

South Point High School

Student & Parent Handbook

2018-2019



Leading the Tribe

906 South Point Road - Belmont, NC 28012

(704) 836-9612 (phone) - (704) 825-2820 (fax)

<http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Domain/48>

<https://facebook.com/SouthPointHS>

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Welcome from the Principal

Hello South Point Students and Families,

Welcome to South Point High School, Home of the Red Raiders! It is both an honor and a privilege to be the principal of such an outstanding school. Education is a top priority to me as I am sure it is to you as well. We are very proud of the tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities at South Point. We will work hard to ensure that all students have the opportunity to meet or even exceed these traditions. Although we may only be a part of your life for a few years, these are very important years that are vital to what will help you succeed in life after high school.

In terms of our outstanding students, parents, faculty, and staff, South Point is simply the best. I hope you have a wonderful and successful year!

Sincerely,

Gary M. Ford
Principal

Mission Statement

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

South Point Administration

Principal	Gary Ford
Assistant Principals	Will Buchanant (H-O) Stephanie Denton (A-G) Aimee Tolleson (P-Z)
School Resource Officer	Officer Haskett
Security	Devares Friday
Financial Secretary	Carol Ratliff
Data Manager	Susan Young
School Counselor Secretary	Melony Andrews
Receptionist	Stephanie Gee
Testing Coordinator	
Student Success Coordinator	Kevin Withers
Business Manager	Mike Wilder
School Counselors	Erin Stokes (A-G) Laurie Whiteside (H-O) Chris Roberts (P-Z)
Career Development Coordinator	Scott Tudor
Nurse	Susan Clark
Social Worker	Angela Ferguson
Athletic Director	Kent Hyde

SCHOOL PROFILE

<i>Enrollment:</i>	1025
<i>Colors:</i>	Red and Black
<i>Mascot:</i>	Red Raider

COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

Parent Conferences	Parent Conference Day will be held on October 11th and March 7th from 12–7 pm with no appointment necessary. Throughout the semester, parents can schedule a conference with a teacher as necessary.
Power School Parent	The Power School Parent Module provides students and parents a secure website to access grades and attendance throughout each semester.
Parent Link Calls	Automated phone calls will be sent home to update students and parents about news at SPHS.
School Website	Our school website is frequently updated to keep students, parents, and the community in the loop on important announcements, news, and events at SPHS. http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Domain/48
Social Media	Visit our South Point Facebook page and follow us on Twitter @SouthPointHS

BELL SCHEDULES

(6 minute class changes for all schedules)

Normal Schedule	
Opening Bell	7:50
1st Period	8:00 – 9:35
2nd Period	9:41– 11:16
3rd Period	11:22 – 1:24
	1st Lunch 11:22 – 11:48 2nd Lunch 11:54 – 12:20 3rd Lunch 12:26 – 12:52 4th Lunch 12:58 – 1:24
4th Period	1:30 – 3:00

Two Hour Delay Schedule	
First Period	10:00 – 10:34
Second Period	10:40 – 11:16
Third Period	Regular Schedule
Fourth Period	Regular Schedule

IMPORTANT DATES for 2018-19

Media Day	August 4th, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Raider 101	August 14th, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Open House	August 22th, 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM
School Starts	August 27th
NJROTC Parent Night	
Picture Day	September 7th
Senior College Night	
College Fair	
Senior Parent Night	
BBQ Day	September 21st
Black Friday	October 5th
High School Parent Conferences /Report Cards	October 11th
Homecoming	October 19th
Powder Puff Game	October 23rd
Makeup Picture Day 9th 11th Grade	November 4th
Preparing for College (info. for parents 9-11 graders)	
Belmont Christmas Parade/Early Dismissal	December 4th
Falls Sports Awards	December 6th
Winter Chorus Concert	December 10th @ 7:00
Financial Aid (FAFSA) Night	
Winter Band Concert	December 13th
First Semester Exams	January 10th - January 16th
Beginning of Second Semester	January 22rd
Military Ball	
Miss South Point Pageant	February 16th
Mr. South Point	March 2nd
Winter Sports Awards	March
Early Dismissal/Parent Conferences	March 7th
Report Cards	October 11th, November 29th, January 24th, March 7th, April 18th
Spring Break Holiday	April 19-25th
Optional Teacher Workday	April 26th
Prom	May 3rd
AP Exams	May 6-10th, 13-17th
Spring Band Concert	May 16th
Spring Chorus Concert	May 20th
Spring Sports Awards	May 23rd
Clarion Day/Senior Picnic	May 24th
Academic Awards	May 28th
Second Semester Exams	May 30th - June 5th
Baccalaureate	June 2nd @ 6:30 PM
Graduation	June 8th @ 9:00 AM

