



# GOLD HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Student Agenda & Handbook 2017 – 2018

**Excellence is our cornerstone, our tradition, the Bulldog way!**

**Matt Wallace**  
Principal

**Richard Eppes**  
Assistant Principal

**Daniel McCallum**  
Assistant Principal

*1025 Dave Gibson Boulevard  
Tega Cay, South Carolina 29708  
Telephone: 803-548-8300 Fax: 803-548-8322  
<http://ghms.fortmillschools.org>*

### THIS STUDENT PLANNER BELONGS TO:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ **Homeroom** \_\_\_\_\_

**Locker #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Locker Combination** \_\_\_\_\_

Username & Passwords	
<b>Parent Portal</b>	<b>Chromebook</b>
Username - _____	Username - _____@students.fmsdmail.org
Password - _____	Password - _____
<b>IXL</b>	<b>Study Island</b>
Username - _____	Username - _____
Password - _____	Password - _____
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
Username - _____	Username - _____
Password - _____	Password - _____

# Fort Mill School District

## 2017-2018 Academic Calendar

2233 Deerfield Drive, Fort Mill, SC 29715 | Phone: (803)548-2527 | www.fortmillschools.org

**\*\* First Day of School (Grades 1-12): Aug 17 \*\*Please note staggered Kindergarten start schedule by birth month.**

**Last Day of School: May 25 (-1/2 Day) ... Subject to weather make-up days (SC Law H.3890).**

**\*\* Kindergarten ONLY First Day Staggered Start Schedule**

- Aug 17: Jan, Feb, Mar Birthdays Attend ONLY (Full Day)
- Aug 18: Apr, May, Jun Birthdays Attend ONLY (Full Day)
- Aug 21: Jul, Aug, Sep Birthdays Attend ONLY (1/2 Day)
- Aug 22: Oct, Nov, Dec Birthdays Attend ONLY (Full Day)
- Aug 23: ALL Kindergarten Students Attend (Full Day)

August 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17**	18	19
20	- 21 -	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30*	31				

November 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	- 21 -	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**Student & Staff Holidays - No School**

Sep 4 - Labor Day

Nov 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break

Dec 22-Jan 2 - Winter Break

Jan 15 - Martin Luther King Day\*

Feb 19 - Presidents' Day\*

Apr 2-6 - Spring Break

May 28 - Memorial Day\*

\* Indicates potential weather make-up day.

**Teacher Work & Professional Days  
No School For Students**

Aug 9-11, 14-16 Jan 3\*

Oct 30\* Mar 30\*

May 29\*

\* Indicates potential weather make-up day.

**Instructional Full & Noted -1/2 Days-**

-1/2 Days- 1/2 Day Dismissal Times

- Aug 21 (Eclipse) - Elementary - 11:00 am

- Dec 21 - Middle - 11:35 am

- May 25 - High - 12:10 pm

**End Of Term & Reporting Dates**

30th Day - Sep 28 100th Day - Jan 24

45th Day - Oct 19 120th Day - Feb 22

60th Day - Nov 10 135th Day - Mar 15

86th Day - Dec 21 150th Day - April 13

1/2 day (End of 1st Semester) 180th Day - May 25

1/2 day (End of 2nd Semester)

**Report Card Dates**

Grades K-8

Q1=Oct 25, Q2=Jan 5, Q3=Mar 21, Q4=May 25\*\*

Grades 9-12

M1=Oct 4, M2=Nov 15, M3=Jan 5

M4=Feb 28, M5=Apr 18, M6=May 25\*\*

\*\* Year end report cards are mailed home for grades 6-12

**High School Graduation: May 26**

Fort Mill High School: 10:00 am

Nation Ford High School: 2:00 pm

- Winthrop Coliseum, Rock Hill, SC -

**SC State Law H.3890 - Weather Make-Up**

May 30\*

**Board of Trustees Approved March 21, 2017**

Based on approved S.138 1-year only adjustment to SC Start Date Law

January 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3*	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15*	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19*	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30*
31						

April 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	- 25 -
26	27	28*	29*	30*	31	

June 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

 First & Last Day of School (Last day of school is a 1/2 day)	 Instruction Day - Students in School (please note -1/2-day indicator)	 Student & Staff Holiday - No School For Staff or Students	 Teacher Work Day - No School for Students	 Potential Weather Make-Up Day - Typically the first available weather make-up day, after a school closure, is used. See H.3890 details below.
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School delays, early dismissals, and cancellations are communicated via the district's School Messenger calling system and are also posted on the district's website: [www.fortmillschools.org](http://www.fortmillschools.org). SC State Law H.3890 requires that 3 statutory weather make-up days must be used before a school board is granted the right to waive up to 3 remaining weather make-up days. Therefore the calendar, including the last day of school, is subject to change in the event of severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

**\*\*\* This form should be completed and returned by Friday, August 25. \*\*\***

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Student:

Fort Mill School District believes it is very important to inform you and your student of the rules of conduct we require in the Fort Mill Schools.

Your student has been given a Gold Hill Middle School Planner. Please read the Student Handbook section carefully and discuss its' contents with your student.

We feel, as you do, that school should be a safe, orderly place to learn. This is part of our attempt to provide your child with the best education possible. With your help, as an equal partner, we continue to strive for excellence.

For our school records, it is very important that you and your student sign at the bottom of this page. In addition, parents/guardians please complete the student information sheet on the next page (p. 12). This sheet should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher by **Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**.

\*\*\* While reading over the agenda, we ask that you pay close attention to the cell phone policy (p. 18), the dress code (p. 19), the discipline infractions (pp. 21 – 23), the new district mandated acceptable food policy (p. 26), and the Make Today Count Incentive Sheet that goes with our incentive program (pp. 1 – 7).

