizenship Seal (Ohio)

- 6. Science Seal (Ohio)
- 7. Honors Diploma Seal (Ohio)
- 8. Seal of Biliteracy (Ohio)
- 9. Technology Seal (Ohio)
- 10. Community Service Seal (Local)
- 11. Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Local)
- 12. Student Engagement Seal (Local)

Grade Point Average

To calculate a grade point average (G.P.A.) assign a weighted point value to each course grade and divide by the total number of credits. For partial-credit courses use the fractional value of the grade. For example, a half credit course with the earned grade of a C would be $.5 \times 2 = 1$. Then add this to the other grades earned for the total points earned. This total is then divided by the total credits earned to determine the G.P.A. This can be done by grading period, semester, and year or for a series of school years.

Grading / Report Cards

The GOVS report cards are available online via online curriculum. We do not issue a hard copy of a report card until the student completes his year's prescribed courses of study. Parents will be issued a username and password to VLA and instructed on how to access the student's grades.

IMMUNIZATION

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student should not be immunized. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic.

Any student not in compliance with Ohio statutes and rules related to immunization may be excluded from school until such time as he/she has met immunization requirements. Parents will be notified of the reason for the exclusion. A hearing will be afforded upon request. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to Danielle Collins at 513.695.2900 ext. 2938.

INFECTION CONTROL/HIV, HBV AND AIDS

Although HIV, AIDS and HBV are serious illnesses, the risk of contracting the disease in school is extremely low and generally limited to situations where noncontact skin or mouth, eye or other mucous membranes would be exposed to blood, or any body fluids contaminated with blood from an infected person. Since any such risk is serious, however, the school requires that staff and students approach infection control using standard precautions. That is, each student and staff member is to assume all direct contact with human blood and body fluids is regarded as known to be infectious for HIV, AIDS, HBV and/or other infectious diseases.

LESSON COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

All Greater Ohio Virtual Students will be required to complete a minimum of 5 lessons per week to earn the appropriate credits towards graduation. Students who are credit deficient may need to complete more than 5 units a week to ensure course completion.

LESSON CONTENT SUBMITTAL

There is a great deal of leeway in creative writing and expression of thought in virtual learning. Many of the questions ask for the students' reaction to readings, or just plain opinion on a certain topic. One caution here is obvious: do not write anything that might be construed as a feeling to hurt or abuse other people, either by words or deeds. The mention of firearms or drug use, physically hurting other people, or wanting to, or any other subject of a violent nature or disruptive nature will be reported to school officials and investigated. This will be done regardless of whether or not there was any malicious intent in the writing. Any action taken as a result is at the discretion of the school. Channel your creative thoughts into other areas to avoid problems of this nature. Plagiarizing is a serious offensive. Teachers have the ability to search all written work for proof of using material created by others. Student will be assigned a zero on any lesson or part of that is assessed as being plagiarized. A repeated offensive could result in the failure of the course.

MEDIA ACCESS TO STUDENTS

Media representatives may interview, and photograph students involved in instructional programs and school activities. Information obtained directly from students does not require parental approval prior to publication.

Parents who do not want their student interviewed or photographed should direct their student accordingly.

School employees may release student information only in accordance with applicable provisions of the education records law and Board policies governing directory information and personally identifiable information.

MILITARY

The FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (P.L. 112-81) includes a provision (Section 532) to ensure that any student who receives a diploma from a legally operating secondary school or otherwise completes a program of secondary education in compliance with the education laws of the state in which the person resides, including graduates of online charter schools and home schools, are given the same opportunity to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces as students who graduate from "bricks and mortar" high schools. Online charter school and home school students are required to achieve a score of 50 (score subject to change) on the ASVAB. For more information, please go to www.military.com.

PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A student's personal information (name, address, telephone number, social security number) will not be collected, disclosed or used for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information without prior notification, an opportunity to inspect any instrument used to collect such information and permission of the student's parent(s) or the student, if age 18 or older. Instructional materials used as part of the school's curriculum may also be reviewed by the student's parent(s).

Parents who choose to enroll their child in a virtual or E-school have chosen an educational alternative that requires great commitment. Parents are responsible to see their child attends school each day (SEE DEFINITION OF ATTENDANCE). The parent must supervise the child's work and make sure the child is complying with attendance procedures. In order to keep parents informed of their child's progress in school, parents are provided with academic progress information on a continuous basis. Parents will be provided an orientation on how to access this information at any time, therefore always being informed of their child's academic progress. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and with the staff of the school by informing them of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school. As a partnership thrives on communication, the school asks parents to:

- 1. Encourage their student to put a high priority on their education and to commit themselves to making the most of the educational opportunities the district provides;
- 2. Keep informed on the school's activities and issues. Parent conferences and open house meetings provide opportunities for learning more about the school;
- 3. Become a school volunteer. For further information contact the principal;
- 4. Participate in parent organizations. The activities are varied, but always have an emphasis on instructional improvement.

