

**STROM THURMOND  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
&  
**STROM THURMOND CAREER &  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER**



**STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026**

Kristin Risher, Principal  
Dr. Alan Gray, STCTC Director

1131 Columbia Road  
Johnston, SC 29832

HS Phone: (803) 275-1768, HS Fax: (803) 275-1764  
CTC Phone: (803) 275-1767, CTC Fax: (803) 275-1766

**Welcome To  
Strom Thurmond High School and  
Strom Thurmond Career & Technology Center**

This year, STHS/STCTC will implement two new career academies: A Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mechatronics (STEAM) Academy and Human Services and Business Academy.

Our administrative staff will be organized as follows:

**Administrative Duties**

We offer college prep courses, honors leveled courses, dual enrollment courses, and AP courses. Our goal is to meet your individual needs and design pathways to assist you in reaching your future goals.

STHS offers numerous clubs, programs, athletic opportunities, and art courses. We strongly encourage all students to find an interest and join one or more of our unique programs or organizations. High school is better when it is shared with people who have your best interest in mind. Let's enjoy this school year!

Respectfully,

Kristin Risher

Principal, STHS

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Strom Thurmond High School and the Strom Thurmond Career & Technology Center is to create a safe, energetic, and rigorous learning environment that will engage, empower, and enrich all students.

## STROM THURMOND HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

*In hallowed affection her dear name appears,  
Our bright alma mater will endure through the years.  
Courageous and bold, with strength born of truth,  
She guards o'er our happy days of youth.  
Though our paths may be troubled and imperiled,  
Her light guides the way to victory.  
For dear old Strom Thurmond High School,  
For red, white and blue,  
We pledge all our faith and love anew.*

## STROM THURMOND HIGH SCHOOL CREED

We have an invincible spirit.  
We are the students and faculty of Strom Thurmond High School.  
We are headed for greatness and nothing will deter us.  
We are exceptional – not just because we say it, but because we work hard at it.  
We will not falter in the face of any obstacle placed before us.  
We are dedicated, committed, and focused.  
We never succumb to mediocrity, uncertainty, or fear.  
We never fail because we never give up.  
We make no excuses.  
We choose to live honestly and honorably.  
We respect ourselves and, in doing so, respect all people.  
We see a future for which we are accountable.  
We have a responsibility to ourselves, each other, and our society.  
We are our brothers' keepers.  
We believe in ourselves.  
We believe in each other.  
We believe in Strom Thurmond High School.  
Together we have an **INVINCIBLE SPIRIT!!**

## **2025-2026 ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Kristin Risher, Principal  
Mary Bates, Assistant Principal      Nate Horton, Assistant Principal

### **STROM THURMOND CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

Dr. Alan Gray, Director  
Sunny Covar, Secretary

### **ACADEMY IMPLEMENTATION SPECIALIST**

Janelle Clark-Stevens

### **COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

Gail Hicks, Lead School Counselor  
Kathy McKenzie, School Counselor  
Keri Wiemer, School Counselor  
Meghan Johnson, Career Counselor  
Amber Harmon, Graduation Coach  
Shakenia Carter, Graduation Coach

### **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

Drake Dunlap

### **ATTENDANCE SECRETARY**

Darlene Bell

### **DISCIPLINE SECRETARY**

Deleasha Rodgers

### **BOOKKEEPER**

Brittney Jones

### **FRONT OFFICE MANAGER**

[Sierra Washington](#)

### **REGISTRAR AND COUNSELING DEPARTMENT SECRETARY**

Lisa Crocker

### **NURSE**

Sharon Fay

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**  
**(275-4601)**

Dr. Kevin O’Gorman.....Superintendent  
Mr. David Fallaw.....Assistant Superintendent

**Edgefield County Board of Trustees**

Mrs. Robin Ball, Chairperson  
Mrs. Blair Massey, Vice Chairperson      Dr. Willie Campbell, Secretary  
Mr. Erik Drylie      Mr. Johnny Peterson  
Mrs. Deidra Young      Dr. Carroll Wates

