



Stokesdale
ELEMENTARY



Student & Family Handbook

2026-2027



*Anchored in Excellence,
the Journey Continues*



 *Home of the Vikings* 

Stokesdale Elementary School
8025 US 158
Stokesdale, NC 27357-9399
(336) 643-8420

August 2026

Dear Stokesdale Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year at Stokesdale Elementary! We are truly excited to partner with you as we begin another year of learning, growth, and success. Our dedicated staff is committed to creating a nurturing environment where every child is supported academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our theme this year is: **Anchored in Excellence, the Journey Continues**. We believe that strong home-school connections are essential to helping our students reach their full potential. Parents and community members play a vital role in our school's success, and we invite you to be actively involved throughout the year.

As we begin this new journey together, we kindly ask you to support our school community by doing the following:

- Stay engaged and participate in school events and volunteer opportunities whenever possible.
- Encourage your child to complete assignments and projects on time.
- Speak positively about the school to build your child's confidence and motivation.
- Communicate directly with your child's teacher if any concerns or questions arise.

The Student & Family Handbook included here is a valuable resource filled with important guidelines, updates, and expectations. We encourage you to review it thoroughly and keep it nearby for easy reference.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We are committed to helping each student grow into a confident learner who enjoys school and feels proud of their accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Allison Bennett, Ed.S.
Principal



Mission:

Stokesdale Elementary School is a community of learners dedicated to the education of all students with the commitment and expectation that all will become productive, responsible, and ethical citizens.

Vision:

All students are educated by highly qualified staff in ways that motivate and empower them to grow as life-long learners.

Our Instructional Framework

EACH • EVERY • ALL

The Guilford Guarantee establishes a progression in which elementary students Excite, middle school students Explore, and high school students Experience. During the elementary years, students should encounter big ideas and early career awareness that help them recognize their strengths, connect their curiosity to the world, and begin imagining future possibilities.

The elementary EXCITE resources further emphasize that this cannot be limited to career days or occasional events. Joy, purpose, and belonging must shape students' daily instructional experiences.

Our North Star

Every Stokesdale scholar will experience rigorous, literacy-rich instruction that is joyful, purposeful, responsive, and grounded in belonging. Through these experiences, students will see themselves as capable learners, understand why their learning matters, discover their strengths, and develop the curiosity and confidence to pursue future possibilities.

Our Five Instructional Commitments

1. Grade-Level, Literacy-Rich Learning

Our commitment:

Every student will have access to grade-level standards and meaningful opportunities to read, write, speak, listen, reason and represent their thinking across content areas.

2. Joyful, Active Learning

Our commitment:

Every student will experience curiosity, productive challenge, movement, collaboration and the satisfaction of meaningful success.

3. Purposeful, Future-Connected Learning

Our commitment:

Every student will understand the **why** behind learning and connect classroom knowledge to real-life problems, community contributions and future possibilities.

4. Belonging and Identity-Affirming Learning

Our commitment:

Every student will be seen, known, valued, respected and included as an important member of the learning community.

5. Responsive Instruction and Student Growth

Our commitment:

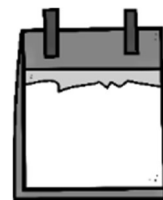
Every student will receive timely feedback, flexible support and appropriate challenge, based on current evidence of learning.

Stokesdale from A to Z



ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

Regular attendance is essential for your child's success in school. Students who attend school every day are more likely to stay on grade level, graduate on time, and be prepared for life beyond school.



When Your Child Is Absent

- Send a **written note** with your child on the day they return explaining the reason for the absence.
- If your child had a **contagious illness** and returns early or appears unwell, the school may request a **doctor's note** for your child to return.
- To be marked **present**, a student must be at school **by 11:00 a.m.** or stay until **after 11:00 a.m.**

Excused Absences

An absence is considered **excused** when:

1. A **note from a parent or guardian** is sent to school, and
2. The reason fits one of the approved categories by the NC State Board of Education:
 - Personal illness or injury

- Quarantine
- Death in the immediate family
- Medical or dental appointments
- Court or legal proceedings
- Religious observances
- Valid educational opportunities (with prior approval)

Absences without a note will be marked as unexcused.

Educational Opportunities

To be excused for an **educational opportunity**:

- Parents must send a note **before the absence**, explaining the educational nature of the absence.
- The **principal must approve** the request in advance.
- The teacher will work with you to arrange how missed work will be made up.

Absences labeled as “out-of-town” without explanation will be unexcused.

Tardies and Early Checkouts

- Students are expected to arrive on time and stay all day.
- If a student is late or leaves early, a **written excuse** from a parent or guardian is required.
- **Five or more tardies** in a grading period may impact perfect attendance recognition.

When to Keep Your Child Home

Keep your child home if they have:

- A **fever** of 100.4°F or higher;
- A **sore throat** with fever, chills, or stomachache;
- **Vomiting or diarrhea; or**
- **Pinkeye**, head lice, or other contagious illnesses

Students may return to school after being fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, or 24 hours without vomiting or diarrhea.

Making Up Missed Work

Students can make up any missed work due to:

- Excused absences
- Short-term out-of-school suspensions

Chronic Absenteeism

- A student is **chronically absent** if they miss **10% or more** of school days.
- This includes all absences, both excused and unexcused.
- Educational Opportunities

Accidents

Any accident in which a child is injured will be reported to the office and an accident form filled out immediately. If a child is seriously injured, the parent/guardian will be notified and he/she will be taken to the hospital if necessary. Please make sure all information regarding your child is updated in case of an emergency.

Animals/Pets

No animals or pets are allowed on school property at any time due to risk of injury, allergies, etc.

Assembly Procedures

Children will exhibit appropriate, respectful behavior during all assemblies. Procedures to ensure successful assemblies as follows:

- Teachers will review expectations for student behavior before going to an assembly.
- Children should go to the restroom before going to an assembly.
- Children will be taught that it is rude to get up and down or leave their place during a performance.
- Children are not to talk to each other during an assembly.
- Children are to keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Teachers will discuss appropriate occasions for clapping with students.
- Children should not make verbal noises during an assembly unless directed to do so by the presenter.
- The teacher will sit where he/she can observe the class and the children should also be able to see the teacher.
- Teachers will correct problems they observe immediately.
- Children who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior will be removed from the assembly to sit in the front office or other supervised area until the assembly is over.



Bookkeeping

- When your child brings money to school, a staff member will write a receipt to each individual child from whom they collect \$10.00 or more. If the amount is less \$9.99 or less per child, a receipt will not be provided.
- Money collected will be turned into the office the same day as it is collected.
- The office is not allowed to cash checks for parents. If you write a check for more than one child, please indicate both children's names and teachers on the check so that it can be accurately accounted for.
- Checks for student lunches should be written to: Stokesdale Elementary School Cafeteria.