We have read the Gold Hill Middle School Handbook; and although we may not agree with all the regulations, we understand that each student must adhere to these rules while at school or in attendance at school sponsored activities. In the event that we are not entirely certain of some aspects of school policy, we will contact the principal for clarification within one week after receipt of this policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Homeroom Teacher)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

# STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

\*\*\* PLEASE PRINT \*\*\*

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
  LAST                          FIRST                          (PREFERRED)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WITH WHOM DO YOU LIVE? \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

WORKPLACE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

WORKPLACE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL (legible) \_\_\_\_\_

LOCKER # \_\_\_\_\_ COMBINATION \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_

BUS NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CAR RIDER \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* This form should be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher  
by Friday, August 25.**



**GOLD HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**ELECTRONIC DEVICE AGREEMENT**

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices include computers, laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, and any other device issued by the school.

Damage

I agree to not purposely damage or mishandle any electronic device. I will not remove any buttons from the keyboard, and I will not write on or further vandalize any school issued electronic device. I acknowledge and agree that I am solely responsible for the device during class time. I realize that I could be held liable for any costs that may be associated with repairs and/or replacement of the device.

Downloads and Internet Usage

I agree that I will not download any new applications, pictures, etc. to the device. If instructed to use the internet on the device, I agree to only use approved websites. I also agree to comply with the acceptable use policy for computer, internet, and network use. If I fail to follow these instructions, the privilege to use the device may be revoked for the remainder of the year.

Using Applications

I agree that I will only use applications approved by the teacher. There are some applications on the device that are not to be used during class time. If my peers or I use these unapproved applications during class when the device is checked out to me, the privilege to use the device may be revoked for the remainder of the year.

Behavior and Usage

If my actions in any way are deemed inappropriate by a teacher or administrator while using a device, my privilege to use the device may be revoked for the remainder of the year.

**By signing my name below, as a student of Gold Hill Middle School, I agree to all terms and conditions in this document.**

**Student Name** (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Welcome**

The faculty, staff, and administration welcome you to Gold Hill Middle School. Our programs are designed to serve you and help you make the successful transition from elementary school to high school. Middle school is a time of change. The workload, levels of responsibility, extracurricular activities, and social adjustments are greater than those experienced at elementary school. All students are expected to attend regularly, perform in class, develop effective study habits and behave appropriately. This handbook has been prepared to acquaint you with your school, its regulations, and activities. Please read all items carefully and if you have questions, please ask. You and your parents are responsible for knowing the contents of this handbook. Let us all work together to make our journey through the school year successful and rewarding.

## **School Motto**

*Excellence is our cornerstone, our tradition, the Bulldog way!*

## **Vision**

Gold Hill Middle School, distinguished as a school of excellence, is centered on student learning that focuses on academic, social, and emotional growth that bridges the transition for students between elementary and high school.

## **Mission**

The mission of Gold Hill Middle School is to provide learners with a rigorous education where all students are valued, and the faculty exhibits academic excellence by advancing knowledge through high expectations, collaboration, and engagement.

## **Beliefs**

Here at Gold Hill Middle School, we believe:

1. The learning environment will be emotionally safe, physically safe, healthy, nurturing, and positive.
2. Our students will be held to consistent high expectations academically and behaviorally.
3. Students will be given the opportunity to be successful.
4. Good citizenship is important and valued.
5. Students are more successful when there are positive relationships between the school, parents, and community.

## **Parent Contact Information**

It is vital that we have your current address, email, and phone number on file at all times. This information is especially important in case of emergency. Please notify the school office immediately if this information changes. You must provide residency verification regarding address changes.

## **Student Handbook/Agenda**

Each student receives this school handbook/agenda. It contains our school policies and is to be used as a homework assignment notebook. The teacher writes homework assignments on the board and provides time for students to write down the assignments. We ask that this agenda be taken home each day and returned to school the next day. This will help students strengthen their organization and study skills, and it will help prepare them for success. If an agenda is lost, then it will cost \$5.00 to replace.

## **Registration Fees**

The Student Registration Fee is utilized to assist in the development and evaluation of student programs that promote student growth and development beyond the classroom. The fee provides additional resources for students in the following areas:

1. Gold Hill Middle School Student Agenda

All students are to have possession of their agendas during every class period. Passes are part of the agenda and must be used for students to leave the classroom. Students may not use or possess another student's agenda. Lost agendas must be replaced if the school has extra.

2. Supplementary materials for the Guidance Character Education Program

- A. Make Today Count Program
- B. A and AB Honor Roll Recognition Awards
- C. Academic Celebrations & Awards

3. Supplementary Materials for the Guidance Career Development Program

- A. School-Wide Career Exploration Materials and Activities/Speakers
- B. School-Wide Job Shadowing Program
- C. Career Development Profile Software

4. Student Activity Scholarship Program

It is the desire of Gold Hill Middle School to ensure that all students can experience a meaningful academic, social, and developmental experience while enrolled. The Student Registration Fee is used to assist the school in this effort and allows the programmatic objectives to be enhanced.

## **Permitted Communication Methods**

Students may make calls from the office at the teacher's discretion, but these should be limited. Students must have a completed pass in their agenda to use the office phone. Students reporting to the office to use the phone without an agenda or pass will be sent back to class or to the duty teacher for permission. Students and parents should plan ahead so that it will not be necessary to make calls. Discuss transportation plans, homework, lunch money, medicine, projects, etc. with your student in the morning to reduce the need for the student to make personal phone calls. If you must reach your student regarding a change in transportation plans or an emergency, you may call our main line at 803-548-8300. We will provide the student with the message at the end of the school day prior to dismissal.

## **Tardiness**

A student is considered tardy if he/she arrive for homeroom after 8:10 a.m. Tardies to school may jeopardize a student's efforts to maintain perfect attendance, and excessive tardies can be treated as truancy. Students will receive school consequences after three (3) unexcused tardies to school. The fourth and each subsequent unexcused tardy per quarter will result in lunch detention. The lunch detention will be served in the ISS room. Tardy accumulation will start over at the beginning of each quarter. Also, any student who is signed out early may be counted as absent for those classes that are missed. When a student arrives to school after 8:10 a.m., a parent must come into the office and sign the student in.

\*\*\*It is important that students are not just on time to school, but also punctual to each class. Consequences for classroom tardies will be determined by each grade level.

## **Attendance**

A student must be in school at least 3 ½ hours to be counted present. If a student is tardy more than 3 times each nine weeks, or if a student is tardy more than 6 times during the school year, he/she will not be considered for an attendance award for the year. If a student is dismissed early more than 5 times, he/she will not be eligible for an attendance award.

