

Forestview Student Handbook

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2024-2025 School Year



*“Building Champions in
Academics, Athletics
and the Arts.”*

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Jaguar Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! The Forestview administration, staff, teachers and support personnel are excited to begin this school year with you. We look forward to welcoming you, supporting you, and celebrating all of your successes. We are eager to see the Class of 2025 achieve great things as they complete their high school journey. Our mission is to provide an educational experience committed to excellence in academics, arts and athletics, that ensures our students will have success as lifelong learners. We look forward to learning with you!

At Forestview High School, we strive to embody the following ideals:

- **Perseverance**
- **Respect**
- **Integrity**
- **Dedication**
- **Excellence**

Our school faculty and staff are dedicated to building an optimal learning environment for all students. We encourage you to get involved in all aspects of school life, including athletics, clubs, extracurricular activities. Your participation will enrich your high school experience, create lasting memories, and help you to develop your talents and skills. As a student at Forestview High School, you are your own best advocate. This means being present, engaged, and participating in learning daily while adhering to school procedures and rules.

To assist you this year, this handbook will guide you through the programs, policies, and activities at Forestview. Be sure that you take the time to read this handbook carefully so that you understand the opportunities and resources available to you. By focusing on building, achieving, and graduating, you will develop the skills necessary for post-secondary college and career opportunities.

As the principal at Forestview High School, I am thrilled to begin the 2024-2025 school year with you. We look forward to seeing each of you grow as individuals and together as a student body. This year we will create many lasting Jaguar memories!

As always, remember: Let's Go Jags!

Tammy Mims
Principal
bit.ly/FHSJags

FHS MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an educational experience committed to excellence in academics, arts, and athletics, that ensures our students will have success as lifelong learners.

FHS VISION STATEMENT

Forestview High School is dedicated to providing rigorous and relevant experiences that cultivate globally competitive students.

FORESTVIEW ADMINISTRATION

Principal

Mrs. Tammy Mims

Assistant Principals

(A-F) Mr. James Hilburn
(G-M) Ms. Stephanie Moose
(N-Z) Ms. Rebecca Wray

Resource Officer

Officer Burr

Security

Shenisia Jefferies

Financial Secretary

Molly Pekarek

Data Manager

Beth Quattlebaum

Front Office Receptionist

Christine Johnston

Student Services Receptionist

Margarita Cranke

Business Manager

Gordon Cobb



Guidance Counselors

(A-F) Kelly Simmons
(G-M) Keely Craig
(N-Z) Emily Slaughter

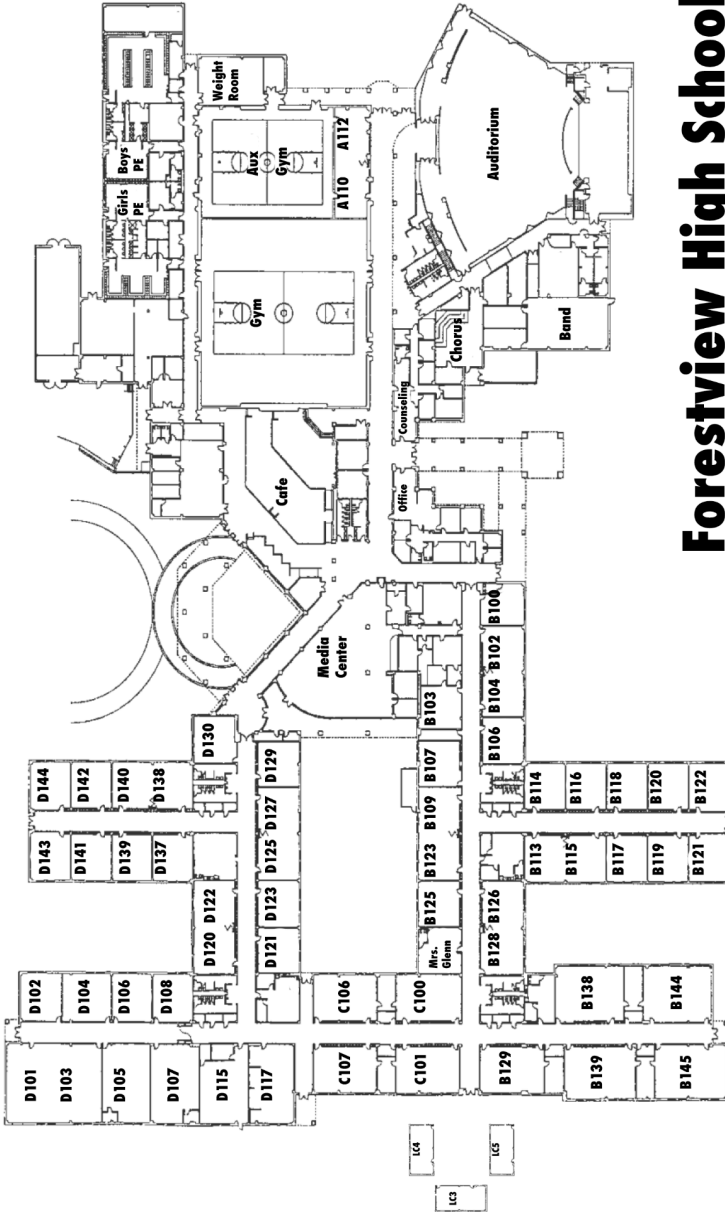
Nurse

Morgan Carpenter

Social Worker

Natasha Fetterson

School Map



Forestview High School

EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS

The goal of a thorough and efficient education is to provide all children the educational opportunity that will prepare them to function and flourish in society. Our school offers students the opportunity to learn and to foster positive and productive behavior that will enable them to maximize their own potential. To promote an environment for positive student development and achievement, students are encouraged to emulate the expectations listed below.

Demonstrate responsibility for your own behavior and learning

Students should...

- attend school regularly and on time.
- arrive at school prepared to learn.
- make an effort to complete all assigned work.
- use your time and resources responsibly.
- should use materials and technology appropriately.
- refrain from any cell phone use inside a classroom.

Demonstrate respect for people and property

Students should...

- treat school property and facilities with care.
- respect fellow students and all school staff members.
- be honest, courteous, and polite with others.
- take responsibility for your own actions and words.
- listen to and respect the views of others.

Demonstrate social awareness and effective communication

Students should...

- be aware of how your actions affect yourself and others.
- communicate with your teachers and parents regarding your education.
- keep contact information up-to-date when addresses or phones change.

BELL SCHEDULES

(5-minute class changes for all schedules)

Breakfast and lunch must be eaten in the cafeteria.

