

SAINTS

HANDBOOK



2026-27



SAINTS

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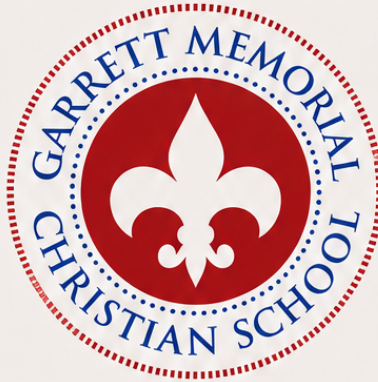
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VISION



GMCS partners with families in the joyful, rigorous, Christ-centered education of children, cultivating, wisdom, virtue, and wonder, so that students learn to love what is true, good, and beautiful – and awaken to their highest joy in Jesus Christ.

MISSION



Awaken joy in Jesus by equipping the mind and engaging the heart of each **SAINT**.

SAINTS

School Leadership

Mrs. Christi Zumwalt – Administrator/Principal

Chris Vines – Dean of Student Life

Beth Lloyd – Registrar/Admissions

Courtney Rook – Athletic Director

Janet Jobe – School Secretary

Board of Trustees

Robert Parker, President	Rparker3030@gmail.com
Suzie Barham	suzie@paffordems.com
Becky Butler	beckybutler04@gmail.com
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Church Staff

Clif Johnson, Senior Pastor

Chris Vines, Associate Pastor

Jack Daniels, Music

Carolyn Lauterbach, Office Manager

The board desires that the school will be a rewarding experience for you and your child. If you have any concerns, please contact the School Board via email. The school board typically meets the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Please call ahead to the school office to request to be placed on the agenda. Requests must be made two weeks prior to scheduled meeting, and the topic to be discussed must be provided.

Our Philosophy

Education begins with a biblical view of God and a personal relationship with Him. *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* (Proverbs 9:10).

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and infallible Word of God. It provides the basis for guiding honest minds in their study of God and His works as well as the studies of nature, science, math, literature, and history.

Education grows out of a family relationship. As parents and children live together, they experience God's grace in learning personal responsibility and mutual respect. As they worship together in the home, they learn together how God expects us to live. Garrett School does not replace the home. The school does, however, seek to work with parents to provide an environment conducive to learning, love, discipline, and stability.

Education expands through curriculum that respects the traditional laws of learning and reflects the accumulated wisdom of experienced educators. Garrett School follows the A Beka Book Curriculum and supplements as needed with other college preparatory Christian Curriculum.

It is our hope that the entire learning process will produce individuals who desire to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. It is our hope that the students strive to walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him. It is our desire that our students become both productive members of society and contributing members of the body of Christ.

The foundational principles for our philosophy of Christian education can be found in the following scriptures:

Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

2 Timothy 3:16 *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."*

1 Thessalonians 1:4-6 *"For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord..."*

Matthew 19:14 *"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"*

Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight."*

2 Peter 3:18 *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen."*

Colossians 1:9-10 *"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God..."*

Expected Student Outcomes

As students complete their experience at Garrett Memorial Christian School, it is our prayer that all students come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

What We Believe

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:15, 2 Peter 1:21).
- We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30).
- We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10: 33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:24; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15); His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9); His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:4; John 11:25); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11).
- We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature; and that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God's grace through faith alone we are saved. (John 3: 16; 5:24; Romans 3:23; 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-17; Romans 8:9; Galatians 3:26-28).
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Romans 8:13-14; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18).
- Because we believe the Bible, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with absolute authority regarding the proper conduct of mankind and is the unchanging foundation for all belief and behavior. We believe that God wonderfully foreordained and undeniably created each person as either male or female in conformity with their biological sex at birth. These two distinct yet complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). We believe this thereby discounts and forbids any belief in or support of gender neutralism, transgenderism, or any other diversion from God's creation. We believe the Bible to teach that homosexuality,

bisexuality, bestiality, and the use of pornography, is a perversion of God's plan for mankind (Leviticus 18:2, 3, 22; 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10).

This statement is of utmost importance to our school and serves as the foundation of all we do.

School Sponsorship and Affiliation

Garrett Memorial Christian School is a ministry of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church of Hope, Arkansas. Garrett Memorial Baptist Church is affiliated with Union Baptist Association, the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas, and the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

Garrett Memorial Christian School is a member of the National Alliance of Christian Schools and is a candidate for accreditation with the National Alliance of Christian Schools.

Garrett Memorial Christian participates in the ACE Scholarship Program (www.acescholarships.org), a privately-funded scholarship designed to provide children of low-income families with scholarships to private schools in grades K-12.

GMCS also participates in the Arkansas Education Freedom Account program through the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Admission Philosophy, Policies, and Procedures

Garrett Memorial Christian School is open to anyone interested in securing a Christian education, from K-4 through twelfth grade, whom the school finds qualified for admission and who agrees (and whose parents agree) that he or she shall abide by Garrett Memorial Christian School rules. It must always be understood that attendance at Garrett Memorial Christian School is a privilege and not a right. This privilege must be forfeited by any student who does not conform to the school's standards of conduct and/or who is unwilling to adjust to our environment.

All students must be convinced they want to attend Garrett Memorial Christian School and agree to honestly and wholeheartedly apply themselves to "study to show [themselves] approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV). They also agree to be courteous and respectful to their peers, staff, faculty, and other daily associates.

Garrett Memorial Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin in admissions policies, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Garrett Memorial Christian School reserves the right to select students on the basis of academic performance, religious commitment, lifestyle choices, and personal qualifications including a willingness to cooperate with Garrett Memorial Christian School administration and to abide by its policies.

Admissions

Registration packets will be available for new students each spring. Registration follows a priority order, with currently enrolled students and siblings registering first, church members next, and then other students. No child will be considered for admission for one year following expulsion from another school.

To enter K 4, a child must be four years old by August 1 and be potty trained.

To enter K 5, a child must be five years old by August 1.

An application will not be considered until the following criteria have been met. The child must have:

- A completed registration form and fees
- A copy of a birth certificate
- Updated immunization records
- A transcript and standardized test scores from the former school if registering first grade or above

Administration will schedule an interview with parents or guardians before a student is accepted. Students entering grades K5-7th grade must pass an entrance examination for the grade the student is entering. All students are subject to a nine-weeks probationary period.

Fees and Tuition

The cost to attend Garrett Memorial Christian School for the 2026-2027 academic year is as follows:

2026-2027	
TUITION & FEES	
K4	
Tuition	\$4,350.00
Registration Fee	200.00
Book Fee (includes yearbook)	300.00
Testing Fee	–
Technology & Security Fee	100.00
Total Tuition & Fees	\$4,950.00
K5	
Tuition	\$7,800.00
Registration Fee	200.00
Book Fee (includes yearbook)	300.00
Testing Fee	100.00
Technology & Security Fee	100.00
Total Tuition & Fees	\$8,500.00
EFA Funding	-7,208.00
Parent Responsibility	\$1,292.00
Grades 1-5	
Tuition	\$7,800.00
Registration Fee	200.00
Book Fee (includes yearbook)	500.00
Testing Fee	100.00
Technology & Security Fee	100.00
Total Tuition & Fees	\$8,700.00
EFA Funding	-7,208.00
Parent Responsibility	\$1,492.00
Grades 6-12	
Tuition	\$8,000.00
Registration Fee	200.00
Book Fee (includes yearbook)	500.00
Testing Fee	100.00
Technology & Security Fee	100.00
Total Tuition & Fees	\$8,900.00
EFA Funding	-7,208.00
Parent Responsibility	\$1,692.00

**Students taking college classes from UAHT and drop a college class will adhere to the College Policy for dropped classes.*

Financial Responsibilities

The School Board prepares the annual budget for the school in the spring of each year. During this process, the Board determines the necessary charges for tuition and fees as well as any other required financial adjustments based upon expenses and school enrollment. The Board then notifies the families of students concerning fees and tuition charges for the coming school year. Families should anticipate some increases in tuition and fees.

The school acknowledges the support of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church. In addition, the school recognizes aid from individuals and businesses from the church and community to provide scholarship funds and financial support for designated projects. Through those means, the school is able to keep tuition and fees at their lowest possible level.

An enrollment fee of \$200.00 is due before a student may be admitted. *(Enrollment Fees are non-refundable.)*

A book fee of \$300 for K4 and K5 students and \$500 for all other grades must be paid by each student. *(Book fees are non-refundable, but these books are owned by the student. College books may be available; however, if new ones must be purchased, the student will be responsible.)*

Monthly tuition is due on the 1st of each month beginning in August and ending in May. A late fee of 10% will be charged if payment is not made by the 10th of each month. *(Exception: if you know you will not be able to make a payment on time, please set up an appointment with the School Administrator to discuss payment options. However, payment options are not guaranteed.)*

If an account becomes 30 days past due, the school will refuse admittance to a student until the account is made current.

All payments are to be brought to the school office between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or mailed to Post Office Box 223, Hope, Arkansas 71802-0223. *Teachers will not accept tuition payments.*

A returned check fee of \$25 will be charged for any returned checks after it has been deposited a second time. The check should be picked up by the parent and payment for the amount of the check should be paid by cash or money order. No post-dated checks are accepted.

Seniors must have all tuition paid by their designated last day of school for seniors.

During a pandemic, tuition should continue to be paid, as students will continue to do work and be taught by GMCS teachers.

No records will be released to another school or to a parent until all accounts are paid in full. It is our policy to refuse admittance in the current school year if a balance is owed from the previous school year.

Garrett Memorial Christian participates in the Arkansas Education Freedom Account program through the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as the ACE Scholarship Program (www.acescholarships.org), a privately-

funded scholarship designed to provide children of low-income families with scholarships to private schools in grades K-12. Arkansas EFA and ACE will notify GMCS when the application window for the upcoming academic year is open. GMCS will notify current student families, as well as advertise through social media. GMCS has no participation in the selection, denial, or notification of applications for either program.

Homeschool Students

Garrett Memorial Christian School will partner with and serve as a resource for parents who have chosen to homeschool their children in the areas of athletics, extracurricular classes and core classes. Homeschool students should be enrolled full-time in a valid homeschool program. Students allowed to participate must be in the 6th-12th grades and are required to take two classes per semester, one of which may not be sports related. Admission for homeschool students is only allowed at the beginning of each academic year, and students must meet all admission requirements as well as approval of the School Board. Students may be required to take an entrance test to assure probability of success in the course. In order to graduate from GMCS, homeschool students must transfer and attend GMCS full time during their senior year and meet GMCS graduation requirements.

Financial responsibilities include the following:

- \$100.00 registration fee per student
- \$100.00 per month per class
- Applicable fees (sports/music)
- Cost of books and course materials
- Must follow the GMCS Dress Code.

Garrett Memorial Christian School is indeed a ministry, and it is the desire of the school to minister to as many students in Southwest Arkansas as possible. Even though we offer this resource to area homeschooling families, it is not encouraged as the optimal method of participating in our school family.

Immunizations

Students will not be allowed to enter school if the students' shot records are not up to date. The requirements for entry into school are:

Kindergarten

At least four doses of Diphtheria/Tetanus/Acellular Pertussis (DTaP), Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP), or Diphtheria/Tetanus (DT pediatric) vaccine; at least three doses of Polio vaccine; two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine; three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine; one dose of Hepatitis A; and two doses of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. A medical professional's [medical doctor (MD), advanced practice nurse (APN), doctor of osteopathy (DO), or physician assistant (PA)] history of disease may be accepted in lieu of receiving Varicella vaccine. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted (See Table II). Exception: If a student has previously received two doses of measles, one dose of

mumps and one dose of rubella before January 1, 2010, the doses will be accepted as compliant to immunization requirements and 2 MMRs are not required.

