

# GRESHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 2025-2026

### **SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Gresham Middle School is to develop responsible, lifelong learners by encouraging all students to reach their potential.

### **SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT:**

Gresham Middle School strives to establish a positive learning environment where students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members share the responsibility for implementing and promoting learning opportunities for all students. We are committed to preparing students with the interpersonal skills and knowledge base necessary to become productive citizens and life-long learners in an ever-changing global community.

### **CORE VALUES**

Gresham Middle School Gladiators follow the 4 Be's:

- Be Kind
- Be Respectful
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

Gresham Middle School upholds all KCS policies, which can be accessed here: [KCS School Board Policies](#)

Gresham Middle School follows the KCS calendar, which can be accessed here: [KCS 25/26 Calendar](#)

### **ATTENDANCE**

- Gresham Middle School follows the KCS Attendance policy, which can be accessed here: [KCS J-120](#)
- Absence notes are required to be submitted via ParentSquare or to the front office within 5 days of the student's absence.
- Students cannot be dropped off prior to 7:30 each day, as we do not have staff supervision until that time.
- If you have questions related to student attendance, please contact our front office or our social worker.

### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

At Gresham Middle School, we are dedicated to offering every student a safe and nurturing environment where they can learn and thrive. Our proactive, restorative approach emphasizes positive reinforcement, including student incentives and rewards. By integrating Knox County Schools' progressive discipline & following KCS policies, we work to ensure that students benefit from a comprehensive restorative process, fostering both personal and academic growth.

- Gresham Middle School follows Knox County Schools guidelines: [J-191 Misbehaviors & Disciplinary Options](#).

- Conflicts between students may result in a No Contact Agreement. Violation of these agreements may result in disciplinary action.
- Student searches are conducted based on Knox County Schools guidelines: [J-200 Interrogations & Searches](#)
- Student consequences can include time spent in an alternate classroom, time spent in our Restorative Learning Center, silent lunch, administrative conference, missed incentive/opportunity, out of school suspension or other consequences that are aligned with school & district policies.
- Students who receive OSS are not allowed on any KCS campus at any time during that suspension. Students are also not allowed to attend any school associated function, including, but not limited to, athletic events, dances, or school performances.

## **BULLYING/HARASSMENT**

- Gresham Middle School follows Knox County guidelines, which can be accessed here: [J-211 Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying](#)

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

- Gresham Middle School follows Knox County guidelines, which can be accessed here: [J-250 Bus Conduct](#)
- Riding the school bus is a privilege & improper conduct on the bus will result in that privilege being revoked.
- Students who do not follow our arrival/dismissal safety procedures will lose bus privileges.
- If a student needs to ride a different bus, the student must provide a note with the parent/guardian name and phone number. This note should be brought to the front office prior to 8:45am for approval. Approvals are NOT guaranteed, as we are dependent on bus space/availability.

## **CAFETERIA PROCEDURES**

- Each full day that school is in session, breakfast & lunch will be served for free to all students. Additional food items will require purchase.
- All food and drinks must be consumed in the cafeteria unless by special permission.
- Students are not allowed to carry outside food from fast food restaurants into school. This applies all day, beginning at 7:30am when our doors are opened.

## **CIVILITY CODE**

- Knox County expects that all families & staff following the Civility Code guidelines, which can be accessed here: [B-230 Civility Code](#)

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Gresham Middle School utilizes Parent Square to communicate with families.
- Parents/guardians are also encouraged to set up an Aspen & Canvas observer account to stay informed of student progress.
- Gresham Middle School will hold an Open House event in the fall semester & all families are encouraged to attend to meet our staff & learn more about our school. In addition, stakeholders are encouraged to set up a conference any time they feel it is warranted.
- To ensure our staff can dedicate as much time as possible to supporting our students throughout the busy school day, *we ask that families schedule appointments with staff members in advance.* This will allow us to better accommodate your needs and provide the attention you deserve.

## **COUNSELORS**

- School Counselors are available to support students. Please refer to the GMS Counseling site for additional information.
- Students may contact counselors through Canvas. Parents/guardians may contact counselors via email, ParentSquare or phone.

## **DISMISSAL**

- Students are expected to stay in their final class until their mode of transportation is announced. Students are expected to leave campus safely, by following dismissal procedures
- Please remember that our staff supervised car line and KCS provided transportation methods are the safest methods of transportation for students as we are unable to provide supervision for walkers who choose to walk off school property.
- Students who do not follow our arrival/dismissal safety procedures will lose bus privileges.