ACADEMICS

GRADES AND GRADING SCALE

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

INC - No grade is given at this time

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

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

- A student is classified as a FRESHMAN (9th grade) when he/she has been promoted from grade 8 in middle school.
- A student is classified as a SOPHOMORE (10th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 6 credits.
- A student is classified as a JUNIOR (11th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 13 credits.
- A student is classified as a SENIOR (12th grade) when he/she has earned a minimum of 20 credits.
- TO GRADUATE: A student needs to earn a minimum of 28 credits and students must earn passing scores on three essential end of course tests: Biology, English 10 and Math 1.

GRADING POLICY

GCS high school grading will be based on:

Tests/Major Projects/Papers

60%

Quizzes

20%

RETEACH/RETEST POLICY

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

<http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Page/4849>

MINIMUM COURSE LOADS

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

CLASS RESTRICTIONS

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

SPECIAL NEEDS

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

TRANSFERS OR WITHDRAWALS

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

ALTERNATIVE DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the curriculum and remediation programs offered at South Point. There are special cases where a student may need to consider an alternative plan to achieve a high school diploma. In special cases, students may choose to withdraw from school to enroll in a home school, the High School Diploma Program at Gaston College, or other diploma equivalency program. Students should consult with a school counselor for additional information.

EARLY GRADUATION

Early graduation allows for a student to complete state and local graduation standards after the first semester of their senior year. To be eligible, a student must pass all courses from their ninth grade year to the first semester of the senior year, complete course requirements in a designated Course of Study, and earn 28 credits. This process takes careful planning throughout the high school years with the student, parent, and counselor.

NORTH CAROLINA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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

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, Civics/Economics, American History I & II
Second Language	2 Credits: Two credits of the same language other than English
Health & PE	1 Credit: Health/Physical Education
Career and Technical	6 Credit: Includes two credit of the same language other than English
Second Language	Four additional credits in a concentration area such as Career and Technical Education, Arts Education, Second Language (beyond the first two credits), or other subject area.
Art Education (Dance, Music Theater Arts, Visual Arts)	
Arts Education (Dance, music, Theater arts, Visual arts)	
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 and Gaston Online.*

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

COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL

Career and College Promise

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

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

HONOR GRADUATES

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

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

TESTING IN NORTH CAROLINA

- **End of Course (EOC) Exams and NC Finals** –are required by the state in specified courses.
- **Workkeys-** Job skills assessment
- **Career and Technical Vocational (VOCATS) Exams** – The Career and Technical Education Program mandates testing in all CTE classes. Students are required to take the Career and Technical test.
- **ASSET OR COMPASS**– Placement test for community colleges
- **PSAT and PLAN-** The PSAT and the PLAN, preliminary tests for the SAT/ACT, offer students valuable testing experience and specific feedback on test results. The PSAT test is available to tenth and eleventh graders. Students are encouraged to take the PSAT in the tenth grade, study their results carefully, and retake the test in the junior year. PSAT will be given on October 11th at South Point High School. The PLAN test will be administered to all 10th graders the week of November 1st.
- **SAT and ACT** – Both the SAT and the ACT are college admissions tests typically taken voluntarily in the Junior Year. Beginning in 2012, the state of North Carolina administers the ACT to all registered 11th graders during the school day in the month of March. Students should check with the college or university to determine which test is required. Students may pick up test prep materials and registration information in the counseling office. Testing and registration information can be found at www.collegeboard.org for the SAT and www.act.org for the ACT.

ACT TEST DATES	SAT TEST DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● September 8, 2018 ● October 27, 2018 ● December 8, 2018 ● February 9, 2019 ● April 13, 2019 ● June 8, 2019 ● July 13, 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 6, 2018 ● November 3, 2018 ● December 1, 2018 ● March 9, 2019 ● May 4, 2019 ● June 1, 2019

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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

Students who wish to speak with a counselor may go to the counseling office and sign up to be called by their counselor. We respectfully ask that parents call for an appointment to meet with a counselor to avoid wait times.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

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

STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR

Our student success coordinator helps manage and resolve students' attendance issues. She communicates with students and parents about attendance requirements and solutions. Our student success coordinator also serves as our testing coordinator.