## **Absences**

In order for an absence to be considered EXCUSED a parent/guardian must provide the following in a timely manner (within one week):

1. Personal illness shall be verified by a doctor's excuse from the parent or guardian within one week of the student's return.
2. Absences for serious illness or death in the student's immediate family shall be verified by an excuse from the parent/guardian within one week of the student's return.
3. Absences for religious holidays and/or other reasons must be requested in advance by the parent/guardian stating the purpose of the absence. This request must be relayed to the student's academic team for input and planning purposes and so that the principal can make an informed decision about the request. If the request is not approved, this will be communicated to the parent/guardian.
4. Provisions for making up school work missed during excused absences shall be worked out with the student's teacher(s) at the earliest time possible but should not exceed five school days of the student's return to school.
5. The status of all students' absences shall be communicated to the student's teacher(s) within two days of the student's return to school.
6. Schoolwork missed during UNEXCUSED absences must be arranged and approved for acceptance by the academic teacher. You may seek assistance from the principal after consultation with the student's teacher(s) if needed.
7. The principal may excuse student absences from school activities.

Student absences may not exceed 10 days (EXCUSED & UNEXCUSED combined) during the school year. Absences in excess of 10 days may result in the student's loss of credit for the year. More information regarding SC Attendance Laws may be found on our district website. A student who misses 3 consecutive absences without a valid excuse or total of 5 unlawful (UNEXCUSED) absences is considered truant.

EXCUSED absences include:

1. Serious, chronic, or extended illness of the student certified by a physician.
2. Serious illness or death in the immediate family requiring the presence of the student. (3 day limit)
3. Recognized religious holidays for students of a particular religious faith when prearranged.
4. Prearranged absences for other reasons and/or extreme hardships are at the discretion of the Principal.
5. Five days may be EXCUSED, per child per year, with a note from a parent. Note should contain the child's full name, date of absence, nature of the illness, phone number, & parent signature.

## **Early Dismissal**

Students may not be dismissed from school between 2:50 – 3:20. Accumulated early dismissals affect perfect attendance awards at the end of the year. In order to avoid interruptions in the educational program, we ask that students not leave school before 3:20 p.m. Whenever possible, medical and dental appointments should be made after school hours. Students will not be called from class until the parent arrives to pick him/her up. All parents should report to the office when picking up their child for early dismissal. We will then request that your child be sent to the office to meet you. Parents must sign their child out on the computer in the office. The office personnel will refer to your child's Early Dismissal Checkout Sheet on which you have listed the names of the people who have permission to pick up your child. Only the people listed will be allowed to pick up your child. The person must present picture identification. Please have all information on file in the front office and update this information as needed. The office personnel will not release your child to anyone if the Early Dismissal Checkout Sheet is not on file in the office. Notes or telephone calls will not be accepted. Emergency situations will be handled on a case by case basis by the administrative team and our school resource officer.

## **After School Dismissal**

All students are to exit the building immediately once the bell rings. The front office will close at 4:30 p.m. All students are to be picked up no later than 3:35 p.m. After 3:50 p.m., parents or individuals providing transportation must come inside to sign out the student.



## Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones may be brought to school and used before or after school to communicate with parents. They must be turned OFF during the school day from 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m. and should be out of sight. Cell phones should be kept in lockers from 8:05 until dismissal. A cell phone may not be used during the day unless an employee at GHMS gives permission. The student may NOT use a cell phone to call or text parents during the school day without an employee's permission. Devices may be used in the classroom for educational purposes while under the supervision and permission of a teacher.

- 1st violation – warning and confiscation of the phone until the end of the day.
- 2nd violation – ISS lunch detention and confiscation of the phone until the end of the day.
- 3rd violation – 1 day of ISS and confiscation of the phone until the end of the day.
- 4th violation – 1 day of ISS and confiscation of the phone until the end of the day.
- 5th violation and beyond- 1 day of ISS for each offense and a plan for future cell phone use at school involving a conference with the parent.

\*Additional consequences can be added by discretion of the administration based on the severity of the infraction. Violation and refusal to give school employee the electronic device will also result in additional consequences.

Disclaimer - Students will be given more serious consequences for the following inappropriate uses of electronic equipment. Inappropriate use of an electronic device to take pictures or videos, inappropriate texting or messages, any use which may be seen as threatening to anyone or anything at Gold Hill Middle School, or any major violation of our district's acceptable use policy. An act or acts which are not covered by these regulations and which are of such nature as to pose a threat to the physical or mental welfare of the students, the teachers, and other school personnel or which create a disruption in the orderly operation of any phase of the school program may result in suspension or expulsion.

## Bullying

Bullying occurs when one or more students single out another student and deliberately engage in behaviors intended to cause harm. Bullies target victims repeatedly over time. Physical harm, emotional distress, social embarrassment, fear, and/or humiliation are results of harassment, intimidation, and bullying behavior.

Any student who feels he or she has been harassed/bullied should file a complaint with a school administrator and/or faculty member. All allegations will be promptly investigated. Students who file a complaint will not be subject to retaliation or reprisals. Students filing fraudulent claims may be subject to disciplinary action.

### Consequences for Bullying

- 1<sup>st</sup> Report – conference with counselor and parent contact by staff
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Report – conference with administrator and school resource officer, parent contact/conference
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Report – 1 day of ISS
- 4<sup>th</sup> Report – 2 days of ISS
- 5<sup>th</sup> Report – 1 day of OSS
- Future violations – Multiple days of OSS and possible referral to the alternative school

The school board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified, and respectful manner. Any student who is found to have engaged in the prohibited actions outlined in this section will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Students may also be referred to law enforcement officials. The district will take all other appropriate steps to correct or rectify the situation.

## Cyberbullying

Bullying or harassment that occurs online is called Cyberbullying. This can take place in an email, a text message, Instant Messaging, an online game, or comments/images posted on social networking sites. Incidents that occur off campus will immediately involve our school resource officer. However, GHMS administrators have the right to become involved with cases involving off campus Cyberbullying if it causes disruption in, or interference with, the orderly operation of school.