Breakfast Policy

The instructional day at Stokesdale officially begins at 7:25 a.m. daily. In an effort to protect instructional time and enhance learning, the breakfast program at Stokesdale will operate as follows:

- Breakfast will end promptly at the 7:25 bell.
- If your child arrives after 7:25 and is in need of breakfast, they will be allowed to get breakfast.
- Children eat breakfast in their classrooms.
- Please remind your child while eating breakfast they should use breakfast time wisely and refrain from socializing as much as possible due to time constraints.
- Student cost for breakfast is \$1.00.

Bus Safety & Behavior Guidelines

At Stokesdale Elementary, we want all students to arrive at school and return home safely each day. The school bus is an extension of the school, and students are expected to follow all the rules to help ensure a safe and respectful ride for everyone.



If you have questions about bus discipline, call the assistant principal, Kenya Donaldson, at Stokesdale Elementary School (336) 643-8420.

- **Boarding the Bus:**
 - Arrive at your bus stop on time.
 - Wait safely off the road for the bus to arrive.
 - Enter the bus quietly and go directly to your seat.
 - Take your assigned seat or sit where the driver directs you.
- **While Riding the Bus:**
 - Stay seated the entire ride.
 - Keep your hands, feet, and belongings to yourself.
 - Talk quietly and use respectful language.
 - Loud noises, yelling, or rough play are not allowed—they distract the driver.
 - Never throw anything inside or out of the bus.
 - Keep the aisle clear of backpacks or other items.
 - Ask the driver before opening windows.
 - Keep your head, hands, and arms inside the bus at all times.
 - Do not distract the driver while the bus is moving.
- **Getting Off the Bus:**
 - Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
 - Exit the bus carefully and only at your assigned stop.
 - If crossing the street, always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see you.
 - Stay off the road and out of danger after getting off the bus.
- **What's Not Allowed on the Bus**
 - Fighting, pushing, or any kind of physical aggression.
 - Profanity, name-calling, or arguing.
 - Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, fireworks, glass objects, sharp items, or weapons.
 - Vandalism or graffiti of any kind.
 - Riding a different bus without approval from the school principal.

- Consequences for Breaking Bus Rules
 - Drivers will report all rule violations. The school will take action based on the number and seriousness of violations, which may include:
 - Warnings or reminders
 - Parent/guardian notification
 - Conferences with the principal
 - Temporary or permanent suspension from the bus

Bus Stop & Road Safety



- Walk on the **left side of the road**, facing traffic, if walking to your stop.
- Stay off the road while waiting for the bus.
- Cross the street **only after the bus has stopped** and traffic has cleared.
- **Always walk—never run—**
across the street, and cross in front of the bus so the driver can see you.
- Use the **handrail** when getting on or off the bus.
- In emergencies or accidents, move quickly and calmly to a safe location off the road. A new bus or transportation will be provided.

If you or your child ever have questions or concerns about the bus or see unsafe behavior, please let the driver or school know. Safety is our top priority!

If you have questions about schedules, bus drivers, bus stops, or changes in bus routes, call GCS Bus Transportation at 1-888-511-4427



Cafeteria Accounts

Free and reduced lunch forms will be given to all children at the beginning of the year. Please be sure that the teacher's name is indicated on each form to assist with keeping track of the documents. These forms need to be submitted to your child's homeroom teacher. Children that were provided with free/reduced lunches last year have a grace period of 10 days, so please turn the forms in as soon as possible.

When a child brings in a check or cash to pay for the week or the month, they will be sent directly to the cafeteria in the morning.

Online Payments with SchoolCafé

Guilford County Schools uses **SchoolCafé** to help families manage school meal accounts conveniently and securely. With a free SchoolCafé account, you can:

- **Add money** to your child's meal account
- **Set up Auto Pay** so you never forget
- Receive low balance alerts
- Submit free/reduced meal applications
- View menus, purchase history, and important letters

SchoolCafé makes it easy to stay on top of your child's nutrition and account needs—all in one place! Get started at: www.schoolcafe.com/guilfordcountyschools

Before you begin, be sure to review the SchoolCafé **Privacy Policy** so you understand how your child's information is used. You will need:

- Your child's **Student ID** (provided by the school)
- The **name of your child's school**

Cafeteria Rules and Guidelines

School wide cafeteria rules/procedures/manners will be taught the first several weeks of school. Teachers will eat with their classes the first week of school and the last week of school to monitor/teach proper procedures.

- HAPPY BIRTHDAY is not to be sung in the cafeteria.
- Children are responsible for knowing their lunch number and must have money ready when they approach the cashier. This helps keep the line moving briskly.
- Children will leave the classroom and return to the classroom in an orderly manner.
- Children will follow all cafeteria rules.
- Children will be respectful to the lunch monitors.
- Children need to get all utensils, condiments, and extras before sitting down to eat.
- Children may not get out of their seats without permission once seated in the cafeteria.
- Teachers will review cafeteria rules with the children and frequently check with cafeteria monitors on a regular basis to address specific concerns that occur during the teacher's absence.



- Children will be taught the correct way to place their trash into the trash cans. Children will be taught to pick up their own trash. Spills will be cleaned up by monitors or custodians.
- Children must raise their hands before getting out of their seats.
- Responsible and dependable children will be chosen in grades 2 – 5 to stay behind and clean tables. Tables should be left clean for the next class.
- Appropriate cafeteria manners, behavior, and noise level is always expected.

Car Riders

Parent(s)/guardian(s) who bring children to school in the morning or pick up children from school at dismissal in private vehicles shall use the car rider traffic pattern off of Athens Road. Arrows indicate the direction of traffic flow and the area for loading and unloading. For the safety of all children, please cooperate with these procedures. Parents are asked not to come into the building to get children after 1:45 pm, with the exception of Pre-K.

MORNING ARRIVAL

- Arrival will begin at 7:00 am. All cars should stay at the double laned holding line until a Stokesdale staff member indicates that your line may proceed.
- The only area that students should be dropped off is at the main entrance. Do not drop your child off in the paved area behind the cafeteria adjacent to Highway 68, in the bus loop at the Media Center entrance, or in the gym parking lot.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

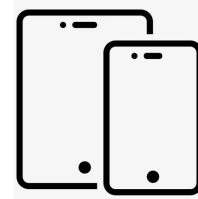
- During afternoon dismissal, only buses and daycare vans are allowed to enter or exit the parting lot at the Media Center entrance directly off of Highway 158.
- If you are picking your child up in the car rider line, you must go through the car rider traffic pattern. Do not park your car and walk to any school entrance to retrieve your child.
- If your child needs to be buckled into a car seat, and needs assistance, please pull up to the gym parking lot to do this. Do not get out of your car while going through the car rider line. This holds up traffic and is dangerous.

Celebrations

Stokesdale Elementary will conduct three classroom celebrations per year—winter break, spring break, and at the end of the school year. At no time should celebrations violate the Board of Education's Discrimination Free Environment Policy with regard to race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability or gender. All other celebrations must be approved in advance by the principal. Any food served in conjunction with school celebrations should follow the guidelines of the Student Wellness Policy.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

All student cell phones and other specified electronic devices, including tablets and smart watches, on campus must be stored in “off” mode in their book bag during the instructional day. From 7:00 am until 2:10 pm, no student should have a cell phone outside of their book bag.