SCHOOL NURSE

Our school nurse works with students regarding health and wellness issues, responds to medical emergencies, develops student health plans, and participates in the Student Services Management Team (SSMT) as needed. Our school nurse is located in room 128.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

MEDICATION

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

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

SECURITY

Random searches and metal detecting will be conducted according to guidelines set forth by Gaston County Board of Education Policy during the school day and at school events (*See GCS Code of Student Conduct 2018-2019-18*).

FIRE, TORNADO, LOCKDOWN DRILLS

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

VISITORS

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

LOST AND FOUND

Lost articles should be taken to the front office.

LOCKERS

Lockers will be available upon request. Please see Coach Friday.

VENDING

Due to state and federal regulations, all student vending machines have been placed on timers that will not allow them to operate between the hours of 7:00 -1:30. Students are permitted to use vending machines at 1:30 and after school.

OUTSIDE FOOD

Students are not allowed to bring food in from outside vendors for lunch. Students and parents should refrain from bringing any food (McDonald's, Subway, etc) into the school.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR/STUDENT DISCIPLINE

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

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

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

Students are expected to show good citizenship at all times and follow the instructions given by any teacher or staff member and the Gaston County Student Code of Conduct, the rules of South Point High School, as well as the laws of the state of North Carolina. Students who do not follow these expectations will be disciplined fairly, but firmly to protect the rights and safety of all students and staff members. Classroom teachers will handle minor misconduct. If a student's behavior does not improve with the teacher's efforts, he/she will be referred to an assistant principal who will follow South Point's Discipline Steps and/or the disciplinary measures outlined in the GCS Code of Student Conduct 2018-2019-18.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

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

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

DRESS CODE

RULE 16: Dress Code (GCS Code of Conduct)

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

Students shall not wear:

- Headwear - Hats, bandanas, hair picks, combs or other types of headgear or sunglasses in the building.
- Clothing - Clothing that displays sexually explicit words or drawings, profanity, alcohol or drug 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 in the judgment of the school administration. The Board of Education recognizes that local law enforcement agencies may determine that wearing particular gang related attire may present a threat to student safety. The Superintendent will work collaboratively with these agencies to prohibit such dress. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Superintendent who will make any proposed recommendations for change to the Gaston County Board of Education.

South Point Specific Expectations:

- Pants - no sagging; no holes in inappropriate areas including the pocket areas.
- Hoods and head scarfs - these items are not permitted to be worn in the school building. Students must remove hoods and head scarfs when they enter the building.

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

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 included, 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.

At South Point High School, the instructional day is defined as the time allotted for instruction beginning at 7:50am (first bell) until 3:00pm (dismissal bell). Cell phones, electronic readers, or other listening devices ***MAY*** be used before school and after school and during the student's assigned lunch period. **Students are not allowed to have ear buds/headphones in their ears while walking in the hallway or common areas as this presents a Safety Concern should students need to hear directions in an emergency. Texting, talking, or playing games on a cell phone is not allowed in the hallways.**

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 Usage (BYOD)- Within classrooms, individual teachers have discretion to decide whether to allow students to use electronic devices for educational purposes. Teachers will retain full discretion over the use of listening devices, electronic readers, and mini computers within their classrooms, but the administration asks that teachers seek permission to use cell phones for educational activities.

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

Tobacco/Electronic Cigarettes/Vaporizers/JUULS/Lighters/Matches

Items will be confiscated. Consequences range from in-school suspension up to ten days OSS.

FIGHTING

Any altercation on school grounds is considered serious by the South Point Administration. Any fighting on the school campus or the school bus may be determined to be an assault by the Gaston County Police Department. Charges may be filed and students 16 years and older will be subject to arrest.

***Other behaviors which violate the GCS Code of Student Conduct 2018-2019, but not listed here will be punished according to consequences listed in the GCS Code of Student Conduct 2018-2019.