1st through 12th grade

At least three or four doses of Diphtheria/Tetanus/Acellular Pertussis (DTaP), Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP), Diphtheria/Tetanus (DT- pediatric), Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td-adult) or Tetanus/Diphtheria/Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) and one dose of Tdap for ages 11 years (as of September 1st each year) and older or 3 doses for unvaccinated persons 7 years of age or older (including persons who cannot document prior vaccination); at least three doses of Polio vaccine; two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine; two or three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine; one dose of Hepatitis A for First Grade; two doses of varicella vaccine; and one or two doses of Meningococcal vaccine with one dose for 7th grade and a second dose of Meningococcal vaccine at age 16 years (as of September 1st each year). However, if the first dose of Meningococcal vaccine is administered at age 16 years or older, no second dose is required; or if not vaccinated prior to age 16 years, one dose is required. A medical professional's [medical doctor (MD), advanced practice nurse (APN), doctor of osteopathy (DO), or physician assistant (PA)] history of disease may be accepted in lieu of receiving Varicella vaccine. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted. (See Table II). Exception: If a student has previously received two doses of measles, one dose of mumps and one dose of rubella before January 1, 2010, the doses will be accepted as compliant to immunization requirements and 2 MMRs are not required.

7th grade

In addition to the vaccine requirements listed under 1st through 12th grade, one dose of Meningococcal vaccine.

The Arkansas Board of Health requires that all children attending childcare facilities and public or private schools in the State of Arkansas be immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases. Arkansas Act 999 of 2003 grants individual exemptions from the immunization requirements. Applications must be completed and submitted by parents or guardians of students or by students who are 18 years of age or older to the Department of Health. Only a valid Immunization Exemption Application or a letter requesting exemption will be accepted for the school year. Documentation will be placed in student file.

Use of Computers or Electronic Devices

Computers

Garrett Memorial Christian School has initiated a technology device checkout program for students. A student's privilege of possession and use of any technology device (including, but not limited to, Chromebooks and TI-83 Graphing Calculator) issued by GMCS is limited to, and conditioned upon, full and complete compliance with the applicable standards for acceptable use of a device set out in Student Handbook, as well as, the Student Code of Conduct.

All technology devices used by students are owned by and are the property of Garrett Memorial Christian School. Technology devices are issued for educational use only, and use of a technology device for any purpose other than educational use may result in consequences, up to and including loss of device privileges or other consequences.

Personal computers or iPads will NOT be used at school. Students found with personal computers will face consequences according to the charts on pages 57-59.

All GMCS chrome books have internet access and are monitored by GoGuardian.

Guidelines

The following guidelines are necessary to protect the students, the devices, and the school's network and must be followed to ensure this technology serves as an effective instructional tool. Failure to comply with the guidelines will result in disciplinary action.

All students and must agree to the following:

- Students in the 6th-10th grades will only be allowed Chromebooks during classes as deemed necessary by teachers. They will be left at school in charging cabinets everyday unless teachers request otherwise. Chromebooks may be checked out during a class and returned before leaving that class. Requests for overnight or weekend use will be granted or denied on a case-by-case situation. Earbuds and/or headphones are NOT allowed for students in grades 10 and below.
- Students in grades 11 and 12 will be assigned a Chromebook for the year. If a student in the 11th or 12th grade is taking a concurrent college class, they may use earbuds or headphones if watching a video or listening to media is required by the college curriculum.
- Not all teachers allow Chromebooks in the classroom, and students must abide by individual teacher classroom rules.
- The student agrees to follow all GMCS regulations and policies governing the use of the device as well as all applicable State and Federal laws including copyright and intellectual property law pertaining to software and information.
- The student is responsible at all times for the care and appropriate use of the issued device and must adhere to these terms each time the device is used, including when it is not on school grounds.

- The student shall not remove or alter any GMCS identification attached to or displayed on the device.
- Students will not deface the device or adhere stickers or other markings on the device.
- The student agrees to ensure the device is secure and safe. The student agrees to handle the device carefully and protect it from potential sources of damage.
- The student must report theft (or suspected theft), loss, damage, or malfunctioning of the device to school personnel immediately.
- The student is responsible for ensuring that their work on the technology device is not lost due to mechanical failure or accidental deletion.
- Upon request, the student agrees to deliver the issued device to GMCS staff for technical inspection or to verify inventory or other information. Students will make available at any time for inspection by any school administrator or teacher any messages, communication, or files sent or received on all GMCS issued device including, but not limited to, the issued device.
- Students will make sure that their issued device is fully charged every day.
- The device is the property of Garrett Memorial Christian School. All such issued devices shall be returned to GMCS prior to the conclusion of each school year and prior to the student's withdrawal from the school if earlier than the conclusion of the school year. Failure to return the device will result in appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the school board or legal action.
- The student is aware that the privilege of using a GMCS Chromebook may be revoked for students who fail to act in accordance with the guidelines stated in the school policy.
- The parent/guardian and student will assume the risk of loss by theft, destruction, vandalism, or damage. Devices reported as stolen outside of school require that parents notify police and provide a copy of an official police report to the school administration.

Students should not:

- Leave their technology device in any unsupervised area, including a car.
- Loan a technology device to other students or borrow a technology device from another student, or share passwords/user names with others.
- Keep or store food or drink next to a technology device when in use or in a backpack.
- Carry the technology device while the screen is open.
- Attempt to reconfigure or change the hardware or software of the technology device in any way.
- Download or store music, games, or non-school related applications/programs on the technology device.
- Play internet games on device, unless permitted by instructor.
- Use social media on a school device.
- Open an email or any attachment from a sender that the student does not recognize.
- Open, use, or change computer files that do not belong to the student.
- When emailing or sending messages using an assigned technology device, students must adhere to the following rules:
 - Use appropriate language. Refrain from transmitting any language or other material that is profane, lewd, obscene, abusive, bullying, or offensive to others.

- Do not engage in private chatting or emailing during class without expressed permission from the instructor.
- Students should always use caution when revealing their full name, phone number, home address, social security number, credit card numbers, password(s), or any identifying personal information through use of a technology device.

Fees

All GMCS-issued chromebooks must be maintained and returned after each use in good condition. Fees will be charged to the student/parent under the following situations.

- Loss or damage to device:
 - If the device is not usable, the student is responsible for the price of repair or replacement for a damaged device.
 - A new device will not be issued until the funds are paid in full.
- Cosmetic damages
- Lost, Stolen, or Damaged AC Adapters
 - Fee of \$30.00 for all incidents.
- Sticker removal or dirty device
 - \$20.00 cleaning fee

Inspection

Technology devices may be checked periodically to ensure that no new software has been added, and software that is no longer needed has been removed. Students may also be selected at random to provide their technology device for inspection by the Administrator. **Remember: storage in any form on the technology device or any network provided or maintained by GMCS is not private or confidential.**

Consequences

If a student fails to timely and fully comply with these terms, including timely return of an assigned technology device, the following consequences may result:

- **First Offense.** The student will receive a written warning and/or receive a one-week suspension from technology device privileges, depending on the circumstances and severity of the violation. The student's parent or guardian will also be contacted.
- **Second Offense.** The student will receive a two-week suspension from technology device privileges. The student's parent or guardian will also be contacted.
- **Third Offense.** The student will be suspended from technology device privileges for a period of time to be determined by the school administrator based on the circumstances and severity of the violation, not to exceed one full school year. The student's parent or guardian will be contacted.

Please note that consequences may not necessarily be followed in order, and that progressive consequences are not required depending on the circumstances and/or severity of any particular

violation of this policy. Students who fail to abide by these guidelines and requirements are also subject to disciplinary consequences on pages 57-59.

Phones, smart watches, or other electronic devices

Students will be allowed use of the school telephone for emergencies only. Permission to use the phone can be granted by Administrator or designated person only. Teachers may send a note to the office requesting permission for the student to use the phone. Students are NOT allowed to use a teacher's phone.

No student shall possess on his/her person, any kind of paging device, beeper, laser pointer, walkie talkie, or similar electronic device on school campus. If any of these items are confiscated, they will only be returned to the parent of the student during a scheduled conference at the administrator's convenience.

Students are not permitted to have a cell phone or smart watch in their possession during school hours. Students who drive to school or that are leaving for school activities after school will turn their phone/smart watch into the office upon arrival. The student will be assigned a number, and their phone will be stored accordingly. *The school office is not responsible for any damage or loss.* Any student caught with a cell phone/smart watch will have the phone confiscated and will only be returned to a parent during a scheduled conference. The 1st offense will result in 3 days of detention. The 2nd offense will result in 3 days of out-of-school suspension. The 3rd offense will result in a disciplinary hearing with the Board of Directors.

The use of cell phones/smart watches are permitted after school hours.

Withdrawal Procedures

Parents of students wishing to withdraw their student(s) from GMCS should complete the following:

- Notify the school in writing 30 days prior to the withdrawal date. Please use the Withdrawal Notification Form on the GMCS website.
- All current tuition payments must be paid in full prior to withdrawal.
- There will be no refund on the tuition or any other fees for the month during which withdrawal notice is given. Parents/guardians will be financially responsible for the tuition and fees based on this policy, without regard to the reason why you are withdrawing. No exceptions.
- All Chromebooks and school-issued calculators must be returned to the office.
- All library books must be returned to the library.
- No school records will be released until the withdrawal process has been completed and the financial account is fulfilled.
- If a Junior or Senior is taking concurrent college classes from UAHT and withdraws from GMCS, they are still responsible for their college classes as well as any funds owed to UAHT.

Students who are dismissed for failure to comply with school policies may not be given notice; however, the remainder of the above statements are in effect.

Attendance

Regular attendance is a critical component for success in school and is expected. The instructional program at GMCS is based on a teacher-directed approach, where the teacher is responsible for planning content and scheduling that content throughout the year within the prescribed curricula. When students are absent from school, it is critical that proper arrangements are made for the absence and that responsibility is taken for appropriate reentry into school.

In grades K4-3, attendance is taken at the beginning of the day. In grades 4-6, attendance is taken at the beginning of the day and following change of instructor. In grades 7-12, attendance is taken at the beginning of each class.

Absences

Students who accumulate seven (7) or more unexcused absences in any class during a semester are in jeopardy of failing the semester and/or being dismissed from Garrett Memorial Christian School. A student may not receive semester credit unless an appeal is submitted and approved by the Administration.

When a student reaches five (5) unexcused absences, the Administration will contact the parent/guardian to schedule a conference with the student and parent to discuss the attendance concerns and develop a plan for improvement. If unexcused absences continue beyond this point, the parent/guardian may submit a written appeal. However, the Administration reserves the right to deny the appeal and dismiss the student if attendance expectations are not met.

Appeal forms are available in the school office and on the school website and must be submitted within three days of receiving notice of excessive absences.

Absences resulting from school-sponsored student activities are not included in these totals. The Administration will also consider documented extended illnesses, injuries, or other extraordinary circumstances when reviewing attendance records and appeals.

Types of Absences

Unexcused Absence (UA)

A student may receive an Unexcused Absence:

- By not communicating with the school on the same day when there is a legitimate reason for being absent;
- When being absent is not a result of personal illness, a medical appointment, or an illness/death in the family; or,

- When a student has been suspended for some infraction of school policy.

Schoolwork must be turned in on the date of return, and the student can receive a grade no more than 85% of his/her earned grade (meaning there is a 15% grade reduction for work done or due on the day of the UA). A student who returns from an UA is required to take all quizzes, tests, or other assessments that occur on the day of return. Unexcused absences will count against perfect attendance and against a student's status for final exam exemptions.

Students should not leave school early to take care of tasks that can be done after 3:20 p.m. Situations include, but are not limited to, hair appointments, tanning, business in town, job interviews, etc. Situations such as these will be deemed unexcused absences.

Excused Absence (EA)

An Excused Absence is defined as an absence due to personal illness, a medical appointment, or an illness/death in the family. Students will be given one day to make-up work for each day of absence. Excused Absences will count against perfect attendance. A legitimate EA that is not reported by a parent to the school will be considered an Unexcused Absence. Final authority for judging the legitimacy of an absence rests with the Administrator. Students who come to school later than 10:30 A.M. or leave before 1:00 P.M. will be marked absent half a day.

If a student is ill or absent for any reason other than a prearranged absence, the parent should call the school office by 9:00 A.M. or a note must be sent with the student upon his/her return to school. Siblings should not notify teachers of student's absence. All phone calls or notes must give an explicit reason for the absence. Parents should always call the office if a student is absent to request homework. Homework will be gathered as quickly as possible. Teachers will not be expected to stop class and prepare homework assignments immediately as the teaching process for those present will be hindered. Parents will be sent a text when the homework is ready for pickup.