**SCHOOL DIRECTORY**

Administration and Front Office . . . . . 275-1768  
STHS Fax . . . . . 275-1764  
STHS Counseling Fax.....275-6486  
Career & Technology Center Office. . . . . 275-1767  
Attendance . . . . . 275-1768  
NJROTC . . . . . 275-1768  
Transportation . . . . . 275-1776  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Agency. . . . . 637-5388  
Child Abuse Agency. . . . . 637-3125  
District Office. . . . . 275-4601  
Athletic Information. . . . . Mrs. Shannon Agner  
Club Information. . . . . Club Sponsors  
College or Career Planning. . . . . School Counseling Office  
Discipline.....Administration  
Homebound Instruction . . . . . Mrs. Lisa Crocker  
Illness in School. . . . . Mrs. Sharon Fay  
Vocational Rehabilitation . . . . . Mrs. Miesha  
Kingcannon  
Media Center. . . . . Ms. Marcie Burnip  
Lockers and Locks . . . . . Mrs. Deleasha Rodgers  
Lost Textbooks Information. . . . . Ms. Brittany Jones  
Parking and School Security. . . . . Deputy Mode  
Student Concerns . . . . . School Counseling Office  
Scholarships . . . . . Mrs. Meghan Johnson  
School Insurance . . . . . Ms. Britany Jones  
School Lunch Program . . . . . Mrs. Nalynn Herrin  
Signing in or out of school . . . . . High School Office  
Transportation . . . . . Ms. Tanja Bryan  
Front Office.....Mrs. Washington

## 2025-2026 Bell Schedule

7:45	1 <sup>ST</sup> BELL
8:00-9:25	1A/5B BLOCK
9:30-10:55	2A/6B BLOCK
11:00-12:50	3A/7B BLOCK
1:05-2:30	4A/8B BLOCK
2:35-3:20 (ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 3:15)	SKINNY BLOCK

### Lunch Periods

**Lunch 1:** 11:00-11:30 (CTC, 300 Hall, Band, and Chorus)

**Lunch 2:** 11:30-12:00 (400 Hall-minus Behr and NJROTC)

**Lunch 3:** 12:00-12:30 (500 Hall, NJROTC, Behr, and Moore on B-Days)

**Lunch 4:** 12:30-1:00 (600 Hall, Gym, and Weight Room)

**ON B-DAYS ONLY:** Band and Chorus will have 4th Lunch.

Click here for color-coded [STHS AB Calendar](#)

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## ATTENDANCE

The school year consists of 180 school days. Under the A-B block schedule, each one-credit class meets 90 days during the year. To receive credit, a student must attend 80 days. For a half-credit class, the student must attend 40 of the 45 days that the class meets. For the skinny, the student must attend 170 days.

**Written excuses by the parent/legal guardian allow students to make up work but do not excuse absences for the purpose of receiving high school credit when the absences exceed the ten/five-day credit limit. Students are only allowed 10 unexcused absences for yearlong courses and only 5 unexcused absences for semester courses. Parent notes are considered unexcused. For example, if a student has 4 unexcused absences (no excuse submitted) and 7 parent notes, that student has eleven unexcused absences which means that student has 1 unexcused absence over the 10 allowed.**

A written excuse from a parent/legal guardian, physician, dentist or other recognized licensed/ certified medical practitioner or legal officer is required for each absence. The statement will be dated and include the following: date(s) of absence(s); reason for the absence(s); telephone number of the parent/legal guardian; required signature. The written excuse must be presented to the attendance clerk no later than the student's fifth day back at school.

If the excuse is not properly submitted according to the terms of this policy will cause the absence to be recorded as unlawful. False excuses will be referred to the principal or his/her designee for appropriate disciplinary action. Principals may grant exceptions to this policy for extenuating circumstances. No exceptions will be considered if a student has even one absence because he/she cut school.

**Parent notes will not be accepted after the fifth day. If the parent note is submitted after the fifth day of school, the absence will be classified as an unexcused absence (no excuse submitted).**

### **\*Intervention for Unlawful Absences**

1. Upon a student accumulating three (3) consecutive or a total of five (5) unexcused absences, the student is considered truant. A letter will be sent to the parent/guardian requesting a meeting. Administration and the Attendance Clerk will meet with the parents/guardian and/or student to develop a plan to improve attendance.
2. Upon two more unexcused absences, the student will then be considered a habitual truant and a *District Attendance Plan* will be implemented with the District Truancy Officer, parent/guardian and student.
3. Upon two more unexcused absences, the Truancy Officer will schedule a Truancy tribunal meeting to be held at the District Office.



Refusal to participate in the tribunal will result in an automatic referral to court.

4. Upon one more unexcused absence, District/School Administration shall send the student (ages 12-17) to the Edgefield County School District Alternative Program for a minimum of 45 school days. Refusal to attend the Alternative Program will result in an automatic referral to court.

5. Once at the Alternative Program, if a student accumulates an additional unexcused absence, the Truancy Officer will refer parents/guardian and student to court.

For detailed information about attendance, you may consult the district attendance policy on the website.