BACK TO SCHOOL ADVISORY SCHEDULE

Advisory	8:30 - 9:40
First Period	9:45 - 10:40
Second Period	10:45 - 11:45
Third Period	11:45 - 1:55 (follow lunch schedule for Daily Schedule)
Fourth Period	2:00 - 3:30

DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors Open	8:00
Warning Bell	8:20
Tardy Bell	8:30
First Period	8:30 - 10:00
Second Period	10:05 - 11:40
Third Period	11:45 - 1:55

A Lunch 11:45 - 12:10

B Lunch 12:20 - 12:45

C Lunch 12:55 - 1:20

D Lunch 1:30 - 1:55

Fourth Period 2:00 - 3:30

ADVISORY SCHEDULE

Doors Open	8:00
Warning Bell	8:20
Tardy Bell	8:30
First Period	8:30 - 9:55
Advisory	10:00 - 10:30
Second Period	10:35 - 12:00
Third Period	12:05 - 2:00

A Lunch 12:05 - 12:30

B Lunch 12:35 - 1:00

C Lunch 1:05 - 1:30

D Lunch 1:35 - 2:00

Fourth Period 2:05 - 3:30

2-HOUR DELAY

Doors Open	10:00
First Period	10:30 - 11:35
Second Period	11:40 - 12:45
Third Period	12:50 - 2:20

**lunches in classrooms*

Fourth Period 2:25 - 3:30

3-HOUR DELAY

Doors Open	11:00
First Period	11:30 - 12:15
Second Period	12:20 - 1:05
Third Period	1:10 - 2:40

**lunches in classrooms*

Fourth Period 2:45 - 3:30

EARLY DISMISSAL

Doors Open	8:00
First Period	8:30 - 9:25
Second Period	9:30 - 10:25
Third Period	10:30 - 11:25
Fourth Period	11:30 - 12:25

**grab and go lunch*

COMMUNICATION PLAN

School administration and other staff will communicate with parents on a frequent basis through the following venues.

1. Parent Conferences - Parent Conference Day will be held from 1:30pm to 7:00 pm with no appointment necessary on October 10 and March 13.
2. Parent Portal - PowerSchool Parent Portal provides parents with a secure website to access grades and attendance from any computer. First time user login information must be obtained in person by visiting the Student Services office. A valid ID is required.
3. Parent Link Notify - Automated phone calls are sent on Sunday evenings updating students and parents on weekly events at Forestview High School. Gaston County Schools may use automated phone calls for inclement weather and district updates.
4. School Website - Our school website is frequently updated to keep students, parents, and the community informed on important announcements. FHS has also established a Facebook page in an effort to provide students and parents with multiple ways of distributing information.
5. Canvas Page - FHS teachers will have a Canvas page for each class. Teachers will post information regarding classroom lessons, expectations, homework, etc. to help connect to the learning environment. Information can be found in a teacher's syllabus on how parents can link to their specific Canvas page.
6. GCS App - Gaston County Schools provides a mobile app and is available as a free download from Apple iTunes and Google Play. The app provides helpful information about news, calendars, events, schedules and school information.
7. Email - Please be sure that your email address is a part of your contact information for your child's PowerSchool account. This will help administration and staff to stay in touch with parents on a regular basis.

GCS HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

The Gaston County Schools High School Curriculum Guide is published online each year during spring registration to assist students and parents in planning the high school curriculum. The link to the curriculum guide can be found at <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Page/10025>. This guide provides general high school information, graduation requirements, and course offerings.

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 (meeting specific criteria) and student hardships. If a student is working full time to support his or her family financially, he or she can request a Student Support Team meeting for a flexed schedule. A flexed schedule may compromise a student for disability, social security benefits, child support, athletic eligibility, and other services. Flexing a schedule without authorization will result in disciplinary action.

CLASS RESTRICTIONS

Forestview High School 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 the selection of a specific course.

SCHEDULE CORRECTIONS

Every effort has been made to create a schedule that accommodates the eight courses that each individual student registered for in the spring (alternates also count). If there is a scheduling conflict and the student could not be scheduled for the eight classes he /she registered for, alternate courses were used to create a full schedule (eight classes). Schedule corrections will only be permitted for the following reasons:

1. An incomplete schedule or duplicated requirements.
2. Scheduled for a class that the student has already passed.
3. Scheduled for a class that requires a prerequisite that has not been met.
4. Change needed to meet graduation requirements.

Students will not be permitted to visit the guidance office to request a schedule corrections, but should submit a request using the link and/or QR code provided by the guidance office at the beginning of the school year. Counselors will call students individually to discuss any schedule corrections.



GRADES AND GRADING SCALE

GPA Conversion Chart				
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 -Incomplete makes a student ineligible for Honor Roll.

No grade given at this time.

FF – Failure due to attendance policy. No credit is 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 is qualified to graduate when he/she has earned a minimum of 28 credits and successfully completed the competency standards.

NORTH CAROLINA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

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, and recognition on their transcript.

English	4 Credits: I, II, III, IV
Math	4 Credits: Math I, II, III and one unit of higher-level mathematics.
Science	3 Credits: Biology, Earth/Environmental Science, and Physics or Chemistry course.
Social Studies	4 Credits: World History, Civic Literacy, American History, and Economics/Personal Finance
Second Language	2 Credits: Two credits of the same language other than English
Health & PE	1 Credit: Health/Physical Education
Career and Technical	6 Credits: Includes two credits 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 areas.
Second Language	
Art Education (Dance, Music Theater Arts, Visual Arts)	
Arts Education (Dance, music, Theater arts, Visual arts)	1 Credit: One credit is required in either the visual arts, band, chorus, dance or theater arts as offered at your high school.
Electives or other requirements	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

***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.*

***** Parents of students interested in early graduation should contact their student's counselor for an appointment prior to students' senior year*

CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE

Many college programs will be available to Forestview students while they are still in high school. These (and other) classes are offered at Gaston College during the school day, and on the Forestview campus and are targeted at high school-age students. Students enrolled in these classes will receive both high school and college credits. 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 Forestview campus from our abundant **Advanced Placement (AP)** course offerings.

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. If an exact numerical tie occurs, co-valedictorians and/or salutatorians will be named. Other honor graduates are as follows:

Summa cum laude	4.3+	Denoted by gold stole
Magna cum laude	4.0-4.2999	Denoted by a silver stole
Cum laude	3.7-3.99	Denoted by a white stole

REPORT CARD SCHEDULE 2024-2025

October 17th	1st 9-weeks Report Cards distributed
January 9th	2nd 9-weeks Report Cards distributed
March 20th	3rd 9-weeks Report Cards distributed
June 5th	Final report cards mailed



REMOTE LEARNING

Opportunities for remote learning may take place throughout the school year. Teachers, students, and parents will need to work together to ensure success during these times. Participation is expected and required. Students will receive grades and feedback for work that is completed.

Students will be issued a Chromebook for use at school and also for remote learning. Parents and students must sign the Device Acknowledgment Form, acknowledging both responsible use expectations and liability for misuse.

BEST PRACTICE

- ❖ **Establish a routine:** Dedicate a space and time to be used for learning each day and stick with it.
- ❖ **Communicate:** Log into the online classroom daily and talk to your teacher often. Two-way communication is extremely important.
- ❖ **Ask for help:** Teachers, guidance counselors, support personnel, administrators - we're all here to help. Reach out to us!
- ❖ **Stay organized:** Write things down and keep a calendar of what is going on. Try your best to stay on top of things and not fall behind.
- ❖ **Follow school rules:** Use good judgment in what you do online and offline and follow the student handbook. Use technology appropriately.
- ❖ **Support each other:** Be patient with teachers and your fellow students. Work with one another and help everyone be successful.