- Cell phones cannot be used inside the school building at any time. If there is an emergency, parents will be notified by office staff/administration.
 - If a student has a cell phone, or other electronic device, out during the school day, it will be confiscated. A parent or guardian will need to come to the school to pick it up.
- Tablets such as Nooks or Kindles, or other devices for reading, are allowed to be used during Teacher Defined Reading times approved by the teacher. If students are using them at other times, or inappropriately (taking pictures, texting, gaming, or searching the web) during those times, devices will be confiscated.
- Stokesdale Elementary is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items if they are brought to school.

Child Custody

If parent(s)/guardian(s) are separated or divorced, and a custody arrangement of your child(ren) has been made by a court order or deed of separation, please advise the school office of this fact and see that we have the most current copy of the court or separation agreement.

With the rising number of single parent families, the issue of who has access to children or to information about children is becoming an increasing concern. Often teachers and school personnel must deal with situations involving the right of non-custodial parents and people

acting as the parent in the absence to the natural parent. The information provided does not address every potential situation but does reflect the more common ones.

- “Parent includes a parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as parent in the absence of a parent or guardian e.g., child living with grandparents. Generally, where an individual has assumed the obligation of support, care, or maintenance of the child(ren), access should be allowed”.
- Either parent has the authority to inspect and review the child’s records unless the school has evidence that there is a State law or court order governing such matters as divorce, separation or custody, or a legally binding instrument that states otherwise. This is a rule even if the custodial parent has told the school the other parent should not be granted access to records.
- “The right to inspect and review records includes the right to a response to a reasonable request for explanations and interpretations of records”.
- Non-custodial parent(s)/guardian(s) can request conferences regarding their child if there is no legal document stating otherwise. They can also request copies of report cards and progress reports.
 - Conferences with the non-custodial parent should be done at a convenient time so as not to disrupt the school program or interfere with the performance of the teacher’s duties.
- A principal may prevent a parent who does not have custody of a child from visiting with the child on the school premises and in the classroom.

Class Coverage

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or visitors may not perform class coverage or any other duties of a supervisory nature in the absence of the teacher regardless of how brief the time period or nature of the coverage needed. This policy applies even if the parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or visitor is a qualified GCS substitute – unless they are subbing for the specific teacher for which they are providing coverage (and not another teacher) in an official capacity.

Conferences

You may request a conference with your child’s teacher and are encouraged to do so whenever you feel a need. Conferences will be scheduled before or after the regular instructional day. You may email the teacher, or call the school office, when you need to schedule a conference. Of course, short emergency conferences can be arranged through the principal’s office.

From 7:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. teachers are responsible for supervising and providing instruction to children. Please do not drop in during these times to speak to your child's teacher.

If you have a concern, the most effective and efficient procedure is to contact the teacher first.

Corporal Punishment

The GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD has banned the use of corporal punishment. No staff member may administer corporal punishment to a child. No parent may administer corporal punishment to their child on Guilford County School's property.



Devices

All students are issued devices, with chargers, to support learning at school and home. Students are responsible for taking care of his/her device. Students in kindergarten through third grade will receive an iPad and fourth and fifth grade students will receive a Chromebook. Students will complete Responsible Use courses on Canvas, at school during the first couple of weeks of school. These courses will include GCS Acceptable Use Policy. Courses are found on your child's Canvas page. To learn about the expectations of students when using GCS devices, please refer to the GCS Device Handbook. Devices are permanent property of Guilford County Schools.

Discipline Procedures and Behavior Expectations

At Stokesdale Elementary, we believe the best form of discipline is self-discipline. Our goal is to help children learn to make positive choices, take responsibility for their actions, and contribute to a respectful and safe learning environment. Staff members will encourage, model, and praise good behavior daily.

What Families Can Expect

All staff will follow these consistent schoolwide discipline guidelines:

- Teachers will establish and clearly communicate expectations and procedures for behavior in all classroom and school settings. Schoolwide expectations are displayed throughout the school.
- These expectations will be shared with both students and families at the beginning of the school year and reinforced throughout the year.
- Classroom rules and procedures, including rewards and consequences, will be posted in a visible area of the classroom. Class Dojo is a part of our schoolwide behavior policy. Teachers will use Class Dojo as means to communicate positive behaviors and behaviors that need improvement.
- Teachers will actively supervise students in all areas—including during whole group, small group, independent work, arrival, dismissal, hallway transitions, cafeteria, restrooms, and playground.

Positive Behavior

- Students will be recognized and praised for following school rules and demonstrating good character.
- Teachers will consistently address minor misbehavior and reteach expectations when needed.
- Teachers will use proactive strategies and classroom-based interventions to support students who are struggling to meet expectations.

Progressive Steps for Addressing Minor Behavior Concerns

If a student has difficulty following rules, the following steps will be taken:

1. **Formal Warning and Reteach:** At the first sign of a minor behavior infraction, the student will receive a verbal warning and be redirected through modeling of the expected behavior.
2. **Classroom Intervention:** The teacher will use in-class strategies to help the student correct behavior. Minor behaviors will be documented after a warning.
3. **Wellness Retreat or Regulation Support:** If the behavior continues, the student will be given a retreat from the environment they are in to self-regulate, reflect and have a restorative opportunity.
4. **Parent Communication:** If behavior does not improve, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian to discuss the concern and next steps.

5. **Referral to Administration:** If a student has three (3) documented minor behavior issues in the same category within a 9-week period, or if a serious behavior issue occurs, the student may be referred to the principal for further action.

Note: Students may be kept after school for disciplinary reasons **only if prior arrangements have been made** with the parent or guardian.

This supportive approach to discipline is meant to help each child grow in character, responsibility, and respect for others. We thank you for working in partnership with us to support your child's success at school.

Major Behavior Infractions

Major behaviors require immediate administrative assistance because they involve safety, significant disruption, serious disrespect, substantial property damage, or possible violations of the Guilford County Schools Student Code of Conduct. Three or more minor behavior incidents in the same behavior category within a 9-week period will also result in an Office Referral.

When a student is referred to the Principal or Assistant Principal, appropriate consequences will be given. Administration consequences are aligned to the Guilford County Student Handbook and include:

- Loss of Privilege
- Conference with Student – Problem Solving
- Parent Contact – Problem Solving
- Time Out
- Individualized Instruction – Re-Teaching
- Restitution/Restorative Discipline
- Teach Self-Management Strategies
- Counseling – Individual and/or Group
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Bus Suspension
- Referral for Behavior Intervention Plan

Dismissal Procedures

We work hard to ensure that afternoon dismissal is safe, calm, and organized for all students. Please help us by following the procedures outlined below.

