

# South Point High School

## Student & Parent Handbook

2024-2025



906 South Point Road - Belmont, NC 28012  
(704) 836-9612 (phone) - (704) 825-2820 (fax)  
<http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Domain/48>  
<https://facebook.com/SouthPointHS>

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## **Welcome from the Principal**

Hello SPHS Students and Families!

Welcome back to school! We are excited to see you all again and to help you begin another chapter of your educational journey. With your hard work and commitment, 2024-25 is going to be a great year. South Point High School is a great school that is made up of highly qualified staff who believe in their purpose and who can't wait to meet and work with their students to help them achieve success. SPHS has a storied history in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities, and we're looking forward to experiencing each of these with you all this school year.

Know this - I am acutely aware of the importance of these 4 years in your student's life. Our aim at South Point is to help each student on their respective journey towards high school graduation and beyond. Parents, we see ourselves as partners with you as we work together to help our students reach their goals. You are counting on us to do our part, and we're counting on you to do yours. Students, the same goes for you; you are just as much a part of this equation as your parents and SPHS staff are. Together, we will accomplish great things this year!

Go Big Red!

**Josh Allen**  
Principal  
South Point High School

### **Mission Statement**

South Point High School is to provide high-quality instruction that will support exemplary learning ensuring the highest achievement for all students. By creating partnerships between teachers, administrators, parents, and members of the community we will prepare our students for college and careers.

## **South Point Administration & Support Staff**

Principal	Josh Allen
Assistant Principals	Alice Ballard (A-G) Andrew Howard (H-O) Kelly Brown (P-Z)
School Counselors	Erin Stokes (A-G) Allison Lord (H-O) Leilany Vasquez (P-Z)
Athletic Director	Kent Hyde
Financial Secretary	Carol Ratliff
Data Manager	Blair Henderson
School Counselor Secretary	Melony Andrews
Receptionist	Tammy Smoak
Student Success Coordinator	Shannon Williams
Business Manager	Ericka Garris
Online Learning Coordinator	Marques Williams
Career Development Coordinator	Candis Fields
Nurse	Susan Clark
Social Worker	Angela Ferguson
School Resource Officer	Officer Pullen
Security	Devares Friday

# School Profile

**Enrollment:** 1000  
**Colors:** Red and Black  
**Mascot:** Red Raider

## Communication Efforts

- Parent Conferences** Parent Conference Days are currently scheduled for October 10th and March 13th from 1:30–7:00 pm. More information will be coming about procedures for Parent Conference Days. Throughout the semester, parents can schedule a conference with a teacher as necessary.
- PowerSchool** The PowerSchool Parent Module provides students and parents a secure website to access grades and attendance throughout each semester.
- Canvas** Canvas is Gaston County Schools's Learning Management System (LMS) and is accessible by parents to view assignments and lesson material. SPHS strongly encourages parents/guardians to utilize this LMS for real-time access to their students' high school classes.
- ParentLink Messages** Automated phone calls, emails, text messages, GCS app posts, and Facebook posts will be sent home to update students and parents about news at SPHS each week.
- School Website** Our school website is frequently updated to keep students, parents, and the community in the loop on important announcements, news, and events at SPHS. <http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Domain/48>
- Social Media** Visit our South Point Facebook page and follow us on Twitter @SouthPointHS.

# Bell Schedules

(6 minute class changes for all schedules)

Normal Schedule	
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:30 – 10:00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	10:06 – 11:36
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	11:42 – 1:44
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:50 – 3:25

Two Hour Delay Schedule	
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	10:30 – 11:00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	11:06 – 11:36
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	11:42 – 1:44
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:50 – 3:25

Homeroom/Advisory Schedule	
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:30 – 9:42
Advisory	9:48 – 10:18
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	10:24 – 11:36
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	11:42 – 1:44
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:50 – 3:25

August 14 and 15 Schedule	
Advisory	8:30 – 9:15
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	9:21 – 10:25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	10:31 – 11:36
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	11:42 – 1:44
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:50 – 3:25

# Student Drop-Off Procedures

Parents dropping off their students for school should enter the school parking lot via South Point Road, should follow the driveway and signage around the back of the building and drop students off at the designated area (see map below). Students should not be dropped off prior to 8:00.



# Academics

## GRADES AND GRADING SCALE

GPA Conversion Chart for students who entered ninth grade in 2015-2016 and beyond				
Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Standard Level Courses	Honors Level Courses	AP and Community College Level Courses
A	90-100	4.000	4.500	5.000
B	80-89	3.000	3.500	4.000
C	70-79	2.000	2.500	3.000
D	60-69	1.000	1.500	2.000
F	59 and Below	0.000	0.000	0.000

\*\*INC - No grade is given at this time

\*\*FF - Failure due to attendance policy. No credit given for the course.