BUS PROCEDURES

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

Bus rules include:

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

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

TARDIES

- Any student arriving to class after the bell 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.
- Any student arriving to school after 8am is tardy. All students arriving before 8:15AM report directly to class. The classroom teacher codes the tardy with the 1st period class attendance in Powerschool.
- **Students who arrive to school after 8:15am should report to the front office to sign in.**
- Students who receive more than 3 tardies to school or class **per semester** will be handled by

assistant principals. Refer to Gaston County Student Code of Conduct for disciplinary action for tardies.

CONSEQUENCES FOR EXCESSIVE TARDIES TO SCHOOL, OR TARDIES TO 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, OR ADVISORY CLASSES ARE:

- Parents will be contacted informing them of excessive tardies by the teacher.
- 4th tardy: 30 minutes of After School Detention
- 5th tardy: 1 hour After School Detention
- Excessive tardies will result in further disciplinary measures.

Notes on Tardy Policy:

- **Students will have 6 minutes between classes.**
- **Students have access to at least 2 restrooms per hallway area.**
- **Students that check in with their teacher before the tardy bell TYPICALLY are given permission immediately to use the restroom as needed.**
- **When students are held over (by a teacher) at the end of a class or during transition, the teacher will write student a pass to class with no penalty incurred.**
- **The most problematic situation is students socializing during class change which lead to unexcused tardies.**

Skipping Class or Leaving Campus Without Permission in a Vehicle

1st offense: Automatic in-school suspension.

2nd offense: Additional in-school suspension and/or OSS.

Further offenses Involving a Vehicle: Parking permit will be revoked for the remainder of the school year. Additional in-school suspension and/or OSS.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE - STUDENTS 7-16 YEARS OF AGE

(Please see policy code #3480 for complete policy)

The public school laws of North Carolina require compulsory attendance for all children between the ages of seven and sixteen years (N.C.G.S. §115C-378). Every parent, guardian or other person having charge or control of such a child enrolled in the Gaston County Schools is charged by law to cause the child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time when the public school is in session.

Failure to comply with the attendance Law by having excessive absences may result in referral to truancy mediation, district court (parent) or juvenile court (child). If a parent, guardian or custodian is found guilty of violating the Compulsory Attendance Law, they may be ordered by the Court to do community service, fined or be incarcerated.

A. If a student has accumulated **three (3) unexcused absences in a school year**, the law **requires** the principal or designee to notify the parent/guardian of the student's excessive absences from school.

B. The following reasons can be accepted by school principals as valid excuses for school absences (Indicated by written note):

1. **Illness or Injury-** An absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the child from being physically able to attend school.
2. **Death In the Immediate Family-** An absence is excused when it results from the death of a member of the immediate family of the child. For purposes of this regulation, the immediate family of a child includes, but is not necessarily limited to, grandparents, parents, brothers, and sisters.
3. **Medical or Dental Appointments-** An absence is excused when it results from a medical or dental appointment of a child, and approval of the appropriate school official is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of an emergency.
4. **Court or Administrative Proceedings-** An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a child at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
5. **Religious Observances-** A student may be absent a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s).
6. **Educational Opportunity-** An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity. Approval for such an absence must be gained prior to the absence. See form entitled "Request for Excused Absence for Educational Opportunity" (Rev. 04/2011) which is available in the front office at SPHS. *Please note: Juniors and Seniors are granted two college visits per semester. These absences will count as excused with prior approval.*
7. **Quarantine-** An absence is excused when isolation of the child is ordered by the local health officer or by the State Board of Health.
8. **Special Emergencies-** as determined by the principal.
9. **Short-term Suspension.**
10. Absence due to pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary as required by G.S. 115C-375.5.
11. Job Shadows and other work based learning opportunities, as described in G.S. 115C-47(34a).
12. A student whose parent or legal guardian (a) is active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4176, Children of Military Families, 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 posting will be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the superintendent or designee to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian as required by G.S. 115C-407.5.

- C. **After not more than six (6) unexcused absences**, the principal shall notify the parent/guardian/custodian by mail that he/she may be in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the established attendance policy of the state and local board of education.

- D. A copy of the notice of absences will be sent to the school social worker who will contact the student and family in an effort to assist them in solving the attendance problem.

