



Gresham Middle School

2026-2027



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Address:

500 Gresham Rd

Knoxville, TN

37918

Phone #: 865-689-1430

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Executive Principal: Melissa Glover

6th Grade Principal: Kamau Kenyatta

7th Grade Principal: Seth Nutter

8th Grade Principal: Dr. Damian Elder

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 Responsible
- 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 26/27 Calendar](#)

ATTENDANCE

- Gresham Middle School follows the KCS Attendance policy, which can be accessed here: [KCS J-120](#)
- Parent/guardian notes and medical notes are required to be submitted via ParentSquare or to the front office within five school days of the student's return. Notes submitted after the five-day window will not be accepted as excused, per KCS policy. Families should refer to [KCS Board Policy J-120](#) for examples of excused & unexcused absences.
- 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.
- Students who are absent are responsible for requesting & completing missed assignments. Students should check Canvas and communicate with teachers. Make-up work should be requested within three school days of returning, unless the absence is extended.

ATHLETICS

- KCS sanctions the following sports at Gresham Middle School: basketball, cheer, and track. In order to participate in a KCS-sanctioned sport, students are required to have a current physical on file and must meet all stated academic, attendance, and behavioral expectations.
- We are aware that there are many community sports teams and organizations that carry the Gresham name, colors, and/or logo. While we are very proud of all of our students and their accomplishments, these programs are not KCS-sanctioned school sports. Questions about community sports should be directed to the appropriate community coach, sponsor, or organization.

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: [KCS Board Policies](#)
- 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.
- Students are expected to remain in assigned and supervised areas at all times. Students may not be in

parking lots, staff-only areas, empty classrooms, hallways, stairwells, or other unsupervised areas without permission.

- Gresham Middle School follows [KCS Board Policy J-194](#) regarding Zero Tolerance offenses. Behaviors involving weapons, drugs, serious threats, serious assaults, explosive/incendiary devices, or other Level 5 offenses may result in removal from school and additional disciplinary action according to KCS policy.

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 8:45 a.m. 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 (including, but not limited to fast food restaurants, coffee shops, etc.) into school. This applies all day, beginning at 7:30 a.m. when our doors are opened.

CIVILITY CODE

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

COMMUNICATION

- Gresham Middle School utilizes ParentSquare 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.
- Our staff supervised car line & KCS transportation are the safest methods 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.
- Students waiting for buses after dismissal must report to the assigned supervised area and remain seated unless given permission by a staff member. Students may not leave the assigned area, change seats, or move through the building without permission. Failure to follow bus hall expectations may result in school consequences or loss of bus privileges.
- Students may not remain in the building after dismissal unless they are participating in a supervised school activity.

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 p.m. 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 p.m. each day.
- Phone calls, emails, faxes, and ParentSquare messages cannot be accepted for student check-out. To protect instructional time and support school cell phone expectations, families should not text or call students to notify them of arrival. The front office will call the student from class once the approved adult has signed the student out.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Information regarding school approved clubs can be found on our website. Please note that all students must have an updated permission form each year prior to participation in the club.
- Students attending after-school events must be picked up on time. Supervision ends shortly after the event concludes. Students who are not picked up on time may lose the privilege of attending future after-school activities.
- Student activities, incentives, celebrations, field days, dances, clubs, field trips, assemblies, and other special events are privileges. Participation will depend on attendance, behavior, academic effort, and the ability to follow school expectations.

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.
- Signed permission slips are required for participation in all field trips. The school is not obligated to refund field trip money.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS

- To protect instructional time and reduce interruptions, forgotten student items may only be dropped off *before 9:30 a.m.* This includes, but is not limited to, lunches, Chromebooks, sports equipment, and other personal belongings.
- GMS does not accept deliveries for students, including flowers, balloons, gifts, or birthday/holiday items.

INCENTIVES/RECOGNITION

- Student incentives, celebrations, field days, and special activities are held throughout the year. Participation may depend on attendance, behavior, completed work, and other expectations shared by the school or grade level. If a parent/guardian does not want their student to participate, they should notify the student's homeroom teacher or grade-level administrator.
- Students are recognized in many ways, including positive office referrals, Students of the Month, classroom/team recognitions, and school-based celebrations. While we are proud of all Gladiators, not every student may be recognized during every opportunity. Staff will work to be fair and consistent throughout the year.
- Awards Day recognizes students who meet school and/or staff criteria for specific awards. Year-long Honor Roll recognition will be based on Semester 1 and Quarter 4 progress grades.

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
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- Grades are available through Aspen and reflect student performance on class assignments, assessments, projects, and other course expectations. Families are encouraged to monitor Aspen and Canvas regularly. Progress reports and report cards will be shared according to the KCS reporting calendar. State assessment results may be included in final grades as required by current state and district guidance.

LOST ITEMS

- Students are responsible for personal belongings brought to school. GMS is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items. Lost and Found items will be donated or discarded periodically.

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.

MEDICATION

- Gresham Middle School follows the Knox County Schools policy, which can be accessed here: [J-352 Medication](#)
- Medication at school must follow KCS Health Services procedures. Students may not carry or self-administer medication, including over-the-counter medication, unless the required forms are completed and on file with the school nurse.
- Families should contact the school nurse for medication forms, health plans, inhalers, EpiPens, or other medical needs.
- Families of rising 7th graders are responsible for providing required immunization documentation before the start of school. Students who do not meet state immunization requirements may not be permitted to attend until documentation or an approved exemption is provided.

OFFICE PHONE

- To help us maintain a calm and focused learning environment, we are unable to deliver phone messages to students during the school day. We appreciate your understanding and support.
- Students should make arrangements with parents/guardians regarding transportation, etc., before leaving home.

OUTSIDE FOOD

- Students are not allowed to bring in outside food/drinks (ie: McDonalds, Chick-Fil-A, Subway, Starbucks, etc.)
- Families are not allowed to drop off outside food/drinks for students.
- Students are not allowed to have outside food/drinks 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 arriving late to school must report to the front office to sign in and receive a tardy slip before going to class.
- Students must arrive before 12:00 p.m. to be counted present for the day.
- Tardies to class may be addressed through progressive discipline.

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 technology privileges. Students/families may be responsible for repair or replacement costs for lost or damaged devices and chargers according to KCS procedures.

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 and guardians are only permitted to use the back driveway off Dahlia for student drop-off and pick-up.



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.

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. Violations of the WCD policy will be handled through progressive discipline. This process does not reset each day.
- KCS/GMS are not responsible for lost/damaged phones, AirPods, Beats or other devices/items that are brought to school.
- Students are prohibited from taking unauthorized photos, videos, or audio recordings of students or staff while at school, on school transportation, or at school-sponsored events. Sharing inappropriate, private, or harmful images or recordings may result in school discipline and may be reported to law enforcement.