## Classification of Students

- A student is classified as a FRESHMAN (9th grade) when he/she has been promoted from grade 8 in middle school.
- A student is classified as a SOPHOMORE (10th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 6 credits.
- A student is classified as a JUNIOR (11th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 13 credits.
- A student is classified as a SENIOR (12th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 20 credits.
- TO GRADUATE: A student needs to earn a minimum of 28 credits and successful completion of competency standards.

## Grading Policy

GCS high school grading for each 9-week grading period will be calculated as follows:

Tests/Major Projects/Papers	60%
Quizzes	20%
Daily/Class Grades and/or Homework	20%

## Reteach/Retest Policy

- The reteach/retest program in Gaston County high schools is a strategy to be utilized in working with student mastery of coursework. This program is intended to be a complement to the regular instructional day and shall be used to increase student mastery of subject matter.
- A reteach session is not mandatory before the retest is administered, but can be required by the teacher if he/she believes it to be necessary and beneficial to the student.
- Benchmarks, formative assessments, and final exams shall not be in the reteach/retest program.
- Reteach/retest can be a part of a student's make-up of work missed due to an absence (this can be addressed within the school-specific guidelines).
- Students shall be able to re-test any major assignment one (1) time.
- Any student who makes below a 75 is eligible to re-test.
- The highest grade a student may make on a retest is 75. If the re-test grade is lower than the original test grade, the student shall receive the higher of the two grades.
- Tests that may be retested are those which comprise the 60 percent of the six weeks grade (major assignments, etc.) with exceptions listed above. Entire projects may not be considered part of the retest process. Teachers may allow students to "retest" a portion of the project, therefore positively affecting the overall grade assigned.
- The reteach-retest guidelines apply to all courses offered in GCS, including honors, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and Gaston Online courses. However, the GCS Grading Guidelines do not apply to CCP and NCVPS courses.
- It is recommended that students complete the reteach/retest process for a major assessment within 10 days of original assessment administration.
- Students who qualify for the exceptional children's program may earn higher than a 75 if reteach/retest is included as a modification in the IEP.
- Schools must publish the district guidelines and school specific guidelines regarding days and times for retesting to parents, students, and staff in a written document (preferably the student handbook).

## Minimum Course Loads

The state of North Carolina and Gaston County Schools require that all students take four courses daily each semester. Students are expected to attend all four classes even if the student does not need the class to meet graduation requirements. Early release (a flexed schedule) will only be permitted for seniors with hardship cases or special circumstances. Early release may comprise a student for disability, social security benefits, child support, and other services. Early release without authorization will result in disciplinary action.

## Class Restrictions

South Point has several courses that require special skills, prerequisites, or are limited in class size by law due to safety guidelines. Course availability, grade level, and graduation requirements may also be used for selection of a specific course.

## Special Needs

In addition to the regular curriculum, South Point provides instruction for students who have special educational needs. Placement is based on test scores, teacher recommendation, and placement committee evaluations.

## Withdrawals

In order for a student to enroll in another school, a parent must see the school counseling secretary to complete a withdrawal form. Grades will be recorded for each subject. An official transcript along with a withdrawal form will be given to the parent and student to enroll in the new school. A student who wishes to withdraw from school must discuss this option with his/her school counselor. If a withdrawal is necessary, the counselor will direct the student as to how to complete the withdrawal process.

## College Credit While Still in High School

### College Now (CCP)

Many college programs will be available to South Point students while they are still in high school. These (and other) classes are offered at Gaston College during the school day and on the South Point campus (virtually). Students enrolled in these classes will receive both high school and college credit. The high school credits count toward graduation and the college credits may be transferable to NC public colleges or universities!

**Please note:** In addition to Gaston College classes, college credit is still available on the South Point campus from our abundant **Advanced Placement** (AP) course offerings and/or provided through Gaston Online.

## North Carolina Academic Scholars Program

Students who seek the Future Ready Course of Study also may earn the N.C. Academic Scholars distinction. Students who qualify for this honor receive an honor sticker on their diploma, recognition on their transcript and recognition at graduation.