## **GHMS Student Dress Code Policy**

The Fort Mill School District's Student Policy JICA Student Dress/Uniforms states "Although the responsibility for the dress and appearance of students rests with each student and his/her parent/guardian, students are expected to show pride in themselves and their schools by having their dress and appearance in accordance with good acceptable standards. The school administration and board discourage extreme styles of dress and grooming. Students will dress in appropriate attire. Students are expected to dress in clothing that abides by the district dress code policy. Logos or clothing that promotes alcohol, drugs, tobacco, racism, hate, gang affiliation, nudity, or profanity is not allowed. No clothing or accessories are allowed to disrupt the educational process. **The administration reserves the right to determine what is appropriate for school.**

Gold Hill Middle School students are expected to adhere to these administrative dress guidelines:

- Proper shoes must be worn at all times for safety reasons. Shoes with cleats may not be worn. Bedroom shoes/slippers are not appropriate for school.
- Students may wear shorts, dresses, skirts, etc. whose length is no shorter than four inches above the knee.
- All tops/shirts must have sleeves that cover/conceal the underarm area.
- Tops/shirts must be long enough that they can be tucked into pants or shorts and shall cover the belt line when the arms are raised above the head.
- Tank tops, halter tops, crop tops, strapless tops, and see through garments are not appropriate for school.
- Sports jerseys must be worn with a sleeved shirt underneath that covers/conceals the underarm area.
- Underwear must not be visible.
- Pants or jeans with holes, tears or tattered to the extent that skin or underwear is visible above the knee are not appropriate for school.
- Pants are to be worn around the natural waist line (no sagging).
- No headwear (hats, bandanas, caps, hoods, etc.) or sunglasses may be worn in the building by students upon arrival until dismissal.
- Long chains and jewelry which could be deemed a safety hazard or a distraction to the learning environment should not be worn.
- Accessories that distract from the learning environment will not be allowed.

If there is a disagreement between students and/or parents/legal guardians and the staff regarding the appropriateness of clothing, the principal will use his/her discretion to make the final decision. Disciplinary action regarding the enforcement of this policy is listed below:

Violations will result in the following:

- First offense – change clothes/in-school suspension (ISS) until clothes are brought
- Second offense – parent conference/ISS remainder of day, regardless; change clothes
- Third offense – ISS and/or detention, regardless; change clothes
- Subsequent offenses – suspension

### **Car Riders**

Morning: Students will enter the building through the main entrance. Parents are asked to pull their cars up as far forward as possible before allowing their child to exit the vehicle. Supervision will be provided at 7:40, when the school doors open. Afternoon: At dismissal, students report directly to their designated car rider areas. Sixth grade students will use the elementary loop for pick up. For safety, 6<sup>th</sup> grade car riders are to be seated once in the pick up area and remain seated until the buses clear the bus lot.

Seventh and eighth grade students are picked up using the GHMS loop. Eighth grade students will wait right outside the main entrance while seventh grade students will wait slightly further down towards the gym. However, students do not have to load their car directly in front of their waiting area. Parents are asked to pull their cars up as far forward as possible when picking up their students in the afternoon. Please follow the directions of the teachers on duty. Students will not be allowed to ride with anyone not designated by their parents on the student checkout sheet.

## **School Bus Transportation**

Transportation for students attending school in SC is provided subject to the approval of the transportation office. School officials have no authority to alter bus routes or stops without the proper approval. All bus drivers are properly certified and licensed by the SC Highway Department. Only those students who are eligible for school bus transportation may ride the bus. A bus rider will not be allowed to ride a bus other than the bus assigned to him/her. Students, who may need to ride a bus other than their assigned bus, or get off at another stop other than their assigned stop, must have prior approval. Request forms are available in the school's front office. Approval is granted or denied by the Operations Office and may take a few days. Please do not wait until the day the request is needed to make arrangements. Our goal is to assure that all school buses provide safe transportation for all students and that all students who ride the bus exhibit good citizenship while on the bus. Students who are disruptive on the bus will be denied the privilege of riding the bus. After school, all bus students report their bus unless they are second load, in which they would report to the cafeteria. For safety reasons, students are not permitted to carry large items (such as large musical instruments, balloons, flower arrangements, sports equipment, etc.) onto the bus. Food and drink are not permitted on the buses.

### **Unnecessary items**

Unnecessary objects brought to school may be confiscated until picked up by a parent or until the end of the school year. In addition, students may receive a school consequence based on the frequency and severity of the violation. These items include, but are not limited to: fidget spinners, headgear, spray perfumes, gadgets, laser lights, ipods/mp3s, cameras, trading cards, fingerboards, skateboards, billfold chains, and choke collars.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

We have many clubs and activities which students may be involved in. Sports, band, theater and academic activities are available. Students must be at school at least ½ of the school day on the day of the activity in order to participate in the extracurricular activity. An athletic fee will be assessed to students participating in sports. Students will not be allowed to dress out or participate as a member of a team until fees are paid. All sports are governed by the SC High School League (SCHSL). Eligibility is determined by the SCHSL in conjunction with school board policy. Students must be in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in sports.

### **Early School Closings Due to Inclement Weather**

Please inform your child about the procedure you expect the child to follow regarding transportation in the event that bad weather may force the closing of school early. Let your child know beforehand how you expect him/her to get home, how you expect him/her to get into the house, etc. This will reduce confusion for all of us, but especially for your child. Listen to the news, radio, or television in the event of inclement weather for notification that schools will dismiss early or if they are to open at all on those days. Listen to television and radio announcements for Fort Mill School District #4, not for York County schools. The school district website, [www.fortmillschools.org](http://www.fortmillschools.org) and the district hotline, 803-548-8695, will have information related to closing of schools. Catawba Nuclear Station Emergency Planning Information Brochures are kept in the front office.

### **Bulldog Behavior**

GHMS staff has the best interest of children in mind; therefore, we believe in maintaining a secure, supportive, and safe learning environment for all of our students - an environment that promotes high expectations for student achievement and behavior. We believe in a school that provides productive, mutually respectful relationships among staff and students. Our teachers provide positive learning experiences that encourage these relationships and reinforce appropriate behavior. GHMS students are well behaved, contributing members of our community and they take pride in the climate of their school. Disruptive behavior is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action according to the school disciplinary guidelines. Students are expected to inform their teachers, counselors, school resource officer, or administrators of any situation, which may cause harm to themselves or other students.