**Students must satisfy the 120-hour attendance requirement for each yearlong course. Excessive unexcused absences and unexcused tardies can result in the student not satisfying the 120-hour attendance requirement which could result in the student not receiving credit for the course.**

**Any student who arrives late to school or who leaves school early MUST sign in and/or out with the front office. Students who do not follow this procedure will be disciplined for cutting school.**

**No student may participate in any sport or activity on a day she/he is absent unless the absence is of a lawful nature which does not affect the health or safety of the individual.**

## **CELL PHONES/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Click on the link below for the updated cell phone policy:

**[CELL PHONE POLICY](#)**

Please click here for the **[New Updates-2025-2026 Discipline Code of Conduct.](#)**

### **Suspended or Expelled Students**

A student who is suspended or expelled cannot enter the school grounds (except to attend a prearranged conference with an administrator), cannot attend any school functions (regardless of the fact that they are open to the general public), and cannot ride on a school bus (which is seen as an extension of school property). Trespassing violators will have additional days of out-of-school suspension applied to their disciplinary actions and may possibly face criminal charges.

Expelled students must reapply in writing for admission to the Principal. (Readmit conferences are held before school starts the following year.)

**Students are reminded that any unlawful activity outside of school could result in suspension or expulsion from school.**

\* Students who are guilty of breaches of conduct may be suspended or expelled if the offense does not already carry such punishment. Though not specifically mentioned in this list of breaches of conduct, any act which is detrimental to the good order, best interest, and physical safety of the school may be punished according to its nature and degree at the discretion of the administration.

Please click here for [Bullying Information](#).

## **DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

**1. Students are encouraged to be dismissed only during class changes.** This is an effort to minimize classroom disruptions. Class change times are: **7:50--8:00, 9:25 – 9:30, 10:55-11:00, 12:50 – 12:55, 2:20-2:25; 3:20 Dismissal**

**2.** If a student brings a note to school to sign out early for any reason, that note must be turned in to the front office before 8:00 AM. Notes will not be accepted throughout the day.

**3.** Notes should include the student's name, the date, time to be released, reason for excuse, parent's name, parent's signature, and a phone number so that the office can verify if needed.

**4.** Please do not call the front office and ask for a student to be released. We will not release a student from class or campus without either the parent or someone from the emergency contact list physically signing the student out. Please be prepared to come into school to sign out your child when needed.

**5.** Please bring your driver's license/ID when picking up a student. For the safety of our students, we require a photo ID for verification. Only those individuals listed in the student's data file will be allowed to sign out a student. The student must also come to the front office to check out before leaving the building.

**6.** If your student drives and has a medical/dental appointment or court date then the student must present a signed note the same day they need to leave campus by 8:00 AM. Without a written notification, a student who drives may leave campus only if a parent or someone from the emergency contact list comes into the school and signs them out.

**7.** All students will incur an unexcused absence for their time off campus unless they return with a formal doctor's note or a note from the court clerk within the third day back of the absence.

**8.** Please remember, if your child becomes sick while at school, he/she must be seen in the school nurse's office prior to leaving campus due to illness, unless the

parent is present. If your student is too ill to attend classes, please be prepared to come to school to sign your child out for the day.

9. NO check outs will be allowed during state testing or the final exam schedule.

10. In all cases, students are officially dismissed only when they sign out in the front office after receiving permission. If they are returning to school, they must also sign in at the front office.

### **11. Leaving school without permission will result in a Level II Offense**

12. Notes requesting dismissal are not absence documentation. Students must bring medical or parental documentation to excuse all absences due to a dismissal.

13. In addition, parents will not be able to sign students out after 3:00 pm. This will ensure that end of the day procedures are completed and students are released in a timely and organized fashion.

14. No student will be dismissed during school hours for lunch or to run errands.

## **DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS**

Appropriate and non-distracting attire shall be worn in the educational setting. This includes off-campus activities such as field trips, performances and school sponsored events. Students are expected to show pride in themselves and their school by having their dress and appearance in accordance with acceptable standards. Our main concern is that students dress so that their appearance will not distract from the learning process in the classroom.

### **The following items are not permitted:**

1. Skirts and shorts NOT at least fingertip length when standing (leggings or tights do not substitute for length)
2. Leggings and tights worn as pants must have a shirt covering the student's bottom. The shirt should COMPLETELY cover the student's bottom.
3. Silk, tight-fitting onesies
4. Hats, Head Scarfs, Hoods, and Head Coverings must be removed once a student enters the building
5. Tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, tops with string straps and plunging necklines that expose cleavage
6. Bare midriffs and backs, "racerbacks"
7. See-through garments
8. Pants with tears/holes exposing skin above mid-thigh
9. Excessively long wallet/pocket chains (longer than 6 inches)
10. Sagging pants showing undergarments or gym shorts
11. **Bedroom shoes (slippers), loungewear/pajamas, and blankets**

12. Clothing that promotes tobacco, alcohol, drugs, violence, gangs, or disrespect to others.

**3. State Health Regulations require that shoes and shirts must be worn at all times in a public building.**

4. The display of obscene or profane language or gestures on clothing may result in an out-of-school suspension. While the displayed message may not be obscene or profane, the message conveyed may still be deemed inappropriate for the high school, and students will be asked not to wear the clothing.