<b>English</b>	<b>4 Credits:</b> I, II, III, IV
<b>Math</b>	<b>4 Credits:</b> Math I, II, III and one unit of higher level mathematics.
<b>Science</b>	<b>3 Credits:</b> Biology, Earth/Environmental Science, and Physics or Chemistry course.
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>4 Credits:</b> World History, Civics/Economics, American History, and Personal Finance
<b>Second Language</b>	<b>2 Credits:</b> Two credits of the same language other than English
<b>Health &amp; PE</b>	<b>1 Credit:</b> Health/Physical Education
<b>Career and Technical</b>	<b>6 Credit:</b> Includes two credit of the same language other than English  Four additional credits in a concentration area such as Career and Technical Education, Arts Education, Second Language (beyond the first two credits), or other subject area.
<b>Second Language</b>	
<b>Art Education (Dance, Music Theater Arts, Visual Arts)</b>	
<b>Arts Education (Dance, music, Theater arts, Visual arts)</b>	<b>1 Credit:</b> One credit is required in either the visual arts, band, chorus, dance or theater arts as offered at your high school.
<b>Electives or other requirements</b>	<b>3 Advanced Credits-Three credits from higher level (advanced) courses taken during the junior and senior years such as Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced Career and Technical Educational, college level courses, or other advanced courses</b>

*\*\*Please refer to the Gaston County Schools High School Curriculum Guide publication for exceptions, specific information on grading, courses, college athletic eligibility, dual enrollment,, North Carolina Virtual Public School, GCS online courses of study, NC Scholars program, honor graduates, etc.*

*\*\*\* Online Courses are offered to GCS students through N.C. Virtual Public School and Gaston Online.*

*\*\*\*\* Parents of students interested in early graduation should contact their student's counselor for an appointment.*

## Honor Graduates

Gaston County high school seniors will be eligible for graduation honors based on their weighted GPA. The student with the highest weighted GPA will be named valedictorian while the student with the second highest weighted GPA will be named salutatorian. In the event of an exact numerical tie, co- valedictorians and/or salutatorians will be named. Other honor graduates are as follows:

Summa cum laude	4.3+	Denoted by gold tassel
Magna cum laude	4.0-4.2999	Denoted by a red tassel
Cum laude	3.7-3.9999	Denoted by a white tassel

## Testing in North Carolina

- **End of Course (EOC) Exams** – are required by the state in specified courses.
- **WorkKeys** – Job skills assessment
- **Career and Technical Education Proof of Learning-** The Career and Technical Education Program requires students to pass either the Project Based Measurement (PBM), Credential Exam, or End of Course Exam (EOC).
- **PSAT and Pre-ACT** – The PSAT and the Pre-ACT, preliminary tests for the SAT/ACT, offer students valuable testing experience and specific feedback on test results.

The PSAT is available to tenth and eleventh graders. Students are encouraged to take the PSAT in the tenth grade, study their results carefully, and retake the test in the junior year.

The Pre-ACT is a required test that all sophomores in NC public high schools take in the fall of their sophomore year.

- **SAT and ACT** – Both the SAT and the ACT are college admissions tests typically taken in the Junior Year. Beginning in 2012, the state of North Carolina mandated that the ACT be administered to all registered 11<sup>th</sup> graders during the school day in the month of March.

Students should check with the college or university to determine which test is required. Students may pick up test prep materials and registration information in the counseling office. Testing and registration information can be found at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for the SAT and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for the ACT.

## **School Counselors**

South Point has three school counselors who are split by last name alpha and one school counseling secretary who are available to all students, teachers, and parents. They provide academic advising, college & career planning, and personal counseling services to all students at South Point High School. Our school counselors also schedule parent nights for students' academic and financial needs throughout the year.

Erin Stokes: A-G

Allison Lord: H-O

Leilany Vasquez: P-Z

Melony Andrews: Counseling Secretary

Students who wish to speak with their counselor may schedule an appointment on the school counseling website or by using their smartphones to scan a QR code on posters that are placed around campus. This helps counselors prioritize appointments in order to meet student needs. Students who are experiencing a crisis and are in need of immediate assistance may report directly to the counseling office with teacher permission. We respectfully ask that parents call for an appointment to meet with a counselor to avoid wait times. Every effort is made to ensure that all students' schedules are correct; however, when a student feels a schedule change is needed, he/she can submit the request to their counselor. All schedule change requests will be reviewed by a committee including counselors and school administrators. A decision on whether or not the schedule will be changed will be communicated with the student.

The school counseling secretary will consult with students to resolve attendance issues.

## **School Social Worker**

Our school social worker is available to assist students and parents with resources needed for success in school. She also monitors attendance concerns, assists homeless students and families, intervenes with students and families in crisis, participates in our Multi-Tiered System of Supports Team (MTSS), and works daily with school personnel to ensure the academic and social success of all students. The social worker's office is located in room 128.

## **School Nurse**

Our school nurse works with students regarding health and wellness issues, responds to medical emergencies, develops student health plans, and participates in the Multi-Tiered System of Supports Team (MTSS) as needed. Our school nurse is located in room 128.