- E. **After a student has accumulated ten (10) unexcused absences in a school year**, the principal/principal's designee shall review any report or investigation concerning the unexcused absence and shall confer with the student and his/her parent/guardian/custodian to determine whether the parent/guardian/custodian has received the required notification and made a good faith effort to comply with the Compulsory Attendance Law. If the principal/principal's designee determines the parent/guardian/custodian has not made a good faith effort to comply with the law, the principal/principal's designee shall notify the school social worker, who shall notify the district attorney unless the case has already been initiated in the courts. Services of the social worker are available to assist in the initiation of court proceedings. If the principal/principal's designee determines the parent/guardian/custodian has made a good faith effort, the principal/principal's designee or the school social worker may file a complaint with the juvenile intake counselor that the student is habitually absent from school without a valid excuse.

- F. All teachers are required to report attendance each day and maintain accurate attendance records. Report cards will accurately reflect the student's attendance record.

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE FOR ALL
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
(regardless of student age)

After each full day absence whether excused or unexcused, the school will attempt to contact the parent or guardian using personal staff contact or automated telephone/email contact.

Students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) are expected to be in each class each day of the semester. Upon the student's third (3rd), sixth (6th) and tenth (10th) full day absences, the school will notify the parent or guardian of the violations of the high school attendance policy (as is consistent with State Policy for students under 16 years of age).

Class attendance is essential to high student achievement. Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching and learning process. With this in mind, all students are expected to be in attendance each day school is in session.

- In order to be recorded present for daily attendance, a student must be present at least one-half of the school day or at a place other than the school with the approval of the appropriate school official for the purpose of attending an authorized school activity.
- For the purpose of class attendance, a student must be present for at least 75 minutes of a ninety-minute period.

Required Class Attendance, Interventions, and Course Credit

Requirements for class period attendance:

- Each day school is in session for students classroom teachers will report student attendance for each class period and maintain accurate student attendance records for report cards.
- By the third (3rd) absence in a course where no contact has been received from the parent/guardian, the classroom teacher will contact the parent/guardian using the telephone, email, letter or automated telephone message. The classroom teacher will remind the parent/guardian of the number of absences and the Gaston County Board of Education Policy on high school student attendance.
- After not more than six (6) absences in a course, the classroom teacher will contact the parent/guardian using the telephone, email, letter or automated telephone message. The classroom teacher will remind the parent/guardian of the number of absences, the policy on high school student attendance and specifics regarding the appeal process.
- After not more than six (6) absences in a course, the classroom teacher will notify the school's Student Support Management Team (SSMT).
- Upon notification from the classroom teacher, the SSMT will evaluate the overall academic and attendance information of the student and if deemed appropriate, consult with the school social worker and/or other support personnel for possible additional interventions, recommendations or consequences for the student/parent/guardian.
- On the tenth (10th) absence in a course, the classroom teacher will contact the parent/guardian using telephone, email, letter or automated telephone message. The classroom teacher will remind the parent/guardian of the number of absences, the policy on high school student attendance and that an appeal must be initiated upon the eleventh (11th) absence from a course if the student is passing the course.
- On the eleventh (11th) absence, the classroom teacher or other school personnel, student or parent can give/request the Gaston County Schools' student attendance appeal request form.

Documentation of Absences

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

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

Checking In & Out

- All students will check in and out in the front office after 8:15 am.
- For students leaving school early, the student should always sign out in the front office or the student will be considered skipping.
- Parents who wish to sign out their student early should report to the front office. Only parents and authorized individuals on the student record will be allowed to pick up students. Court documents must be on file for a restricted biological parent.
- If a student drives, a parent may send a written note or call to authorize the student to leave. The front office staff will verify with the parent/guardian that the student has permission to leave school.

Make-up Work

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

School-related Functions

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

Make-Up Time Program

Students that are absent for 15 or more days in ANY class will be required to make-up time in order to receive credit for the course.

Individual High School Procedures

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

PARKING POLICY

Students must purchase a **\$25.00** parking permit to park a vehicle on campus. Parking is a privilege and not a right. Violation of parking guidelines will result in fines, suspension, and revoked privileges. All vehicles on campus must display a parking permit. Registration forms can be accessed on the SPHS website or picked up in the front office.

RULES:

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

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

DRIVER EDUCATION

Driver Education and Student Attendance

Students will be allowed to enroll in driver education only if they meet a minimum of 94% attendance in the year (if in middle school) or 94% attendance the semester (if in high school) before enrolling in driver education. **Students must have been in attendance 168 days of the**

180 day school year (for middle school) or 84 days of the 90 day semester (for high school) in the year or semester before enrollment in driver education with Gaston County Schools (medical exceptions considered).