Early Dismissal

If you need to pick up your child before the end of the school day:

- Pick-Up Before 2:00 PM
- Send a written note with your child in the morning that states the pick-up time and the name of who will pick them up. Your child should hand this note to their teacher when they arrive. Please note, teachers are limited in their ability to check emails or communication apps throughout the instructional day, therefore, any changes to transportation must be made through the Main Office.
- Your child's teacher will notify the front office of your child's early dismissal.
- Ring the bell at the front office door and announce you are here to pick your child up for early dismissal. It is helpful to state your child's name, grade level and teacher when checking them out.
- Be prepared to show identification and sign your child out prior to leaving the office.
- Students will only be released to adults listed on the guardian or emergency contact list. Written permission is required if someone else will pick up your child.
- Please do not go directly to your child's classroom or the playground.
- Please call the school before 1:30 PM if you have an emergency and need to pick your child up before the regular dismissal time.

Dismissal Times and Procedures

Grades K–2 dismiss at 2:10 PM and Grades 3–5 dismiss at 2:15 PM

- Car riders will be escorted to their designated areas.
- Students who attend ACES will be escorted to the cafeteras.
- Bus and daycare van riders will be escorted to the loading areas.
- If a daycare van/bus has not arrived, students will wait in the Media Center.

Important Reminders

- All students must be picked up **by 2:25 PM**. Supervision is not available after this time. Appropriate authorities may be notified in cases of repeated delays when picking up children.
- Parents and guardians are not permitted inside the building for drop-off or pick-up.
- If a parent arrives or calls for pick-up without a written note, the office will retrieve the child and provide the parent with a copy of this policy.
 - After multiple occurrences, a conference will be scheduled with the principal to discuss proper procedures.

Dress Guidelines

At Stokesdale Elementary, we encourage students to dress in a way that is comfortable, appropriate, and supports a positive learning environment. Clothing should not distract from or disrupt instruction.



General Guidelines

- Students should wear closed-toe shoes on days they have recess or physical education (PE) for safety.
- Clothing should allow for active movement and comfort throughout the school day.
- Inappropriate Clothing Includes:
 - Very short shorts
 - Spaghetti strap tops or tops with thin straps
 - Tight-fitting shorts or leggings worn as pants without coverage
 - Clothing with offensive language, symbols, or images
 - Items that advertise alcohol, tobacco, or drugs

Headwear Guidelines

- Hats are not allowed to be worn inside the school building unless it is a school spirit day that allows for hats.
- Hoodies may not be worn over the head while inside the building.

We appreciate your support in helping students come to school dressed for success each day. If a student's attire is deemed inappropriate, parents will be contacted, and a change of clothing may be required.



Eating Lunch with your Child

Custodial Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to join their child during their regularly scheduled lunch time. However, do not invite your child's classmates to deviate from their normal lunch time routine such as sitting in a different seat or moving to another table. Do not give any other child food or drink of any kind unless approved in advance by the teacher.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) who are disrupting children, the operation of the cafeteria and/or engaging in inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave campus by the principal.

DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO THE CAFETERIA OR CLASSROOMS WITHOUT REGISTERING AT THE FRONT OFFICE.

Enrollment

Children entering kindergarten are required to be five years old on or before August 31st for the school year in which they are enrolling. Pre-registration takes place in the spring.

Parents/Guardians must register online through Infinite Campus (link is on the Guilford County School website). Required documents that will need to be uploaded into the online registration include: Birth Certificate, Proof of Residence (lease, gas, water, or electric bill), Immunization Record, NC Health Assessment Form. We do not accept phone, cable/internet bills, copy of a Driver's License, car or voter registration.

If a student is transferring from a different school, Stokesdale will request the records from the previous school.



Field Trips

Field trips are planned to provide educational experiences for the children. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may be asked to chaperone when the need arises and when space and the activity planned lend themselves to parent(s)/guardian(s) participation.

The following are field trip guidelines:

- Field trip are a direct outgrowth of the instructional program and include documented preparatory instruction and follow-up.
- Written permission will be required for all children on all field trips. Permission via the phone is not allowed.
- K-12 siblings cannot attend field trips with a younger/older sibling.



- No child may be denied a field trip due to behavior, without principal approval. When this occurs, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified.
- Any parent who would like to chaperone on a field trip will need to get preapproved a week ahead of the field trip through <http://gcsvolunteers.com>.
- If you are experiencing financial difficulties in paying for a field trip, please contact your child's teacher to discuss options.



Grading Policies

Each grade level will develop and adhere to a uniform grading policy

Grading policies will be shared with parent/guardian(s) in writing at the beginning of the school year. The grading policy should govern the grading of any and all assignments such as class work, homework, tests, quizzes, etc.

Grading Scale

Grades K-2 will use the following grading scale:

4	Consistently exceeds grade level expectations
3	Consistently meets grade level expectations independently
2	Needs support to meet grade level expectations
1	Below grade level expectations with support

Grades 3-5 will use the following grading scale:

A	90-100	Excellent
B	80-89	Above Average
C	70-79	Average
D	60-69	Below Average
F	59 or below	Failing



Homework



Homework is given to children each night, on an increasing basis as they progress in school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may wish to set aside 20 to 60 minutes each evening for children to read, practice math, or do other assigned homework. It would be helpful if this “special time” could be in a quiet location for concentration purposes. It is an important pattern in responsibility to establish these routine habits when children are young. Each grade level will develop a homework policy that is clear and consistent.

Homework may be assigned each night. The assignments will be an extension of material previously taught. Homework should be turned in as determined by the classroom teacher. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to look over their child’s homework for completion and to reinforce learning.

Teachers will review and return homework. Children that consistently fail to turn in homework may incur further penalties. All missing work must be turned in one week prior to the end of the grading period. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to conference about persistently late or missing work.

Suggested timeframes are:

Kindergarten: 30 minutes

Grades 1 – 2: 30 – 45 minutes

Grades 3 – 5: 45 minutes – 1 hour

Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance

We are proud to celebrate student achievement and commitment to learning!

Honor Roll Recognition (Grades 3–5):

Students will be recognized with a certificate each nine weeks for earning a place on the Honor Roll. To qualify:

- *A Honor Roll*: All grades must be As in academic subjects.
- *A/B Honor Roll*: Grades must be A's and Bs in all academic subjects.

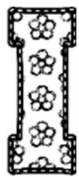
Perfect Attendance:

To receive Perfect Attendance recognition:

- A student must be present every day during the grading period.
- A student may have **no more than 5 tardies** per nine weeks.



Thank you for helping us encourage and celebrate your child's efforts and dedication!



Inclement Weather Procedures

In case of school cancellations, delayed opening and/or early dismissal of school due to inclement weather, emergency and/or hazardous conditions, the following procedures will take place. The official closing notice will be put on the district's information line, our public access television channel and the local news channel. When school is canceled, days may be rescheduled in the school calendar.



The Superintendent decides whether to open, delay, or close schools after receiving input from the Director of Transportation and other district leaders. In the event of inclement weather, one of three scenarios will take place:

- School will open on time – No announcement will be made.
- School will open one or two hours late
- School will be closed for the day

Announcements are made by 5:30 a.m. and can be found:

- On local **news stations** and **radio**;
- On the **Guilford County Schools (GCS) website**;
- On **Guilford Educational Television (Channel 2 on Spectrum)**; and
- On **social media pages**.