## **School Procedures**

### **Medication**

When a student must take OTC or prescription medication at school, these requirements apply:

- All medication will be housed in the SPHS Nurse's office.
- Medication must be in the original container or pharmacy bottle and clearly labeled.
- Medication can be given only after the parent has signed a permission form.
- Long term (more than two weeks) medications must have the physician's authorization.
- Parents should deliver medication to the school. Medication will be discarded 7 days after the last administration.

### **Security**

Random searches and metal detecting will be conducted according to the guidelines set forth by Gaston County Board of Education Policy during the school day and at school events.

### **Fire, Tornado, & Lockdown Drills**

Fire drills are held monthly as required by state law. A tornado drill will be held in the spring on a date selected by the Emergency Management System. A lockdown drill will be performed a minimum of two times per semester.

### **Visitors**

All visitors must immediately report to the main office with a valid state issued ID. Visitors will be issued a visitor's badge that will be displayed at all times during their visit.

### **Lost & Found**

Lost articles should be taken to the front office.

### **Lockers**

Lockers will be available upon request. Please see Coach Friday if interested in using one.

### **Vending**

Due to state and federal regulations, all student vending machines have been placed on timers that will not allow them to operate between the hours of 7:00-1:45. Students are permitted to use vending machines at 1:45 and after school.

## **Outside Food & Drink**

Drinks brought in from outside vendors must have a lid. Food from outside eating establishments will not be delivered to the school by parents, visitors, or delivery services such as UberEats, DoorDash, etc.

## **Expectations for Student Behavior/Student Discipline**

Your parents, our community, and Gaston County Schools have worked together to provide you with a staff, building, and equipment to help prepare you for a future of success. We are committed to giving you the best education possible and know you will take special pride in keeping our school "First Class."

Through the year you will be expected to assume the responsibilities listed below:

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Be in your assigned classroom with all necessary materials when the tardy bell rings.
3. Utilize manners and treat every teacher, administrator, staff member, fellow students, and yourself with respect.
4. Follow the specific rules/procedures for each class, abide by the GCS Code of Student Conduct, and conduct all drills in a safe and orderly manner.
5. Help maintain the building and all school equipment and materials.

Students are expected to show good citizenship at all times and follow the instructions given by any teacher or staff member and the Gaston County Student Code of Conduct, the rules of South Point High School, as well as the laws of the state of North Carolina. Students who do not follow these expectations will be disciplined fairly, but firmly to protect the rights and safety of all students and staff members. Classroom teachers will handle minor misconduct. If a student's behavior does not improve with the teacher's efforts, he/she will be referred to an assistant principal who will follow South Point's Discipline Steps and/or the disciplinary measures outlined in the GCS Code of Student Conduct 2024-2025.

## In-School Suspension

In-school suspension (ISS) is an intervention offered during the school day for violations of the South Point rules and the GCS Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with ISS classroom rules will result in the following:

- First Offense: Parents are contacted and the student is sent home for the remainder of the school day.
- Recurring Incidents: Violation of Rule 1, Rule 2, Rule 19 of GCS Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary consequences are aligned to GCS Code of Conduct - up to 10 days OSS and/or alternative placement.

## Dress Code

RULE 16: Dress Code\* (GCS Code of Conduct)

The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. Each student is expected to maintain an appearance that is neither distracting to other students nor disruptive to the educational environment or the safe and healthy climate of schools.

**Students shall not wear:**

- Headwear - Hats, bandanas, hair picks, combs or other types of headgear (hoods, do-rags, toboggans, etc) or sunglasses in the building.
- Clothing - Clothing that displays sexually explicit words or drawings, profanity, alcohol, drugs, weapons or gang symbols.

No style of clothing or the manner in which it is worn may expose undergarments or create a distraction or disturbance in the educational setting. Pants - no sagging; no holes in inappropriate areas including the pocket areas. The expectations noted above represent the minimum standards established throughout the school system. In addition, items not specifically mentioned may still be deemed inappropriate in a school setting in the judgment of the school administration.

The Board of Education recognizes that local law enforcement agencies may determine that wearing particular gang related attire may present a threat to student safety. The Superintendent will work collaboratively with these agencies to prohibit such dress. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Superintendent who will make any proposed recommendations for change to the Gaston County Board of Education.

**Consequences:** Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 3 days OSS. *\*We will always work with students and families to remedy a dress code violation.*

## Tobacco Products/Electronic Cigarettes/Lighters/Matches

Items will be confiscated. For possession of vape accessories, including chargers, empty pods, and lighters, students will receive 1 day of OSS. For use of cigarettes/vapes, or other tobacco products, students will receive 2 days of OSS. Consequences for both will increase with repeat offenses, up to 10 days OSS. In the event of repeat offenses, students will be required to participate in a daily metal detection and bag check.

