



# GREENVILLE EARLY COLLEGE

225 S. Pleasantburg Drive • Greenville, SC 29607 • 864-355-7560

*Marjon A. Ford, Principal*

## ***From the Desk of Mrs. Ford...***

I hope that you have had a wonderful, adventure filled Summer Break. We have been anxiously awaiting and preparing for the start of school. We look forward to all of the stories and smiling faces that you will bring to us in just a few short weeks. We are continuously working to build a culture of high expectations and innovative experiences that produce students that are creative, collaborative, civic minded, college bound and career ready. We understand that with time, support, effective effort and choices, all of our students will learn at high levels and grow their intelligence.

As a school we believe:

- In the principles of trust, respect, and responsibility.
- That the obstacles presented by life will not prohibit our growth or future success.
- We build lifelong learners by educating the mind and heart.
- In the extraordinary pursuit of excellence and its ability to change a community.

As a school we will:

- Provide all students a rigorous and engaging learning experience.
- Provide students with course choices and equal access.
- Provide additional support that students need to be successful.
- Ensure all students are positively connected to school.
- Teach students how to learn and how to grow their intelligence.

As parents/guardians, in order to ensure academic success, your commitment may include:

- Staying informed (through our website, newsletters, and direct communications with staff in email or phone calls).
- Getting involved in activities, committees, parent nights, and whole school activities.
- Being directly involved in your student(s)' educational experiences. They still need you!

As a student, in order to ensure academic success you must:

- Be at school every day, on time, well rested and with a healthy breakfast. Consistent practice over time is how people learn best.
- Give 100% positive energy and effort every day you are in school. Smart is something you become through effort.
- Be respectful, responsible and academically curious. We are a community of learners here.
- Cultivate your own growth! Take advantage of all of the activities, opportunities and experiences we provide and share those that might be important to you.
- Plan from day one your expectations for success. Take advantage of your time here to develop, learn, and grow in academics, creativity, leadership, awareness through all of the opportunities that we offer.
- When you are having difficulty, lean in and work harder; when you make mistakes, use it as an opportunity to grow and learn!
- Believe in yourself - you have the capacity to do GREAT things.

I am extremely excited about the start of a new and wonderful school year. I am proud of the thoughtful planning, dedication, creative and collaborative efforts of our dynamic teaching staff to create a culture of personal growth and academic success. There is a significant amount of information included in this communication. I encourage you to read it thoroughly. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have questions and thank you for all that you do to help us Develop a College State of Mind!

## School Supplies for 2019 – 2020

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

- Earbuds (wired, not Bluetooth)
- Backpack with protective computer sleeve or compartment
- 2" Heavy duty binder (will be used for core courses)
- 4 composition notebooks (100 sheets each)
- 5 tab dividers
- Notebook paper (4 packs)
- Pencils (lots of pencils)
- Personal pencil sharpener
- Pens
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Glue Sticks (6 pack)
- Highlighters (2 different colors)
- Clear tape

#### Team Wish List

- Antibacterial Wipes (Lysol, Clorox)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Dry Erase Markers
- Old toy no longer needed at home (can be anything)

#### High School Supplies

- Earbuds (wired, not Bluetooth)
- Backpack with protective computer sleeve or compartment
- 2" Heavy duty binder (will be used for all core courses)
- 4 Composition Notebooks
- Notebook Paper
- Pencils
- Pens
- Highlighter

#### Team Wish List

- Antibacterial Wipes (Lysol, Clorox)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Dry Erase Markers

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

- Earbuds (wired, not Bluetooth)
- Backpack with protective computer sleeve or compartment
- 2" Heavy duty binder (will be used for all core courses)
- 4 composition notebooks (100 sheets each)
- 5 tab dividers plus plain dividers for sections
- Notebook paper (4 packs)
- Pencils (lots of pencils)
- Personal pencil sharpener
- Pens
- Colored pencils (12 pack)
- Glue Sticks
- Highlighters
- Clear Tape

#### Team Wish List

- Antibacterial Wipes (Lysol, Clorox)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Poster board (white and colored)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Recyclable materials (empty bottles – various sizes, cardboard boxes, pool noodles, etc)



Any additional supplies required for a specific course will be provided on the first day of school for students.