Explained Absence (XA)

An Explained Absence is any absence that is not a result of personal illness, a medical appointment, or an illness/death in the family. Although family vacations and trips may count as an XA, it is expected that these are scheduled during school vacations - as it is often difficult for a student to make-up work that he/she has missed during a lengthy absence. Responsibility for all make-up work rests solely with the parent and student, and all schoolwork must be turned in on the day of return. Students with an XA have the potential for full credit for all make-up work turned in on time.

Explained Absences will count against perfect attendance and also against a student's status for final exam exemptions. To receive approval for an Explained Absence, a parent must notify the school office at least 1 week prior to absence. If approved, you will be notified and the parent/student will be required to notify all teachers no less than three days prior to the absence.

Excused School Activity (ESA)

Any absence that is necessitated by school events (e.g., field trips and athletics) or educationally-based, off-campus activities (e.g, college visits) is considered an Excused School Activity (ESA). The front office will be notified of the activity and the students participating in it by the classroom teacher, Coach, or Administrator. Students will be given one day to make up work for each day of absence. ESA absences do not count against final exam exemptions or perfect attendance.

Students may only leave campus to sell yearbook ads at the request of the yearbook teacher and must have parent signed permission form on file in the office.

Release for Appointments

All students are required to check-out at the office if they leave school before the school day is completed. A student may not leave campus without prior approval from a parent being communicated to the front office via email or a phone call. (Please do not use office staff's personal phone numbers to communicate such information.) Absences for classes missed will be defined as outlined above. Excessive early check-outs must be avoided and will be addressed on an individual basis. Early dismissals will be counted and recorded as either excused or unexcused tardies, using the handbook criteria.

Phone calls for early checkout will be accepted only for sudden illness of the student or a family emergency.

Students should always bring a doctor, dental, court, etc. excuse when they return from school during the day or have been absent the entire day for out-of-town appointments. Students should always check back in at the office if they miss only a part of a period or day.

Parents will also need to file a form permitting day cares and/or other persons to pick up younger children. We will release children only to persons on that list unless we have been contacted by the parent letting us know that it is acceptable for the child to go with another designated person.

Requests for Make Up Work

Students who miss work due to excused or explained absence may find assignments posted in Gradelink. If parents or students need further assistance, they are strongly encouraged to contact their child's teacher directly, either by phone or email. At the elementary level, parents must make a request for make-up work by 9:00 am on a missed day of school via email to the child's homeroom teacher. Work will be available for pickup in the school foyer by 3:00 pm.

School Hours

The regular school day will begin at 7:55 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. for elementary students. The regular school day for middle school and high school students will begin at 7:55 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. Students may arrive at school no earlier than 7:30 a.m. Upon arrival, students go directly to homeroom or first period class.

Elementary parents should make arrangements for students to be picked up before 3:15 p.m. Parents of students in junior high and high school should have their children picked up by 3:30 p.m.

School Closure Information and Inclement Weather

The school will have monthly drills. Each room shall display exit, shelter, and lockdown procedures. The school follows the guidelines and advice of the National Weather Service during severe weather.

In case of a national emergency in which the students' and the staff's safety is in question, the school will notify parents to pick up their children immediately. Should parents be unable to come to the school, the school will take all possible steps to protect the students.

Announcements of dismissal of school due to inclement weather or other emergencies will be made as early as possible through the GMCS Facebook page and mass texts. The decision will be made as quickly as possible. Calling the school for such information may interfere with our decision-making process. Please do not call the school for such information. Parents must furnish a current cell phone number in order to receive texts.

Tardies

Tardies are not only disruptive to the classroom environment, but they also have an adverse effect on the educational process as habitually late students put themselves at risk academically due to the amount of class time missed. A student receives a tardy when he/she arrives late to a classroom after the bell has rung for the beginning of that class.

Late arrivals will enter through the front door with a parent and sign in at the office before being admitted to class. Late to school arrivals should bring a note from their parents (or parents should come to the office with their child) stating the reason for the late arrival if the student is in Grades K4-6. Students in Grades 7-12 will be expected to make their own explanation, except when the parent accepts responsibility for the student's late arrival or feels that they need to verify the legitimacy of the tardy.

We realize that tardies are unavoidable from time to time, but we are also of the opinion that habitual tardiness is a result of poor use of time. It is our desire that students of Garrett Memorial Christian School learn early in life that habitual tardiness is both unnecessary and unacceptable; therefore, the problem must be corrected.

Students who are tardy within the school day will answer for themselves for their late arrival to their designated area.

Types of Tardies

Excused Tardy (ET)

An Excused Tardy is when a student is tardy to class but has a pass/note explaining the tardiness from the front office. Any schoolwork missed because of the ET may be made-up and tests (or portions of missed tests) may be taken. ET include: personal or serious illness, appointment with doctor or dentist, parent report of unexpected car trouble, traffic from accident (approved by Administrator).

Unexcused Tardy (UT)

An Unexcused Tardy is when a student is tardy to class but does not have a pass/note from the front office or the note from the front office indicating an excused tardy. Any school work missed because of the UT may not be made-up and tests (or portions of missed tests) may not be taken. If a student misses half or more of the class because of being tardy, then the tardy becomes an UA. UT include: oversleeping/alarm didn't go off, sleeping in due to late night activity unless school approved, ride late, etc.

For 5th-12th grades, four unexcused tardies for a specific class is equal to 1 Unexcused Absence (UA) for that class.

- For K4-3rd grades, four unexcused tardies equal one Unexcused Daily absence.

Please see the discipline section on pages 57-59 for additional consequences for unexcused tardies.

The school keeps a record of early checkouts and tardiness. Students must attend at least thirty (30) minutes of a class to be counted present. The school administration will schedule a conference with the parents if a student has excessive absences or tardy slips. *Please make every effort to schedule the student's regular appointments before or after school.*

Discipline for 6th-12th grade for unexcused tardies within each 9-week grading period will be as follows. *Detention will be held on Fridays during the Spiritual Formation period.*

- 2 tardies – 1 day of detention
- 3 tardies – parent is notified and 3 days of detention
- 4 tardies – 2 days of detention and 1 unexcused absence
- 5 tardies – Parent/Student/Administrator Conference which could result in disciplinary action, suspension, or expulsion. *This policy is inclusive of a combination of all unexcused tardies for every period of the day.*

Automobiles

Students driving any motorized vehicle to school must have a completed driver form on file in the office and be able to display at request a valid Arkansas Driver's License or Hardship Permit and proof of insurance.

Students are not permitted to have vehicles on campus that have advertisements that promote any un-Godly principles or that promote anything that violates the school/church's statement of faith, code of conduct, handbook, or expectations set by the school.

Students should understand that driving a motorized vehicle to school is a privilege, not a right. These privileges can be revoked if the student if the student violates disciplinary policies or for immature behavior. Privileges entail responsibilities. A student must fulfill the following responsibilities to keep his or her vehicle privileges:

- Enter and leave the school campus at a safe and reasonable speed.
- Be sure that radios, stereos or other noise-making objects are at an acceptable level (may not be heard outside of vehicle) before entering the campus and after exiting campus.
- Accept the responsibility that any student riding in his vehicle has a signed note on file in the school office giving permission for that passenger to ride in his/her vehicle.
- Immediately turn the ignition off and leave the vehicle after arrival on campus. (This does not prohibit visiting around the vehicle, just inside).
- Always look in all directions for students and others when entering or leaving campus.
- Never operate the vehicle in an unsafe way by spinning out, fast acceleration, etc. as he/she leaves the parking lot or the campus onto the highway.
- Be sure that he/she has a permission slip on file in the office if the vehicle is to be allowed to leave campus during school hours.
- Allowing other persons to operate his/her vehicle unless parental permission is on file in the school office.
- Violation of any other restrictions placed on all student operated vehicles brought on campus.
- Students will park in the parking lot in front of the school and church in the area assigned for students. The back parking lot is for employees only.
- **Students should bring all needed items (books, athletic gear, keys, money, lunch, etc.) when entering the building for the day. Students are only allowed to go to their vehicle with permission from the front office in the event of an emergency. (The office personnel will determine the definition of an emergency.) Abuse of this exception will result in the student being prohibited to go to their vehicle during school hours for any reason.**

Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Harassment

At GMCS, we desire that every student, every day, experience a safe and godly environment to be able to learn and achieve high academic standards. Bullying and harassment disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to

tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

Definitions

Inappropriate/Unkind Behavior

There are times students mistreat one another through unkind, inappropriate, and disrespectful behavior. While it is wrong, sinful, and needs to be corrected, it does not automatically qualify as bullying or harassment. Students committing the offense generally need to be reminded, redirected, warned, and/or receive discipline for the behavior. If a student continues to exhibit inappropriate/unkind behavior towards another student (or group of students) then there is the dual issue of (1) disregarding the first admonition, and (2) the possible reclassification of the behavioral issue.

Bullying

Bullying is any unwanted, aggressive behavior that is repeated (or likely to be repeated) against a targeted individual because of an observed (or reasonably perceived) power imbalance, and there is a purposeful intention to hurt, harm, or humiliate the individual.

- Unwanted, aggressive behavior. Unwanted, aggressive behaviors are negative behaviors that a targeted student wants the aggressive student to stop doing. We are not going to assess whether or not the aggressive student meant harm to the targeted student; but rather, we will assess if the aggressive student had the intention to exhibit the unwanted, aggressive behavior.
- Direct Bullying. Direct bullying occurs when the unwanted, aggressive behavior occurs in the presence of the targeted student (i.e., face-to-face interaction or within a group setting). Examples include (and are not limited to):
 - Physical such as hitting, kicking, and tripping.
 - Verbal including name-calling and teasing.
 - Damaging a student's property (done in the presence of the student).
- Indirect Bullying. Indirect bullying occurs when the unwanted, aggressive behavior is NOT directly communicated to the targeted student. Examples include (and are not limited to):
 - Spreading false and/or malicious rumors.
 - Written threats or derogatory language about an individual.
 - Damaging a student's property (not done in the presence of the student).

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying occurs when “bullying behaviors” occur via technological/digital communications, including (but not limited to) texting, social media posts or comments, snapchats, and/or direct/personal messengers.

Harassment

Harassment is bullying with the added component that the unwanted, aggressive behaviors are about and due to a student's gender, race, culture, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, physical attributes, or national origin.

Discipline with Discernment

There are times inappropriate behaviors occur towards others that are NOT bullying/harassment, but can look and/or feel that way. For instance, a group of boys tease each other on a frequent basis, but then it shifts slightly to be more in a singular direction. In a case where this is unintentional, though it may feel like bullying by the one student being teased to a greater degree, it was done in ignorance and does not meet the requirements for bullying/harassment as outlined below. Oftentimes this occurs when all the boys were at first co-participants, but then the situation inadvertently changes. This usually gets compounded when the boy being targeted doesn't speak up. Continual teasing, even after admonition and correction, may result in the reclassifying the situation as bullying/harassment.

Another example of a situation that stems from ignorance is when a group of girls use inappropriate slang or racial slurs with one another in jest. At first, they may think it's funny and are unaware of the cultural implications or social inappropriateness because students with different racial backgrounds may even be participating. These students often do not realize they have crossed a line with their words and are usually unaware of how it may hurt one another - probably because the one who gets hurt laughs it off and responds with a similar inappropriate comment. As in the previous situation, continual teasing, even after admonition and correction, may result in the reclassifying the situation as bullying/harassment.

Anonymity

Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action (towards the aggressive student) may not be based solely on an anonymous report. Also, reports made by a known student/family, but the student/family is requesting anonymity, will be classified as “anonymous”; and formal disciplinary action (towards the aggressive student) may not be based solely on the anonymous report. We will try to confirm every report with two or three objective (not involved) witnesses.

Bystanders

Since bystander support of bullying or harassment can add to these negative and unwanted behaviors, and since we expect a higher standard of behavior from our students, the bystander

who says or does nothing to prevent/mediate/report the bullying or harassment may receive instructional admonition or other disciplinary action.

Retaliation

A student who retaliates against another student for either reporting or speaking against the unwanted, aggressive behaviors, may receive (depending on the circumstances) a measure of more severe consequences.