## Electronic Device Policy

Rule 18: Use of Wireless Communication Devices (see policy 4318 for complete policy)

The board recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess such devices on school property so long as the devices are not activated, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel. Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices. School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless devices will be returned only to the student's parents.

A student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or a school rule.

## Fighting

Any altercation on school grounds is considered serious by the South Point Administration. Fighting on the school campus or the school bus may be determined to be an assault by the Gaston County Police Department. Charges may be filed and students 18 years and older will be subject to arrest.

\*\*\*Other behaviors which violate the GCS Code of Student Conduct 2024-2025, but not listed here will be punished according to consequences listed in the GCS Code of Student Conduct 2024-2025.

## Bus Procedures

Student safety is a primary concern in all bus procedures. Riding the bus is a **PRIVILEGE**, not a **RIGHT**. Students will lose bus privileges if their conduct endangers others or distracts the driver.

Bus rules include:

- 1) Obey the bus driver promptly and with respect.
- 2) Be at the designated stop ready to board the bus at the scheduled time.
- 3) Do not leave trash on the bus.
- 4) Stay in your seat while the bus is moving.
- 5) Respect other students and their property.
- 6) Horseplay, fighting and other misbehavior is not allowed.
- 7) Students may only ride their assigned bus. They need to have written permission from a parent and administration verification to get off at a stop other than their regular stop.
- 8) Keep all body parts inside the bus and do not throw anything out of the bus.

**Consequences for violation of the bus rules will range from parent contact, temporary bus suspensions and/or permanent removal from riding the bus.**

## Tardies

Any student arriving to class after the bell rings to begin class is tardy. The definition of tardy to class is when a student fails to cross the threshold of the classroom door when the bell stops ringing.

Any student arriving at school after 8:30 AM is tardy. All students arriving before 8:45 AM report directly to class after being bag checked/metal detected. The classroom teacher codes the tardy with the 1st period class attendance in PowerSchool.

**Students who arrive at school after 8:45 AM must report to the front office to sign-in.**

**Students who miss more than 15 minutes of any class are considered absent for that class.**

Students who receive more than 3 tardies to school and/or class **per semester** will receive after-school detention (ASD) as described below:

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR TARDIES TO 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD CLASSES AND/OR ADVISORY CLASSES ARE:**

- Parents will be contacted informing them of excessive tardies by the teacher.
- 5<sup>th</sup> tardy: 30 minutes of ASD
- 6<sup>th</sup> tardy: Administrative & Parent Conference
- 7<sup>th</sup> tardy: 30 minutes of ASD
- 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> tardy: 1 hour of ASD (per tardy)
- 10<sup>th</sup> tardy: 1 day of ISS
- 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> tardy: 1 of of ASD (per tardy)
- 15<sup>th</sup> tardy: 1 day of OSS

### **Notes on Tardy Policy:**

- **Failure to serve assigned ASD will result in additional ASD and/or suspension from school.**
- **Students will have 6 minutes between classes to move from class to class.**
- **When students are held over (by a teacher) at the end of a class or during transition, the teacher will write students a pass to class with no penalty incurred.**
- **The most problematic situations are students arriving late to school and/or socializing during class change which lead to unexcused tardies.**

## **Leaving Campus Without Permission and/or in a Vehicle**

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Automatic in-school-suspension (ISS) (minimum) or out-of-school suspension (OSS) if warranted.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Parking permit will be revoked for the remainder of the school year and/or additional out-of-school suspension.

## **Documentation of Absences**

Following any absence(s), a student is required to present a written document/note from the parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence and turn into the attendance secretary, Mrs. Henderson. All absences will be coded unexcused in the computer until a written note is received from the parent or guardian. Written documentation must be presented within three (3) school

days after the student returns to school; otherwise, the absence(s) will be recorded as unexcused. After the tenth absence, a parent may receive a letter which requires doctor notes to excuse future absences. Absences will be coded according to North Carolina State Regulations as printed in paragraph B of the Compulsory Attendance section above.

## Checking In & Out

- All students will check in and out in the front office after 8:45 am.
- For students leaving school early, the student should always sign out in the front office or the student will be considered skipping.
- Parents who wish to sign out their student early should report to the front office. Only parents and authorized individuals on the student record will be allowed to pick up students. Court documents must be on file for a restricted biological parent.
- If a student drives, a parent may send a written note or call to authorize the student to leave. The front office staff will verify with the parent/guardian that the student has permission to leave school.

## Make-up Work

Students with excused and unexcused absences are required to make up missed work. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student to initiate and complete outside of the regular class period. Upon the student's return to school, the student has three (3) school days to arrange for make-up work with each of his/her teachers for which a class was missed. Work missed must be completed as directed by each teacher within five (5) school days from the student's return to school.