Early Dismissal

To ensure your child's safety during an emergency dismissal (such as due to severe weather), please review the procedures below and plan ahead.

- During the first two weeks of school, a form will be sent home for you to complete.
- This form lets us know how your child should get home if school closes early due to bad weather or another emergency.
- If we do not receive written instructions, your child will be sent home using their regular dismissal routine.

Daycare and ACES

Buses will run during early dismissals, but many daycares do not pick up or may close early. The ACES after-school program will **NOT** operate on early dismissal days. Please create an emergency plan and make sure your child knows what to do.

Canceled Activities

All after-school programs, activities, and events are canceled if school is dismissed early due to weather or other emergencies.

Immunizations

The North Carolina immunization law states that every child residing in North Carolina shall be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, and rubella. G.S. 130-90 states that every child admitted to school must have the required immunizations within thirty days from the first day of school or the child will not be allowed to continue in attendance. The only exemptions are for health or religious reasons and evidence must be presented for these exemptions.

School personnel are responsible for verifying that all students are appropriately immunized according to North Carolina Law. Requirements:

- PreK:
 - 4 DTP
 - 3 Polio
 - 3 or 4 HIB
 - 3 Hep B
 - 4 PCV (Pneumonia)
 - 1 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
 - 1 Varicella
- K-5:
 - 4 or 5 DTP
 - 3 or 4 Polio
 - 3 Hep B
 - 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
 - 2 Varicella

Insurance

Accident insurance and dental insurance will be available this year through private carriers. Additional information will be sent to you. Payment for coverage and claims for injury are made directly to the companies.

Interim Reports

Interim reports will be sent home four times a year at the halfway mark of each quarter. The interim should be signed by the parent and returned to school. In the event a signed interim is not returned, the parent will be contacted to verify receipt.



Lice (Pediculosis)



What causes Head Lice?

Head Lice is caused by the “louse”, a small gray insect about the size of a pinhead found on the head. The louse usually does not survive more than 2-3 days away from the human body.

Where does it occur?

Lice occur worldwide. It is common among school-aged children and their close contacts. It is not related to cleanliness. Routine hair care will not prevent or cure the problem.

How is it spread?

It is spread by close contact with an infested person or by contact with their personal belongings, such as combs, brushes, hats, bed linens or towels.

What are the signs and symptoms?

Persons usually become aware of the problem by finding lice or eggs (nits) in their hair. The female louse attaches her egg to the hair near the scalp. The egg hatches and leaves nits.

Many nits may resemble dandruff. Itching of the scalp is very common, but with light infections children may not complain. Irritation of the skin at the hairline and ears may be present due to scratching.

How is it treated?

Any of the following medications can be used.

- R & C OR RID SHAMPOO (non-prescription)
- NIX CREAM RINSE (non-prescription)

Procedures

Pediculosis, or head lice infestation, has been a public health nuisance for thousands of years. Lice are small insects that live only off human blood. Head lice do not transmit disease nor are they a sign of poor hygiene. They can cause embarrassment and concern for children, parents, and schools. Since head lice spread person to person, the Guilford County School system has adopted procedures.

If an individual is suspected of having an infestation with head lice, that person will be referred to the school nurse or designated trained staff member for examination. When an infestation is confirmed, the following action will be taken:

- The principal will be notified.
- If live head lice have been detected, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the child from school.
- If nits alone are seen, the parent/guardian will be notified by telephone by the end of the school day. In either case, the parent/guardian will be given treatment options and education on the biology of head lice and methods to eliminate the infestation.
- Children who have had live lice identified may be readmitted to school when the parent/guardian provides proof of purchase of the lice treatment product and no live lice are present. There should be a significant reduction (75%) in the number of nits observed.
- The school nurse or trained school staff may recommend that the child be sent home for additional nit removal.

The expectation is that children should be able to return to school the following day. The child must be checked by school personnel prior to being admitted back to class. In unusual circumstances where the problem persists, a total of three excused absences will be allowed per episode. After three days of absences for lice infestation, the absences will be counted as unexcused.

Individuals with repeated infestations will be referred to the school nurse who will determine appropriate interventions.

Lost and Found



Lost and Found items are housed on the wall hooks at the bus rider entrance and in the cabinet outside the car rider entrance. Please encourage your child to check if there are missing or lost items. Parents are encouraged to write their child's name on clothing, lunch boxes, and any other items brought to school. Items that are labeled can be returned to students immediately.

Due to limited space, lost and found items not claimed will be discarded at the end of each quarter.



Make-up Work Policy

When absent, children will be given an assignment sheet of the missed work with a due date from the teacher. Children will have the number of days absent plus one more to complete assignments. If parent(s)/guardian(s) feel that the child needs more time to complete missing assignments, they will need to conference with the teacher. Weekends are not counted towards the total time allotted for make-up work.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to call the school in the morning of the day their child is absent and pick up the work after school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) who know in advance that a child will be absent are asked to let their teacher(s) know as soon as possible so that they can prepare assignments. There may still be some missed assignments that need to be completed upon return to the school.

Media Center

We strive to offer full access to the resources in the library including daily check out for students and teachers, instruction for individuals, small groups, and whole classes, and access to resources for independent student research.



Open Checkout will occur each morning and students will visit in grade level groups. All students entering the media center between 7:00-7:25 must have an ID badge (One Card) from their homeroom. Students also have an opportunity to check out books during their normal media class each week.

Our media program strives to serve both the curriculum needs and personal interests of our students. We encourage students to take media center books home to enjoy. Non-print and reference materials remain at school. Books have a two-week circulation period. Weekly overdue notices, beginning in late September, are generated as reminders.

Circulation privileges end until overdue books are renewed or returned.

No fines are charged for overdue books. Replacement cost is expected for lost or damaged books. Reimbursement is made for books lost, paid for, then found and returned in good condition. Reimbursement cannot be made after the school year has ended.

Medications at School

Your child's health and safety are important to us. If your child needs to take medication during the school day, please read the guidelines below carefully.

Medication Guidelines

No medication—**prescription or over-the-counter**—can be given at school without written permission from a parent or guardian and a doctor's order is also required for any medication that needs to be given during school hours.

All medications must be kept in a secure location in the school office and may only be given by trained school staff.

How to Request Medication at School

To have medication given at school:

- Complete a Medication Authorization Form (available from the school or nurse).
- Include instructions from your child's health care provider.
- Bring the form and medication (in its original container) to the school yourself—students may not transport medication.

Self-Carried Medications

Students with asthma or severe allergies (anaphylaxis) may carry and use their prescribed inhalers or EpiPens at school.

- Written permission and doctor verification are required.
- Students must show the school nurse that they know how to use the medication properly.
- If your child has special health needs or a medical condition, please talk to the school nurse or office staff as soon as possible. Working together helps keep your child safe and healthy at school.