False Accusations of Bullying & Harassment

False accusations of bullying or harassment will not be tolerated, with the accuser receiving an equitable consequence.

Chapel, Field Trips, Food & Lunches, and Parties

Bible and Chapel

Character development and a value system are of little use unless founded upon God's Word. Bible teaching will be an integral part of the curriculum at Garrett Memorial Christian School.

Boys and Girls Chapels are scheduled weekly and attendance is *required*. High School Chapel will be held during 6th period each Wednesday in the Summit Building. Parents and visitors are always welcome. The Bible is a required book for all Chapels. Attendance will be taken at all chapels.

Parents are strongly urged to not make appointments or check out students during chapel times, as chapel is required by this Christian school and is a vital part of their spiritual instruction and growth.

Field Trips

Each class will be allowed two (2) field trips per year (one each semester is preferred by the administration) at the teacher's discretion. All field trips will be approved by the Garrett Memorial School Board of Directors 30 days prior to planned trip. Parents are welcomed to attend field trips with their students. Depending on bus seating parents may be allowed to ride the bus to the field trip. In all other cases parents would be responsible for their own transportation.

Food and Lunches

Students at GMCS may bring their lunch or eat the options provided (if available). An order menu is sent out monthly via hard copy available in office, email, text, or GMCS app for students to order by the published date. There is no refrigeration available for student lunches so parents need to use other means, if a lunch needs to be kept cool. Parents are always welcome to

come and eat lunch with their student, or to bring food and drop it off for their student BEFORE their lunch time. No food or drink is allowed outside of the dining area of the school. (See pages 57-59 for corrective discipline.). High school students may have lunch guests (other than parents) on Fridays only, with approval of the parent of the student enrolled at GMCS. All guests must check in with the office to receive a visitor's ID and are only permitted to visit the dining room.

Microwaves are provided for student use in grades 3-12; however, students should clean up any spills or mess made.

Students in grades 6-12 have the option of eating at the outdoor picnic tables, weather permitting. Students are required to stay within the designated area and are responsible for throwing away all trash in the proper receptacle. Younger students may eat outside with teacher supervision.

Food deliveries (i.e. DoorDash, Waitr) are strongly discouraged. Parents may utilize this option to order a student's lunch, as long as the guaranteed arrival time is prior to the student's designated lunch period (between 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.), however students should not utilize this service during school hours.

Students should go to the dining room to eat food brought in before school in the mornings. No food or drink should be taken to classrooms or other areas of the building.

Parties

We recognize that birthdays are important events, but parents must recognize that much time can be spent celebrating birthdays if every student has a birthday party at school.

Teachers may set their own limit, but it is suggested that parents wishing to recognize their child's birthday at school contact the classroom teacher about bringing cup cakes (no cakes please) and drinks (no red punch) during lunch. Please consult with your child's teacher regarding student allergies. It is important for parents to abide by this rule. Do not bring goodies without prior arrangement with the classroom teacher. Birthday party invitations can only be distributed if every student in the class receives an invitation or for all the boys or all the girls. If selected students only are invited to a party, (which is certainly your prerogative), invitations may not be given out at school.

Classes may schedule parties for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and other special occasions. Teachers must have prior approval from the Administrator. All attempts will be made to have all class parties on the same day for each holiday. Teachers are responsible for notifying parents of the time and arrangements for the party.

Grades, Homework, and Reporting

Academic Honors

Academic honors are determined based upon the Grade Point Average earned for courses taken in 9th-12th grades that satisfy their graduation requirements. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian must have attended GMCS two full years of high school and have the highest overall GPA.* Honor graduates must have earned an overall GPA of 3.5 or above. The following honors distinctions are recognized according to overall GPA each year at graduation:

Summa Cum Laude – 4.0+

Magna Cum Laude –3.75-3.999

Cum Laude – 3.50-3.749

**May require School Board approval*

Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence

Cheating is a serious offense. It involves taking information from another source and presenting it as your own information. Thus, it involves both the components of stealing and lying. Cheating is defined as copying homework, handing in another's work, plagiarism in research papers and compositions, and unauthorized assistance on tests and quizzes.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be used responsibly and ethically by students within our Christian high school community. Students may utilize AI technologies for educational purposes, such as research, study aids, and academic projects, under the supervision and guidance of teachers. AI tools should be used to enhance learning experiences and academic outcomes, promoting intellectual curiosity and critical thinking skills. Students are expected to uphold academic integrity standards when using AI technologies, avoiding plagiarism or dishonest practices in their work. AI-generated content should be properly attributed and cited in accordance with academic citation guidelines.

Students must respect the dignity and privacy of their peers and teachers when using AI technologies, refraining from engaging in behavior that may cause harm or discomfort to others. Any content generated or shared using AI tools should adhere to Christian principles of kindness and compassion, as well as respect for diversity.

They should exercise caution when interacting with AI-powered platforms or services online, being mindful of potential risks such as data privacy and misinformation. Students should take precautions to protect their personal information and devices when using AI technologies, including strong password management and awareness of phishing scams.

Any suspicious or inappropriate behavior encountered while using AI tools should be reported to school authorities for investigation.

If it is determined that a student has indeed cheated, plagiarized, or misused artificial intelligence, disciplinary action will be taken. This action may include, but is not limited to:

- the student receiving a zero on the work
- conference with parents and administration
- potential loss of leadership positions

Repeated offenses of the above could lead to suspension or expulsion.

Conferences

Conferences with the school administrator

- Issues regarding classroom and/or teacher complaints. See Problem Resolution & Handling of Grievances, page 39.
- Conferences concerning general school issues and policies, suggestions and ideas to improve the school, other staff, and personal conflicts are best handled by discussion with the administrator and will be by appointment only. Please call the school office to schedule a conference. The school administrator will meet with one set of parents at a time only.
- Short-term conferences for general visiting and talk may be scheduled on a walk-in basis.

Teacher Conferences

Conferences concerning a student and/or classroom policy are always welcomed by the teacher. Drop-in visits to meet with teachers during school hours are not permitted. A parent teacher conference will be scheduled during each semester. Parents are encouraged to use this time allotted by the school. Other conferences may be scheduled throughout the year. For speedy response to a parent request, the parent should call the office and request a conference. Due to the teacher schedule, it may be impossible for immediate response. Teachers will respond to the request within 24 hours. If response has not been received after 24 hours, please call the office again and the administrator will contact the teacher and make arrangement for the conference.

Exemptions from Semester Exams

Students in the 9th-12th grades will be exempt from Semester Exams, if the following criteria is met:

- The student has an “A” average upon completion of a specific course for the semester, has no more than three excused absences and no unexcused absences, and has not been suspended; or
- The student has a “B” average upon completion of a specific course for the semester, has no more than two excused-absences and no unexcused absences, and has not been suspended.

Absences for school-related activities do not count against a student in regard to exemptions.

Grading Information

Students will receive a grade for each of the four nine weeks and each semester. The school office will record semester grades on the student's permanent record folder which is retained on file.

Teachers will determine promotion/retention of students. The school board will review recommendations for retention. The board will use the following criteria to form that decision:

- Classroom grades on daily work and tests
- Mastery of curriculum skills per grade level
- The individual student's abilities
- Homework assignments

Parent conferences may be scheduled with a teacher as needed during the school year. Parents who desire to have conferences with the teacher will make arrangements with the school office to schedule the meeting. This will be done during the teacher's conference period or after school.

Teachers will post grades on Gradelink. Using the internet, Gradelink connects teachers, students, parents, administrators into one system. You will receive log-in information at the beginning of the school year to access your students' grades. Agenda books/folders are sent home daily with important info on homework and school information. Please check your students backpack daily.

Grading Scale

A or E	90-100	E	Excellent
B or S	80-89	S	Satisfactory
C or N	70-79	N	Needs Improving
D or U	60-69	U	Unacceptable
F	0-59	I	Incomplete

Graduation

Graduation at GMCS is a celebratory occasion, but it is also a time to display and express the values that the graduates have learned during their time at GMCS. Graduates are expected to behave and dress in a manner that reflects godliness and Christian character. Male graduates will be expected to wear dress slacks or khakis and a dress shirt with tie or nice polo and nice dress boots/shoes. Female graduates will be expected to wear a black church dress that is no shorter than two inches above the knee with no exposed areas to the bodice or back, as well as dress shoes.

Graduation Requirements

The following credits are required for graduation. All credits must be successfully completed prior to a student participating in graduation or on the senior trip. The state civics test must be

successfully completed prior to graduation, as well as CPR Training and Stop the Bleeding Training.

Required by the State of Arkansas

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
(Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, 4 th math higher than Algebra 2)	
Science	3 credits
[(Biology, a Physical Science, Chemistry or Physics) and one other]	
Social Studies	3 credits
(American History, World History, Civics, Economics with Personal Finance)	
Fine Arts	½ credit
Oral Communication/Speech	½ credit
Health and Safety	½ credit
Physical Education	½ credit
Computer Business Applications	1 credit
Career Focus Credits	6 credits

Required by GMCS*

Bible	3 credits
Christian Worldview	1 credit
Foreign Language	2 credits

GMCS High School students are required to complete 75 service hours during their 9-12th grade years. These hours will be documented by the Admissions Counselor. A suggested plan is as follows:

9th grade – 10 hours
 10th grade – 18 hours
 11th grade – 22 hours
 12th grade – 25 hours

**Exceptions must be approved by the GMCS School Board*

Homework

Homework will be a part of school life at Garrett Memorial Christian School. Depending upon the grade level, the time of the grading period, and the student, the amount of homework brought home may vary. If a student spends what appears to be an excessive amount of time on homework, the parent should investigate these possibilities: student procrastination with long range projects (e.g. projects, notebooks, book reports, etc.); improper use of study time at school; or inefficient study habits at home. If none of these seem to apply, and the homework is frequently excessive, then please consult the teacher. Parents are encouraged to plan homework

slots into the regular afternoon and/or early evening schedules. If students have no homework, this is the time for review, reading, and of course, family time. Every effort will be made to keep homework at a minimum on Wednesdays. Some homework and study time for tests are unavoidable on that night.

Homework Guidelines

If utilized correctly, homework assignments can strengthen and enhance the learning process as it occurs each day in the classroom. In addition, it will have a cumulative effect that will better prepare your child for the college or career God has for him/her. Other benefits include:

- It provides parents with a daily opportunity to have a positive impact on their child's education and future.
- It teaches the child responsibility.
- It provides a key link between home and school.
- It reinforces skills taught in the classroom.
- It develops study habits needed throughout life.
- It prepares students better for class discussion, test, etc.
- It facilitates understanding of new concepts.

If a student fails to complete a major course project on time, they will receive a "0" for the project and will not receive credit for the semester in that subject. Such projects include but are not limited to: research papers, science fair projects, bug or leaf collections, book reports, etc.

Honor Roll

Academic achievement for each nine-week grading period and each semester will be recognized through one of the following Honor Roll Lists:

- Principal's List All A's
- Merit Honor Roll All A's and B's

A student must have attended GMCS during the 11th and 12th grades in order to be recognized as Valedictorian or Salutatorian of their graduating class. *

**May require School Board approval*

Repeated Courses

Students who fail a high school course (grade of F), will be required to retake the course the following year, if schedule permits, or complete an approved credit recovery course for the same course at the parents' expense and the students' schedule. Students will need to schedule this course for times other than school appropriated hours, unless their schedule permits. In addition, students will be unable to progress in the curriculum course path until a passing grade has been completed for the preceding course in the school's overall scope and sequence. Note that the

original failing grade will be posted to the transcript, as well as the passing grade from the credit recovery course.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

The entire school will be on a nine-week grading system. Progress reports will be sent home around the 4 ½ week mark of each grading period. Report cards will normally be issued on Wednesday following the end of each nine-week grading period.

Retention

At times, students do not successfully complete the requirements for advancement to the next grade. Teachers will let parents know throughout the year of concerns they have regarding advancement. It is, however, important for parents to use the Gradelink system regularly so they are aware of a child's performance.

Recommendations are made by the teacher to the Administrator regarding retention, and a conference is scheduled with the parent to discuss options for the student.

Testing

National Standardized tests will be administered in the spring of each year to all GMCS students in Grades K5-12.