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### Back to School Night

We will have our Annual Back to School Night on **Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8pm**. We will have student schedules, transportation, Parent Backpack, Echo Learning for parents and a chance to meet teachers. We will also have stations for Communities in Schools, Greenville Tech Early College and Quick Jobs, USC Upstate, Greenville Hospital System, Goodwill Good Guides, TRIO programs and much more! Come join us. We can't wait to see you!

## **New Faculty & Staff to the Early College**

### *Dr. Jessie Aquino - Mathematics*

Mr. Aquino is coming to the Early College from the Philippines. He has been teaching for 14 years. He has also done research and presented at numerous International Symposiums. Dr. Aquino considers himself a people person and enjoys photography as a hobby.

### *Mr. John Cochran, III - English*

Mr. Cochran will be joining Ms. Bradley in English this year. He is join us from NEXT High School where he taught English, Journalism and Film Criticism. He enjoys papermaking and refurbishing old furniture.

### *Mrs. Dorothy Earle - Mathematics*

Mrs. Earle has served Greenville County in a variety of capacities, most recently as a math coach through Title 1 for Tanglewood Middle School. She has an extensive STEM background and serves in her church as a Youth Leader. She will continue to work on developing math students in her new role.

### *Ms. Le'Tasha Ferguson - School Counselor & Teen Leadership*

Ms. Ferguson is not really new to us but will be joining us full time this year as she wears two hats as a school counselor for grades 6-8 and instructs the Teen Leadership course. We are excited to have her on a more permanent basis.

### *Mrs. Karen Harris - Literacy Support*

Mrs. Harris has served as an ADEPT teacher leader for Greenville County Schools and most recently an English teacher at Fisher Middle School. She is excited about taking on a new challenge of Literacy Support for students in grades 6-8. She has several college athletes that call her Mom.

### *Ms. Lydia Moore - Exceptional Learning Support*

Ms. Moore is joining us from Carolina High School where she served as a part of an integrated course inclusion team. She has also provided resource support for students with learning exceptionalities and as the advisor for several clubs and organizations on campus. She is interested in supporting students and teachers earlier in the learning process.

### *Mr. Barry Starling - Mathematics Support*

Mr. Starling has most recently served as a consultant supporting underperforming businesses as they work to reestablish themselves. He shared a story with us about how when he was younger he counted the amount of time it took for his parents to return home in seconds, always interested in learning how to figure things out. He has visited several times at the end of the year and jumped right into the teaching experience. He will assume the role of Math Support for students in grades 6 - 8.

### *Ms. Alba Villalobos - Spanish*

Ms. Villalobos is joining us as an International Teacher from Colombia, Central America by way of Byrnes High School. She previously taught Spanish Language to students and adults that were going back to school in an adult education program. She is interested in learning about how to incorporate a variety of learning strategies and diverse cultures into her teaching to share with her native country.

### *Ms. Jean Williams - Virtual Learning*

Ms. Williams is joining us from Woodmont High School where she coordinated Virtual Learning for students there. She has worked as a teacher and administrator in an Early College setting and is really excited to join us and create support and structure for the students in virtual learning.

## **Communication**

It is important that we communicate important information in a timely manner. Below are several ways that we will communicate with you. Please be sure to check out all of our information and our website to have the most current information impacting your students.

### *Website Information*

The school website is [www.greenville.k12.sc.us/ec/](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/ec/)

In addition to the website each teacher will have a website with their most current information, points of contact and important information for their courses and grade levels. Please be sure to check them out to find out what is happening in your students class.

## ECHO

Echo is the learning platform that we use with our students. It helps us to upload information to support their learning process. Currently Echo **does not** communicate with the Parent Portal or the **NEW** Parent Backpack. It will be important that parents connect with us to get their own parent account for ECHO. This will help you see what students are working on during the school year. We will host a few sessions to teach parents how to operate the Parent Echo account. Stay tuned for more information.