Medication Guidelines

If your child needs to take medication during the school day, please be aware of the following guidelines for both prescription and non-prescription medications.

Non-Prescription Medication

All over-the-counter medications (like cough drops, Tylenol, or allergy medicine) must be sent to school in their original container and clearly labeled with your child's name, the correct dosage, and how often it should be given. A note from the parent or guardian must accompany the medication, and a Medical Authorization Form must be completed and on file at school before any medication can be given.

Prescription Medication

If your child needs to take prescription medication during school hours, a Medical Authorization Form must be completed and signed by both the parent and the child's doctor. This form can be picked up from the school office. Prescription medications must be brought to school by a parent or guardian in the original pharmacy container, with a label that includes your child's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, and how often it should be given.

All medications will be administered exactly as directed by the doctor. If there is ever a change in the medication or dosage, a new form must be submitted, and the updated medication must be delivered to the school by a parent or guardian.

Following these procedures helps us keep your child safe and ensures that medications are handled correctly at school.

Messages for Children

Because of the limited number of phones and the time it takes children from class, parents are urged to make every effort to plan with their children in advance so that it will not be necessary to use the phone. We will try to limit the use of phones by children to emergency situations only. For important matters, however, we will deliver messages to the child.

Miscellaneous Deliveries for Children

If you need to bring a forgotten item to school for your child—such as lunch, homework, or PE shoes—please follow these steps:

- Bring the item to the main office and give it to a member of the front office staff.
- Do not take items directly to your child's classroom, as this disrupts instruction.
- Office staff will ensure the item is delivered to your child at an appropriate time that does not interfere with learning.

Thank you for helping us maintain a focused and uninterrupted learning environment.



Nurse

Our School Nurse is a caring and skilled member of our school community who supports student health and wellness. The nurse is provided by the Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services – Public Health Division and is on campus one to two days each week.

The nurse works closely with students, parents, school staff, and health care providers to help ensure that students are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

Who Is the School Nurse?

- A registered nurse trained in public health, pediatric care, and mental health
- An advocate for your child's health and well-being
- An educator who teaches students, families, and staff about important health topics
- A resource for families who need help accessing medical care, including glasses or follow-up services

What Does the School Nurse Do?

- Detects and helps manage chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, and allergies
- Develops individual health plans for students with special health needs
- Educates students and staff on topics such as nutrition, hygiene, and disease prevention
- Instructs school staff on medical procedures (like using inhalers, EpiPens, or glucose monitors)
- Conducts vision screenings and health checks as needed
- Helps ensure students meet immunization requirements and follows up on missing vaccines
- Works to prevent and control communicable diseases within the school

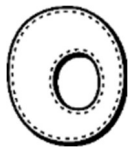
- Provides support and referrals for students dealing with mental health or substance concerns
- Shares health resources with families and connects them with community support services

When Should I Contact the School Nurse?

You can contact the school nurse if:

- Your child has an ongoing or new health condition
- You need help getting your child glasses or health services
- You have concerns about your child's vision, nutrition, or behavior
- You would like the nurse to teach a health or nutrition lesson in your child's classroom

To reach the school nurse or request her assistance, please call the front office at (336) 643-8420. We're here to support your child's health so they can do their best every day!



Office Procedures

To help maintain a safe, respectful, and efficient school environment, we ask that all parents and visitors follow the procedures below when visiting the school office. These guidelines help ensure that our office staff can focus on their responsibilities and that all students and visitors are properly supported.

Visitor Check-In Procedures

All visitors must check in at the front office before entering the building:

- You must present a state-issued photo ID and sign in using the computer check-in system.
- You will be asked to exchange your car keys for a visitor fob and visitor badge, which must be worn and visible while in the building.
- Please return the fob and collect your keys before leaving campus.

Conference Requests

To ensure teachers and staff can give you their full attention:

- Please schedule conferences in advance by calling or emailing your child's teacher or the front office.
- Unscheduled drop-ins during the school day are discouraged, as instructional time must be protected.

Student Check-Out Procedures

If you are checking your child out early:

- Check in at the front office door by ringing the security bell, and your child will be called to meet you at the front door. (An office staff member will verify your identification)
- Please wait outside of the main office doors to retrieve your child. This helps prevent disruptions to instruction and ensures student safety.

Respecting Office Space

To keep the office running smoothly:

- We kindly ask that parents and visitors do not use the office as a place to gather or socialize.
- The office is a professional space where staff are actively managing phone calls, assisting students and families, and handling school operations.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a welcoming and orderly environment for all. These policies are in place to protect student learning, safety, and the professional flow of school operations.

OneCards

The purpose of the OneCard is to ensure safety and security on each school campus. Student Identification Cards will be provided to every student. EVERY student must wear their ID cards while on school grounds. It is crucial that we can identify everyone on campus. Identification of staff and students is a safety issue and will not be compromised when it comes to the safety of students and staff. ID cards help us in identifying students as well as other individuals on the school campus. Students will wear their OneCards to and from home every day.



All students must wear their current year ID cards to:

- Be in class
- Move between classes and to the restroom
- Buy lunch
- Borrow library books
- Ride a bus

The ID Card must be worn on a breakaway lanyard hanging from their neck.

- School IDs cannot be worn on a shirtsleeve, pants, outside of pockets, under a coat/jacket or at the bottom of shirt.
- If a student is wearing a jacket, the lanyard must be on the outside of the jacket and visible.
- The ID Card must be presented to any school staff member or person of authority when seeking student identification.
- The front and back of the ID Card must remain plain and free of stickers, markings, other photos, etc.
- Lost, stolen, altered, damaged, and defaced ID Cards must be replaced IMMEDIATELY through the secretary or designated ID facilitator.
- Cost for replacement is \$5.00 for a new ID Card and \$1.00 for a new Lanyard
- Students are excused from wearing IDs during classes where they present a hazard to student safety. They should be properly secured during this time.

OneCards will be scanned every morning upon student arrival.



Parent/Guardian Conferences and Communication

Conferences should be set up before or after school in order to protect instructional time. You may also set up conferences during the time students are with the specialist teachers.

Mandatory conferences will be held for 1st and 3rd nine weeks, per Guilford County Schools policy.

Weekly Folders will be sent home on Fridays or Mondays with samples of class work, graded homework, tests, newsletters, forms, etc. Remember: Volunteers are not allowed to stuff folders

with confidential information such as test scores or graded assignments. This will be handled by school employees including teachers and teacher assistants.

Playground Behavior

Appropriate, safe playground behavior is expected at all times from children. Children engaging in inappropriate behavior will be asked to sit out during a portion of recess or may lose recess privileges for a given period of time deemed appropriate by the teacher and/or principal.

Playground Use (After-Hours)

The school provides no supervision of playgrounds after children are dismissed at the close of the school day, on weekends, or in the summer. For this reason, parents are encouraged to come with children or make provisions for their supervision before permitting them to come to play on the playground after school hours. Play cannot interfere with the ACES activities. Community members are only allowed to use the playground and/or walking track before or after regular school hours.

