

A Little Ironman's Daily Guide

Student / Parent Handbook

2023-2024



700 East Academy Street
Cherryville, NC 28021
704.836.9115
<https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/cherryvilleelem>

Patrick Watson, Principal

Mission Statement

To provide a safe and orderly environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive.

Vision

Cherryville Elementary School will be at the forefront of achieving excellence in preparing students to be lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Principal's Welcome Statement

Welcome Little Ironmen to the 2023-2024 academic school year! We are excited to welcome students as they begin a new year of learning! I feel very blessed to be a part of the Cherryville community, and I look forward to seeing the many accomplishments students achieve this school year.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the students and guardians of Cherryville Elementary School. I am very proud to have the privilege of working with amazing teachers, students, and parents. As we start a new year together, we are continuing to expand our work towards achieving greater academic excellence and success for all students. We look forward to a new school year of learning together with you and your children. Please know that our entire team is committed to ensuring that your child is a part of a nurturing, safe, and positive environment.

Please refer to this guide as needed to help make this a successful school year for all students, staff, and parents of Cherryville Elementary. Every child deserves an opportunity to realize their greatest potential. We as a community can work together to achieve these goals at Cherryville Elementary School.

Patrick Watson, Principal
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School Day Schedule

7:10 am Staff Arrives

7:15 am Doors Open for Students

7:30 am Tardy Bell Rings and Instruction Begins!

2:15 pm School Day Ends

2:20 pm Car Riders Dismiss as Last Bus Departs

Attendance

Parents are urged to bring students to school every day, on time, and ready to learn. Please read the following regarding attendance:

- Students arriving after 7:35 am must be escorted by their parents/guardians to the office and be checked in using the computer system. The system prints a tardy slip which students give to their teacher as they enter the classroom.
- A student must be in school until 11:00 am to be counted present for the day. Please try to make student appointments after school hours.
- Parents must check out students through the computer in the front office. Parents signing children out will need a valid photo ID.
- All early checkouts are unexcused without valid documentation (parent note / doctor note) as detailed in the "GCS Student Code of Conduct."
- We ask that no students be signed out after 1:30 pm unless there is an emergency as buses will be arriving, and staff must begin preparations for dismissal.
- No student will be permitted to leave campus with a friend without the written permission of a parent/guardian.
- Excuse notes must be sent within 3 days of the absence. Acceptable excuses are detailed in the "GCS Code of Conduct."
- Excessive absences, tardies, and/or early checkouts will be investigated by the school social worker.

Immunizations

State law requires that all children have the proper immunizations before they enter the public schools. Immunizations are audited by the nurse. Students who have incomplete records are sent home until the parent satisfies the requirements of the law.

Please NO Flowers or Gift Deliveries

To minimize disruptions, do not have flowers or gifts delivered to your child at school.

School Insurance

Please refer to the insurance brochure provided at the beginning of the school year, or go to the GCS website and click on the "Parent" tab then select "For Parents" from the dropdown menu if you are interested in purchasing coverage.

Telephone

The school telephones in the office are for business purposes only. A staff member will contact you if we need to reach you for any reason.

Medication, Illness, and Injury

If it is necessary for a student to take medication at school, ALL medications including over-the-counter medicines must be presented with a "Medication Authorization" form signed by the child's doctor AND parent. Also, all medications including prescribed over-the-counter medicines must be labeled by a pharmacy. Students cannot carry medication. Parents should bring any medication directly to the office and ensure forms are completed prior to the student taking the medication.

Meals Free for Students This Year !

Our school has been identified as a CEP school for the 2023-2024 school year. CEP stands for Community Eligibility Provision. CEP provides funding so that **all students** attending this school can be served breakfast and lunch at no cost to their families.

- Students may also bring their lunch. We ask that parents pack items that students can open by themselves.
- Parents, please do not bring in food for staff to deliver to your child.
- Parents/guardians are welcome to eat lunch with their child. After you are buzzed in the door, go directly to the front office to sign in and get a badge. Please sit at the designated table in the cafeteria with your child.
- **Lunch Price for Adults (includes Staff): \$4.00**



Communication

Parent Link messages will be sent home every Sunday night during the school year. Periodically, there will be additional messages sent during the week. These messages will also go through the GCS mobile app and our school Facebook page. Parents are encouraged to like our school Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/cherryvilleelementary
and to regularly check our school website at:
www.gaston.k12.nc.us/cherryvillelem

Instructional Standards

North Carolina public school students are required to meet statewide standards for promotion in addition to local promotion requirements. The standards ensure that students are working on grade level in reading, writing, and math before entering the next grade level. Your child's teacher will be discussing these requirements with you during the first parent conference. At the midterm of each 9 weeks, interim reports will be sent home. These reports indicate your child's progress; please sign and return the report card envelope. Report cards will be sent home every 9 weeks.

