

## **District Overview**

Greenville County Schools is the largest school system in South Carolina and the 51st largest public school system in the nation. We are a consolidated, unified system formed in 1951 when 82 local school districts merged. Greenville County Schools serves the 800-square miles of the county, plus parts of Laurens and Spartanburg counties.

Greenville County Schools is recognized nationally, having received National Accreditation from the AdvancED Accreditation Commission.

## **Academic Program Highlights**

### **Baldrige Schools**

In an effort to drive educational excellence, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and Carolina First implemented the Baldrige Continuous Quality Improvement program in many Greenville County Schools. This coaching and training program helps to promote continuous improvement and performance excellence for students, teachers, administrators, and school system personnel.

### **County-wide International Baccalaureate Programs**

Schools across Greenville County offer the International Baccalaureate Primary, Middle Years, and Diploma Programs. All programs maintain international standards of excellence.

The IB Primary Years Program, for students in grades kindergarten through five, focuses on the development of the whole child.

The IB Middle Years Program, for grades six through ten, prepares students for the Diploma Program and requires mastery in eight required academic areas.

The IB Diploma Program, for students in grades eleven and twelve, measures student performance against well-defined levels of achievement. IB Diploma students are required to submit internal assessments and take international examinations in six subject areas which are graded by IB examiners world-wide; write a 4,000-word essay; and complete 150 hours of community service over the course of the program.

### **Fine Arts Center**

The Fine Arts Center of Greenville County, the first secondary school for specialized arts instruction in South Carolina, was established in 1974. Students apply to the center and are selected on the basis of talent, interest, motivation, and commitment to their discipline and are able to study theatre, dance, visual arts, music, music engineering, creative writing, and digital film making. Each year over 400 students attend the Fine Arts Center, and, of that number, over 95 percent go on to higher education.

### **Magnet Schools**

Eleven magnet academies offer unique educational choices to the students of Greenville County. Magnet schools offer specialized curricula in world languages, math, science,

and technology, communication arts, global studies and traditional studies, International Baccalaureate, pre-engineering, health professions, and business, law and finance.

### **Roper Mountain Science Center**

Roper Mountain Science Center provides year-round formal academic and enrichment lessons for students in science, health and social studies. Schools from other districts in the state may participate in the center's programs for a fee. The Science PLUS Institute provides teachers from across the state with training in hands-on science instruction. Summer Discovery Camps offer learning opportunities for K-9<sup>th</sup> graders. The center is open to the public on the second Saturday of each month from 9am to 1pm. The planetarium and observatory are open every Friday night from 7pm to 10pm except during the month of December. For more information phone 355-8900 or go to [www.ropermountain.org](http://www.ropermountain.org).

### **Sterling School with Charles Townes Gifted Center**

The Charles Townes Gifted Center provides gifted and talented students with a highly challenging, full-time instructional program that enriches, accelerates, and extends the program of studies in Greenville County Schools.

### **Washington Center**

Washington Center is a unique “one of a kind” facility serving students ages 5 to 21 with severe mental disabilities. Many of these students have challenges such as autism, blindness, deafness, or physical disabilities.

### **SAT Online Program**

High school students can access a free online SAT Prep program. The Internet-based program features over 600 practice tests and questions, detailed answer explanations, personalized score reports, interactive instruction, and sample essay questions and student responses. The course is available anytime from any computer with Internet access with an authorization code, provided by the school.

### **Online Learning**

Online Learning allows high school students to earn one unit of course credit during the school year. These rigorous programs are easily accessible to qualifying students with online capabilities at home who need a unit to graduate on time with his or her class. All assessments must be taken at the school site under the guidance of a teacher or counselor. To enroll, the student must be enrolled in a full schedule of required core courses.

### **Credit Recovery**

Online credit recovery courses are offered to high school students who fail a required course (English, math, science, or social studies) with a grade of 62 or higher. A pretest allows the curriculum to be tailored to the student's individual needs. Credit recovery courses are offered on school premises either before or after the regular school day, and students are allowed to take the next sequenced course (ex. Algebra II) while completing the credit recovery class (Algebra I).

**School Construction**

GCS is nearing completion of its district-wide school construction program. Students across Greenville County attend quality school facilities with similar features. Equity is ensured as construction standards are the same for all schools serving the same grade levels. Each school is a state-of-the-art facility with classrooms of adequate size, innovative lab spaces, music and band rooms, infrastructure to support the latest technology providing the means for research and development of ideas, and improved environmental features such as better lighting and heating/air-conditioning. The positive learning environment helps motivate students and teachers each day.