TESTING IN NORTH CAROLINA

- **End-of-Course Tests**– (EOCs) Required in specified courses: Biology, English II, Math 1, and Math 3
- **Career and Technical Education EOC Test**– For Career/Tech classes and counts 20% of your final grade
- **Workkeys**- Job skills assessment for select 12th-grade CTE completers.
- **Advanced Placement Tests**– Required for students enrolled in AP classes and desire college credit
- **PSAT**– Preliminary test for SAT
- **PLAN**– Preliminary test for ACT (All 10th Graders Take this test)
- **ACT** – College admissions test all 11th graders must take.
- **SAT** – College admissions test
- **ASSET OR COMPASS**– Placement test for community colleges

REMEDIATION PROGRAMS

Multiple opportunities are offered on a regular basis for students at Forestview to receive extra help in your classes if needed. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

After-School Remediation - Teachers are available after school regularly for tutoring and retesting opportunities. Check with your teacher for more details. For student convenience, bus transportation is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sessions are held from 3:35pm to 4:30pm.

Summer Enrichment - Students who fail to show proficiency on the Biology, English II, Math 1, or Math 3 End-of-Course Exams may be offered an opportunity to remediate and retest the week immediately following the last day of school. Bus transportation is provided.

HONOR CODE

GCS Board Policy 4310/GCS Code of Conduct Rule 25:

RULE 25: Integrity and Civility (*See policy 4310 for complete policy*)

All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility and self-control. This expectation is directly related to the board's educational objectives for students to learn to be responsible for and accept the consequences of their behavior and for students to respect cultural diversity and ideological differences. Integrity, civility, responsibility and self-control also are critical for establishing and maintaining a safe, orderly and inviting environment.

These behaviors are specifically prohibited: cheating, plagiarizing, violating copyright laws, cursing or using vulgar, abusive or demeaning language toward another person, and playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or an employee to personal indignity.

Consequences

Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Ranging from individual classroom disciplinary action to in-school disciplinary action up to 10 days OSS.	Ranging from individual classroom disciplinary action to in-school disciplinary action, up to 10 days OSS and/or alternative placement.	Ranging from individual classroom disciplinary action to in-school disciplinary action, up to 10 days OSS and/or alternative placement.

Students attending Forestview High School are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity in pursuit of their education. Cheating, plagiarism, complicity, and fraud violate ethical codes of conduct and will not be accepted. The Forestview High School Honor Code expressly forbids the following academic violations:

Cheating:

Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

- Copying another person's work.
- Using unauthorized notes, aids, or written material in any form during a test.
- Unauthorized use of technological devices (cell phones, cameras, ipods, games, etc) when taking an assessment.
- Talking, giving or receiving information by signs, gestures, or deception during any type of assessment.

Plagiarism:

A direct violation of intellectual and academic honesty. While it exists in many forms, all plagiarism refers to the same act: representing somebody else's words or ideas as one's own. The most common forms of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any work written by another person and used as one's own
- Any work obtained from a commercial source
- Any work made up of passages copied word for word without using quotation marks and giving credit
- Any work consisting of information from a source that may be paraphrased but does not give credit to the owner.
- Changing a few words in a passage from another source without using quotation marks or attribution.
- Including ideas such as judgments, opinions, inferences, and experiments from another source in one's own words without giving credit to the owner.

Consequences: Student Code of Conduct Rule 25:

Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable on any assignment. In the event that the honor code is violated on assignments designated as tests, projects, benchmarks or exams a grade of zero may be given to the assignment in question and the student's parent/guardian, school counselor, and administration will be notified. Conferences with these parties may also occur. Further consequences will range from school disciplinary action to alternative placement and/or up to 10 days OSS.

Complicity in Academic Dishonesty:

Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty. Typical Examples: Knowingly allowing another student to submit one's academic work as his/her own work; knowingly allowing another to copy from one's paper during an examination or test; knowingly distributing test questions or substantive information about the material to be tested before the scheduled exercise; collaborating on academic work knowing that the collaboration will not be reported; taking an examination or test for another student, or signing a false name on an academic

exercise. (NOTE: Collaboration and sharing information are characteristics of academic communities. These become violations when they involve dishonesty. Students should seek clarification from their teacher on this issue.) If a student is found to be complicit then the consequences will range from school disciplinary action to alternative placement and/or up to 10 days OSS.

Forestview Honor Code Specific Expectations:

Any student in violation of the honor code (rule 25) will be given a zero for the assessment, parents contacted by teacher, and an alternative assessment will be provided following the GCS retest policy.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services is composed of three counselors, a Career & Technical Education Coordinator, a school nurse, and a social worker.

Counselors will assist with:

- Orientation
- Academic advising, course planning, registration
- Personal and social issues
- College Selection, planning application, advising
- Career Planning
- College entrance exams
- Scholarships and financial aid applications
- Student records maintenance
- Mental Health referrals
- Drop-out prevention
- Graduation Coaching and planning

Students will be assigned to counselors on the basis of their last names. Additional responsibilities are listed below.

Kelly Simmons
(Last Names A-F)

- SSMT/504
- Drop-Out Prevention
- College NOW (CCP)
- College Fair

Keely Craig
(Last Names G-M)

- SSMT/504
- Drop-Out Prevention
- Summer Programs
- Recruiter Visitation
- Military Contact
- College Visits

Emily Slaughter
(Last Names N-Z)

- SSMT/504
- Drop-Out Prevention
- Scholarships
- NCAA

Support Personnel

Natasha Fetterson

Social Worker

- Drop-Out Prevention
- Truancy
- Family Services

Morgan Carpenter

School Nurse

- Health Plans
- Medical concerns
- Immunizations

Students wishing to see a counselor or other student services personnel should schedule an appointment in the Student Services reception area. Preferably, students should see their counselor before school, after school or during lunch.

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST PROCEDURES

Students may request transcripts by submitting a request form to their counselor. Forms are available in the Student Services office or directly from each counselor. Please allow 3-4 days for the request to be completed. Once completed, it is the student's responsibility to pick up the requested transcript from student services.

******Counselors are not responsible for mailing transcripts.***

PERSONAL CHECKS

Your check is welcome at all Gaston County Schools. We recognize that occasionally a parent may inadvertently overdraw a checking account and a check may be returned by your bank. In order to recover these funds in a private and professional manner, Gaston County Schools has contracted with Envision Payment Solutions, Inc. for the collection of returned checks.

Each person writing a check to an individual school or the School District should write the check on a commercially printed check with your name, address, and telephone number. Counter or starter checks will not be accepted. When a person writes a check to an individual school or the School District, he or she agrees that, if the check is returned, it may be represented electronically on the same account, and that the fee established by law, now \$25, may be debited from the same account.

If the check and fee are not collected electronically, then Envision Payment Solutions will contact the check writer by mail and by telephone to make payment arrangements. All payments need to be made directly to Envision Payment Solutions, P.O. Box 157, Suwanee GA 30024. Payments can be made using credit card, debit card or electronic check at <https://www.envisionpayments.com/>.

ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

JV Football

Football

JV Boys Basketball

Boys Basketball

JV Girls Basketball

Girls Basketball

Wrestling

JV Boys Soccer

Boys Soccer

Girls Soccer

Cross Country

JV Volleyball

Volleyball

JV Baseball

Baseball

JV Softball

Softball

Track and Field

Girls Golf

Boys Golf

Boys Tennis

Girls Tennis

Swimming

Cheerleading

CLUBS

Beta Club

Battle of the Books

Gaming Club

FCA

Jaguar Pals

Dance Team

Red Cross Club

National Technical Honors Society

The Jungle

National Honor Society

Spanish Club

Autism Awareness Club

Club Unity

HOSA

Art Club

YCI Club

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are expected to exhibit good conduct at ballgames and other extracurricular activities. Anything other than this will result in removal from such activity and/or other disciplinary actions outlined in the GCS Student Code of Conduct. Students are not permitted to wait after school inside the building for after school or evening practices, events, or activities. Staff cannot commit to supervise students unless it is specifically communicated. Students must be picked up after a school event (ball games, concerts, etc.) within 30 minutes after the event ends, or the student will forfeit the privilege of attending other events. Students must be in attendance for one-half day in order to participate in school sponsored activities or events.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is extremely important to the success of all students in school. In accordance with Gaston County Schools Attendance Policy, we encourage students to be in attendance and to make up all work missed promptly. Students who reach their tenth absence per semester from a class and who are passing the class must file an appeal in order to be eligible to earn credit for the class.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE ATTENDANCE:

- Students are expected to be in each class each school day. Students may only have ten (10) absences in a semester course, including excused and unexcused absences.
- In order for students to be counted present in a course, they must be in attendance at least seventy-five (75) minutes of the ninety (90) minute class period.
- For students who exceed ten (10) absences in a course and are passing the course, an appeal must be filed to be eligible for course credit (see the GCS Student Code of Conduct for details).
- In order to be recorded present for a whole school day, a student must be present at least one-half of the school day.
- Following any absence(s), a student is required to present a written document from the parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence; after the tenth (10th) absence a doctor's excuse may be required by the school.
- 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.

COMMUNICATION:

- After each absence, excused or unexcused, the principal/principal's designee shall inform the parent/guardian/custodian by way of a personal or computer-generated telephone message.
- Upon a student's third (3rd), sixth (6th), and tenth (10th) full-day absence of any type the principal shall notify the parent/guardian for the purpose of sharing information regarding the Gaston County School attendance policy.
- At least by the third (3rd) absence in a course, where no parent/ guardian contact has been received, the teacher will attempt contact to the parent/guardian and notify the Student Services Management Team for intervention and/or consequences.

ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR ABSENCE

1. Illness/injury
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Medical or dental appointments (with doctor's excuse)
4. Court of Administrative Proceedings
5. Quarantine
6. Religious observances
7. Educational opportunity *(with prior approval of principal)*
8. Special emergencies as determined by the principal
9. Absence due to pregnancy
10. A student whose parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support post will be granted additional excused absences at the direction of the superintendent.

All notes must be submitted to the Student Services Receptionist. Absences will be coded "excused" or "unexcused." The student is responsible for getting notes to the control room within the 3 days allotted time. Students attending an authorized school activity, with the approval of the appropriate school official, will not be considered absent. Such activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals, and similar activities.

***** ATTENDANCE FOR ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY *****

To participate in athletics, student absences must not exceed 13 per semester. Athletes must be with their class and must pass three out of four classes from the previous semester.

GCS EXAM EXEMPTION PROCEDURE

In order to encourage excellent attendance and academic performance, a student may be exempt from a teacher-made exam if the following criteria are met:

1. "A" average at the end of the semester, have four or fewer absences, for the semester in the course.
2. "B" average at the end of the semester, have three or fewer absences, for the semester in the course.

The reasons for the absences (excused or unexcused) are not considered in determining exam exemption. The total number of absences (regardless of the reason) and the academic average (for the semester) are the qualifying factors for exam exemption in

each class. Assigned days in out-of-school suspension (OSS) are considered absences under Board policy and the exam exemption procedure. If a student misses more than 15 minutes of a class period, they are coded as absent for that period. **For exam exemption purposes only, every three (3) tardies (coming to class late or leaving class early) will count as one (1) absence.** School-related activities are not considered absences as indicated in Part C of GCS Board Policy 3480; this includes two days per school year for students to visit colleges (coded as 1G in PowerSchool), with prior approval from the principal.

If the student meets the above qualifications and desires to take the teacher-made exam, the exam may improve but not diminish the student's final grade.

Tests required by the state, including End of Course (EOC) tests, College Now (CCP), and NCVPS exams may not be exempted. Students enrolled in a CTE course that offers a CTE End-of-Course state exam, CTE Credential, or CTE Performance-Based Measure (PBM) as the Proof of Learning (POL), are all assessments not eligible for exemption. Students taking an Advanced Placement (AP) course taught by a Gaston County Schools instructor may be exempt from the teacher-made final for the course if the above criteria are met. However, AP exams administered by the College Board are required to earn college credit and are not eligible for exemption.

Students that meet the above criteria to be exempt from a teacher-made exam, will be expected to “check-in” through Canvas on the day of the exam to be counted as present for that day.

MAKEUP WORK

1. Students will have an opportunity to make up work, including tests missed as a result of any absences (excused and unexcused).
2. Students must make arrangements to make up work within **3 days** of returning to school and at a time agreeable to the teacher.
3. Students will receive a zero grade for each assignment not completed within the prescribed time given by the teacher when arrangements were made. A minimum of 7 days will be given to turn in all makeup work.

TARDIES

- Any student arriving to class after the bell sounds 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.**
- The classroom teacher codes the tardy with the period class attendance in

Powerschool.

- **Students who arrive at school after 8:45 has passed should report to the Student Services office to sign in.**
- Students who arrive at 2nd, 3rd, or 4th period more than 15 minutes late without a note will be marked absent and referred for skipping class.
- Students who receive more than 10 tardies to school or class **per semester** will be handled by assistant principals.

CONSEQUENCES FOR EXCESSIVE TARDIES TO CLASS

- Missed classroom instruction - Even being one minute late each day results in missing an entire day's worth of instruction across the semester.
- Missed opportunities for graded work - Students arriving late to class will not be given the opportunity to complete any daily graded work that begins before they arrive.
- Lunch Detention, After-School Detention, In-School Suspension

Excessive tardiness will result in a parent and administrator conference to put a tardy contract and plan for improvement in place.

Tardy 1, 2	Warnings from Teacher
Tardy 3	Conference and Phone Call Home
Tardy 4	1 Days of Lunch Detention / ASD
Tardy 5	3 Days of Lunch Detention / ASD
Tardy 6	5 Days of Lunch Detention / ASD
Tardy 7	1 Day of ISS
Tardy 8	2 Days of ISS
Tardy 9	3 Days of ISS
Tardy 10	4 Days of ISS
Tardy 11	5 Day of ISS
Tardy 12	1 Day of OSS / MTSS Referral
Additional Tardies	Saturday School Makeup Time

Notes on Tardy Policy:

- ❖ Students will have 5 minutes between classes.
- ❖ The most problematic situation is students socializing during class change which leads to unexcused tardies.
- ❖ Students should move to their next class to prevent tardiness.

CHECKOUT POLICY

1. Students in Grades 9-12 need to have a parent or guardian physically check

them out in person, or provide the control room with a signed note from a legal guardian.

2. Student drivers may check out on non-event days with parent/guardian permission via telephone. School personnel will verify identity by calling the guardian at a number listed in Powerschool.
3. Special event check out: On special event days, (i.e. Rewards picnic, pep rallies, etc.) students must be checked out in person by a parent or guardian.
4. Students cannot check out between 3:00 and 3:30 pm.