## GHMS Administrative Discipline Guide

GHMS students are well behaved, contributing members of our community, and they take pride in the climate of their school. Students are expected to conduct themselves in such a way as to promote the best interest of GHMS, its students, and its faculty. Furthermore, teachers and administrators at GHMS are committed to the principle that all students have the right to learn and are dedicated to working with parents and the community to fulfill this principle.

The GHMS administration team reserves the right to handle any discipline situation as they see fit for the protection of our students and to maintain instructional integrity.

### Student Time Out Periods (STOP) – Recovery Room Visits

The purpose of the STOP program is to provide a “cooling off” period for disruptive students in the recovery room (ISS room), while maximizing the amount of instruction time free from unwanted disruptions. Students are still responsible for work that may be missed during the class, and they will be given the opportunity to complete class assignments while in the recovery room. Students are expected to be respectful and productive while in the recovery room; failure to comply can result in further consequences.

Students who involve themselves in inappropriate conduct should expect to be held personally accountable for their actions. Classroom disruptions include, but are not limited to, the following actions:

- repeatedly talking out of turn
- distracting others from learning through actions/movement
- being out of seat without permission
- being argumentative with teacher or with other students
- throwing objects
- not dressing out in PE
- refusing to obey teacher
- behaving in a loud, boisterous manner

#### STOP Referral Process:

- Assigned by the teacher for disruption of class.
- A STOP may be assigned by a teacher for the remainder of that period or any portion of the period.
- Any STOP referral by a teacher must be accompanied by a phone call or email from that teacher to that student’s parent to notify them of the referral.

#### Timeline:

- **First STOP Visit** – Parent contacted by referring teacher
- **Second STOP Visit** – Parent contacted by referring teacher
- **Third STOP Visit** – Parent contacted by referring teacher and ISS teacher notifies guidance to set up a guidance conference with student
- **Fourth STOP Visit** – Parent contacted by referring teacher and ISS teacher notifies assistant principal to conference with a student
- **STOP Visits 5–7** – Parent contacted by referring teacher and student is assigned 1 day of ISS from administration
- **8<sup>th</sup> STOP Visit** – Parent contacted by referring teacher and student is assigned 2 days of ISS from administration
- **9<sup>th</sup> STOP Visit (and all subsequent visits)** – Parent contacted by referring teacher and student is assigned 1 day of OSS from administration.

\*\*\* Students sent to STOP more than once a day will be assigned ISS for the remainder of that day.

## **Silent Lunch / Lunch Detentions**

Silent lunch is a consequence given by a classroom teacher, and is held in a teacher's classroom. Lunch detention is a consequence given by administration, and is held in the recovery/ISS room. Both silent lunches and lunch detentions are consequences that are given for minor violations. Multiple days of lunch detention can be given for a violation. Infractions resulting in silent lunch/lunch detention include, but are not limited to:

- being in an unauthorized area
- accumulating tardies to class
- eating/drinking in classrooms or in hallways without faculty permission
- inappropriately displaying affection (hugging, kissing, holding hands)
- chewing gum
- horseplay
- running in the hallway

## **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

The main objective for this program is to keep students in school and to give suspended students the opportunity to reflect on the reason for their suspension and how to avoid similar problems in the future. Students assigned to the program will also receive help in trying to change unacceptable school behavior. ISS students will eat lunch in the ISS classroom. If a student is absent on the day ISS is assigned, the day will be served when the student returns. Infractions resulting in ISS include, but are not limited to:

- throwing food
- leaving class without permission
- skipping class
- altering a lock or other mechanism
- forgery
- horseplay or rough-housing – KEEP YOUR HANDS AND FEET TO YOURSELF!
- using profanity (written or verbal)
- excessive tardies to class—repeated offenses
- disrespectful gesture/comment/note
- repeated classroom disruptions
- promoting/provoking/instigating a fight or other disruption
- disruptions involving the use of technology

## **Out of School Suspension (OSS)**

Major offenses that may result in out of school suspension include, but are not limited to:

- theft of private or school property
- vandalism/destruction of school property
- possessing lighters or fireworks
- fighting
- flagrant disrespect to a GHMS staff member
- touching another student in an inappropriate manner
- pulling fire alarm
- sexual harassment
- Cyberbullying, sexting, etc.
- failing to cooperate and/or fulfill ISS expectations
- threatening another student
- disturbing the school

## **Suspension/Expulsion**

Major violations may result a recommendation for expulsion and involvement by the school resource officer. Major offenses that may result in suspension or expulsion include, but are not limited to:

- assault/physical or sexual
- possession of weapons/fireworks/any item reasonably considered a weapon
- possession of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia—consumption and/or distribution
- possession of look-alike drugs/weapons
- repeated violation of school rules
- extortion, blackmail, or coercion
- threatening a school staff member (written or verbal)
- ankling/pantsing or indecent exposure
- inappropriate touching
- repeated fighting violations
- vandalism
- gross disrespect to a school staff member
- threatening the life of another student or teacher (written, verbal, or physical)
- sexual misconduct
- participation in gang related activities

## **Academic Dishonesty**

There are many forms of academic dishonesty. In the broadest sense, it is any act that enhances a student's grade unethically and unfairly. The following are examples of academic dishonesty:

- Copying other students' work or allowing your own work to be copied.
- Using unauthorized notes or sources when taking tests.
- Plagiarism – using another person's work without authorization or acknowledging through proper citation
- Stealing or otherwise obtaining test materials before tests.

Parents of a student found engaged in academic dishonesty will be contacted by the teacher/administrator. The teacher will present the parent/guardian with the following decision (if applicable):

- Student will receive a zero for the assignment – OR – retake the assignment for a max grade of 70 while in ISS for that particular period.

If another infraction of academic dishonesty occurs, then the student will receive a zero for the assignment and full day of ISS. No choice will be given.