**5. The administration will make the final judgment on the appropriateness of clothing and/or appearance and reserves the right to prohibit students from wearing any articles of clothing or other items which lead to or may foreseeably result in the disruption of or interference with the school environment.** The administration reserves the right to require a student to change clothes if what he or she is wearing is deemed to be inappropriate for school. In the event the administration determines a student's dress is inappropriate for school, administration will follow the following procedures:

**Minor Level Consequences**

Offense 1:	Verbal Warning
Offense 2:	Confiscation by administrative staff for school day
Offense 3+:	Confiscation by administrative staff and given to parent
Processed as refusal to obey a reasonable request	

Note: When a student violates the dress code, administration will confiscate the inappropriate clothing **and** provide alternative clothing. If a student refuses to wear alternative clothing, the student will be assigned to ISS for the remainder of the day if the parent cannot bring a change of clothing that adheres to the Dress Code.

## **FOOD DELIVERIES**

Students may NOT for any reason have food delivered to school from a public eating establishment. The food delivery will not be accepted by the school. Having food delivered to school will result in a refusal to obey discipline infraction.

## **TARDY REGULATIONS**

**Tardiness is defined as the arrival of a student in the classroom beyond the scheduled time that homeroom or class is to begin, which is after the bell has finished ringing.** Tardiness is both an attendance and discipline problem. Any student found to be in violation of this policy will adhere to the consequences listed in the discipline code Level I-A. The tardy policy starts over at the end of each semester.

\* Each teacher is instructed to lock and close classroom doors at the tardy bell. Any student who does not make it inside the classroom before the tardy bell will report immediately to the front office or to the tardy kiosk to get a tardy pass. No teacher is to admit students to class after the tardy bell without a pass from either the front office or from the tardy kiosk.

Please click here for the [Tardy Policy](#)

## GENERAL PROCEDURES

### Entering the Building

Students can enter the commons area and cafeteria parts of the school before the 7:50 bell. Students are to talk in a low tone and are not to block any entrance or exit. **Students are not to sit in cars or stand in parking lots before, during, or after school. They are to report to the building immediately upon arriving and must leave the school grounds immediately after exiting the building.** Any student who is not part of an extracurricular activity and remains on school grounds beyond 4:00 will be referred to administration for loitering.

Please click here for [Use of High School Building After School Hours and Visitor Information](#).

### Exams

A comprehensive semester exam will be administered in each subject area at the end of the second and fourth nine-week grading periods and will carry a weight of **20 percent** of the semester grade. An exam schedule will be determined by the school administration.

There will be no exemptions for students taking high school/Carnegie unit courses through grade 11. Seniors are eligible to exempt an exam with a final average of 90 or higher, provided the student has met all attendance requirements. The 90 or higher average exemption applies to final exams for a semester course and the second semester of a year-long course during a student's senior year. (All dual enrollment courses are subject to higher education institution policies).

Please click here for the [2025-2026 Midterm and Final Exam Schedules](#).

## **Driving and Parking**

Students who drive cars will be required to pay \$20.00 for parking permits. Permits will not be sold to any student with outstanding fees. Students can lose their privilege to drive to school based on the Code of Conduct and driving/parking violations. No refunds will be issued for the loss of a parking permit. (See Permits/Parking Regulations for more information.)

## **Fire Drills**

All students, faculty, and staff must leave the building during the drill. Fire drills take place on a monthly basis without advance notice. Everyone will move away from the buildings a distance of at least 100 feet in a single file line. Anyone pulling a false alarm will be suspended from school and recommended for expulsion as well as recommended for legal action.

## **Hall Passes**

Any student out of class must have a pass from the responsible teacher. There is ample time between classes to use restrooms and get water. Students are not to stay after class to finish assignments or tests. **Teachers do not have authority to write students a pass to another class.**

## **Hall Regulations**

1. Students are not to be in the halls without a pass signed by their teacher during class time.
2. Students are to refrain from standing in the door paths and in the hall intersections during the change of classes.
3. There must be no running or loud talking in the halls.
4. There must be no eating or drinking soft drinks in the hall or in the classrooms. Food items from the lunchroom are not allowed in the school building.