Note: The checkout procedure is not designed to inconvenience students or their parents. The checkout policy is in place for student safety.

We encourage students to arrange doctor and dental appointments outside of school hours if possible. When students must leave during the school day, they must bring a note from a parent stating the time to be dismissed and a phone number where the parent can be reached. The control room supervisor will verify the note and the student and parent/guardian will sign out.

When students return to school after checking out for a doctor's or other excusable types of appointment, they must bring a note to the control room to verify the appointment; at that time the appointment will be coded as excused in our system.

Any student leaving campus for ANY REASON without first signing out through the Student Services office will be considered truant and will be disciplined.

DRIVERS EDUCATION AND 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).

LOSE CONTROL / DROP-OUT PREVENTION

A student under the age of 18 must pass 3 out of 4 courses in a semester to maintain a NC Drivers' License under state guidelines. Students passing fewer than 3 courses in a semester will receive notification from the state that his /her license has been suspended until the course requirements are met.

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 disciplinary action if having 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.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Students will follow the Gaston County Student Code of Conduct, the rules of Forestview High School, and of each individual teacher, as well as the laws of the state of North Carolina. You can find the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct on the Gaston County Schools website at www.gaston.k12.nc.us.

DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

Discipline consequences adhere to the Gaston County Student Code of Conduct. Consequences may be more severe depending on the number of office referrals that an individual student receives.

REDIRECT

Redirect is an intervention offered during the school day for violations of the Forestview rules and the Gaston County Student Code of Conduct. Students will be referred to an administrator for a conference and clarification of school expectations. The classroom teacher will contact a parent or guardian to make them aware of what occurred in class. When possible, students will return to class and be given a chance to redirect their behavior.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

In-school suspension (ISS) is an intervention offered during the school day for violations of the Forestview rules and the GCS Student 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 the GCS Student Code of Conduct - up to 10 days OSS and/or alternative placement.

CAMPUS ATTIRE (DRESS CODE)

Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct RULE 16 for Dress Code (page 8) indicates the following regarding Dress Code.

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 school.

Students shall not wear:

- Headwear such as hats, bandanas, hair picks, combs or other types of headgear or sunglasses in the building. This includes knit caps and hoodies.
- Clothing that displays sexually explicit words or drawings, profanity, alcohol, tobacco, 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.

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 based on 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

- Elementary School: In-school disciplinary action.
- Middle School: Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 3 days OSS.
- High School: Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 3 days OSS.

Additional notes regarding dress code:

- Shoes must be worn at all times. Bedroom shoes should not be worn to school.
- Blankets may not be worn or used as a coat or cape. Students should bring sweatshirts, sweaters or jackets to wear at school.
- Shirts must cover your entire rib cage and cannot be strapless. No tube tops.
- Stuffed animals are not allowed at school and should be left at home.

If any student is in violation of the dress code, a change of clothes will be required, and if garments are unavailable, a parent will be contacted to bring appropriate attire. Students will be placed in redirect until a change of clothes occurs.

TOBACCO POLICY

Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct RULE 15 for Tobacco Policy (page 7) indicates the following regarding Tobacco Policy (GCS policy code 4320).

Students are prohibited from the possession, sale or distribution of tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia and shall not smoke, dip, chew or otherwise use any tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, vapes, and all lighted and smokeless tobacco products at any time while a student is at school.

CONSEQUENCES:

- Elementary School: Confiscation. Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 1 day OSS.
- Middle School: Confiscation. Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 5 days OSS.
- High School: Confiscation. Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 10 days OSS.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct Rule 14 for Substance Abuse and Drug Paraphernalia (page 6, GCS policy code 4315, 4325 and 6130) indicates that no student shall possess, use, distribute, sell, possesses with intent to distribute or sell, or conspire or attempt to distribute or sell, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, other controlled substance, any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, or any substance containing cannabidiol (CBD) or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) regardless of whether it constitutes a controlled substance under state or federal law. Students are also prohibited from possessing, using, selling, delivering, or manufacturing counterfeit (fake) drugs.

CONSEQUENCES:

Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 10 days OSS, alternative placement

and/or long-term suspension. Law enforcement will be contacted if required by law.

FIGHTING

Fighting will NOT be tolerated (see the GCS Student Code of Conduct Rule 10, page 5). Any altercation on school grounds is considered serious by the FHS administration. Any fighting on the school campus or on the school bus may be determined to be an assault by the Gaston County Police Department. Charges may be filed, and students 16 years of age and older may be subject to arrest. Consequences for fighting range from in-school disciplinary action up to 10 days OSS, alternative placement and/or long-term suspension. Law enforcement may be contacted if required by law.

WEAPONS

Possession of any kind of weapon, or any object that can be considered a weapon, is not permitted (see the GCS Student Code of Conduct Rule 13, page 6) and is grounds for expulsion and law enforcement will be notified.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Forestview High School operates a closed campus, as do all Gaston County Schools. Students are prohibited from visiting other campuses during their school hours. **Students are NOT permitted to bring visitors to school or to leave campus for lunch.**

Students are not permitted to leave campus unless parental authorization has been verified by school staff. This may be done only through the control room. Access to our students during the school day is allowed only to immediate family members who can verify relationships with some kind of identification. Messages to students are delivered only in the case of an emergency.

Parents are always welcome but must check-in at the main office when they arrive at school.

PARKING

- It is a privilege to park on school grounds, and regulations for parking are strictly enforced. Suspension of student driving privileges or other disciplinary actions will occur due to parking violations or student driving that endangers any person. Students with excessive absences and/or tardies will lose their parking privileges and parking permit.
- Students must park in the student parking lots. Students cannot park without the purchase and display of a parking permit, which costs \$30.00 per year. The cost

of FHS parking permits will NOT be prorated if purchased later in the school year. Owners of vehicles without parking permits are subject to disciplinary action.

- Parking spaces will be assigned for all students when the parking form and online payment is submitted with receipt verification.
- Students must vacate their cars when they arrive at school. When dismissed, they will leave the parking lot immediately. Students will not loiter on campus.
- Forestview High School reserves the right to terminate parking privileges for any student. Student vehicles are subject to search if reasonable suspicion exists to believe drugs, alcohol, stolen property or contraband items might be in the vehicle. Random vehicle searches will be conducted as outlined in GCS Board Policy. See GCS Student Code of Conduct for details.
- No refunds will be made for any permits that are suspended. Lost or stolen permits will be replaced at a cost of \$10.00.

RESTRICTED AREAS

Restricted areas are defined as those locations off-limits to students during the day because of safety concerns. Violations of restricted area policies will result in disciplinary actions. The following areas are restricted:

- Parking Lots: Students are not permitted to go to their car during the day, and therefore are not allowed in the parking lots.
- Bus Area: Upon arrival to school, students are to leave the bus loading area immediately. Students are not to loiter in the bus loading area during the day, and particularly not during lunch periods.
- Gym, Gym Hall, and Athletic Fields: Only students scheduled for physical education are permitted in these areas during the school day.
- Cafeteria and Lunchroom Area: Students are permitted in the cafeteria and lunchroom areas only during their scheduled lunch time or with prior permission.
- Classroom Building During Lunch: The classroom building is closed to students during their lunch time.
- Auditorium: Students are permitted in the auditorium only during scheduled events or with prior permission.
- Lobby: Students should not loiter in the lobby and commons.
- Restrooms: Students will have a hall pass to leave the classroom.
- Courtyard: Only Seniors are allowed in the Courtyard during lunch. Students should be in the Courtyard with a teacher or with the teacher's permission only. Abuse of the courtyard may result in suspension or use and access.
- Learning Cottages: Only students who have classes there are permitted in the cottage area; only to go to and from class.