## **Crisis Interventions**

When a student's actions pose a clear, present, and imminent physical danger to self and/or others and the student has the ability to cause such harm, school staff may use reasonable and necessary restraint strategies, in accordance with a nationally- recognized, externally –developed professional training program.

### **Restraints**

For the purposes of these guidelines, physical restraint is defined as a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of an individual to move his or her arms, legs, or head freely. This definition encompasses mechanical restraints, further defined as a device that restricts the movement or function of a child or a portion of a child's body.

Restraint, as defined, by these guidelines, does not include the following:

1. temporarily holding an individual to help him or her participate in education or daily living activities;
2. escorting techniques, where a student is provided limited physical encouragement to help him or her move from one location to another without rising to the level of physically forcing compliance (e.g., hand on the back or a hand on the elbow);

3. chemical restraints (medication for safety or behavioral supports) determined by medical personnel;
4. appropriate use of adaptive equipment or products, provided they are used in accordance with manufacturers' recommended usage.
  - a. Adaptive equipment may include, but is not limited to, adaptive seating products or therapeutically prescribed devices such as weighted vests.
  - b. If adaptive equipment, such as Rifton chair or weighted vest is used for the purpose of limiting mobility or as a punitive measure, its use constitutes restraint.

The use of restraint is limited to emergency situations where the behavior of the student poses a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm to self and/or others and the student has the ability to cause such harm. Restraint may be used only as a last resort after proper positive behavioral interventions and de-escalation techniques have failed to de-escalate the risk of injury.

Restraint should never be used:

1. as punishment;
2. to force compliance or address non-compliance;
3. as a substitute for appropriate educational support;
4. in response to property destruction;
5. in response to a student's flight, escape, or running away, unless there is *imminent* risk of injury related to the escape;
6. in response to verbal threats and profanity that do not rise to the level of physical harm unless the student demonstrates a means of carrying out the threats;
7. longer than needed to resolve the risk of actual harm.

The use of prone restraints (face down on stomach) with the exception of approved Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) endorsed floor restraints, supine restraints (face up on the back), or any hold or maneuver that places pressure or weight on the student's chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, neck, or throat are strictly forbidden. Moreover, the degree of force used must not exceed what is necessary to protect the student or others from imminent bodily injury.

### **Necessary Documentation and Review**

The use of restraint in the school setting triggers the district's obligation to create and maintain specific documentation regarding the incident. Documentation must include:

1. actions attempted prior to the restraint in an effort to manage or de-escalate the situation;
2. a clear description of the safety concerns posed to the student or others;
3. student's behavior before, during, and after restraint;
4. location of the restraint;
5. amount of time in restraint;
6. a description of the physical restraint techniques used and training personnel received prior to implementing restraint;
7. names and position titles of personnel involved with the incident;
8. date and time the administrator was notified;
9. date and time the parents were notified and by whom;
10. name and position of person(s) completing the documentation.

### **Training**

Restraint training must be provided, and reviewed, at least annually, by a credentialed trainer through a nationally recognized, externally developed professional training program. The training must include the following components:

1. prevention of behavior problems through a positive behavioral supports climate;
2. conflict prevention and conflict management skills;
3. de-escalation skills that enable staff members to respond to students in ways more likely to calm, rather than escalate, the situation;
4. information on physical and emotional risks of escalation and restraint;
5. instruction on personal safety skills for staff who work with students who are more likely to present safety concerns;

6. prohibition on the use of prone restraints (face down on stomach) with the exception of approved Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) endorsed floor restraints, supine restraints (face up on the back), or any hold or maneuver that places pressure or weight on the student's chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, neck, or throat.

The training program used must include some method of assessment that ensures appropriate skills are in place. The program must also provide documentation that a participant has successfully completed the training, either through a certificate or other credential. Fort Mill Schools must keep a list of those who have completed training, including a description of the content of the training, on file. The school district retains discretion as to which personnel should receive restraint training. However, training must be provided to enough staff members that the school district can ensure a sufficient number of staff is available if restraint is used.

## **School Nurse Services**

Any student who is not feeling well or has been hurt will be sent to the health room. The health room does not give any medication unless it is brought to the health room by a parent. Written instructions on how the medication is to be administered must accompany the medication. Aspirin can only be given with a doctor's note. Parents are notified if the student is running a fever, vomiting, or is involved in an accident. It is absolutely necessary that we have current home and work information on file at all times. Complete an EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM AND A HEALTH ROOM CARD on your child and keep it current. The nurse must be able to reach a parent or a contact person at all times during the school day.

### **Permission for School Administration of Non-Prescription Medication**

Non-prescription medications are medicines that you can buy without a written prescription from a health care practitioner. Non-prescription medications are sometimes called "over-the-counter" medicines. In order for a child to be given non-prescription medicines at school, the child's parent/guardian must sign a permission form. A responsible adult should deliver the medicine and the permission form to the school. The medicine must be in the original container with the label on it. The dosage of the medicine can not exceed the recommended dosage from the manufacturer without a prescription from the child's health care practitioner. A medication permission form (M105) will need to be completed for each medication that is to be given at school.

### **Permission for School Administration of Prescription Medication**

Prescription medications are medicines that require a written prescription from a health care practitioner. In order for a child to be given a prescription medicine at school, the child's health care practitioner and the child's parent or guardian must sign a permission form. \*A medication permission form (M105) must be completed by the health care practitioner for each prescription medication to be given at school. A responsible adult should deliver the medicine and the permission forms to the school. The medicine must be in the original container, not a Ziploc bag, with the label on it from the pharmacy.

If a prescription medicine is currently being given at school and needed while your child is on a field trip, the parent/guardian must bring and supply the medicine to school by the day of the field trip. It must be in the original, marked container. Additional labeled bottles may be obtained from your pharmacy. Ziploc bags are not accepted.

## **Accident Insurance**

Accident insurance is available for purchase to cover the student while at school and while traveling to and from school. As with all insurance, this coverage is limited in its benefits, but it does help defray medical expenses in case of an accident.



## **Medical Release Forms**

Gold Hill Middle School requires that a Fort Mill School District Release Form be completed by parents who want the teachers or guidance counselors to share medical or academic information with a third party (i.e. doctor, pediatrician, family therapist, legal servicer, etc.). Please speak with your student's grade level counselor to complete a form, Mr. Wesseling or Ms. Ross.