## School-related Functions

Students attending a school-related function will not be counted absent. School related functions are school field trips, school-initiated and scheduled activities, and athletic events which require early dismissal from school. These students will be held responsible for making up missed work. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

## Make-Up Time Program

Each high school will develop proper procedures to implement the above policy. Each high school will also develop a package of incentives and/or consequences for improvements in student attendance. These incentives and/or consequences will include student parking privileges and may include other activities and events such as attendance or costs for the annual school prom.

Students that are absent for 10 or more days in ANY class will be required to make-up time in order to receive credit for the course. The Guidance Secretary will meet with students to review their time and progress.

## Parking Policy

Students must purchase a **\$20.00** parking permit to park a vehicle on campus. Parking is a privilege and not a right. Parking privileges are available to Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores (sophomore parking is limited due to limited space). Violation of parking guidelines will result in fines, suspension, and revoked privileges. All vehicles on campus must display a parking

permit. Registration forms can be accessed on the SPHS website or picked up in the front office.

### RULES:

1. Students must park in designated student parking areas with parking permits displayed during school hours.
2. Students should not exceed speeds of 5 mph on campus and must follow the directions of school personnel directing traffic.
3. Students cannot park in spaces marked RESERVED, FACULTY, or HANDICAP.
4. Once a parking permit is sold, it cannot be traded, exchanged, resold, or transferred.
5. Students are expected to exit their vehicles upon arrival to campus. Likewise, students are expected to return to their vehicles at the end of school and exit the parking lot promptly. Loitering will not be tolerated in parking areas.
6. Students are not permitted to return to their vehicles during the school day without permission from the front office.

VIOLATION	CONSEQUENCE
Parking in a FACULTY or RESERVED space.	1st Offense – One Week Parking Suspension 2nd Offense – Two Week Parking Suspension 3rd Offense – Parking Revoked for Semester
Parking in a HANDICAP space.	Car Towed and fined in accordance with NC General Statutes.
Speeding or reckless driving.	1st Offense – One Week Parking Suspension 2nd Offense – Two Week Parking Suspension 3rd Offense – Parking Revoked for Semester
Leaving campus in a vehicle without permission.	1st Offense – One Week Parking Suspension 2nd Offense – Two Week Parking Suspension 3rd Offense – Parking Revoked for Semester
Returning to the vehicle during school without permission.	1st Offense – One Week Parking Suspension 2nd Offense – Two Week Parking Suspension 3rd Offense – Parking Revoked for Semester
Loitering in parking areas	Each Offense – One Day Parking Suspension

## Driver's Education

### Driver Education and Student Attendance

Students will be allowed to enroll in driver education only if they meet a minimum of 94% attendance in the year (if in middle school) or 94% attendance the semester (if in high school) before enrolling in driver education. **Students must have been in attendance 168 days of the 180 day school year (for middle school) or 84 days of the 90 day semester (for high school) in the year or semester before enrollment in driver education with Gaston County Schools (medical exceptions considered).**

### Dropout Prevention /Driver's License Legislation

North Carolina has legislation reflecting a coordinated statewide effort to motivate and encourage

students to complete their high school education. The law provides for the revocation of the student's driving permit or driving license if the student does not maintain adequate academic progress or drops out of school.

- Adequate academic progress is defined as passing five (5) subjects under a traditional schedule (6 or 7 period day) or 3 out of 4 classes in a block schedule school. At SPHS, passing 3 out of 4 classes would be defined as adequate academic progress each semester.
- This law applies to all North Carolina students under the age of 18 who are eligible for a driving permit or license. Previously a student had to present a birth certificate, social security card, and Driver Education Completion Certificate to the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to obtain a permit or license. A student is required to present a Driving Eligibility Certificate, issued by the school and good for 30 days, to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a permit or license
- The Driving Eligibility Certificate will only be issued to students making adequate academic progress.
- Students who do not meet the academic progress requirements (passing 3 out of 4 classes per semester at SPHS) will be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles and their permit or license will be revoked. Students may regain academic eligibility at the end of each semester.

### **Lose Control, Lose Your License Legislation**

Students given an expulsion/suspension for more than 10 (ten) consecutive days for one of the three reasons listed below are subject to having their permit/license suspended for up to one calendar year.

- The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property.
- The possession or use on school property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under G.S. §115C-391(d1) or that could have resulted in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school.
- The physical assault on a teacher or other personnel on school property.

Students who are at least 14 years old or who are rising 8th graders are subject to this law. The law applies to all students, even to those exempted under Dropout Prevention/Driver's License Legislation. Unlike the Dropout Prevention/Driver's License Legislation law that ends when a student turns 18 years old, the "Lose Control" law does not stop at age 18 nor does it stop when the student graduates.