Please click here for the [Inclement Weather Procedures](#).

## **Late Arrivals (Non-Bus Riders)**

Students who arrive at school late must report to the main office to sign in and then to class with an admit slip. Students will not be excused for oversleeping, car trouble, and running personal errands for their family, such as taking family members to other schools or jobs. Students are to be at school and in their classroom seats before the tardy bell rings. Students who do not sign in with the front office will be considered cutting and will be disciplined accordingly.

## Late Buses

All late bus students should go directly to the front office and receive a Late Bus Pass from the front office personnel. Those students not getting a Late Bus Pass will not be excused.

## Lockers

Students may request a locker at registration or anytime throughout the school year.. Combination locks are provided for each student and are the only ones which may be used on school lockers. A fee of \$5.00 will be charged for all lost locks. Lockers should not be used for storing other items since lockers are subject to inspection and subject to the subsequent removal of non-school related items. **The school is not responsible for the loss of items from school lockers.**

Students should make certain that lockers remain locked when not in use. No valuables should be left in any locker at any time. **All lockers are school property and may be searched when there is any suspicion that the locker might contain drugs, alcoholic beverages, weapons, or other items that might be considered dangerous to students or to school property.** Students are not allowed to share their lockers with anyone and they must keep their lockers locked when not in use with a school lock. Students will pay for any damages to lockers.

## Lunch Procedures

At the beginning of the school year, students will be assigned a lunch period based on their 3A and 7B class locations. Areas will be designated that will be open to students during lunch periods. Students are not permitted in the halls without a pass during lunch. **Students cannot have two lunch periods and are not to be dismissed from class early to go to lunch.** Students who bring lunch to school may eat it in the cafeteria.

### **Cafeteria rules are as follows:**

1. Walk to your place in line. Do not run.
2. No cutting in line or shoving.
3. Have change ready and keep lines moving as rapidly as possible.
4. Sit at any table of your choice
5. No shouting, wandering about the cafeteria, or behaving in such a way as to disturb others.
6. Put your trays away when you are finished.

7. If you are not eating in the cafeteria, do not stand in the serving line.
8. Clean up any dropped or spilled food.
9. **Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch.**
10. **Students may not have food delivered to school from a public eating establishment.**
11. **Food or drink is NOT allowed in the hallways or classrooms.**  
**The only exception to this rule is water, in a resealable container. No plastic cups can be taken out of the cafeteria.**
12. **Students are not permitted to eat lunch or congregate on the ramp or outside of the restrooms.**

## Grading Guidelines

Students are expected to be in school on a regular basis to achieve specific curriculum objectives and develop concepts adopted by the district. They will be required to make up all work missed. The teacher will provide information on assignments, provide help and permit the completion of work missed due to absences.

It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed schoolwork. Students are not allowed to make up work during the class period. Instructors may require students to remain after school or come in during the Skinny period to make up tests or assignments. Please view **NEW UPDATES-2025-2026 Grading Guidelines** for more information.

Please click here for [Academic Integrity School Policy](#)

## Parties

No parties during school hours are allowed under any circumstances without the advanced approval of the principal.

## Permits/Parking Regulations

Student drivers must buy a parking permit (\$20.00) to be entitled to use the parking area for students. The cost of the permit is the same throughout the entire school year. **All fees must be paid prior to the purchase of a permit, and no student may drive to school before purchasing a permit.** Students with three or more discipline offenses could lose their privilege to drive to school. No refunds will be issued for the loss of a parking permit.

**After the car has been parked, students are required to leave the area immediately. There will be no sitting in automobiles at any time. Students are not to go into the parking lot during school hours unless accompanied by school personnel.** All students are urged to lock their cars. The school is not responsible for any losses. Courtesy and good judgment is expected of all students



parking or driving on the school grounds. Please note that **school administration has the right to search all vehicles on school grounds without notice.**

Parking permits are needed for cars, trucks, and motorcycles. The permit must be displayed in the proper location (mirror hang tag). The regulations that govern student parking will be issued to each student that requests a permit. Any student driving in a fast and/or reckless manner, littering on campus or in the parking lot, and playing music too loudly on school grounds will lose driving privileges for a period of time to be determined by administration. Driving across the grass is not allowed.

**Any violations of the above rules are subject to the permit being revoked with no refund of fees and/or the vehicle could be towed at the owner's expense.** Please see the [STHS Parking Registration, Rules, and Regulation](#) for more information.

## School Publications

School news prepared for parents, publication in the newspaper, television, or radio will be approved by the administration. In order for a student to be featured in a publication, a media release form must be signed.