Parents will need to provide the following information on the form: Doctor's name, doctor's address, doctor's phone number, doctor's fax number, and deadline for form completion. Please note that we reserve the right to provide our teachers with time to thoroughly complete the information. We require a two week window for form completion. The forms will be returned to the student's counselor and then sent directly to the doctor or other care giver.

## **FERPA Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools, which receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. For further information regarding your rights under FERPA, please refer to the "For Parents" section of the school district's webpage at [www.fortmillschools.org](http://www.fortmillschools.org).

## **Classroom Activities/Celebrations – Acceptable Food Guidelines**

**Effective with the 2014-2015 school year, homemade or home baked foods are no longer allowed to be distributed to students within the classroom or applicable classroom setting.** Acceptable foods for distribution are those items that were prepared in a commercial and/or licensed kitchen, and most importantly, are packaged with a label clearly listing the contents and ingredients of the food item. With the continued rise in severe and often life-threatening food allergies, this policy is designed to provide consistency and minimize allergy risks in all classrooms district-wide, while maintaining a safe and positive learning environment for all students. It is important to note that the policy does not apply to a student's personal lunch.

The policy is part of a larger, comprehensive Food Allergy Guideline approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2014, which can be found on the district's website at [www.fortmillschools.org](http://www.fortmillschools.org) under "Board Policies." Further questions can also be directed to the principal, school nurse, or by contacting the district office at 803-548-2527.

## **School Lunch Prices**

Breakfast – \$1.35; Reduced .30

Middle School/High School Regular Lunch – \$2.50; Reduced .40

Middle School/High School Lunch Combo – \$3.00; Reduced .40

## **The Dawg Pound – School Store**

The Dawg Pound is an in-school credit union and school store. Founders Federal Credit Union has partnered up with parent volunteers and students to help establish an awesome school store that sells school supplies, Bulldog gear, and other various novelty items. It is open before school (7:40 – 8:05) and during lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week.

## **Lockers and Locks**

Each student will be assigned a locker. Students must have a lock to secure any items in his/her locker. Homeroom teachers must be given the combination to the lock. The school does not assume responsibility for the contents of a student's locker if the items are stolen or lost. Students are financially responsible for school issued textbooks. Lockers are the property of the school and are subject to inspection by school personnel at anytime.

## Student Withdrawal from School

If a student's family changes residence outside the Gold Hill Middle School attendance area, it will be necessary to withdraw the student from school and enroll him/her in the school which is in the appropriate attendance area. All textbooks and library books are to be returned to the school. All owed lunch money and other fees must be paid before the transfer can be complete. The parent must sign a "Release of Permanent Records" so we may send transfer records to the new school.

### Student Textbooks

Students are expected to ensure that the textbook is returned in the condition in which it was issued. All textbooks are assigned a state barcode which serves as the identifying mark of the textbook upon issue to the student. If the barcode is removed, damaged, and/or determined to be unreadable by the scanner, the student may be charged a state barcode replacement fee of \$10.00 provided no other damage to the book is noted. In some cases, students may be charged the book replacement fee as determined by the state. Students are advised to place a book cover on all textbooks as a layer of protection for the textbook and state assigned barcode. If a student loses a textbook, then he/she is responsible for payment to replace the book. The student should let their teacher or office know if their textbook is lost. When the textbook is paid for, the student will receive another textbook. Money can be refunded if the lost textbook is recovered. Students are always responsible for their textbooks. Lockers should be kept locked; combinations should be kept confidential; books should never be left unattended or loaned to others. The replacement costs of all lost textbooks are:

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pearson – Digits .....	\$72.47
Pearson Literature .....	\$96.97
Discovering Our Past .....	\$78.75
Science Techbook.....	TBD

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pearson – Digits .....	\$72.47
Pearson Literature .....	\$96.97
Contemporary Cultures: 1600 to Present.....	\$79.98
Science Techbook.....	TBD

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pearson – Digits .....	\$72.47
Pearson Literature .....	\$96.97
South Carolina – The Palmetto State .....	\$57.95
Science Techbook.....	TBD

Algebra I .....	\$55.60
Literature (English I) .....	\$64.27

### School Visitation

All visitors in the building, including parents and school volunteers, must stop by the office, sign in, and print a visitor's badge. This badge is to be visibly worn on your upper torso at all times.

Expect to be asked to show us your visitor's badge if you are in our building, and we do not see one. This regulation is for the protection of everyone. This will keep interruptions to a minimum and allow visitors in the building to be reached if necessary. Students may not have visitors who are of school age unless approved by administration. Any visitors other than parents or grandparents must be approved by the principal. Siblings of students, who are not accompanied by their parents, are able to visit during lunch if they are on the student's Early Dismissal Checkout Sheet. All visitors must scan their driver's license when signing in at the front office.

### Class Interruptions

Classroom instruction will not be interrupted unless there is an emergency. Parents are not allowed to visit a classroom unless invited by the teacher or they have permission from the administration. Parents/visitors may not go to hallways without permission. The main office staff will do their best to deliver dropped-off items to the student during non-instructional time. We ask that balloons and flowers not be brought to school. They will not be delivered to the classroom in the effort to preserve instructional time.

## Parent Portal

Parent Portal allows parents to view their child's attendance, grades, assignments, schedule, and teacher comments. Parents are able to set up automatic e-mail reports from the Parent Portal system if they desire. Parents have access to review their child's current contact information, which helps to ensure the school maintains accurate records. There is a computer kiosk set up in the main office for parents to access parent portal if needed.

## Progress Reports and Report Cards

Report card envelopes should be returned signed by a parent. Final report cards will be mailed home at the end of the school year. If a student owes money for lost books or other school obligations, report cards will be held until those fees have been paid. If a student or parent has any question about grades or progress, the student's teacher should be contacted. Parents are encouraged to request conferences with the teacher whenever necessary.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Requirements

In order for a student to participate in the GHMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Program, he/she must pass **3** core subjects with a 70 or above for the school year.