Drop out Prevention /Driver's License Legislation

North Carolina has legislation reflecting a coordinated statewide effort to motivate and encourage students to complete their high school education. The law provides for the revocation of the student's driving permit or driving license if the student does not maintain adequate academic progress or drops out of school.

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

Lose Control, Lose Your License Legislation

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

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

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

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

Athletics - Eligibility

Athletics

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

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

Scholastic Requirements

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

Attendance Rule

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

Medical Examination

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

Age of Player

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

Insurance

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

GCS SCHOOL NUTRITION

School Year 2018 – 2019

Gaston County School Nutrition (GCSN) Information Guide for School Handbooks

1) Meal Prices

a) Breakfast

- | | |
|---|--------|
| i) Paid students (all grade levels) | \$1.20 |
| ii) Reduced price students (all grade levels) | \$0.00 |
| iii) Adults (staff and visitors) | \$1.50 |

b) Lunch

- | | |
|---|--------|
| i) Paid students (grades 6 – 12) | \$2.80 |
| ii) Reduced price students (all grade levels) | \$0.40 |
| iii) Adults (staff and visitors) | \$3.75 |

2) Charged Meals

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| i) High School (9 – 12) | no charging allowed |
|-------------------------|---------------------|

b) Principals will be provided a daily list of students who have exceeded the charge limits so that they can inform the students they will only be able to receive a complimentary alternate meal unless they bring meal money the following day.

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

d) Students who have received more than five (5) complimentary alternate meals per year may receive additional complimentary meals at the mutual discretion of the Principal and School Nutrition Director.

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

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

g) Schools are provided negative balance letters for distribution to students at least once a week.

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

3) Student Accounts

a) Check, Cash, or Money Order can be accepted in the school cafeterias.

- b) Parents/Guardians may utilize K12PaymentCenter at www.k12paymentcenter.com to pay with their credit or debit card. PLEASE NOTE: This service is available at all schools as a means of collecting and managing other school fees.
 - c) Parents requesting a refund must contact the School Nutrition Business Manager at (704) 836-9110 ext. 3.
 - d) 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.
 - e) NSF checks are referred to NEXCHECK, a check guarantee and collection service.
 - f) Parents/Guardians desiring to restrict or prohibit the purchase of meals in the cafeteria may do so by submitting a "Purchase Account Limits" form. This form is available on the Gaston County Schools web page in the School Nutrition section, and must be renewed annually.
 - g) Parents/Guardians desiring to restrict or prohibit the purchase of a la carte items in the cafeteria may do so by contacting the school Cafeteria Manager.
- 4) A la Carte guidelines
- a) A la carte items may not be charged.
 - b) Students who have exceeded the charge limits, \$13.50 in elementary schools and \$5.60 in middle schools, may not purchase a la carte items except milk, fruit juice, or water.
 - c) Students who are within the allowable charge limits, under \$13.50 in elementary schools and \$5.60 in middle schools, may not purchase a la carte items until all charges are paid.
 - d) A la carte items WILL NOT be sold to students in ELEMENTARY schools UNLESS one of the following conditions are met:
 - i) The student purchases a Reimbursable Meal in the cafeteria (breakfast or lunch)
 - ii) The student brings a meal from home (breakfast or lunch)
 - iii) The student has eaten a meal at home prior to arriving at school (breakfast)
- 5) Free and Reduced Meal Applications
- a) Paper applications are available at the school office, the school cafeteria, the enrollment department at the Central Office, and at the School Nutrition Center in Lowell.
 - b) Online applications are available for SY 18 - 19 on the Gaston County Schools website. Links can be found on the School Nutrition departmental tab.
 - c) Only **one application** is required **per household**.
 - d) Paper applications should be returned to the school Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center – 500 Reid Street, Lowell, NC 28098.
 - e) Students who received free or reduced price meals on the last day of school in School Year 2017 – 2018, will **temporarily** receive free or reduced price meals at the beginning of School Year 2018 – 2019. **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.
 - f) Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits, and should be included on the household application (not a separate application).
 - g) 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.
 - h) If any member of the household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP (food stamps), or FDPIR or TANF/Work First benefits, provide the name and case number on the application for the person who receives the benefits. All students listed on that application are categorically eligible for free meals.