Students who may lose their permit/license under this legislation may be eligible to regain the permit/license after a six-month period by displaying exemplary behavior in an alternative education setting or having successfully completed a school district approved drug or alcohol treatment counseling program.

# Athletics - Eligibility

## **Athletics**

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the total education process and thus plays a major role in the philosophy of Gaston County Schools. Athletics provide an opportunity for students to excel outside the classroom.

Gaston County Schools adheres to the rules and regulations of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) supplemented by state and county policies which create an environment that promotes sportsmanship and strong educational priorities.

## **Scholastic Requirements**

A student must be enrolled in a minimum of three courses during the current semester and be in good academic standing to participate in athletics. The student must pass a minimum academic load during the preceding semester to be eligible at any time during the current semester. Students also must meet local promotion standards set by the local school system to be eligible. A student entering the ninth grade is eligible for first-semester competition on high school athletic teams.

## **Attendance Rule**

An athlete must have attended school at least 85 percent of the previous semester to be eligible to participate in athletics.

## **Medical Examination**

To be eligible for practice and participation in interscholastic athletic contests, a player must receive a medical examination once every 365 days by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.

## **Age of Player**

No student may be approved for any athletic contest if his/her 19th birthday comes on or before August 31 of that year.

## **Insurance**

Additional insurance coverage is provided for all athletes in a sports policy under the "All Sports" Insurance plan purchased by Gaston County Schools. This sports policy is not meant to pay 100% of the bill but is designed to assist the parent with expenses incurred.

## Prom

- A student must be classified as a junior or senior in order to purchase prom tickets. Students are classified by the number of credits needed for promotion.
- Sophomores and freshmen are only allowed to attend as guests.
- Outside guests must be in good standing in their respective schools or community and must submit a Request to Attend Form during prom ticket sales. If it is determined by South Point High School that a guest is not in good standing, the guest will not be eligible to attend.
- Anyone over the age of 20 will not be allowed to attend.
- Once purchased, tickets are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
- Multiple discipline referrals may cause a student to be denied the privilege of attending.
- Prom information will be posted on the school website and announced on the announcements prior to the event.
- TEN (10) unexcused absences (on the first day of ticket sales) – Students with more than 10 cumulative absences must appeal to Administration to attend.
- Students cannot be in violation of any attendance contract signed for the year.
- Only SPHS staff and faculty members will be allowed to attend the prom as a chaperone or volunteer.

**School Year 2024 - 2025**  
**Gaston County School Nutrition (GCSN)**  
**Information Guide for School Handbooks**

1. Breakfast and Lunch are offered daily in all schools.

Breakfast -A complete school breakfast consists of:

An entrée made with grain and /or protein.

Fat free or 1% milk, and

Fruit and/ or juice (limit of one juice per meal)

All students will be required to take at a minimum one serving of fruit or juice and an entree in order to receive a complete School Breakfast at established meal price (or no charge for a CEP schools).

The maximum amount of food a student can select is one entrée, one milk, and one fruit and/or juice.

If a student does not select a complete school breakfast as outlined above, they have to pay individually for the items they choose.

Lunch - A complete school Lunch consists of:

An entrée made with protein and/or grain

Fat free or 1% milk,

Vegetable, and

Fruit

All students will be required to take a minimum one serving of vegetable or fruit and two additional items in order to receive a school lunch at established meal price (or no charge for CEP schools).

A lunch entrée may count as two items. At a minimum, a student must select an entrée and a fruit or vegetable OR they must select two fruits or vegetables and two additional items to have the meal count as a lunch.

The maximum amount of food a student can select is one entrée, one milk, two vegetables, and two fruits.

If a student does not select a complete school lunch, as outlined above, they will have to pay individually for the items they choose.

2. Meal Prices:

Breakfast

Paid students (all grade levels)	\$1.40
Reduced price students (all grade levels)	\$0.00
Adults (staff and visitors)	\$2.00

Lunch

Paid students (grades K – 5)	\$2.90
Paid students (grades 6 – 12)	\$3.00
Reduced price students (all grade levels)	\$0.00
Adults (staff and visitors)	\$4.00

### 3. Charged Meals:

Students who do not have money may charge a meal if their account has not exceeded the following limits:

Elementary (K-5)	\$21.50
Middle School (6-8)	\$ 8.80
High School (9-12)	no charging allowed

Elementary and middle school students who do not have money and who have exceeded the charge limit may receive a complimentary alternate meal upon request.

High school students who do not have money may also request a complimentary alternate meal if they are unable to find or borrow money.