PHOTO RELEASE

The Greater Ohio Virtual School reserves the right to take pictures and shoot videos to use in GOVS newsletters, documents, publications and the GOVS website. Parents who do not want their student photographed should direct their student accordingly. The full name, address, phone number, or e-mail address of a student will not be provided on the school website or in a publication. Parents are reminded that posting photos, videos and information about students other than their own children on the Internet is a violation of privacy rights. GOVS does not authorize the posting of individual or small group photos or videos of GOVS students (other than one's own child(ren)) engaged in school sponsored events or activities on any social network site such as Facebook or Twitter.

POLICY & PROCEDURES & LOCAL REPORT CARD

GOVS policies and procedures are available electronically on Greater Ohio Virtual School's website, www.mygovs.com.

PROGRAM EXEMPTIONS

Students may be excused from a state-required program or learning activity for reasons of religion, disability or other reasons deemed appropriate by the school.

An alternative program or learning activity for credit may not be provided. All such requests should be directed to the Student Services Coordinator by the parent in writing and include the reason for the request.

PROMOTION, RETENTION AND PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS

- A student shall be promoted from one grade to the next on the basis of academic, social and emotional development.
- Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the professional staff, such exceptions are in the best educational interest of the student involved.
- A decision to retain a student will be made only after prior notification and explanation to the student's parents. The final decision will rest with school authorities.
- Students in grades 7-12 will be promoted or retained in accordance with state and district graduation requirements.

REPEATING A COURSE

Students are permitted to repeat failed courses in subsequent school years. Both the repeated course and the original course will be maintained on the high school transcript.

SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the Counselor. Changes cannot be requested after the student's scheduled has been active for two weeks. Students may be denied course enrollment due to the need for the student to pass prerequisite courses. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation in the student's scheduled must be approved by the Counselor. When students are near completing all courses assigned to them, please contact the Counselor to see if more courses can be added on to their schedule.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The American's with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against of the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the school's programs and facilities. The student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact the principal at 513-695-2924 to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs.

STUDENT/PARENT COMPLAINTS

School Personnel Complaints

- A student or parent who has a complaint concerning a classroom/teacher issue should first bring the matter to the appropriate teacher. If the outcome is not satisfactory, a conference with the principal can be requested. If the outcome of this conference is not satisfactory, the student or parent may file a written, signed complaint with the superintendent, who will investigate the complaint and render a decision. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision of the superintendent, he/she may appeal to the Board in care of the superintendent within [10 calendar] days following receipt of the superintendent's decision. The superintendent will provide the complainant with necessary Board appeal procedures. Board decisions are final.

Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Complaints

- A student and/or parent with a complaint regarding possible discrimination of a student on the basis of sex should contact GOVS Executive Director Mr. Shawn E. Lenney.

Education Standards Complaints

- Any parent of a student attending the school may make an appeal or complaint alleging violation of the school's compliance with an educational standard as provided by the State Board of Education. The complainant should first discuss the nature of the alleged violation with the individual involved. If the complainant wishes to pursue the matter further, he/she will be provided, upon request, a copy of all applicable school procedures.
- After exhausting local procedures or 45 or more days after filing a written complaint with the school (whichever occurs first), any complainant may make a direct appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Students with Disabilities Complaints

A complaint or concern regarding the identification, evaluation or placement of a student with disabilities or the
accessibility of the school's services, activities or programs to a student, should be directed to the Student
Services Coordinator.

Students with Sexual Harassment Complaints

- Sexual harassment by staff, students, Board members, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or others engaged in school business is strictly prohibited in the school. School includes school's facilities, school premises and non-school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the school or where the employee is engaged in school business. Sexual harassment of students means unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Confidentiality will be maintained. The educational assignments or study environment of the student shall not be adversely affected as a result of the good faith reporting of sexual harassment. Students or parents with complaints not covered by this student handbook should contact the principal.

STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS

The information contained below shall serve as the school's annual notice to parents of minors and eligible students (if 18 or older) of their rights, the location and school officials responsible for education records. Notice will also be provided to parents of minor students who have a primary or home language other than English.

Education records are those records related to a student maintained by the school. A student's education records are confidential and protected from unauthorized inspection or use. All access and release of education records with and without parent and eligible student notice and consent will comply with all state and federal laws.

Personally identifiable information shall not be disclosed without parent or eligible student authorization or as otherwise provided by Board policy and law.