- i) If a student receives SNAP or TANF/Work First benefits and is notified that he/she has been approved for free meal benefits by way of Direct Certification, an application is not required **for that student**. If there are other children that have not been identified as being directly certified, but who are 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.
- 6) Special Dietary Needs
- a) Students with medical conditions such as allergies and diabetes may request modification to school meals by completing a Diet Order form.
 - b) Diet Order forms may be obtained from the Cafeteria Manager, the School Nurse, the School Nutrition Center in Lowell, or on the School Nutrition page on the Gaston County Schools website (www.gaston.k12.nc.us).
 - c) The Diet Order form must be signed by a physician and returned to the Cafeteria Manager or the School Nutrition Center.
 - d) **All students are encouraged to complete a new Diet Order form for each new school year. However Diet Orders will remain in effect perpetually until School Nutrition receives signed notification from a physician indicating a change to, or termination of the Diet Order.**

PROM

Prom will be held at the Gastonia Conference Center in Gastonia, NC on May 3rd from 8 pm until 12 midnight. Prom Ticket sales will begin in April.

- A student must be classified as a junior or senior in order to purchase prom tickets. Students are classified by the number of credits needed for promotion.
- Sophomores and freshmen are only allowed to attend as guests.
- Outside guests must be in good standing in their respective schools or community and must submit a Request to Attend Form during prom ticket sales. If it is determined by South Point High School that a guest is not in good standing, the guest will not be eligible to attend.
- Anyone over the age of 20 will not be allowed to attend.
- Once purchased, tickets are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
- Multiple discipline referrals may cause a student to be denied the privilege of attending.
- Prom information will be posted on the school website and announced on the announcements prior to the event.
- In order to purchase prom tickets or attend the prom, students must have all time made up due to tardies and absences.
- Fourteen (14) unexcused absences (on the first day of ticket sales) – Students with more than 14 cumulative absences must appeal to Administration to attend.
- Students cannot be in violation of any attendance contract signed for the year.
- Only SPHS staff and faculty members will be allowed to attend the prom as a chaperone or volunteer.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Commencement ceremonies will be held in our stadium at 9:00 am on Saturday, June 9, 2018. Admission will be by ticket only. The administration, faculty, and staff take great pride in providing a traditional formal ceremony that we hope will be a memorable event for graduates and guests.

- Practice will be held on Friday, June 8th before graduation. Students must be present for practice in order to participate in the graduation ceremony Saturday morning.
- All students must appear in cap and gown to participate in the ceremony. Tassels will be on the right front side of the mortarboard (cap) before the diploma is conferred, and may be moved to the left side after the diploma is conferred. No decorations on mortarboards or on the exterior of the robe will be permitted.

If a student chooses not to participate in the graduation ceremony, the school must be notified in writing by the parents at least 2 weeks prior to the ceremony.

MALES:

- Must wear a white, collared shirt and a tie.
- Dress pants (brown, black, navy or khaki) and dark shoes (no jeans, tennis shoes, boots, or sandals). No shorts will be allowed.

FEMALES:

- Collars should be sewn to the gown.
- All visible clothing should be dark (no jeans or shorts, tennis shoes, casual sandals, or boots).

Any apparel deemed inappropriate for a dignified ceremony is prohibited.

- **Graduation is a dignified ceremony.** Please refrain from celebrating graduates until all graduate names have been announced. Everyone wishes to hear the name announced of their special graduate. When shouting or cheers occur in the ceremony, it prevents the next student's name from being heard.
- All guests should plan to be seated before 8:55 a.m. and stay throughout the entire ceremony. Late comers and early leavers disrupt and detract from the occasion. No one will be allowed to

enter after seniors march into the stadium. Personnel and police will be on duty at each gate to enforce this procedure.

- All student fees and debts must be paid before practice on Friday.
- No balloons or signage are permitted during graduation.
- No tobacco products may be used on school grounds.

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

- Students will be required to pay for honor tassels.

Summa cum laude – 4.3+	Denoted by a gold tassel
Magna cum laude – 4.0 – 4.299	Denoted by a red tassel
Cum laude – 3.7 – 3.99	Denoted by a white tassel

Additional information will be posted on the school website and distributed during practice for graduation.