Transcripts

GMCS does not allow transcript revisions, with the exception of a necessary absence, prolonged illness or other reasons beyond the control of the student that prevents the completion of a course by the end of the grading period or a semester. An incomplete grade would be altered upon completion of necessary coursework. *Students who have incomplete grades earned in the 2nd semester of their senior year will have to postpone their graduation.*

Students that take a class for credit recovery will have both the original grade and new grade on their transcript.

Lifestyle Expectations

Student Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is honoring to God, themselves, their parents, and the school. This expectation applies to the time that students are in school and at school activities as well as the time they are away from school. Students and parents will sign a GMCS Standards of Conduct form each year agreeing to conduct themselves in a godly manner.

Student Discipline

Generally, students should abide by these basic guidelines:

- Immediate Obedience - Students should respond positively to any instruction by those in authority. (Ephesians 6:5-7)
- Honor Authority - Students are expected to give honor to all those in authority in both attitude and action. (Romans 13:1-2)
- Absolute Honesty - Students should never lie, deceive, mislead, or fail to tell the truth. (Romans 13:13)
- Christ-like Behavior - In all attitudes and actions, students should live according to Biblical principles and values. (Ephesians 2:10, 5:1)
- Complete Dependability - Students should keep up with their work and accept the necessary responsibilities. (Matthew 5:34-37)

One purpose of requiring acceptable behavior at Garrett Memorial Christian School is to train the students in self-discipline. The school's policies seek to provide the boundaries students need to feel secure and to develop character, morals, values, and courteous behavior.

A student at Garrett Memorial Christian School should understand that he or she represents the school at all times, both on and off campus. Any conduct which brings discredit to the student or to the reputation of the school and its community may result in corrective action by the school.

GMCS teachers are responsible for maintaining good discipline in their classrooms. When the student's misbehavior becomes disrespectful toward the teacher or other students, habitual, or disruptive to the class, the teacher should initiate the student offense policy by following the actions listed below for a first offense.

Unacceptable behavior also includes, but is not limited to, (1) aggressive behavior such as fighting, biting, shoving, pushing, hitting, spitting, name calling, unwholesome language, lying, cheating, (2) willful disrespect for teachers or leaders, and (3) actions that disrupt the class, cause physical or emotional harm, or damage church or school property.

Disciplinary action also may include but is not limited to and in no particular order:

- Administrative conference – usually warranted on a first-offense basis.
- Detention – held on the day of offense, if possible
- Loss of Extra-Curricular Privileges – Student could be suspended from practices and or games.
- Out-of-School Suspension – for more serious offenses. The decision to suspend a student will be made by the Administrator. The student will be expected to complete all assigned work and make-up tests at the teacher's convenience. The student will not be readmitted without a parent conference and all the work being completed. Students will receive an unexcused absence (UA) for their classes missed. There is a 30% grade deduction (meaning the highest grade earned can be 70%) on all assignments during the suspension period. This does not include assignments which extended beyond the breadth of the suspension period. During any suspension the student will not be involved in any school

activities, nor will he/she be allowed to attend any activities on the school campus. Suspensions may be used immediately for extreme disobedience or rebellious attitude. The Administrator will notify teachers of a student's suspension, and the student is responsible for communicating with teachers about missed class time and work. OSS may initiate a disciplinary probation for the student, and/or a loss of leadership positions with school organizations/athletics.

- Corporal Punishment – usually more effective with the younger age child; when chronic disobedience, fighting, or belligerent behavior toward authority is evidenced. Attempts to contact parents before spanking will be made. Corporal Punishment will not be administered without a signed consent form on file and a witness present in the room.
- Probation – a period of time given to a student to resolve a serious problem that is academic, social, or personal. The length of probation may vary. At the end of the probationary period, the student is removed from probation if there is evidence of satisfactory improvement.
- Expulsion – considered the ultimate deterrent of inappropriate behavior. The decision to expel will be recommended by the administrator and acted upon by the school board.
- Re-admission – It will be the school's policy not to re-admit a previously expelled student except under unusual or mitigating circumstances. Parents who seek re-admission shall request such by letter to the board should they feel that new evidence or a changed attitude, sustained over a period of time, warrants such consideration.

The Discipline Policy applies to students while they are on campus, in GMCS operated vehicles, or at recognized school functions. While behavior at other times or places is an individual and parental responsibility (and not the school's), behavior that impairs the testimony of the school cannot be ignored. Therefore, offenses which occur outside the limits established in this policy will be considered as to their severity and impact on the school's reputation. See also Student Code of Conduct Form on page 58.

A Corrective Discipline chart is located on pages 57-59.

All disciplinary reports will be placed in the student's file and in Gradelink.

Conduct Standards

An absolute list of standard behavior guidelines is impossible, but certain expected behaviors are listed and should be practiced by any student but especially at Garrett Memorial Christian School.

- Be polite and respectful attitude to any teacher, staff person, or visitor at Garrett Memorial Christian School.
- Always get permission before talking during class or interrupting the teacher or class.
- Refrain from the writing or passing of notes, throwing objects indoors, gum chewing, and eating in class.
- Avoid excessive noise, disorderly conduct in restrooms, halls, lunchroom, playground, or classroom.

- Go to a teacher or administrator for counsel rather than fight. Learn to turn the other cheek until the proper course of action has been taken.
- Always have permission to leave the school campus or go to another part of the school when you would not normally be present in that area.
- Smoking, drinking, alcoholic beverages, using illegal drugs, gambling, involvement in pornography or sexual immorality, should be avoided not only at school but in personal lives as well.
- Always model those behaviors and attitudes which enhance the basic principles and purpose of the school so that the family, spiritual, and academic atmosphere of the school can dominate the campus.
- Ipods, cd players, cameras, phones, guns, knives, questionable literature, non-academic related magazines and books, or any articles which promote or advertise non-Christian lifestyles should not be brought to school. Guns should NOT be brought on school premises during trap season (pursuant to Arkansas Code §5-73-119). Other arrangements for trap season should be made.
- Any videos brought for viewing for educational purposes, rewards, free time, or parties must be G rated. Any videos above a “G” rating must be approved by the administration.

Drug Testing

If it comes to the attention of the administration that a student may be involved in drug related activity, the school may ask the parents to have the student tested by a family physician or other school approved testing personnel. If a parent refuses to have the student tested the student may be asked to leave the school. The school also reserves the right to have a drug K-9 on campus for any reason at any time.

Pregnancy

In the event of a student pregnancy, the following statement reflects the policy of Garrett Memorial Christian School:

Upon the school becoming aware of the pregnancy of one of its students, the student will immediately go on a home bound or home school program with no participation in athletics or extra-curricular activities. All efforts will be made by the school and teachers to help the student continue their studies at home. Return to school may be no earlier than six weeks after the birth of the child or on doctor’s recommendation. If the student returns to school during that academic year, they may not participate in Homecoming Court or extra-curricular activities. If a GMCS male student is found to be responsible for causing a pregnancy, he is subject to the same policy.

The biblical and philosophical goal of Garrett Memorial Christian School is to develop students into mature, Christ-like individuals who will be able to exhibit a Christ-like life. Of necessity, this involves the school’s understanding and belief of what qualities or characteristics exemplify a Christ-like life. Even though parents may personally believe differently, while enrolled at Garrett Memorial Christian School, all students are expected to exhibit the qualities of a Christ-like life espoused and taught by the school and to refrain from certain activities or behavior.

Thus, Garrett Memorial Christian School retains the right to refuse enrollment to or to expel any student who engages in sexual immorality.

Problem Resolution & Handling of Grievances

The Christian approach to a problem resolution is always the best approach. Please take time to pray and reflect on Matthew 18 and then take the following steps:

- Arrange a conference with the teacher or person with which the problem has occurred. Discuss the problem with that person in an orderly and Christian fashion. Both parties should always keep in mind that the students of Garrett Memorial Christian School are the most important people in the school.
- If the problem is not resolved to your satisfaction, call the school office and request a conference with the person's supervisor. A conference with the supervisor, parents, and the person, with which the problem has occurred, will be scheduled.
- If the problem is still unresolved, request a conference with the school administrator if he was not the supervisor.
- The next step will be to contact the school administrator and request a hearing before the GMCS School Board. A hearing will be established as soon as possible. The school board makes the final decision.

School Harmony

GMCS acknowledges the fact that we may not always agree on every aspect of the school. With that in mind, it is imperative when such disagreements arise that you go directly to the person with which the conflict exist. It is detrimental to the authority of the teacher and the student when parents discuss their disagreements with a teacher in front of their student.

Also, please do not contact other parents and involve them in the matter. If the administration feels that you are intentionally causing strife and disrupting the harmony of the school, an administrative conference will be scheduled and you will be asked to correct the problem. If the situation is beyond repair, you may be asked to remove your student from Garrett Memorial Christian School.

Lockers and Backpacks

All lockers assigned to students are the property of Garrett Memorial Christian School. At no time does the school relinquish its exclusive control of its lockers. The school administrator or his/her designee shall have custody of all combinations to all lockers or locks. Students are prohibited from placing personal locks on any locker.

Students in grades 6-12 must use their locker. The school assigns lockers to its students for the students' convenience and temporary use. Students are to use lockers exclusively to store school-related materials and authorized personal items such as outer garments, footwear, grooming aids, or lunch. Students shall not use the lockers for any other purpose, unless specifically authorized

by school board policy or the GMCS administrator or his/her designee, in advance of students bringing the items to school. Students are solely responsible for the contents of their lockers and should not share their lockers with other students, nor divulge locker combinations to other students.

Students in all grades may use backpacks. Rolling backpacks are **NOT** permitted, as they can damage school flooring. Backpacks should be stored in lockers or designated shelving outside the classroom and should not be brought into classrooms unless specifically authorized by a teacher or administrator.

Lockers, shelving, and/or backpacks are subject to inspection by the Administrator without notice or prior consent. Anything found in the locker, shelving, and/or backpack will be the responsibility of the student who owns the backpack or to whom the locker is assigned. Any illegal item(s) found in school lockers or personal backpacks may be turned over to the proper law enforcement authorities.

Search and Seizure

It is our goal to maintain a safe and orderly environment on campus where discipleship and training can take place on a daily basis. Part of this goal is achieved by trusting the families, faculty, and students of GMCS to take appropriate measures to keep themselves safe and act in such a way, or bring on campus, anything that would jeopardize the safety of others. GMCS reserves the right to perform unannounced and occasional searches of personal property, lockers, and automobiles while they are on the campus. These searches would only be required when there is the need to maintain the overall safety of the school, there are reasons to believe there are items on campus not deemed safe or appropriate, or a report has been made of a school policy violation.

The GMCS administrator or his/her designee shall not be obligated but may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer in conducting a search if deemed necessary. The GMCS administrator or his/her designee shall supervise the search. In the course of a search, the GMCS administrator or his/her designee shall respect the privacy rights of the student regarding any items discovered that are not illegal or against school policy and rules.

When conducting searches, the GMCS administrator or his/her designee may seize any illegal or unauthorized items, items in violation of board policy or rules, or any other items reasonably determined by the GMCS administrator or his/her designee to be a potential threat to the safety or security of others. The parent/guardian of a minor student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be notified by the GMCS administrator or his/her designee of items removed from the locker.

Student Activities

Activity Eligibility

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher in core classes to participate in extra-curricular activities. A student failing a core class may not participate in extra-curricular activities. Grades will be checked by the Athletic Director every three weeks on Monday. Students must attend school the day of an extra-curricular activity in order to participate in that day's activity. See also Athletic Handbook.

Homecoming Court

Each year, the high school student body will select the homecoming court from the female 10th-11th grade students. All 12th grade females will serve as maids for the senior class. The homecoming queen must be a senior and will be chosen by the 6th-12th grades students by secret ballot. The girl chosen as 10th grade maid may not serve again until her senior year. All Homecoming maids must have homecoming court dresses approved by the Administrator prior to Homecoming festivities. Changes to court dresses **MUST** be made as directed by the Administrator and shown to the Administrator, or the student will not be allowed to participate in the Homecoming Court. Homecoming dresses will be floor length. Dresses will have no slits above the knee and no cut outs or see-through areas in the front of the dress. Dresses will not be low cut in the front and any mesh in the cleavage area should be unable to be seen through. Dresses with bare backs should be no lower than the waist.