Greenville County Schools Backpack for Parents

### *Parent Portal and NEW Parent Backpack*

Greenville County is launching a new Parent Backpack. **This will replace the Parent Portal.** The purpose of the **NEW** Parent Backpack is to allow easier access to student information for parents. If you have a current parent portal account you will have to create and authorize a new account. You can find the Backpack icon for students and parents on the Greenville County Students and Parents page.

### **What is a backpack for parents account?**

A backpack for parents account provides parents, guardians, or contacts with a central place to sign in to do the following:

1. View their student's information including demographics, attendance, classes, grades, lunch balances, and test scores.
2. Apply or register their student to Special Focus schools and programs (Fine Arts Center, Career Centers, etc.)
3. Receive alerts and notifications regarding their students.
4. View their student's school and contact information.
5. Manage parent and contact information for their students.

Check out: <https://parents.gcsbackpack.com/signin.aspx?fth=parent>

"How does this work?" is located at the bottom of the screen for these steps and a video.

### **Okay, great! So how do I get started?**

Simply sign up for a backpack account, confirm your email by clicking the link in the email that will get sent to you. Then sign in.

### **I get it now. I'm ready to: Sign In / Sign Up.**

For more information, visit our Questions & Answers page.

Note: Backpack for parents accounts are for parents, guardians, and contacts of current or future Greenville County School students.

### **School Families, Emails and Phone Calls**

This year each student will be assigned to a school family (Homerom). The teacher of each school family will serve as the primary point of contact regarding events and information happening at the Early College. Please feel free to reach out to them if you have questions or concerns about your student. Additionally, each teacher has a district email where you can communicate with them directly about student specific needs. During the school day teachers are unable to receive calls directly in their classroom. Each teacher has a personal voicemail account. Please feel free to call and leave us a message. We will work to return your calls in a timely manner.

## Professional Dress Standard

We have a professional dress standard for all students. A professional dress standard is slightly different than a uniform. Our goal is not to have all the students dress alike; it is to set the stage for developing a college state of mind and to establish a standard of quality that sets our students apart from other students within the community, the state and the nation.



Our professional dress standard includes the following items:

- Jeans or khaki pants, skirts, or shorts that are free of holes and torn pieces. Skirts and shorts should come past the fingertips when hands are by their side.
- Collared shirts (specific colors are not required).
- Belts should be worn with any attire that has belt loops. Pants, shorts, and skirts should be at or above the student's waist.
- Any attire that is under the top layers of clothing is considered underwear and should not be visible to the eye.
- Dresses should have collars, or "capped" sleeves. Any other type of dress must be accompanied by a sweater, jacket, or blazer.
- Shoes should be appropriate for a variety of college and career opportunities and should not resemble house shoes, athletic slides, or prohibit the student from engaging in experiences where closed-toed shoes are required.
- Students that have met the expectations for Attendance (not missing more than three days in the quarter), Behavior (students may not have ISS or OSS) and Course performance (must be passing all of their classes) will be allowed to wear GEC Swag on Fridays.
- Athletic apparel like yoga pants, sweats, basketball shorts are examples of appropriate dress for physical fitness; however, they are not appropriate for our learning environment
- Students should take time to ensure all hair grooming occurs prior to arrival. Hoods, hats, scarves and hair rags (non-religious head coverings) are not appropriate in the professional learning expectations of our environment and should be addressed prior to entering the building in the morning.

## Purpose

A professional dress standard...

- Helps to maintain the standard for high expectations for personal presentation in our professional environment (similar to the way that nurses and doctors dress) based on the requirements of the job they perform daily.
- Influences the way that the community views students and potential opportunities they are willing to provide to students
- Encourages students to express creativity in a variety of ways.

## Parent Support Needed

At this time we do not have space or resources for a clothes closet. We also do not have a place to put students that fail to meet the professional dress standard. If a student reports to school outside of the professional dress standard we will ask them to make contact with a parent to secure the appropriate clothing and we will attempt to return them to class. If a change cannot be made the student will receive a warning in the form of a written referral and return to class. If the issue continues the students will escalate through the school-wide discipline plan which includes a parent conference and may result in ISS or OSS if a resolution cannot be reached. We believe that students must be in class to learn. We will make every attempt to keep them in class. Thank you in advance for your help with this.