## Home/School Communication

Regular communication between parents and teachers provide an excellent opportunity to discuss many details regarding the child's school experience that cannot be conveyed on the nine-week report card. These conferences may be requested by either the teacher or the parent in order to share knowledge about the child and gain a better understanding of the child's needs and interests. Regular contact between the home and the school will help the child see that both parents and teachers care about his/her progress. Please use the Parent Portal on a regular basis as a means to stay informed of your child's academic progress. Please send a note in your child's agenda, e-mail or call your child's teacher if you would like to schedule a conference. Teachers will arrange conferences for the purpose of providing comprehensive information to parents about your child's performance and instructional plans for the school year. At various times during the year, the school will communicate with the parents through newsletters, our website, marquee, School Messenger voice and emails, and regular flyers about various activities happening at school. In addition, parents will periodically receive forms which should be filled out and returned to the school. It is of equal importance that parents keep teachers informed of any developments that might influence the student's performance at school. If you are uncertain of anything, please do not hesitate to call the school. Teachers may be e-mailed. The e-mail address for teachers are as follows: last name, first initial, then @fortmillschools.org Example: [doej@fortmillschools.org](mailto:doej@fortmillschools.org).

## Student Academic Support

GHMS offers the following systems of academic support for students:

- ❖ **Homework Helpers (HH)** – Homework Helpers is a math tutorial program that meets in the media center before school (from 7:40 – 8:05 am). Math teachers from each grade will be in the media center to help any and all students who come Homework Helpers. Students should come with the previous night's attempted homework and with questions about the items that they did not understand.
- ❖ **Academic Enrichment (AE)** – Academic Enrichment occurs on designated days. Students are in an extended homeroom period where they participate in reading silently, or are permitted to see their core teachers for academic assistance, make-up work, etc. The student must have his/her agenda so that hall passes can be written.
- ❖ **Working Lunches (WL)** – Working lunches are assigned as needed to allow students opportunities to make corrections on assignments per teacher's discretion, to make up missed work, and/or to receive individual instruction as needed. Teachers assign working lunches at their discretion to best serve the student.

## District Wide Grading Scale

The Fort Mill School District uses a 10-point grading scale. Details are listed below.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	0 – 59

## Field Trips

Field trips are considered an extension of the classroom. The School District requires written permission from the legal guardian before a child is permitted to go on a field trip. Students will not be allowed to call to obtain verbal permission for a trip. Students who wish not to go on a trip will be supervised in an alternate location until their class returns. Each chaperone must complete and sign a Chaperone Responsibility Form which outlines the responsibility of the chaperone. Teachers will provide the form to the chaperone. Chaperones must also complete the electronic Secure Volunteer form that is found on the district website under the “For Parents” tab. **Refunds for field trips will not be given after the deposit has been paid.** Many departments work collaboratively to plan and provide field trips. Therefore, set deadlines are nonnegotiable.

## Internet Access and Usage

Internet accessibility is provided to GHMS students to support the instructional program. Every effort will be made to provide appropriate instruction and student supervision although the district/school cannot completely guarantee that a student will not access inappropriate material. Therefore, parents and students are asked to exercise responsibility for the appropriate direction and use of internet resources. Written parental permission is required and will remain on file in order for the student to be granted access to the internet at school. Failure to comply with this expectation will result in a denial of access to the internet and/or disciplinary action. Students should report any inappropriate website or material to school officials immediately.

**If home internet issues, including inappropriate posts on social networking sites, disturb instruction during the school day, discipline will be enforced.**

Fort Mill School District Internet Use Rules:

1. Fort Mill School District provides internet access in every classroom. Our goal in offering this access is to further the educational experience of all of our students.
2. The internet is an international network of interconnected computers and their users. Access to the internet provides our students with a wide range of diverse resources.
3. The purpose of all internet use in our district is the support of curricular objectives. With the access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Parents and guardians should be cautioned that some material available via the internet may contain items that are potentially offensive. In order to limit inadvertent exposure to objectionable material, all internet access is supervised by an adult and filtered by software.
4. We believe that it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to set and convey the standards children should follow when using information and media sources.

## GHMS PTA

Gold Hill Middle School is a member of the National Parent/Teacher Association. The PTA sponsors School Board Candidate Forums, provides incentive awards for students and teachers, conducts fundraisers for the school, and is an active voting member of this national organization. The Gold Hill Middle School PTA makes the difference between a good school and an excellent school. The PTA lends a helping hand, boosts morale, works with the students, and lends guidance and support to the teachers and the administration. All parents, friends, and members of the community are invited to join the PTA and should participate in the activities of Gold Hill Middle School. Join this worthwhile organization and help others support GHMS. The e-mail address for our PTA is [goldhillmiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:goldhillmiddlepta@gmail.com).

## Conclusion

The key to a good school lies in the pride that we have in our school and the degree to which each of us accepts our personal responsibility for the welfare of the school as a whole. The procedures that have been listed herein are simple reminders about things that a good citizen would do on one's own. It is firmly believed that the majority do what is appropriate without the threat of punishment. However, it is important that all students clearly understand the expectations held for them and know the consequences if privileges are abused or rules are broken.

It is our goal to have a successful and rewarding year for the faculty, staff, students and parents at Gold Hill Middle School. Thanks for taking the time to read through this Student-Parent Planner! Hopefully it has been helpful in giving you important information about our school. You are invited to talk to your teachers or contact the office if there are other questions. We at Gold Hill Middle School hope this is your *best* school year ever.

All district programs are operated without discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, or handicap in compliance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 and all other applicable Civil Rights Laws. The Director of Special Services has been designated to coordinate activities related to nondiscrimination. The director may be contacted at Fort Mill School District No. 4, 120 E. Elliott Street, Fort Mill, SC. (548-2527)

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 provides that parents of students, regardless of age, who are or have been in attendance at an institution have the right to inspect and review their educational records within a reasonable period of time (not to exceed 45 days) after making a request. Where records contain information on more than one student, the student or parent may only see what is pertinent to the student. REMEMBER, SCHOOL RECORDS AND STUDENT DATA ARE CONFIDENTIAL.



***Excellence is our cornerstone, our tradition, the Bulldog way!***