Opportunities for Student Involvement

Statistics show that overall success in school is closely related to the student's involvement in school activities. Opportunities for students to participate in extra activities include, but are not limited to, the following. Each are offered based upon enrollment and interest.

Service

- Various service projects the school may have throughout the year.
- Mission Trips offered periodically through Garrett Memorial Christian School and the Baptist Missionary Association of America.
- Student Council
- Leo Club

Academics, Arts, and Music

- Honor Society
- Elementary Music Classes
- Singing or Playing music in Chapel, Athletic Events, Fundraisers, etc.

- High School Choir
- Drama
- Band
- Fine Arts

Athletics

- Cheerleading (girls only)
- Golf
- Cross Country
- Men and Women's Basketball
- Men's Baseball
- Trap Shooting
- Women's Fast Pitch Softball
- Women's Volleyball

GMCS participates in the Heartland Christian Athletic Association, which is comprised of Christian Schools in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas. Rules regarding this association may be accessed at www.heartlandathletics.com.

Student Dress and Grooming

Personal cleanliness and neatness display a respect and dignity that is expected of a GMCS student at all times. The Dress Code is not addressing moral issues but is the requirement of the school to promote modesty among our students while at school or school events.

The administration will address any students not conforming to the Dress Code and reserves the right to have parents bring an appropriate change of clothes; or, with a parent's permission, a licensed student may drive home to get his/her change of clothes. Any class time missed will be counted as an unexcused absence. Proper attire has been selected for our school which we feel will not

"What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

- offend fellow students, administrators, staff, faculty, parents or visitors.
- call attention to the student instead of the student's Christian testimony.
- distract from the teaching and/or learning situation.

Garrett Memorial Christian School has required dress regulations for regular school hours. Failure to abide by the uniform code may result in disciplinary action or suspension of students.

Students are expected to have clean nails, hair, and bodies. Parents should launder jackets and sweats regularly. Any violation of school dress codes may lead to a student's being sent home. **All staff/teachers are responsible for enforcing the dress code.** If a student is in violation of the dress code, the student will be sent to the office until parent can bring appropriate clothing.

Attire or accessories that are profane, vulgar, obscene, offensive, or that contain messages and/or graphics related to tobacco, vaping, drug products, alcohol, weapons, or other inappropriate symbols, characters, or actions are not permitted at school or school functions and activities. Appropriate clothing encourages responsible behavior. The school seeks to use every means, including clothing regulations, to encourage students to think and act like ladies and gentlemen. We desire to teach our children to glorify God with proper attitudes about cleanliness, neatness, grooming, and dress.

Students who disregard these rules may have privileges revoked or other disciplinary action could be taken. All dress codes become effective when a student arrives at school.



2026-27 UNIFORM & DRESS CODE

GARRETT MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Clothing must be modest, well-fitting, and in good condition (no holes, rips, or inappropriate wording or images).
- Students are not permitted to receive tattoos; existing tattoos must be covered at all times.
- Only current GMCS-branded hats or beanies are permitted and may not be worn in classrooms or chapel.
- Girls may have pierced ears; no other visible body piercings are allowed. Piercings are not permitted for boys.
- Uniform items must be worn as designed and may not be altered.
- **All TOPS must be purchased through an approved GMCS vendor. A list of approved vendors can be found in the handbook.**

WEEKLY DRESS REQUIREMENTS



NON-CHAPEL DAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday



TOPS

- GMCS t-shirt, GMCS hoodie, GMCS sweatshirt, or GMCS polo
- GMCS quarter-zip pullovers, hoodies, and sweatshirts from approved vendors are permitted.



BOTTOMS

- Navy blue pants or shorts
- Blue jeans (no holes) or khaki/navy pants or shorts



OUTERWEAR

- Non-GMCS jackets may be worn outdoors in cold or inclement weather but must not display large, distracting, or inappropriate graphics



CHAPEL DAY

Wednesday



TOPS

- Blue GMCS polo shirt
- GMCS quarter-zip pullovers, hoodies, and sweatshirts from approved vendors are permitted.
- Blue polo must be worn under any hoodie, pullover, or jacket



BOTTOMS

- Navy blue pants or shorts
- Khaki pants, shorts, skirts, or dresses

This attire reflects the respectful tone and reverence of chapel services.



PANTS & SHORTS

- Must be modest and appropriately fitted
- **BOYS:** Shorts must have at least a 9-inch inseam
- **GIRLS:** Shorts and skirts must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee
- **BOYS & GIRLS:** No cargo shorts or gym shorts allowed



SKIRTS & DRESSES (GIRLS)

- Must be modest in fit and length
- Slits may not exceed 2 inches above the knee
- Shorts or solid leggings must be worn underneath



SHOES

- K-6: Tennis shoes must be worn at all times.
- 7-12: May wear non-marking shoes with a back. Socks are required. (no flip-flops, house shoes/slippers, shoes with rolling wheels, or backless shoes)



HAIR & GROOMING

- Hair must be natural in color and neat in appearance
- **BOYS:**
 - There is no hair length requirement.
 - No ponytails or man-buns
 - Neat, trimmed facial hair is permitted.



ACCESSORIES (GIRLS)

- Makeup should be conservative and minimal (discouraged in elementary)
- No patterned tights or stockings (e.g., fishnet, lace)



SPECIAL NOTES



GMCS athletic wear may be worn on approved game days.



Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of attire.

Special Occasions

From time to time, school uniform dress may need to be coordinated for special occasions. Student and parents will receive notice several days in advance.

Athletic/PE Class Uniform

All 6th-12th grade students in Athletic/PE classes are required to purchase and wear the GMCS Athletic uniform to participate in class. These may be purchased through a GMCS approved vendor. The approved athletic uniforms must be worn to all practices – in school and out of school (excluding softball and baseball).

School Sponsored Events

Local

Uniforms are not required at school-sponsored events after school hours (i.e. ball games); however, students are expected to conform to the general dress requirements (i.e. length of shorts and dresses). Leggings that are worn to school-sponsored events must be worn with a shirt that covers the entire bottom. No clothing items that are offensive and/or can be considered non-Christian are to be worn. Students in violation of the general dress code may be asked to leave the premises.

Out of Town

Students representing the school in various events or competition will be instructed as to proper dress. Other students are requested to follow the general dress requirements as their dress is a reflection on our school and most of all on God.

Student Relationships

Christian standards of conduct will be expected in all types of inter-personal relationships. All students are expected to demonstrate pure and Godly behavior and to avoid any appearance of evil or wrongdoing. It is wonderful to see God at work in the lives of our students as He builds friendships and relationships based on principles found in His Word. We encourage our students to get to know one another and to establish friendships. Students who have an interest in one another beyond friendship have both a responsibility and a privilege to build that relationship based on purity.

While Garrett Memorial Christian School does not encourage pairing off, the development of boy/girl relationships are a natural happening in the lives of young people. Out of concern for them as well as those who observe, we do not allow students in our school to engage in public display(s) of affection while at school. We desire that the students focus on school, friendships

and who they are in Christ. We do not believe that school is the suitable place for personal affections.

Students should avoid all public displays of affection while at school or at any school-sponsored event or trips. which includes holding hands, arm around each other, hugging, kissing, etc. It is our goal to add to the unity of our school. Holding hands, embracing, arms around each other, kissing, sitting in the lap of a boyfriend/girlfriend, or other inappropriate and questionable displays are not allowed at school, at school events, or on school property. Persistence to engage in such behavior will result in disciplinary action. Married students are not allowed to enroll at GMCS.

Work Release Option for Juniors and Seniors

The Work Release Option is an earned privilege available to Juniors and Seniors at Garrett Memorial Christian School. It may be revoked due to disciplinary action taken by the GMCS Administrator. Also, the parent/legal guardian may revoke this for their student at any time. When this privilege is revoked, students shall be placed in study halls for the remainder of the semester. Seniors may be released up to a maximum of 2 periods. Juniors may be released up to a maximum of 1 period at the end of the school day. The actual time of day that they are released may vary according to the school schedule for that day. Students who participate in the Work Release Option must leave the school premises at the work release time each day. They are not to remain in the building or on the school property while school is in session. If the student has an after-school activity, they must return to that activity after school has been dismissed.

Requesting work release does not automatically ensure that the student will receive the maximum number of work release periods, if at all. Due to balancing of scheduled classes, students may have to be placed in a study hall or choose another class if they cannot be released the desired number of periods, if any at all. The scheduling of this Work Release Option does not take precedent over the scheduling of any classes. Class sections will not be changed in order to accommodate work release. Athletes must pay special attention to the number of classes scheduled and passing in order to be eligible to participate.

The Garrett Memorial Christian School is not responsible for the safety or well-being of a student once released from school grounds during this Work Release Option.

To qualify for Work Release Option, juniors and seniors must meet certain requirements and maintain their eligibility for the entire year. Eligibility is checked at the end of each grading period, and any student who fails to maintain eligibility will have his or her Work Release Option suspended until such time as they become eligible to have it reinstated. Students who fail to qualify for Work Release Option may re-apply at the end of the semester; if they qualify, they will be given a Work Release Option for the next semester. A student's Work Release Option may be revoked at any time during the school year by the student's parent or guardian, or by the Administration as a disciplinary consequence. The final decision on any student's receipt of a Work Release Option rests with the Administrator. Parents of students, who have lost their

eligibility for a Work Release, should not call and check out the student as this undermines the school's attempt to discipline the student.

To qualify for Work Release Option, students must complete and submit a Work Release Option Application to the GMCS Office a minimum of 1 week prior to beginning work release. This Application must be signed by the student's parent or guardian and must include a viable contact phone number that allows the school to contact the student's parent or guardian. It must also include the name of the employer and his/her signature, as well as days and hours to be worked.

In addition, students must meet the following criteria:

- all required school forms must be completed and on file in the office;
- an overall grade average no lower than 2.500 (non-weighted);
- no more than two (2) tardies to school in the previous grading period;
- no more than three (3) excused absences from school in the previous grading period;
- zero (0) unexcused absences from school in the previous grading period;
- assigned no Out-of-School Suspension in the previous grading period; no deficiencies in credits or State testing for graduation purposes.

The Administration will advise students when they have been approved to have a Work Release Option. No student should act as if they have been granted a Work Release Option until they have been advised by the Administration that they have one. Students who leave school early without a Work Release Option because they believe they have one will be considered to have left school grounds without permission and will be disciplined accordingly.

Employers will be randomly contacted by phone, text, email and/or visited to monitor the student's work and attendance.

Video Monitoring

The GMCS Board recognizes that maintaining the safety and security of students, staff and school property is best implemented with a multifaceted approach. To the extent modern technology provides tools to maintain safety and security, the use of technology such as video surveillance cameras is supported by the Board.

Video surveillance may be utilized in and around GMCS property. Cameras may be equipped with audio recording capabilities as well. Video surveillance shall be in accordance with applicable laws pertaining to such use. The school also shall comply with applicable law related to maintaining video recordings.

The Administrator, under the direction of the Board, will develop regulations governing the use of video surveillance in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

Exclusions

Video and Audio monitoring is not permitted in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Recording of teacher instruction for purposes of completing a licensed personnel performance evaluation is not intended to be covered by this policy and shall not be permitted except as provided by state law. Recording of students for purposes of their educational programming is also not intended to be covered by this policy.

Placement and notification

- Video/Audio surveillance equipment may be installed in and around GMCS property where there is a legitimate need for video surveillance, as approved by the Administrator.
- Video/Audio surveillance equipment will not be used or installed in areas where the public, students and/or staff have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as locker rooms and restrooms.
- Video/Audio surveillance equipment may be in operation 24 hours per day on a year-round basis at any and all times, whether or not school is in session and whether or not the facilities or buildings are in use.
- Video monitors shall not be located in an area that enables public viewing.
- Conduct and comments in publicly accessible places on school property (e.g. school hallways, cafeterias, libraries, lobby, athletic facilities, etc.) may be recorded by video and audio devices.