LUNCH PROCEDURES

Students will remain seated while in the cafeteria during their designated lunch time. Students are not permitted in any other areas during lunch except the cafeteria. Students will utilize the bathrooms in the cafeteria area during their assigned lunch. All trash should be placed in the trash containers located in the cafeteria, or disciplinary measures will be enforced.

BOOK BAGS

- **Only clear book bags may be carried during school hours.** If safety becomes a concern at any point during the school year, book bags may become prohibited and students will then carry their school supplies and books by hand.
- *Any item contained in a book bag will be considered property of the student.*
- Athletic bags should also follow the clear bag policy.
- If a student does not have a clear book bag, they must leave the bag in the front office and carry their belongings by hand throughout the school day.
- All non-clear bags of any kind, including purses and pocketbooks, are subject to search at any time.

ARRIVAL/ENTRY PROCEDURE

- When students arrive at school, they are subject to bag inspection and random metal detection daily as they enter the building.
- Please arrive in a timely manner to allow for bag inspection and random metal detection.
- Students are to then report directly to their 1st block class.
 - Pick up your breakfast from the cafeteria on your way to your class.
 - Do not congregate or gather in any common space, hallway, or restroom.
 - Restrooms are closed and teachers must provide supervision and permission for students to utilize the restroom in closest proximity to the classroom.
- Student drivers may NOT exit the building or return to their cars at any time during the school day. Plan ahead and be sure you have everything you need for the day before entering the building.

DAILY AND RANDOM METAL DETECTION

Anyone entering Forestview High School is subject to metal detection and bag search. This occurs at each entry point during arrival in the mornings. ALL students arriving late will go through metal detection and bag scan. Forestview administrative personnel will

randomly use metal detectors between classes, and during classes to promote school safety. Any unauthorized items will be confiscated.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

All teachers will discuss evacuation procedures in the event of fire, tornado, lockdowns, or any other safety issues. There will be diagrams posted in each classroom displaying evacuation routes. Drills will be conducted frequently to ensure all staff and students are aware of safety protocols.

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. Observe school conduct rules while on the bus.
3. **Be at the designated stop, 15 minutes before scheduled time, ready to board the bus. Wait at your assigned bus stop for at least 15 minutes after your scheduled pick-up time before calling the school.**
 - a. For example: if your pickup time is at the end of your driveway at 7:30 AM, you should be at the end of your driveway no later than 7:15 AM - in case the bus is running a few minutes early. Likewise, you should remain at the end of your driveway until 7:45 AM - in case the bus is running a few minutes late. If the bus has not picked you up by 7:45 AM, call the school at 704-861-2625. Tell whoever answers the phone your name, your address, and what bus you ride, and explain that you have not been picked up.)
4. Do not leave trash on the bus.
5. Stay in your seat while the bus is moving.
6. Respect other students and their property.
7. Horseplay, fighting and other misbehavior is not allowed on the bus or at the bus stop.
8. **Students may only ride their assigned bus. They need written permission from a parent and office verification to get off at a stop other than their regular stop or to ride a different bus. All notes must be brought to the control room by lunch and verified/authorized by an Administrator.**
9. **Penalties will include school/bus suspensions. Repeated violations will result in semester or year long bus suspensions.**
10. Serious offenses will be handled individually and may result in loss of bus privileges. The penalties of the Student Code of Conduct also apply to buses.

LOST AND FOUND

A student who finds an item should turn it in to the receptionist. Lost and found items will be located in the front office.

ILLNESS DURING THE DAY

Students who become ill at school should notify their teacher and report with a note immediately to the Student Services office or the School Nurse. We will then attempt to contact parents. Students should never remain in a restroom unattended because of illness.

MEDICATION

Students **ARE NOT** allowed to possess medication of any type while at school. All over-the-counter or doctor prescribed medications must be checked in with the School Nurse and adhere to the policies in Gaston County Schools Code of Conduct.

VENDING MACHINES

Students are NOT allowed to use the vending machines.

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

Students may not solicit funds at school or sell items on campus unless approved by the administration. Officially recognized school clubs and organizations may receive fundraising approval for items to be sold before school, at lunch or after school, as well as in the community. Edible items cannot be sold during lunch periods.

OFFICE PHONE USE

Students will not be allowed to use office phones except in emergencies, and then only with staff permission. Students receiving calls during the day will be called out of class only in emergencies. All calls must be limited to 3 minutes. Students with phone messages will be notified at the end of the school day. **Cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. (see GCS Student Code of Conduct.)**

CELL PHONE USE

Cell phone use is not permitted in classrooms during the school day. Classroom teachers may periodically permit cell phones for instructional activities. See the GCS Student Code of Conduct.

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 has 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 parent.

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.

Consequences

<u>Elementary School</u>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>High School</u>
Confiscate device. Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 10 days OSS. Law enforcement will be contacted if required by law.	Confiscate device. Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 10 days OSS, alternative placement and/or long term suspension. Law enforcement will be contacted if required by law.	Confiscate device. Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 10 days OSS, alternative placement and/or long term suspension. Law enforcement will be contacted if required by law.

At Forestview High School, the instructional day is defined as the time allotted for instruction beginning at 8:30 am (first period) until 3:30 pm (dismissal bell). Cell phones, electronic readers, and MP3 listening devices ***MAY*** be used before school and after school, and during the student's assigned lunch period.

Violations of this policy may result in confiscation of the cell phone and/or other disciplinary actions in accordance with the GCS Student Code of Conduct Rule 18.

*A student's Electronic 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.

- **First offense:** If a student is violating the electronic device policy during the defined instructional day, the phone is taken to the office to be picked up at the end of the day.
- **Second offense:** The device is taken and a parent must pick up the device.
- **Third offense:** The device is taken, a parent must pick up the device, and the student receives a disciplinary consequence.
- **Suspension** will occur if a student refuses to give up a cell phone.

Educational Chromebook Device Usage (BYOD)- Only Chromebook devices may be used in the classroom, for educational purposes only. Cell phones are not allowed for use in any classroom or other learning environment.

*****When a student brings an electronic device onto campus, they do so in the knowledge that FHS is not responsible for lost or stolen items. FHS cannot take away from educational time to search for these items.*****

ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES

All students are to adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Gaston County Schools Responsible Use of Technology Policy and will be required to sign for receipt and understanding of this policy. Students not adhering to these guidelines will be disciplined according to the Gaston County Schools Student Code of Conduct.

DELIVERIES

Forestview High School will *NOT* accept deliveries of food or gifts for students. All delivery attempts will be turned away, thrown away, and the school will not be held responsible for any incurred cost. Students will not be called out of class to receive any items.

CAFETERIA

Students are expected to be courteous and considerate of others in the cafeteria.