## Senior Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

Each senior student must complete an application and submit it to the school counseling department. All approvals for this program will be made on a case by case basis by the school counseling department and by administration. The rising senior should complete the application process during the summer registration or by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the school year.

Participation in this program is a senior privilege. Failure to follow appropriate procedures becomes a discipline issue. **Approved students must sign in/out daily with the front office and wait in the front lobby for rides.** If a student fails to be in the lobby, they can be written up for being in an unauthorized area, with normal discipline procedures to follow.

**Please note:** Juniors who are College and/or Career Ready can apply for late arrival/early dismissal. Review the [College/Career Ready](#) document to see if you meet the requirements.

## Substitute Teachers

Students are expected to follow the instructions of substitute teachers. Insubordination or failure to follow the directions of a substitute teacher will be dealt with strictly by the administration.

## **Technology**

Please remember to always follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy when using your school-issued Chromebook. All Chromebook activity is monitored by Linewize, and school administrators receive alerts if any violations occur. Use caution when browsing the internet and communicating through your Chromebook. Remember, Chromebooks are provided for educational purposes only and should be used responsibly. At Strom Thurmond High School, students have access to Anonymous Alerts on their Chromebooks—a confidential tool designed to help you report concerns such as bullying, safety issues, or other inappropriate behavior without revealing your identity. This system allows you to submit information directly to school administrators, who will review and respond as needed to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all.

## **Telephones**

Students are not allowed out of class to use office phones unless they are sick or there is a real emergency. The office phone can only be used to call home because of illness. Students must conduct all other telephone business before school, during their lunch break, or after school. Calls are not to be made during class time.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES**

### **Counselors**

See your counselor when you: a) feel you are not doing well in some classes, b) need help in planning or adjusting your program, c) would like to discuss your vocational interests, d) want information about PSAT, SAT, or ACT test or interpretation of various tests you have been given, e) would like to talk to someone about a problem, f) need employment, g) want information about future educational opportunities.

For specific requirements to various schools or colleges, catalogs are available in the guidance office and should be consulted. Information from many universities is also available on the internet. Counselors at the high school are trained to assist in the planning of a high school, college, or technical program to meet any academic or vocational need.

### **Mrs. Kathy McKenzie- 10th-12th A-L and Human Services and Business Academy**

- Dual Enrollment
- VirtualSC
- Scholarship information and Senior Remind

### **Mrs. Gail Hicks- 10th-11th M-Z and STEAM Academy**

- Palmetto Fellows

- Junior Scholars
- NCAA

**Mrs. Keri Wiemer- Freshman Academy**

- 9th Grade

**Mrs. Meghan Johnson- Career Counselor**

- Work Based Learning/Job Shadowing
- Internships
- Career Assessments

**Ms. Amber Harmon- Graduation Coach (current 10th graders)**

- Gear Up Program Coordinator for high school

**Ms. Shakenia Carter- Graduation Coach (current 11th graders)**

- Gear Up Program Coordinator for high school

## **Class Ranking**

Class rank will be determined by arriving at each student's GPA (Total Quality Points – sum of units attempted) and then placing them in rank order so that the highest GPA is number one and the lowest GPA is the lowest ranked student. Should two students have the same GPA, those students will share the same rank. Every student is ranked by this system.

Class rank will be computed at the end of each semester. All courses are used to calculate the GPA (Grade Point Average). Semester grades are used in the calculation of the GPA at the end of first semester for the current year and final grades for preceding years. Final grades are used for all end of year rankings.

When counselors/administration give out class rank information, the class rank is given to students and parents in percentiles (top 5%, top 10%, etc.). **No class rank or honor graduate information will be provided until the Awards Night Program in May of each school year.**

\*High School GPAs are most often converted from any weighing system by colleges, universities, and the NCAA Clearinghouse for student athletes. The conversion follows the numeric system A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, F=0. Therefore, all converted CPAs will be lower than any high school GPA computed on a weighted system. If you need additional information, please contact your counselor.

## **Commencement Participation**

Students can participate in one graduation exercise only. Only students who have fulfilled all requirements for a state diploma, state certificate, or students who are eligible for a certificate of attendance or occupational diploma through the district's special services program will be eligible to participate in commencement.

**All students must pay all debts to Strom Thurmond High School before they will be allowed to take part in graduation exercises.**

Students who do not graduate with a South Carolina State diploma at the spring graduation forfeit any facsimile of the diploma ordered as a plaque or miniature diploma as part of their graduation order. According to the Edgefield County School Board Policy IKF, students who are in Adult Education or are assigned to the alternative program are not eligible to participate in on-campus activities to include commencement.