Promotion to Next Grade Policy

Decisions to promote children to the next grade level will be made by the principal, with input from the teacher. Teachers are to notify parent(s)/guardian(s) (after discussing with the principal first) if there is a possibility of retention as soon as the teacher is certain that retention is possible.

PTO

The Stokesdale Elementary PTO exists to promote the welfare of its children. Parents and teachers are encouraged to join and participate in PTO so that together we can forge a true partnership to provide the very best educational opportunities for our students.

PTO Meetings

PTO dates will be announced on the Stokesdale Elementary PTO's website (www.stokesdalepto.org) and on their Facebook page. At the meetings, we hear from the principal or a principal designee, get grade level updates from the teacher



representative, vote on how PTO funds will be raised and spent, and discuss items of information and/or concern. All parents, staff and community members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The board of directors shall manage the affairs of the local PTO during the intervals between general membership meetings. The board shall be responsible for assuring that all activities and expenditures of this local PTO shall be consistent with the budget approved by the general membership. Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held during the fiscal year. At the meetings, we hear from the principal or a principal designee, get grade level updates from teacher and parent representatives, vote on how PTO funds will be raised and spent, and discuss items of information and/or concern.

Programs Provided by the PTO

- Beautification
- Character Education
- School Directory
- Reflections
- Spirit Wear
- Parent Communications such as Newsletter, Facebook Page, E-Mails, Web Site
- Yearbook
- Teacher Appreciation
- Volunteer and Grade Parent Coordination

Programs Funded by PTO

- Media Center/Literacy Library
- Academic Competitions such as Science Fair and Spelling Bee
- Teacher Discretionary Funds
- Field Trip Scholarship Funds
- Special Funding Requests
- Celebration of Success
- Performing Arts/Cultural Arts Programs
- School Safety Initiatives
- Technology



Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home four times a year, at the end of each 9-week quarter. All report cards will be reviewed by the principal prior to being sent home. Parents should be able to match the work sent home with the grades on the report card. Report card comments should be used as an opportunity to appropriately address the current status of each child's academic performance. Parents should sign the report card envelope and return it to school.



School Counseling Services

Our school counselor is available to support students' academic, social, and emotional well-being. Counseling services may include whole-class lessons, small group sessions, and individual meetings based on student needs. If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school counselor directly.

Child Abuse and Neglect

North Carolina law requires that school personnel report any suspected child abuse or neglect. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and will follow all legal requirements regarding such reports.

Suicidal Thoughts and Self-Harm

If a student expresses thoughts of suicide or self-harm—or if such concerns are shared by another student—a report will be made to the school counselor immediately, on the same day. The safety of our students is our top priority, and timely communication allows us to respond with appropriate care and support.

School Facilities (Use)

All individuals/groups must submit an application for district approval for use of school facilities. The application can be obtained from gcsnc.com. Applications for use of school buildings and grounds should be completed and returned to GCS.

School Transfers

A child transferring from another school will need to officially withdraw from their former school and complete the online registration through Infinite Campus. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may bring report cards or other records in his/her possession to aid in correct placement for the child until official records are received. Once a child is enrolled in Stokesdale Elementary School, office personnel will make a request to the former school for the official school records of the child.

If a child is withdrawing from Stokesdale Elementary School, the parents/guardians should notify his/her teacher prior to leaving, return all books, and pay all fines. School personnel will send all official school records about the child to his/her next school when the receiving school requests them.

School Closings

In case of inclement weather, excessive heat, or other emergencies, announcements concerning school closings will be made by news media. In case of early closing because of snow or heat during the day, please keep your radio or television on, and listen for closing announcements. Please do not telephone the school. Calling the school only ties up the phone lines and delays our getting the message to dismiss.

School Pictures

Individual pictures of each child enrolled in school will be taken during the fall. Group pictures will be taken during the spring. You will be notified as these dates approach. A make-up date will be scheduled for fall pictures only.

Selling and Solicitation

Children are not to sell any items or collect money for any reason from other children at school, on the school bus, or at the bus stop.

Student Conduct

The faculty and staff of Stokesdale Elementary School believe that good discipline is necessary for a successful school program. With that in mind, we expect students to behave in acceptable ways that do not interrupt the educational process for any student or violate the rights of any person. The Guilford County Schools Board of Education has established the rights and responsibilities for all students enrolled in the school system. These guidelines are published in the Guilford County Schools Student Handbook. All students will receive a copy and it is also available online at www.gcsnc.com. Teachers and principals will develop local school and classroom rules necessary to maintain good discipline and will use a variety of methods to enforce those rules.

Listed below are some of the expectations we have for our students.

- Show respect for yourself and other children, as well as faculty, staff, substitute teachers, volunteers and visitors through your actions, your talk, and your dress.
- Help keep your school clean and in good order.
- Walk in the buildings and on walkways.
- Bring only those materials and supplies that are needed for school. Toys, athletic equipment such as bats, balls, etc. are not to be brought to school for any reason.
- Obey all federal, state, and local laws and the policies of The Guilford County Schools Board of Education and Stokesdale Elementary School.
- Do your work and come to school regularly and on time.
- Learn, enjoy our school, and have some fun each day.

These items are not allowed on Guilford County Schools Property:

- Weapons
- “Poppers”
- Tobacco products and lighters
- E-Cigarette or Vaping products
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Water guns, and
- Other dangerous items are not allowed

Student Information (Please Keep Current)

School personnel need to have up-to-date information on each student in case of emergencies. If your address, telephone number, or other information changes during the year, be sure to notify your child's teacher or the Student Data Manager, Kendrick Davis, with the correct data.

Student Wellness – Policy Code: 6140

The Guilford County Board of Education (“the Board”) recognizes that it is important for students to maintain their physical health and receive proper nutrition in order to take advantage of educational opportunities. The Board further recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to a student's physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience and has established goals to that effect in policies 6100 and 6200. As part of that commitment, the Board directs the Superintendent to oversee the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of this policy and other school district efforts to encourage students to be healthy and active and to follow the requirements of the state and federal laws related to student wellness. The Superintendent may designate a school district official to carry out this responsibility (“lead wellness official”).

School Health Advisory Council

The Board will maintain a school health advisory council to help plan, update, implement, promote, and monitor this policy as well as to address other health and nutrition issues within the school district. The Superintendent and designee will consult the School Health Advisory Council where appropriate to carry out the functions described herein.

The council will be composed of representatives from the school district, the local health department, and the community consistent with law and state board policy.

Nutrition Promotion and Nutrition Education

The Board believes that promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement. The general goals of nutrition promotion and nutrition education are (1) to provide appropriate instruction for the acquisition of behaviors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle for students and (2) to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students.

The Board will provide nutrition education designed to provide students with knowledge and skills to lead healthy lives within the Healthful Living Standard Course of Study and the grade level expectations outlined in the Healthful Living Essential Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent, working with the Health Advisory Council, to set goals, strategies and practices that further the health and wellness of all GCS students working with community resources and agencies in addition to school communities and families. The Board shall appoint a member to serve as its liaison to the Health Advisory Council.