1. Be considerate of cafeteria staff and property.
2. Be considerate of students who eat later: leave tables clean, and throw all trash into trash cans.
3. Students are to eat in the cafeteria. Seniors may eat in the Senior Courtyard.
4. Students are not permitted to break in line. Once in line, you cannot leave and then return to your place - you must move to the back of the line. Violations will result in lunch detention.
5. It is the responsibility of all students to maintain the beauty of Forestview. Throwing food will not be tolerated. It will be considered disruption of school and defacing of property. Violations will result in OSS or another appropriate discipline.
6. Students must move quickly and quietly to and from the cafeteria and must remain in the cafeteria during the entire lunch period.
7. **ONLY** the restrooms in the cafeteria area are to be used during lunch.
8. The Senior Courtyard is for 12th grade students only. Any others found in

the Senior Courtyard will be given lunch detention.

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

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 entrée in order to receive a complete School Breakfast at established meal price (or no charge for a CEP school).

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 an 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.

1. 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

2. 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.

3. Student Accounts

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

Parents/Guardians may utilize Family Portal Link <https://linqconnect.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.

4. 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 living 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.

5. Holiday Meal

- 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**

6. Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Universal Free Breakfast and Lunch. We have **45** schools participating in the school year 24- 25. 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	392	Sadler	470	North Gaston
332	Bessemer City Central	394	Webb Street	478	Pinewood
336	Bessemer City High	396	Forestview	480	Pleasant Ridge
338	Bessemer City Primary	400	Gardner Park	482	Rankin
339	W B Beam Intermediate	408	Grier Middle	488	Robinson
340	Brookside	426	Holbrook	490	Sherwood
344	Carr	428	Hunter Huss	492	H H Beam
348	Catawba Heights	431	John Chavis	498	Southwest Middle
352	Chapel Grove	432	Kiser	499	Springfield
360	Cherryville High	436	Bessemer City Middle	500	Stanley Middle
364	Cherryville Elem	438	Lingerfeldt	504	Tryon
372	Warlick	440	Lowell	510	WA Bess
376	Costner	448	McAdenville	514	W C Friday
378	Stuart Cramer	456	Mt Holly Middle	520	Woodhill
390	East Gaston	468	North Belmont	526	York Chester

7. Special Nutrition Needs

All Students with unique meal time needs is require to have a Diet Order form. 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). 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.

8. 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.

PROM

- Absolutely no ninth grade or younger students will be allowed to attend, FHS student or otherwise.
- Tenth graders may attend as a guest of an 11th or 12th grader.
- Anyone over the age of 20 will not be allowed to attend.
- When purchasing a guest ticket the FHS student must have a copy of their guest's ID if the guest is not an FHS student. The ID must be submitted for approval at ticket purchase.
- Formal attire must be worn.
- All Prom attendees must be currently enrolled in high school or have recently graduated.
- In order to purchase prom tickets or attend the prom, students must have all time made up due to tardies and absences.
- If a student is suspended at the time of the prom, they will not be permitted to attend.
- Only FHS staff and faculty members will be allowed to attend the prom as a chaperone or volunteer.
- All prom tickets will be sold and purchased online.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

CEREMONY ATTIRE:

- All students must appear in cap and gown to participate in the ceremony. Tassels are on the right front side of the caps before the diploma is conferred and may be moved to the left side after the diploma is conferred.
- No decorations on caps or on the exterior of the robe.

ACCEPTABLE BUSINESS ATTIRE:

- White collared button up dress shirt and a tie
- Black dress pants and dress shoes
- Dresses that meet dress code length and dress shoes

UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE:

- Jeans or pants with holes
- Tennis shoes, casual sandals, or boots

- Any apparel deemed inappropriate for a dignified ceremony is prohibited

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- **Any student that is serving a suspension on the last day of school will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.**
- Rehearsal will be held the day before graduation. Students must be present to participate in the ceremony.
- If a student chooses not to participate in the ceremony, the school must have a letter from parents 2 weeks prior to the graduation date.
- Guests will refrain from yelling and clapping as your graduate’s name is called. No bags, coolers or smoking is permitted.
- Graduates will receive a set number of tickets for both the ceremony and overflow locations depending upon the size of the graduating class.
- Be sure that all debts have been paid before graduation practice day including textbooks, athletics, library fines, Jostens, etc.

Students who have achieved a weighted GPA at these levels will be designated honor graduates as follows:

HONOR GRADUATE

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Summa cum laude- 4.3+ | Denoted by gold stole |
| • Magna cum laude- 4.0-4.299 | Denoted by silver stole |
| • Cum laude-3.7-3.99 | Denoted by a white stole |

Student Wellness : Policy Code 3530

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. As part of that commitment, the board directs the superintendent to oversee the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of this policy and other school system efforts to encourage students to be healthy and active, including compliance with the State Board of Education’s Healthy Active Children Policy, SHLT-000, as further described in Section F, below. The superintendent may designate a school system official to carry out this responsibility (“lead wellness official”).

The superintendent or designee shall make the most current version of this policy available to members of the school community and the public by posting it on the school system website and/or by distributing it annually through other means reasonably intended to reach the school community and public. In addition, the superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) when requested to do so.

A. 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 system. The council serves as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and works in conjunction with the lead wellness official charged with oversight of this policy and the school system's efforts to promote student and employee health and wellness in compliance with state and federal requirements. The council is authorized to examine related research and laws, assess student needs and the current school environment, review existing board policies and administrative regulations, collaborate with appropriate community agencies and organizations, and help raise awareness about student health issues. The council also may make policy recommendations to the board related to this policy and other policies concerning student wellness and in conjunction with the lead wellness official, shall periodically review and suggest revisions to this policy. In addition, the council may assist in the development of a plan for measuring and assessing implementation of this policy and in developing methods to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of this policy as described in Sections F and G, below.

The council will be composed of representatives from the school system, the local health department, and the community. The council must include members of each of the following groups: the school board, school system administrators, school system food service representatives, physical education teachers, school health professionals, students, parents or guardians, and the public. The council will provide information to the board about the following areas or concerns: (1) physical activity, (2) health education, (3) employee wellness, (4) health services, (5) social and emotional climate, (6) nutrition environment and services, (7) counseling, psychological, and social services, (8) physical environment, (9) family engagement, and (10) community involvement. The council shall provide periodic reports to the board and public regarding the status of its work. In addition, the council shall assist the lead wellness official in creating an annual report that includes the minutes of physical activity and the minutes of physical education and/or healthful living education received by students in the system each school year, as well as any other information required by the State Board of Education or NCDPI.

B. 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 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. Nutrition education should be designed to provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy lives. Students should learn to address nutrition-related health concerns through age-appropriate nutrition education lessons and activities. Nutrition education and promotion should extend beyond the school environment by engaging and involving families and communities. School system personnel may coordinate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition. School system personnel are to work to disseminate and promote consistent nutrition messages throughout the school system, schools, classrooms, school dining areas, homes, community, and media.

In conjunction with the school health advisory council, the board establishes the following

additional specific evidence-based goals and strategies for nutrition promotion and education. The board will periodically measure and report progress toward meeting these goals.

- The nutrition education program will be linked to school meal programs, school gardens, cafeteria nutrition promotion, after-school programs, and farm-to-school programs.
- Nutrition education will promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and accurate portion sizes.
- School nutrition program staff at each school will employ at least three tools or strategies suggested in the USDA “Smarter Lunchroom” publication (available at <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/healthierus-school-challenge-resources/smarter-lunchrooms>) to increase student participation in the federal school lunch and breakfast programs and to encourage students to make healthy food choices.