## **Dual Credit**

Strom Thurmond High School offers a number of Dual Credit Courses. Students who take these courses may simultaneously earn high school Carnegie units and college credit. A semester course (1/2 Carnegie unit) translates to 3 semester hours of college credit. Tuition and other college course fees shall be at the expense of the individual student unless otherwise specified in the school district policy.

## **Early Graduation**

Those who are candidates for graduation who have attended high school (grades nine through 12) for less than four academic years will not be considered for any senior honor relating to graduation with the exception of honor graduate, if applicable. This noted honor will not take the place of a four-year senior who is in line to receive it.

## **Early Graduation Requirements and Procedures**

Any student wishing to graduate at the end of the third year of high school must make a formal written request to the counseling department and be approved by the principal for early graduation by the first day of February of his/her junior year. **Students requesting early graduation during the 2nd Semester of the graduation year will be considered as a summer graduate.**

## **Early Graduation Eligibility**

To graduate early, a student must have enough units in all identified subject areas to be a candidate for receiving a South Carolina diploma no later than the end of summer session of the graduation academic year. Medical exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis by the administration.

## **Senior Privileges Forfeited (Board Policy)**

Students who choose early graduation and do not have enough units to be placed in a senior homeroom forfeit all senior privileges. They may still qualify for honor graduate status.

- placement in the senior section of the yearbook
- exemption of second semester final exams
- attendance at senior luncheon
- ranking with senior class (per Edgefield County school board policy IHC)
- school-based scholarship considerations
- speaker or platform participant at graduation exercises
- Beta Club graduation recognition

Students can participate in one graduation exercise only and they must be a candidate for a high school diploma or district occupational credential.

## **Enrollment/ Withdrawal Procedures**

### **Enrollment Procedure**

1. Bring a parent or guardian to school for registration. The new student must validate district residence.
2. Have birth certificate, immunization record, report card and/or a withdrawal form from former school.
3. Take student and necessary information sheet to the respective Counselor for scheduling of classes.
1. Go to the bookkeeper's office to pay for all registration fees.

A student's grades and courses transferring in will be calculated according to the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale. GPA and rank in class will fall in order among students in the same graduating class.

### **Student Withdrawal Procedure**

1. Go to Mrs. Crocker (Counseling Secretary) to pick up a withdrawal form.
2. Turn in textbooks at this time.
3. Go to the bookkeeper's office to clear all bills.
4. Clear all bills with the cafeteria and library.
5. Return all NJROTC uniforms and equipment if applicable.
6. Take form to the principal or assistant principal for signature.
7. Bring form to respective Guidance Counselor for signature.
8. The counselor will make a copy of the student's schedule and report card to go in the permanent record.
9. Counselors will drop student from classes.

10. The counselor will make copies of the withdrawal form for the student, and the attendance secretary. The original copy is placed in the permanent record folder.

Please click here for [Financial Aid and Scholarship Information](#).

Please click here for [GRADING SYSTEM FOR SOUTH CAROLINA](#)

## **Honor Graduates**

An academic honor graduate is one who earns at least a 4.0 weighted GPA.

**CumLaude** is the honor given to students with a GPA of 4.0 – 4.49.

**Magna CumLaude** is the great honor given to students with a GPA of 4.5 – 4.9.

**Summa CumLaude** is the highest honor given to students with a GPA of 5.0 or higher.

Final grade point average will be calculated at the end of the graduating year. Those who are candidates for graduation who have attended high school (grades nine through 12) for less than four academic years will not be considered for any senior honor relating to graduation with the exception of honor graduate, if applicable.

In classes in which GPAs are identical, those students will share equal class rank. For example, if three students have the number one ranking, the next assigned rank is number two. This process is continued in descending order until each of these students is given a precise ordinal ranking. Nor ordinal rankings will be skipped because of ties in GPA. The GPA will be determined on the basis of grades received for Carnegie units completed through the end of the senior year (i.e., eight semesters).

Based upon the eighth semester GPA ranking, the student with the highest rank and the second highest rank will be valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Valedictorian and salutatorian must attend the school in which they wish to receive their awards for the final four semesters prior to graduation. Junior marshals are the 12 top ranking juniors based on five semesters of Carnegie units of course work.

## **Valedictorian and Salutatorian (Board Policy)**

The valedictorian and salutatorian must have attended Strom Thurmond High School at least two complete years immediately prior to graduation (junior and

senior years). The senior earning the highest grade point average will be designated as the number one honor graduate or valedictorian. The senior earning the second highest grade point average will be designated the number two honor graduate or salutatorian. Final grade point averages will be calculated at the end of the graduating year. Students must be in attendance at Strom Thurmond High School the four preceding consecutive semesters to be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian. Grade point averages will be computed to the hundred thousandths (example 4.34596). The processional order for all graduates will be in alphabetical order. Beginning with the valedictorian(s) in alphabetical order; the salutatorian(s) in alphabetical order; honor graduates in alphabetical order; and the remaining class members in alphabetical order.