Education records are maintained in a minimum one-hour fire-safe place in the school office by the Principal. Permanent records shall include:

1. Full legal name of student;

- 2. Name and address of educational agency or institution;
- 3. Student birth date and place of birth;
- 4. Name of parent/guardian;
- 5. Date of entry into school;
- 6. Name of school previously attended;
- 7. Course of study and marks received;
- 8. Data documenting a student's progress toward successful completion of all required testing.
- 9. Credits earned;
- 10. Attendance;
- 11. Date of withdrawal from school;

12. Other information, i.e., psychological test information, anecdotal records, records of conversations, discipline records. IEP's. etc.

Memory aids and personal working notes of individual staff members are considered personal property and are not to be interpreted as part of the student's education records, provided they are in the sole possession of the maker.

Transfer of Education Records

The school shall transfer originals of all requested student education records, including any ESD records, relating to a particular student to the new educational agency when a request to transfer such records is made to the school. The transfer shall be made no later than 10 days after receipt of the request. The school shall retain a copy of the education records that are to be transferred in accordance with applicable Ohio Administrative Rules. Student grades or diplomas may be withheld for nonpayment of fines or fees.

Requests for Education Records

The school shall, within 14 days of a student seeking initial enrollment in or services from the district, notify the public or private school, education service district, institution, agency, detention facility or youth care center in which the student was formerly enrolled and shall request the student's education record.

Access/Release of Education Records

By law, both parents, whether married, separated or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is under 18 unless the district is provided evidence that there is a court order, state statute or legally-binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation or custody that specifically revokes these rights. Parents of a minor, or an eligible student (if 18 or older), may inspect and review education records during regular school hours.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school courses are available for both full time GOVS students and students who attend other schools through the Warren County Educational Service Center. Different fee structure, time limits for completing courses and number of courses that may be taken for the summer term will be in place. Students must get prior approval from the Guidance Counselor before enrolling in a course. Please refer to their website for more information: https://www.warrencountyesc.com/14/Department/276

WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents and in compliance with State law. A student who withdraws from school shall be reported to the juvenile judge of the county and to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their driver's license, if she/he is under the age of eighteen (18) and does not enroll in another certified school or is approved for home schooling within 5 days. Parents must notify the Central Office about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records will be transferred to that school within fourteen (14) days of receiving a records request.

Work Permits

Work permits for GOVS students will be approved thru the Greater Ohio Virtual School. Work permits will not be issued to any student who is twenty (20) or more lessons behind in their classes. If at any time the student falls twenty (20) lessons behind GOVS may revoke the work permit. You must complete 10 lessons before you can apply for a work permit. Administration will make the final determination on any Work Permit related issues.

Work Study Program

Students may earn up to 4 high school elective credits for working a job and may apply under the "Work Study" link on the www.mygovs.com home page. Students will be able to count 13.5 hours per week towards their attendance requirement of 25 hours per week. In order to have hours counted, students will utilize the same procedures as the documenting of offline hours. This time may not overlap with any other offline hours (Activity Logs) or online time (Computer Seat Time). Times will be verified by the submission of a paystub which can be uploaded as an attachment in the last question. Additionally, students must complete required class components including lesson completion, workbased learning plan, and regular communication with the GOVS Work Study Coordinator.

Greater Ohio Virtual School

2022-2023

School Hours: Total School Days:

Year

25 Hours minimum per week

184 days 920 Hours

First Quarter: Aug 16th - Oct 14th (43 Days) Second Quarter: Oct 17th – Dec 20th (44 Days)
Third Quarter: Jan 3th – March 9th (46 Days) Fourth Quarter: March 10th - May 26th (51 Days)

August 2022							
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	March 2023							
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May 2023							
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June 2023							
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July 2023								
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FIRST SEMESTER KEY DATES

August 16 September 5 September 26 October 14 October 6 October 27 November 23-25 December 20

First Day of School for Students Labor Day- No School Parent Involvement (Call for appt.) End of First Quarter Parent/Teacher Conf.(Call for appt.) Parent/Teacher Conf.(Call for appt.) Thanksgiving Break-No School

End of Second Quarter Dec 21- Jan 2 Winter Break

January 16 January 26 February 20 March 9 March 20 March 24 April 3-April 7 May 26 May 29 June 2

SECOND SEMESTER KEY DATES Martin Luther King Jr. Day- No School CCP Info. Mtg. 5:00 GOVS Student Ctr. Presidents Day-No School **End of Third Quarter** Parent/Teacher Conf.(Call for appt.) Parent/Teacher Conf.(Call for appt.) Spring Break- No School Last Day of School for Students Memorial Day **Graduation Practice/Senior Luncheon** June 6 GOVS Graduation Ceremony 6:00 p.m.