C. 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 system’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, including the following:

1. School Lunch, Breakfast, and Snack Programs

Foods provided through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, or After School Snack Programs must comply with federal and state nutrition standards. The director of child nutrition shall ensure that school system guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal law.

2. 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) in competition with the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs (“competitive foods”) 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. Vending machine sales also must comply with the requirements of G.S. 115C-264.2 and Eat Smart: GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS Page 3 of 8 North Carolina’s Recommended Standards for All Foods in Schools.

3. Other Foods Available on the School Campus During the School Day and After the School Day School principals shall establish rules for foods and beverages brought from home for classroom events or parties during the school day or for extracurricular activities after the school day. The board encourages principals to establish rules that are consistent with the Smart Snacks in Schools standards. Fundraising activities that involve the sale of foods and/or beverages to students during the school day (from midnight until 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) must comply with the Smart Snack Rules and may not be conducted until after the end of the last lunch period. See policy 6230, School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards. School principals may establish standards for fund-raising activities conducted after the school day (beginning 31 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) that involve the sale of food and/or beverages. The board encourages alternative fundraising activities such as non-food items or physical activity.

4. Food and Beverage Marketing

Food and beverage marketing on school campuses during the school day must meet federal and state standards. In accordance with these standards, only foods and beverages that meet the Smart

Snack standards (as described in subsection C.2, above) may be marketed or advertised on school campuses during the school day. To comply with this requirement, existing supplies, materials, or equipment that depict noncompliant products or logos will be replaced or removed in accordance with normal lifecycles or as otherwise would occur in the normal course of business.

D. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

1. 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 must have the opportunity to participate in physical activity as part of the system's physical education curriculum. The goal for elementary schools is to provide 150 minutes weekly of quality physical education with a certified physical education teacher. The goal for middle schools is to provide 225 minutes weekly of Healthful Living Education, divided equally between health and physical education with certified health and physical education teachers.

2. The Physical Education Course

The physical education course should be designed to foster support and guidance for being physically active, help students know and understand the value of being physically fit, and teach students the types of activities that contribute to total fitness. The course is to be taught in an environment where students can learn, practice, and receive assessment on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge as defined in the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study. Students should be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for fifty percent or more of class time. Class for physical education should be equivalent in size to those of other academic classes.

3. Physical Activity Requirements and Goals

School personnel should strive to 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. Schools must provide a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily for kindergarten through eighth-grade students. Such activity may be achieved through a regular daily physical education class as described in Sections D.1 and D.2 above, or through recess, dance, classroom energizers and/or other curriculum-based physical activity programs of at least 10 minutes duration, that, when combined, total 30 minutes of daily physical activity. Principals shall work with teachers to ensure that students meet the minimum physical activity requirement. The board will periodically measure and report progress toward meeting these goals.

To ensure that students have ongoing opportunities for physical activity and maintain a positive attitude towards physical activity, structured/unstructured recess and other physical activity may not be taken away from students as a form of punishment. In addition, severe and inappropriate exercise may not be used as a form of punishment for students.

In conjunction with the school health advisory council, the board establishes the following additional specific evidence-based goals and strategies for physical activity:

- Classroom health education will reinforce the knowledge and skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle.
- Teachers will incorporate opportunities for physical activity in the classroom whenever possible.

E. OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE WELLNESS

In addition to the standards discussed above, the board adopts the following goals for school-based activities designed to promote wellness:

1. Schools will provide a clean and safe meal environment.
2. Students will be provided adequate time to eat meals.
3. Drinking water will be available at all meal periods and throughout the school day.
4. Professional development will be provided for school system nutrition staff.
5. To the extent possible, the school system will utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.
6. Food will not be used in the schools as a reward or punishment.
7. As appropriate, the goals of this wellness policy will be considered in planning all school-based activities.
8. 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.

F. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY

1. Oversight and Monitoring of Implementation and Progress

The lead wellness official, in conjunction with the school health advisory council, shall oversee the implementation of this policy and monitor system schools, programs, and curricula to ensure compliance with and to assess progress under this policy, related policies, and established guidelines or administrative regulations. Each principal shall be responsible for and shall report to the lead wellness official regarding compliance and measurements of progress in his or her school. Staff members responsible for programs related to student wellness also shall report to the lead wellness official regarding the status of such programs.

2. Review of Policy

The lead wellness official shall work with members of the school health advisory council to periodically review and update this policy based on the triennial assessment of the school system's compliance with the policy (see subsection F.4, below), progress toward meeting the policy goals, and other relevant factors. The lead wellness official shall document the review process and participants, and the method used to notify the school health advisory council and/or other stakeholders of their ability to participate.

3. Annual Reporting

The lead wellness official shall prepare annual written reports to the superintendent and NCDPI/State Board of Education that provide all information required by the superintendent and/or the state pertaining to the school system's efforts to comply with this policy and SBE policy SHLT-000.

4. Triennial Assessment

Beginning with school year 2017-18, and at least once every three years thereafter, the superintendent or designee shall report to the board and public on the system's compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness, the implementation of this policy, and progress toward meeting the goals of the policy. At a minimum, the superintendent or designee shall measure and report the following:

- 1) the extent to which the individual schools are in compliance with this policy;
- 2) the extent to which the board's wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies and meets state and federal requirements; and
- 3) a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy. The report may also

include the following items:

- 4) a summary of each school's activities undertaken in support of the policy goals;
- 5) an assessment of the school environment regarding student wellness issues;
- 6) an evaluation of the school nutrition services program;
- 7) a review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines;
- 8) a review of guidelines for foods and beverages available, but not sold, during the school day, as described in subsection C.3, above;
- 9) information provided in the report from the school health advisory council, as described in Section A, above; and
- 10) suggestions for improvement to this policy or other policies or programs.

G. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

1. The school system will publish contact information for the lead wellness official on the school system website.
2. The lead wellness official shall assist the school health advisory council with annually informing and updating the public about this policy and its implementation and State Board policy SHLT-000.
3. The superintendent or designee shall make public the results of the triennial assessment described in subsection F.4 of this policy.
4. 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 system website.

H. RECORDKEEPING

The superintendent shall maintain records to document compliance with this policy and all federal and state requirements. These records, at a minimum, must include:

1. a written copy of this policy and any updates;
2. the most recent triennial assessment for each school;
3. documentation demonstrating:
 - a. the efforts to review and update this policy, as described in subsection F.2 of this policy;
 - b. how this policy and information about the most recent triennial assessments have been made available to the public, as described in Section G;
 - c. compliance with the annual reporting requirements of subsection F.3; and
 - d. other efforts to involve the school health advisory council and/or other community members in the implementation of or assessment of compliance with this policy.

Legal References: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, 42 U.S.C. 1751; Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296; National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.; 7 C.F.R. 210.11, 210.12, and 210.31; G.S. 115C-264.2, -264.3; State Board of Education Policies SHLT-000, CHNU-000, CHNU-002; Eat Smart: North Carolina's Recommended Standards for All Foods in Schools, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, N.C. Division of Public Health (2004)

Adopted: 07/19/2004

Revised: 12/16/2013, 05/18/2015, 07/17/2017

Let's Go Jags!

Forestview Pride!