Use

- The use of video surveillance equipment on school grounds shall be supervised and controlled by the Administrator and/or designee.
- Staff and students are prohibited from unauthorized use, tampering with or otherwise interfering with video recordings and/or video camera equipment. Violations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action shall be consistent with applicable Board policies and regulations and may include, but not be limited to, written reprimand, suspension, demotion or dismissal for staff and suspension and/or expulsion for students, depending upon the nature and severity of the situation.
- Video recordings may be used as evidence that a student, staff member or other person has engaged in behavior that violates state law, Board policies and/or school rules.

Storage/security

- The school shall provide reasonable safeguards including, but not limited to password protection, well-managed firewalls and controlled physical access to protect the video/audio surveillance system from hackers, unauthorized users and unauthorized use.
- Video/audio recordings will be stored for a maximum of 20 school days after the initial recording. If the Administrator know no reason for continued storage, such recordings will be erased.

- Video/Audio recordings held for review will be maintained in their original form pending resolution of the incident. Recording media will then be released for erasure, copied for authorized law enforcement agencies or retained in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

Viewing requests

Only the GMCS Administrator, School Board, and/or law enforcement representatives have access to the video recordings. Under no circumstances will the video recording be duplicated and/or removed from the premises unless in accordance with a court order or a valid subpoena.

Compliance and Exceptions

It shall be the responsibility of the School Administrator to see that records related to the use of security cameras and recordings from security cameras are sufficient to demonstrate compliance with this policy. The school will comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention.

General and Miscellaneous Information

Campus Hours

The school office is open from 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Campus Lockdown

In the event that the campus goes into “lockdown” for a terroristic threat all doors will remain locked until an all clear has been called. This means that no one other than emergency personnel will be allowed in or out of the building unless directed by emergency personnel.

In the event that students are moved to a designated shelter area within the school for a severe weather threat students and staff will remain in the area until an all clear has been given. GMCS will not release students to drive off campus or to come home during this time. If you feel that it is in the best interest for your child to be with you during a severe weather threat then you will have to come to the school to check your student out. Under no circumstances will we release a student to drive while there is a severe weather threat, even if you call.

Campus Access and Safety

Garrett Memorial Christian School is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. In order to avoid interruptions to the educational process and maintain a level of security for the students, please respect and adhere to the following policy for visiting the school.

When visiting the school, all persons (including parents) should check in at the school office before going to any area of the school. At that time, visitors must specify the particular area of the school they wish to visit and receive a visitor's pass that will need to be worn while on campus. Only GMCS students or parents (when necessary) may go past the lobby area. All visitors will need to sign out at the office when you leave. Any items to be delivered to a student must be brought to the school office from which they will be delivered at an appropriate time.

Any person who is required to register under the Arkansas Sex Offender Registration Act must follow AR Code " 5-14-132 (2024). The school reserves the right to approve, deny, limit, or supervise access to campus as permitted by law.

The following procedures apply:

- Visitors who are registered sex offenders may be required to remain under the direct supervision of a designated school employee while on campus.
- Access may be limited to specific locations and times as determined by the Administration.
- Registered sex offenders are not permitted to volunteer, chaperone field trips, coach, mentor students, or participate in activities involving direct supervision of students.
- Failure to comply with school procedures or Arkansas law may result in removal from campus, notification of law enforcement, and any other action deemed appropriate.

The Administration reserves the right to establish additional safety measures or restrictions whenever necessary to protect students, employees, and visitors. Nothing in this policy limits the school's authority to deny access to campus when permitted by law or when necessary to maintain the safety and welfare of the school community.

Change of Address

When families move during the course of a school year, it is critical that they notify the school office of this change so the school can maintain necessary and appropriate contact with the family. Notify the office of any other changes such as phone numbers, custody arrangements, etc. also.

Child Abuse/Neglect Policy

Any individual having contact with or responsibility for students at Garrett Memorial Christian School has a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse or neglect, pursuant to the Mandated Reporter Law. School personnel will report any suspected abuse or neglect to the Mandated Reporter hotline (1-800-482-5964). Anonymous reports will not be accepted. Any person required to report suspected abuse who fails to do so is subject to a fine and a jail sentence as well as being civilly liable.

Delivery and Pickup of Students

Parents will not be permitted to pick up their students from the classroom, with the exception of K4 student. Students will be sent to the office for early pick up. K4 students may be picked up daily at their classroom. Students in K5-3rd grade are picked up under the drive through awning, and grades 4-5 may be picked up at the front of the main building. Students in grades 6-12 will be picked up in the front of the main building as well.

Emergency Calls

A forgotten assignment is not an emergency, nor is a student's desire to ask parental permission to bring home a friend or go home with a friend. School personnel will make the final judgment on emergency calls.

School officials will make calls to parents if the student is too ill to be at school. Please do not tell a student to call home if he/she is not feeling well.

Health and Safety Issues

Distribution and Consumption of Medication

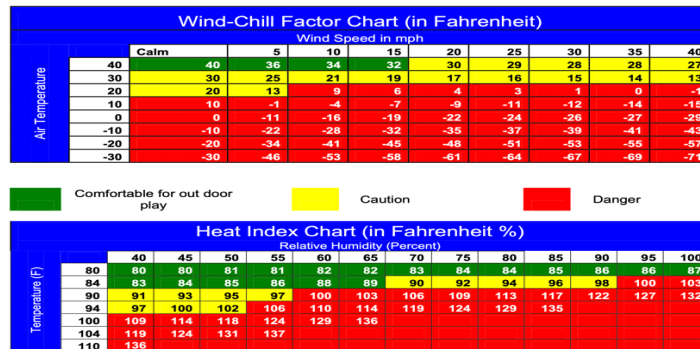
Students who are ill or hurt at school will be brought to the office. The Administrator and/or designee will determine the appropriate action to be taken.

Medication directions should be clear and the medication times should be set to coincide with lunch or other breaks to avoid undue loss of time. Non-prescription drugs such as Tylenol will be given only if a medication release form is on file in the nurse's office. Students of any age will not be allowed to take any medication without a teacher or the Administrator being present.

Extreme Weather Conditions

The GMCS Administrator and teachers will monitor extreme temperatures, as well as, wind-chill factors and heat indexes to determine playground activity each day. Children may not be allowed to play outdoors if temperatures are considered extreme, as determined by the *Child Care Weather Watch* (<https://www.c-uphd.org/documents/wellness/weatherwatch.pdf>). Parents should watch the weather forecast and conditions and dress students appropriately.

Child Care Weather Watch



Injuries

In case of minor abrasions and cuts, the injury will be cleaned and bandaged. Parents will be notified when deemed appropriate by school personnel. Prescription drugs in their original container must be given to the office with written instructions as to how they are to be administered. Outdated drugs or directions contrary to directions on the original container will not be given.

Illnesses and Fever

Parents will be called if the administrators and/or designee determine the student would be better treated in the confines of a loving home environment. Students who are vomiting, have diarrhea, or have a fever over 100.4° should not be sent to school. Parents will be called if students show such symptoms. Parents or their designee should pick up their student within one hour. Parents of students driving their own vehicles will be contacted so that both school and parents are aware of the action to be taken concerning their illness. Students should be symptom free and fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Lice/scabies/other parasites

Students will be sent home if head or body lice, scabies, or other parasites are found. They may return to school after treatment and all nits are removed, or in a case not related to lice, upon receipt of a written doctor's release. Approval for return must be given by the presentation of a doctor's or health clinic permit.

Other contagious illnesses

No student should be at school with any contagious disease, including conjunctivitis, ringworm or other contagious skin disorders. Parents will be called to pick up their student immediately. They may not return until the normal incubation period for the contagious disease has passed or must have a doctor's permit to return to school.

In the event of a pandemic, some illnesses may require a longer quarantine.

Lost and Found Items

Student uniforms, backpacks, and other items should be labeled or marked with student's name. Items not retrieved in a timely fashion will be sold or placed in the school closet for emergencies.

Volunteering with Students

Garrett Memorial Christian School believes it is a blessing and an honor to serve Christ through serving our students. Because of this honor, we want to be fully responsible to serving our students to the best of our ability. The following guidelines will help us to choose volunteers who align with our mission of serving students in a safe manner

- Volunteers must complete the GMCS Volunteer Application Form. This online form will be made available to interested volunteers upon request.
- Clear boundaries help ensure a safe, respectful, and professional environment for all students. They protect students from harm, protect volunteers from false allegations, prevent misunderstandings, and support positive, appropriate relationships between staff and families. Boundaries are guidelines that define appropriate interactions between students and adults.
- GMCS administration believe that students need a safe and supportive environment to thrive socially, learn, and achieve the high academic standards that are expected of them. Since students learn from example, staff, faculty and volunteers are expected to uphold the safe and civil environment built throughout our school community. All members of the community are to demonstrate grace, forgiveness, compassion, and use the biblical principles of respect and conflict resolution. All volunteers are to uplift each student and show them respect, care, and Christian love.
- All volunteers must complete an Educational Sexual Awareness Training and undergo a Background Check through Ministry Safe. This background check will be at no cost to volunteers. After completion of the background check, all background checks are stored on a secure network through Ministry Safe.
- Volunteers may wear clean, casual clothing in a modest style. Volunteers may not wear crop tops or midriff baring tops, low cut tops, or clothing with inappropriate messages or images. Clothing should not hinder the volunteer's ability to engage with or assist students in a variety of activities and tasks including active movements. Specifically, when helping outside, athletic shoes are recommended. On field trips; you are encouraged to wear your child's class color to show your class/school spirit.
- All staff members have been trained in all safety procedures and protocols. If an emergency arises, please follow all staff instructions in order to keep you and others safe.
- Volunteers must sign in and out at the office when reporting for volunteering opportunities.
- When volunteering, please report directly to the staff member you are working with.
- Please do not wander the school grounds or visit other classrooms.
- In order to ensure the safety of our students, please report any suspicious visitors or individuals on the premises.

- If you witness a conflict or physical altercation between two or more students, please get a GMCS staff member to address the situation immediately. Please give the staff member as much information as possible so they can work with the students on resolving the conflict.
- Student privacy is important and we ask that you not share information about anything you saw regarding other students with other parents. Inform a staff member of any noteworthy observations.
- Volunteers are asked to not be on their phones during their volunteering. If you need to take a phone call, please let the supervising teacher know so you can step away from your volunteering responsibilities.
- Students are not permitted to engage with a volunteer's phone in any capacity during field trips, recess, lunch, or during in-class activities.
- Every behavior a child demonstrates is rooted in an underlying reason, positive or negative. Positive reinforcement or redirection are the initial forms of discipline with children. If the above methods do not succeed in helping the child demonstrate appropriate behavior, then the next method of discipline should be removal from the area to a safe space where the behavior can be addressed and resolved. Behaviors requiring removal from the activity or space should be brought to a GMCS staff member immediately.
- While volunteering in classrooms, adult volunteers will not be permitted to be alone one-on-one with students in the classroom, bathroom, or other areas of the school premises. Volunteers may be alone with groups of students for short periods of time such as lunchroom help or classroom help. Volunteers must engage with, assist, and support students in the capacity of the volunteering opportunity. Volunteers should not use their time engaging with other adults as in a social setting or be on their phone, but must focus their attention on the children or the task they were assigned. Following are other guidelines that should be followed when volunteering with students:
 - Siblings are not permitted to attend volunteering opportunities with parents.
 - If you need to have a private conversation with a student, have the conversation in a public place - not behind closed doors or in a room or vehicle alone.
 - A GMCS volunteer should never talk to a student negatively about other students.
 - Ask another volunteer or staff member to stay until parents pick up all students so that you never find yourself alone with a student.
 - Never transport a student anywhere alone. If a student needs a ride, do not agree to drive them if you and the student will be alone. Arrange to have another adult or student ride with you. If that's not possible, it's OK to say no.
 - Maintain healthy and safe physical boundaries with students at all times. This means setting boundaries for yourself, but it may also mean setting and enforcing boundaries with students who push physical limits. If you have any questions about what is or is not appropriate, talk to our staff, and always err on the side of caution.
 - Touching should have no appearance of wrongdoing.
 - Hugs and other forms of appropriate affection between workers and students are important for a child's development and are generally suitable. However, do your best to make all hugs "side hugs" without making it a full-frontal hug.