Visitors

Visitors must enter the front of our building, and once buzzed in, they must report **directly** to the front office and present a photo ID. You will use the security computer to create a Visitor Badge that must be worn while you are on campus.

School Safety Drills

State law requires us to practice fire, lockdown, and tornado drills. Each classroom has a map posted with the evacuation plans. These drills will be done using guidance from the state and district.

Asbestos Identification

Our school has areas containing asbestos. Semi-annually an inspection is made to provide adequate maintenance of these areas. At present, it has been determined that these areas pose no immediate danger to any occupants of the building. The law requires this information be reported.

Security and Surveillance

All persons who enter the school are subject to metal detection. Random wandering will be practiced. Our building is under 24-hour surveillance of video cameras mounted on the inside and outside of the building.

Gaston County School Tobacco Policy

Gaston County Schools are tobacco-free. Tobacco and tobacco products including electronic cigarettes are prohibited on campus.

Gaston County Technology Policy

Gaston County has an "Acceptable Use Policy" which must be signed by parents before students are allowed to use technology.

Parent Teacher Organization

The school and community serve as partners in the education of our young people. With this in mind, the PTO was formed to unite the efforts of these two groups and to provide enrichment opportunities for our children. We encourage you to join the organization and contribute to the betterment of all our children. Membership dues are \$5 per family.



Be Safe!
Behave on the bus!

Frequently Asked Questions:

Morning drop off?

Bus Riders

Students are expected to follow all GCS bus rider rules and procedures when riding a bus to and from school and while on any school-related activity involving bus transportation. Students are expected to follow the bus driver's directions when getting on the bus, during the ride, and when exiting the bus. When getting on the bus, students are expected to find their assigned seat and remain there until they reach their destination and only get out of their seat when the bus comes to a complete stop.

Car Riders

Students may be dropped off at the front of the school - OR - on the side of the building (Bus Parking lot side). Parents dropping off children at the front of the building will have to enter Academy Street driving from west to east. After dropping off students, parents will turn left down Cone Street. Parents dropping off students on the side of the building will have to enter the parking lot from Academy Street driving from east to west. After dropping off students, parents will loop around the parking lot and exit the parking lot by turning right onto Academy Street.

Will students be issued a Chromebook?

Students will be assigned a Chromebook to use while at school. It is recommended that students purchase a bookbag with a padded pocket to keep the Chromebook safe in the event that Chromebooks need to be sent home. There is no fee to use the Chromebooks; however, families will be charged if Chromebooks are broken or misplaced.

What about specials /itinerant classes?

- Students attend specials with their class each day for 45 minutes (a rotation of Art, Music, Media Center, Technology, and PE).
- Since we share PE, Art, and Music teachers with Beam Intermediate School, our itinerant classes will begin at 8:15 am each morning.
- Itinerant teachers have designated classrooms. PE classes will take place outside when possible and in the multipurpose room when the weather does not permit going outside.

Recess?

- Students have recess for **30 minutes** a day. Teachers may choose to break up recess into multiple shorter periods for a total of 30 minutes altogether.

Dismissal?

Bus riders

Students will exit the building with teacher assistants to load buses. This process takes less time as the year progresses.

Car riders

Students will either wait in their classroom or transition to another room while waiting to be called for their ride.

Kindergarten and 2nd Grade students...

...will dismiss from the front of the school. Parents will display a car tag with the student's name on it that will be provided by the school. Parents on this side will come down Academy Street driving east. Once their child is in the car, the driver will have to make a left turn down Cone Street.

1st Grade and 3rd Grade students...

...will dismiss from the side of the school. Cars will form 2 lines on Academy Street facing west. Parents will display a car tag with the student's name on it that will be provided by the school. Parents will turn into the bus parking lot, pick up their child, then loop around the parking lot where they will be required to turn left down Academy Street.

What is the protocol for sick students?

- We request that students be picked up immediately if they become sick.
- If sent home sick, a child should remain at home until that student is free of: fever **WITHOUT using fever-reducing medication**, vomiting, and diarrhea for a **FULL 24 HOURS**.
- Parents, if you decide to keep your child home from school due to sickness, please contact the teacher per their designated communication tool (usually a phone app).
- Parents/guardians **MUST SEND A WRITTEN EXCUSE NOTE WITHIN 3 days** of a student's most recent day out of school to even be considered as excused per the "GCS Code of Conduct."

How can I help my child?

READ

Parents are encouraged to read daily with their children. Students should spend approximately 20 minutes reading each evening.