## **Junior Scholars Programs**

Juniors may be recommended for various collegiate scholars programs. Stipulations usually require that the student ranks high in his/her class and has a high score on the PSAT or ACT/SAT. There is no monetary value as a junior, but the student usually receives a certificate in recognition of his/her achievement. Many colleges also waive application fees.

## **Retaking Courses**

Students may retake the same course at the same difficulty level under the following conditions:

1. Only courses in which a grade of a D or F was earned may be retaken.
2. The course in which a D or F was earned may only be retaken during the current academic year or no later than the next academic school year.
3. The student's record will reflect all courses taken and the grade earned, with the following exception:

Students taking courses for a Carnegie unit prior to their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year may retake any such course during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. In this case, only the 9<sup>th</sup> grade retake grade will be used in figuring the student's GPA and only the 9<sup>th</sup> grade attempt will show on the transcript, regardless of the grade earned in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please click here for information on [College Entrance Exams](#).

## **Schedule Changes**

During the first week of school, efforts will be made to accomplish legitimate changes required by the following circumstances:

1. When there is a computer or scheduling error.
2. When a student who previously failed a course is scheduled to repeat the course under the same teacher.

3. When a student is scheduled for a class for which credit has been previously granted, i.e., summer school.
4. When a student is scheduled for a course for which required prerequisites have not been met, i.e., Spanish II when a student failed Spanish I.
5. When a fourth year student needs a class to fulfill graduation requirements.

These changes may be initiated by the student, parent, teacher, or counselor and will not require a parent/teacher conference, although the parent will be notified of such changes initiated by school personnel.

Students requesting a change to their published schedule must complete a schedule change request form, available in the counseling office, stating what changes are requested and reasons for the changes. If the student originally requested the course, no change will be made; neither will changes be made based on teacher selection. **If the student requests to drop a course after the tenth school day, a parent/teacher/counselor conference will be required.** Written permission notes or telephone calls will not take the place of the conference.

No class change is official until the proper student course change notice has been completed and distributed by the counseling department.

**As mandated by the state legislature, with the first day of enrollment as the baseline, students who withdraw from a course after 3 days in a 45-day (semester) course, 5 days in a 90-day (full year) course shall be assigned a WF and the F will be calculated (the F translates to a 61 on the transcript) in the student's overall grade point average. Failing grades or excessive absences in a class are not considered justification for withdrawing from a course.**

**All students must be scheduled for 8 courses with the exception of seniors who must be enrolled in at least 5 courses.**

## **Student Classification/Promotion Policy**

Secondary students will be classified by grade only at the beginning of each school year or when enrolling in the district for the first time. However, ninth graders may be reclassified in the middle of the school year for testing purposes only.

- **Class of 2027 Promotion Requirements (new):**

To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned a minimum of **5 credits during their freshman year. Those credits must include at least 1 English credit, 1 math credit, and 3 electives.** To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned twelve credits. Those credits must include 2 English credits and 2 math credits. To be classified as a senior,



a student must have earned eighteen credits. Those credits must include 3 English credits and 3 math credits.

- **Class of 2028 Promotion Requirements (new):**

To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned a minimum of **6 credits during their freshman year**. Those credits must include at least 1 English credit and 1 math credit. To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned twelve credits. Those credits must include 2 English credits and 2 math credits. To be classified as a senior, a student must have earned eighteen credits. Those credits must include 3 English credits and 3 math credits.

- **Class of 2025 and 2026 (grandfathered in)**

To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned a minimum of **5 credits during their freshman year**. Those credits must include at least 1 English credit and 1 math credit. To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned eleven credits. Those credits must include 2 English credits, 2 math credits, and 1 science. To be classified as a senior, a student must have earned seventeen credits. Those credits must include 3 English credits, 3 math credits, and 2 science credits.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL AND INTERSESSION (NEW INFORMATION)**

Recovery options are offered during Intersession and Summer School to students who fail a course with a minimum of 50. Fall Intersession dates are September 29-October 2, 2025; Spring Intersession dates are March 30-April 2, 2026. Summer School will be offered for three weeks in June 2026.

For the 2025-2026 school year, students will be charged to attend Summer School and Intersession. The cost for Summer School will be \$150 per student. The cost for each Intersession will be \$75 per student.

Please click here for [ATHLETICS](#).

Please click here for [Extracurricular Activities](#).

Please click here for the [2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#).