- Touching and affection should only be given when in the presence of supervisory staff. It is much less likely that touches will be inappropriate or misconstrued as such when two adult workers are present, and the touching is open to observation.
- A student's preference not to be touched should be respected. Do not force affection upon a reluctant youth.
- Volunteers must abstain from all forms and degrees of extramarital sex, homosexual activity, pornography, and any kind of sexual impurity (I Corinthians 6:18-20). Each leader must conduct themselves appropriately with members of both sexes.
- When online, volunteers should separate themselves from all questionable photos, language, or content (Ephesians 4:29, 5:3-4), maintaining an online presence that is above reproach.

Who to Call

The following list tells who to call for assistance in the areas indicated. If you need assistance in an area that is not listed, call the main school office and ask to be directed to the appropriate person.

Question:

Attendance issues
Homework concern
Calendar question
Graduation requirements
Athletic Questions

Call:

School office
Student's teacher
School office
Registrar's office
Student's Coach/Athletic Director

Right To Amend

Garrett Memorial Christian School reserves the right to amend, or prescribe rules and policies for dress, appearance, or any other unforeseen problems that may arise at any time during the school year. The school expects full cooperation from both students and parents in the education of the students, in adherence to all school plans, policies, and regulations.

A parent should never undermine any aspect of the school program and is requested to refrain from any comments, which would be against the school, other students, or parents.

There are proper channels, which have been outlined in this handbook, in which the problems or disagreements can be discussed. *Only through proper channels can we solve the problems to the satisfaction of all concerned.*

Corrective Discipline

The primary purpose of GMCS is to raise Christ-like citizens who exhibit excellence in education and strength in character. Student discipline is necessary for the welfare of the student as well as the entire school. Each teacher is given the responsibility and authority to maintain order in the classroom that is conducive to learning. Certain behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

God is a God of order (I Corinthians 14:33), mercy (Numbers 14:18), justice (I John 1:9), and love (I John 4:8). In His perfect love and by His matchless mercy, He disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:5-6) because He knows that proper discipline brings about God-glorifying fruit (Hebrews 12:11). We at GMCS strive for that graceful balance between order, mercy, justice, and love because our positions of authority have been granted to us by God for training the next generation of Christians and instructing them in the ways of God (Romans 13:1-5). Therefore, we believe that all behavioral management policies and practices at GMCS have to be based on Scriptural principles (II Timothy 3:16-17), be conducted with meekness (James 3:13), and must be consistent and fair as not to frustrate, discourage, or provoke to wrath our students (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21). Because the Bible is our standard of truth, any behavior that deviates from this standard is called sin (Romans 3:21-23). When a student's behavior counters our instruction or core values then we must immediately, effectively, directly, and lovingly correct the student as to (1) stop the offense, (2) prevent others from acting in a similar manner, and (3) initiate change in the heart and mind of the student. The heart of our behavioral management plan is to move the mentality of our students from submitting to a system of rules and regulations to a lifestyle of honoring God via making wise choices and voluntarily following His ways with all their hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

The offenses listed below are to be considered examples of the various classes or categories of offenses; no claim is made that these constitute an inclusive list. The disciplinary consequences listed as appropriate for each category of offenses are not listed in the order in which they are to be employed by school personnel. Rather, the consequences listed merely constitute a range of responses, within each category, from which school authorities may choose based on their judgment by the seriousness of the offense. GMCS reserves the right to expel any student upon recommendation of the Administrator and approval of the GMCS School Board. Any offense not specified below will be categorized by the appropriate GMCS personnel. In case of criminal activity, appropriate authorities shall be notified.

It is not our design to displace parental authority or responsibility, but to cooperate in maintaining a Christian testimony for our school. Students are expected to abide by these standards throughout their enrollment at GMCS. This includes both in-term and out-of-term, at school, home or any other place. Students found to be out of harmony with GMCS ideals of work and life may be asked to withdraw.

The following chart is primarily used for 7th-12th grade students; however, this chart of discipline may be applied to younger students. Any other offense of a major nature will result in disciplinary action consistent with the above. Final disposition of any offence will be left to the administrator and/or board of directors. Suspension, withdraws for up to five days, revokes a student's privilege of participation in any school-sponsored event involving the student's class or grade level. Expulsion dismisses the student from the school. The school board will determine the possibility of any future readmission to the school.

	1st offense	2nd offense	3rd offense
Act of Profanity, Vulgarity	3 day suspension and parent conference or possible expulsion	5 day suspension or possible expulsion	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion
Bullying of any student, faculty member or family member	5 day suspension or possible expulsion and parent conference	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion	
Cell phone or smart watch in possession	3 days detention and parent must come pick up phone/smart watch.	3 days suspension.	Disciplinary hearing with School Board.
Cheating or plagiarism	Student counseled, 2 days detention, parent notified, a zero for grade	3 days suspension, parent conference, and zero for grade	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion
Disorderly conduct; horseplay in halls, bathroom classrooms	3 days detention.	Parent conference, 1 day suspension.	3 days suspension or possible expulsion.
Fighting	5 day suspension or possible expulsion and parent conference	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion	
Food (including gum and candy) or drink (other than water) in the classrooms, lockers, or hallways	1 day of after-school detention.	2 days of after-school detention.	3-day suspension and parent conference.
Gross disrespect or disobedience directed toward school personnel to overtly challenge those in authority	5 day suspension and parent conference	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion.	
Homework violation (not turning homework in without excuse)	2 days of after-school detention	3 days of after-school detention and parent conference	
If a student pleads guilty or is found guilty of a crime by law enforcement	Punishment will be left up to the school administrator and/or board of directors depending on the severity of the crime		
Lying to school faculty or staff	Principal's Discretion and parent conference	3 day suspension and parent conference	5 day suspension and/or expulsion and parent conference
Possession of guns, knives, or any weapon on school property	5 day suspension and parent conference, possible expulsion	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion	
Possession of Obscene/occult material (on or off campus)	5 day suspension or possible expulsion and parent conference	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion	
Possession of Personal Computer at school	1 day suspension and parent conference	3 days suspension and parent conference	5 days suspension and possible expulsion
Public Displays of Affection (see p. 34)	Parent conference and 3 days of detention	3 days of suspension and parent conference	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion

Sexting, social networking using inappropriate language and/or pictures/videos	5 day suspension and parent conference, possible expulsion	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion	
Sexual immorality, sexual misconduct, or promoting or participating in a homosexual or transgender lifestyle	Parent conference and 5 days suspension or expulsion	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion	
Stealing	Restitution of property, possible suspension and parent conference	Restitution, 5 days suspension and parent conference	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion
Students caught outside of the designated area they have been assigned to	2 days of detention parent conference	3 day suspension and parent conference	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion
Terroristic threatening (verbal or written), including lists of students/teachers to harm	Parent conference, recommend to the board of directors for expulsion, local law enforcement notified		
Truancy; Skipping class	3 day suspension and parent conference. Unexcused absence and 0's on work.	5 day suspension and parent conference. Unexcused absence and 0's on work.	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion
Unsafe driving, speeding, loud music, etc... on campus	10 day suspension of driving privileges on campus and parent conference	20 day suspension, parent conference	Loss of driving privileges on campus for a full calendar year
Use, Possession or Distribution of alcohol in any form	3 day suspension and parent conference.	5 day suspension and parent conference. Unexcused absence and 0's on work.	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion
Use, Possession or Distribution of tobacco or e-cigarette (Juil, Vape Stick, E-hookah, etc.) in any form	3 day suspension and parent conference	5 day suspension and parent conference. Unexcused absence and 0's on work.	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion
Use, Possession, or Distribution of illegal drugs or mishandling of prescription/non- prescription drugs, including CBD edibles (on or off campus)*	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion		
Vandalism of school property or private property belonging to school personnel or other student families	Restitution for property damage and 3 day suspension or possible expulsion	Recommend to the board of directors for expulsion	

* Any Medication must be administered by school office personnel only. A student who is taking a medication and discovers after arriving at school that they have medication with them will not be considered guilty of an offense if it is presented to the office upon discovery.

Standards of Conduct

Garrett Memorial Christian School holds that the Bible is the infallible, divine Word of God and that salvation by faith in Christ is the initial step in the Christian life. There is adequate Biblical basis for the idea of spiritual growth into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) through the work of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18). This growth begins at the initial moment of saving faith and continues through life. The Holy Spirit makes the Christian conscious of the Biblical demands for a holy life which fulfills both God's moral law and high law of love (Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14). The result is a life consecrated unto God and separated from worldly activities.

Being holy is not being perfect. It's letting Him who is holy be in you. We can't be holy on our own, but we can make choices that allow holiness and purity to be manifested in our lives.

A sense of the need for spiritual growth in our students has led Garrett Memorial Christian School to adopt the following standards which are based upon Biblical principles and are conducive to the spiritual growth and development of young people. Students are expected to live by the following standards throughout their enrollment, whether at home, school, or elsewhere and regardless of whether or not school is in session:

- Maintain Christian standards in courtesy, kindness, honesty, morality, dress, social media and entertainment.
- Refrain from participating in worldly activities such as swearing or indecent language, smoking, possession or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco, involvement in the occult, stealing, pornography, premarital sex, sexual immorality, extra-marital activity, homosexuality, transgenderism, wearing of certain apparel that would support the gay, lesbian, homosexual, transgenderism, sexual immoral lifestyles or other perverted lifestyles, involvement in un-wholesome music (Leviticus 18:22, Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5-10)
- Refrain from harassment, fighting, violence, or threats of any kind; public disruptions or exhibitionism in any form; promoting division or a divisive spirit through symbols, pictures, writing, flags, banners, slogans, gang-related items, or any divisive activism.

Students found to be out of compliance or harmony with GMCS Standards of Conduct may be subject to administrative consequences, notwithstanding withdrawal. Any student who has been arrested by public law enforcement authorities will be suspended until such time as that student is adjudicated either guilty or not-guilty. Any student who is adjudicated guilty will be dismissed from Garrett Memorial Christian School.

Garrett Memorial Christian School has open enrollment and therefore some of our students may not be Christians; however, our desire is to see all of our students become Christians. Whether or not a student has made a personal decision to be a Christian, each student will be expected to abide by these Standards of Conduct and maintain Christian standards. Attendance at GMCS is a privilege, not a right.

Garrett Memorial Christian School 2026-2027

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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August 2026

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September 2026

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October 2026

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November 2026

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December 2026

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January 2027

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February 2027

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28						

March 2027

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April 2027

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May 2027

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June 2027

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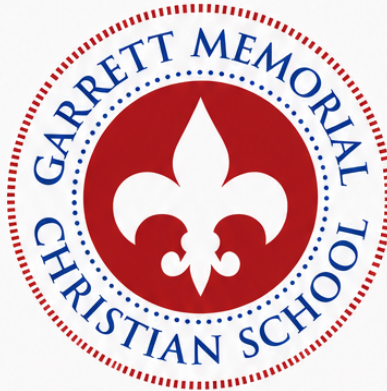
	Teacher Inservice
	Open House
	1st day of school/ 1st day 2nd semester
	School closed
	Parent/Teacher Conferences-Progress Reports
	Progress Reports 2nd and 4th quarters
	Report Cards go out
	Finals - half day for all students
	Stanford 10 Testing
	End of 1st & 3rd quarters
	Senior's Last Day
	Senior Commencement - 6:00 pm - Hempstead Hall
	K4-K5 Last Day of School
	K4-K5 Graduation

9 weeks & Finals schedule

- 1st - August 12-October 8
- 2nd - October 13-December 18
- 1st semester finals - December 17-18
- 3rd - January 6-March 5
- 4th - March 8-May 20
- 2nd semester finals - May 19-20

Holidays

- September 7, 2026 - Labor Day
- October 12, 2026 - Columbus Day
- November 26, 2026 - Thanksgiving Day
- December 25, 2026 - Christmas Day
- January 1, 2027 - New Year's Day
- January 18, 2027 - Martin Luther King Day
- February 15, 2027 - President's Day
- March 26, 2027 - Good Friday



SAINTS

VALUES

S

Serve selflessly

A

Act courageously

I

Inspire excellently

N

Navigate wisely

T

Take responsibility

S

Share joy generously

SAINTS