## **DRESS CODE**

- Gresham Middle School follows Knox County guidelines, which can be accessed here: [J-260 Dress Code](#).
- Families who are in need of clothing assistance are encouraged to contact our social worker or a counselor.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

- Parents, legal guardians or others officially listed on the student's emergency card must present proper identification to school staff before signing students out of school.
- Students must attend school for 3 hours and 30 minutes per day in order to be counted present. Students must stay until 12:00 pm to be counted present for the day.
- In order to ensure a safe and orderly dismissal of school each day, all early dismissals must take place before 2:45 pm each day.

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

- *GMS PTSO*: Gresham Middle School has an active PTSO organization. Parents, teachers, and students work together to provide a meaningful education for each student. Information on school events will be provided through weekly PTSO updates. Our students have access to many items that would not have been possible without the PTSO's support; your involvement in PTSO activities will be greatly appreciated.
- *GMS Foundation*: The Gresham Middle School Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, composed of a group of dedicated volunteer parents, staff members and Fountain City community leaders who have a vested interest in the on-going success of Gresham Middle School.
- *Title I*: Information will be made available throughout the year at our SchoolWideSchool meetings.
  - As a Title I school, we receive federal funds that help us provide additional academic support, resources, and programs to ensure all students can succeed.
  - [Link to Student-Teacher-Parent Compact](#)
  - [Link to School Level Family Engagement Plan](#)

## **FIELD TRIPS**

- We utilize field trips as a valuable educational tool to support a range of academic and personal development goals for our students. In order to participate, students must meet academic and behavioral expectations that are communicated by school staff.
- The school is not obligated to refund field trip money.
- Signed permission slips are required for participation in all field trips.

## **KCS GRADING SCALE**

Gresham Middle School adheres to the following grading scale as approved by Knox County Board of Education:

- 100 - 90 = A
- 89 - 80 = B
- 79 - 70 = C
- 69 - 60 = D
- 59 - 0 = F

## **LIBRARY**

- Library books are checked out to students for two weeks and can be renewed if not reserved by another student. Students must pay for lost or damaged books.

4

## **MEDICATION**

- Gresham Middle School follows the Knox County Schools policy, which can be accessed here: [J-352 Medication](#)
- No medication of any kind should be in the possession of and/or self-administered by students at school.
- All medications, including prescription and non-prescription, must be secured and dispensed in the school clinic.

## **OFFICE PHONE**

- In order to create an orderly environment, we are unable to relay phone messages to students that are received after 12:00pm.
- Students should make arrangements with parents/guardians regarding transportation, etc., before leaving home.

## **OUTSIDE FOOD**

- Students are not allowed to bring in outside food (ie: McDonalds, Chick-Fil-A, Subway, Starbucks, etc.)
- Families are not allowed to drop off outside food for students.
- Students are not allowed to have outside food delivered.

## **RESTROOMS**

- To maximize instructional time, students are given restroom breaks throughout the day; our goal is to ensure that students miss as little class time as possible.
- If a student has a medical condition that will require flexibility of access, please contact our school nurse.

## TARDIES

- School officially begins at 8:30 a.m. Any student entering the building after 8:30 is considered tardy.
- Students must arrive before 12:00 pm to be counted present for the day.
- Excessive tardies will require corrective measures.

## TECHNOLOGY

- Each student will be issued a KCS device and charger. Students are expected to charge the device every night and bring it to school each day.
- Inappropriate use of this device may result in loss of privileges. Students who intentionally damage their device, or do not have device insurance offered by KCS, will be billed for damages and receive a disciplinary consequence.

## TRAFFIC

- During the hours of 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:00-4:00 p.m., only buses are permitted in the upper drive (MAIN ENTRANCE). This is clearly marked with traffic signs.
- Parents/guardians are only allowed to use the back drive off Dahlia and around the tennis courts (lower drive) to drop-off and pick up students:



## VISITORS

- Gresham Middle School follows the Knox County Schools policy, which can be accessed here: [C-210 Visitors](#).
- For the safety of our students, anyone visiting GMS must report to the office.
- *Forgotten student items are not able to be dropped after 9:30am.* Please note that items such as lunches, Chromebooks, sports equipment, and other belongings will NOT be able to be dropped off

after this time.

## **WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

- Gresham Middle School follows Knox County Schools guidelines which can be accessed here: [J-240 Use of Personal Communication Devices in School](#)
- A “wireless communication device” (WCD) is a personal portable wireless device that has the capacity to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties. WCDs include, but are not limited to cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and tablets.
- Students who do not follow the policy will have their device confiscated & a parent/guardian will be required to pick it up during school hours.
- KCS/GMS are not responsible for lost/damaged phones, AirPods, Beats or other devices that are brought to school.