Students who apply for free and reduced price meal benefits are responsible for all charges incurred before their Free and Reduced Meal Applications are received by the School Nutrition Department.

Students who have exceeded the charged meal limit may not purchase a la carte items with the exception of milk, fruit juice, or water.

Negative balance letters are distributed via email to families who owe money.

A negative balance report can be provided by the Cafeteria Manager at any time upon request.

### 4. Student Accounts

Checks, Cash, or Money Orders can be accepted in the school cafeterias.

Parents/Guardians may utilize Family Portal Link <https://lingconnect.com> to pay with their credit or debit card.

Parents requesting a refund must contact the School Nutrition Free and Reduced Specialist at 704 836-9110 ext. 1.

Positive balances remaining at the end of the school year will remain on students' accounts for the following school year unless a refund is requested.

**Seniors** who graduate and have a positive meal balance should contact Tina Franks at 704-836-9110 ext. 1 to receive a refund or transfer funds to another child. This must be **done within 1 school year** of graduation.

NSF checks are referred to Envision payment solution, a check guarantee and collection service.

### 5. Free and Reduced Meal Application

Paper applications are available at the school office, the school cafeteria, and at the School Nutrition Center in Lowell.

Online applications are available on the Gaston County Schools website. Links can be found on the School Nutrition department tab.

Only **one application** is required **per household**.

Paper applications should be returned to the school Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center - 500 Reid Street Lowell, NC 28098.

Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits, and should be included on the household application. (Not a separate application)

Students designated as homeless by Gaston County Schools' homeless liaison are categorically eligible for free meals. No application is required, but documentation must be received from the homeless liaison before benefits begin.

If there are other children that have not been identified as being directly certified, but who live in the same household, please contact the Free and Reduced Meal Specialist at the School Nutrition Center in Lowell for assistance, (704) 836-9110 ext. 1.

6. Holiday Meals

a) Grades K - 12, Wednesday, November 20, 2024

b) Grades K - 5, Wednesday, December, 11, 2024

c) **ADULT PRICE FOR HOLIDAY MEALS IS \$5.00**

7. Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Universal Free Breakfast and Lunch.

We have 45 schools participating in the 2024-25 school year.

Students transferring /advancing to NON- CEP schools will need to complete a GCSN Free and Reduced Meal Application for school year 2024-2025.

Families of students moving from a CEP school to a NON- CEP, will need to apply for Free and Reduced Meals in order to receive benefits at the new school.

Students who were approved for Free & Reduced meals due to applying in school year 2023 - 2024, will **temporarily** receive free and reduced price meals at the beginning of the School Year 2024-2025. **However**, all households must submit a new application each year, and the application must be processed for benefits to continue after the first 30 school days of the new school year.

A list of CEP schools is as follows:

<i>School #</i>	<i>School Name</i>	<i>School #</i>	<i>School Name</i>	<i>School #</i>	<i>School Name</i>
310	Ashbrook High	394	Webb Street	480	Pleasant Ridge
332	Bessemer City Central	400	Gardner Park	482	Rankin
336	Bessemer City High	408	Grier Middle	488	Robinson
338	Bessemer City Primary	426	Holbrook	490	Sherwood
339	W B Beam Intermediate	428	Hunter Huss	492	H H Beam
340	Brookside	431	John Chavis	498	Southwest Middle
344	Carr	432	Kiser	499	Springfield
348	Catawba Heights	436	Bessemer City Middle	500	Stanley Middle
360	Cherryville High	438	Lingerfeldt	504	Tryon
364	Cherryville Elem	440	Lowell	514	W C Friday
372	Warlick	456	Mt Holly Middle	520	Woodhill
376	Costner	468	North Belmont	526	York Chester
392	Sadler	470	North Gaston		
360	Cherryville High	478	Pinewood		

8. Special Nutrition Needs

All Students with unique meal time needs must have a new Diet Order form completed.

Diet Order forms may be obtained from the Cafeteria Manager, the School Nurse, the School Nutrition Center in Lowell, or on School Nutrition page on Gaston County School website ([www.gaston.k12.nc.us](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us))

The Diet Order form must be signed by a recognized medical authority and returned to the school nurse to submit electronically to the School Nutrition Dietitian [mhcameron@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:mhcameron@gaston.k12.nc.us).

9. **Water Availability During Lunch Meal Service**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (the Act), Public Law 111-296, establishes a requirement for making water available to children in all school meal programs. Drinking water **must** be made available to students at no charge and without restriction in place where meals are served.

To ensure water availability during meal service, each school’s Principal must choose one of the following options:

- Allow students to access water fountains in the dining room or an adjacent area.
- Request a water cooler with disposable water cups which are supplied by School Nutrition and maintained by Cafeteria staff.