Nutrition Standards and Guidelines for All Food and Beverages Available at School Consistent with policy 6200, Goals of School Nutrition Services, all foods available in the district's schools during the school day that are offered to students should help promote student health, reduce childhood obesity, provide a variety of nutritional meals, and promote lifelong healthy eating habits. All foods and beverages sold at school must meet the nutrition standards established in policy 6230, School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards. The Superintendent is directed to establish procedures for School meal and competitive food standards not inconsistent with the Board's goals and state and federal law and guidelines and to publish the procedures. The Superintendent is also responsible for enforcing compliance with those procedures.

Competitive Foods

All foods sold on school campuses in areas that are accessible to students during the school day (defined as the period from midnight through 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) will comply with the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs ("competitive foods") and must comply with the federal Smart Snacks in Schools standards. Competitive foods include food, snacks, and beverages from a la carte menus, vending machines, and outside suppliers, as well as foods or beverages sold in school stores and at fund-raisers. All monies received through the sale of competitive foods by any entity other than School Nutrition Services (SNS) during the school day are to be transferred from that entity to the SNS.

Physical Education and Physical Activity

Goals of the Physical Education Program

The goal of the physical education program is to promote lifelong physical activity and provide instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation in physical activity. To address issues such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and Type II diabetes, students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade will be provided the opportunity to participate in physical activity as part of the district's physical education curriculum.

The Physical Education Course

The physical education courses offered to students will comply with state and federal requirements, specifically the Healthy Active Children Policy, and will comply with the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study.

Physical Activity Requirements and Goals

School personnel should provide opportunities for age- and developmentally-appropriate physical activity during the day for all students so that students can learn how to maintain a physically active lifestyle. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade will receive 30 minutes of moderate to rigorous physical activity per day. This can be accomplished through physical education, recess, and/or free play.

The Superintendent is directed to comply with all requirements for physical activity set by state and federal law and to facilitate schools.

Other School-Based Activities to Promote Wellness

The Board adopts the following goals for school-based activities designed to promote wellness:

- Schools will provide a clean and safe meal environment.
- Students will be provided adequate time to eat meals.
- Drinking water will be available at all meal periods and throughout the school day.
- Professional development will be provided for school district nutrition staff.
- To the extent possible, the school district will utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.
- Food will not be used in the schools as a reward or punishment.
- As appropriate, the goals of this wellness policy will be considered in planning all school-based activities.
- Administrators, teachers, school nutrition personnel, students, parents or guardians, and community members will be encouraged to serve as positive role models to promote student wellness.

Implementation and Review of Policy

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish an administrative regulation to ensure the implementation and periodic review of this policy, and the district's progress in meeting the board's student wellness goals. The administrative regulation will include the lead wellness official's name and contact information.

Public Notification

- The lead wellness official shall assist the school health advisory council with annually informing and updating the Board about this policy and its implementation and state board policy SHLT-000.
- The Superintendent or designee shall make public the results of the triennial assessment described this policy, as required by law.
- All information required to be reported under this section and any additional information required by the state to be reported publicly shall be widely disseminated to students, parents, and the community in an accessible and easily understood manner, which may include by posting on the school district website.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, GCS is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at:

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 6329992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
fax: (202) 690-7442; or
email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Recordkeeping

The Superintendent or designee (lead wellness official) shall maintain records to document compliance with this policy and all federal and state requirements.

Adopted: July 25, 2019

Last revised: December 9, 2022 (technical corrections only)



Tardiness

Children suffer when they are tardy to school. The directions for the day have been given and instruction has begun. Children coming to school under those circumstances are often frustrated and spend much of the day trying to “catch up.” Additionally, we strive to develop the habit of being at our “jobs” on time. Therefore, school personnel ask you to have your child at school on time. If arriving to school late, bring your child to the office. All students who arrive tardy shall receive an admit to class permit in the office.

Teacher’s Lounge & Mailroom

The teacher’s lounge and mailroom are off limits to ALL parents, visitors, and students. No exceptions.

Technology Use at School: What Parents Should Know



Guilford County Schools provides students with access to technology and devices to support learning. Using school technology is a privilege that comes with responsibilities.

Here’s what you need to know:

- Technology is for learning. Students are expected to use school devices for educational purposes only, not for games, entertainment, or personal business.
- Be responsible and respectful. Students should use technology safely, ethically, and kindly—treating devices and others with respect.

- All activity is monitored. The school can and does monitor how technology is used. If a student misuses a device or the internet, there may be disciplinary consequences.
- No private hotspots or personal internet access. Students must use the school's network while on campus—not personal Wi-Fi devices.
- Respect privacy. Students should not share personal information about themselves or others without permission.
- Follow copyright laws. Copying or sharing software, music, or videos without permission is not allowed.
- Keep systems safe. Students may not try to hack, damage, or disable school systems or spread viruses.
- Don't misuse school names or logos. Personal websites or social media that disrupt school or misuse school branding may be taken down.

By using school technology, students and families agree to follow these rules and understand that their use is monitored for safety. When we all follow the rules, technology helps everyone learn more and stay safe online!

Transportation Changes

Every child should know when she/he leaves home in the morning how she/he is to get home in the afternoon. Frequent changes create confusion for the child and for school personnel.

Should a child need to go home by any way other than the normal means, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must send a note of explanation to the teacher. In the absence of a note, teachers are instructed to send the child to the office to make phone contact with the parent(s)/guardian(s). If contact cannot be made or if it is dismissal time, the child will be sent home in the manner she/he usually travels. To avoid confusion and misunderstood messages, please try to make these arrangements prior to the student coming to school.

PLEASE NOTE:

NO CHANGES IN THE WAY CHILDREN ARE TO GO HOME WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 1:30 P.M. UNLESS AN EMERGENCY HAS CAUSED A CHANGE IN PLANS. PLEASE CONTACT THE FRONT OFFICE IF AN EMERGENCY OCCURS.

In the event that a child is going home with a child(ren) from another family, written permission from both students parent/guardian must be submitted to the office in advance.

Often, we receive correspondence from the transportation office informing us that only students assigned to a particular bus are allowed to ride due to the bus being filled to capacity. Approval



Children will be administered a vision screening by the nurse in kindergarten, first, and fourth grade. Please contact your child's teacher for further information.



Volunteers

Non-school age children of volunteers are not permitted during regular school hours and must be supervised at all times outside of regular school hours.

Additional Information

Additional information can be obtained by consulting the Student Handbook of The Guilford County Schools or by calling Stokesdale Elementary School.

In compliance with federal laws, Guilford County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Refer to the Board of Education's Discrimination Free Environment Policy AC for a complete statement. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Guilford County Schools Compliance Officer, 120 Franklin Boulevard, Greensboro, NC 27401; 336.370.2323.

All Guilford County Schools facilities, both educational and athletic, are tobacco-free learning environments.