## Beginning of the Year Interest Survey

Please take a moment to complete the 2019 - 2020 Beginning of the Year Parent Survey. The purpose of the survey is primarily to connect you to information and resources. We also need help from you to connect our students to opportunities and resources that you might have to offer. Your voice in how we grow as a school is important. Please take a few minutes to complete this information for us.

To access the form please visit: <https://forms.gle/BEKBWUUSnYfRyWJz7>

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### Transportation

At the end of July the Transportation department began running routes for the Early College Program. If you have not received any communication about your student's bus route please come by the office to fill out a transportation form. A completed form is required to route students. Additionally, transportation will be at our Back to School Night on August 14<sup>th</sup>. They will not be able to route students at that time unless a stop already exists. It takes approximately two weeks to get a student on a bus route. Please make sure that you have this information in a timely manner. We only provide transportation to students that are zoned for Tanglewood, Lakeview, and Carolina.

Parents can access the transportation form in English and Spanish by visiting the transportation website. It can be found on the district home page under the Departments tab.

### *Athletics*

We will provide transportation for athletics at the end of the day to Tanglewood, Lakeview and Carolina. An additional form is required for students to ride the shuttle bus. This will be distributed with the back to school information.

### *Daily Shuttles*

Each day we run several shuttles for students. We provide transportation for students that are involved in the 9:00am course at the Fine Arts Center, morning and afternoon classes at Donaldson Career Center, and to classes at Greenville Tech. Additionally, we provide weekly transportation for high school Science to Greenville Tech for students to engage in authentic Science labs at the college. It is important that students arrive on time in order to meet the shuttle schedule.

### *Student Parking*

Students that are eligible to drive are allowed to park in the University Center parking lot at no charge to them. A copy of the student's driver's license, insurance policy holder, year, make, model, color and license plate of the car that the student will be driving is required to register the car on our campus. Any car driven to school by our student located in the University Center parking lot are subject to search and seizure as it is outlined in School Board Policy JCAB.

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### Personalized Learning

It is the expectation of Greenville County that students have access to high quality instruction with the appropriate tools and resources to engage in learning. Almost 200 new Chromebooks will be provided to students this year. As a result of this recent refresh we will take the time to teach students about the appropriate use and care of our new technology. Students will be required to pay a \$5.00 technology fee **and** complete the personalized learning training sessions in order to get their computers. More information about our technology expectations for students will come home with the back to school materials. Students will participate in the learning and training during the course of the school day. Students will have access to technology daily; however it will not come home until we deploy new devices to students in late September.

## Academic Updates

### *Virtual Learning*

Virtual Learning is a significant component of our instructional program. We use virtual learning in the following ways:

1. Increase the level of and pace of a course for students based on their strengths (giving students access to honors level courses that are not offered in our coaching program).
2. Offer an elective course to students that is not offered through one of our other programs.
3. Provide a non-traditional learning experience for students that is more similar to the experience that might find on the college level.
4. Accelerate the learning for students so that they can access high school or college courses earlier in their academic experience.

Almost all students in grades 8 - 12 will have a virtual course during their time in the Early College Program. We use Greenville County Virtual School and SC Virtual to provide instruction as our virtual learning providers. Virtual classes are taught by teachers outside of the Early College Program. Students enrolled in virtual learning will have a class that is facilitated by a virtual learning coordinator who will help students communicate with their teachers, manage assignment completion and provide access to college and career readiness programming (virtually) in the event that they finish early. Each student is provided with a pacing guide for their course. Assignments are usually given on Monday and due by Friday.

### *State Accountability Transitions from English 1 to English 2*

On November 14, 2017, the State Board of Education approved replacing the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) English 1 test with an English 2 test. Field tests for English 2 will be administered during the spring 2019 EOCEP testing window. With the exception of students who take alternate assessments, the English 2 field tests must be administered to students who are enrolled in a credit bearing English 2 course (year-round or spring semester). The English 2 assessment will be structured similarly to the English 1 test, with separate Reading and Writing sections. The Writing section will include a Text Dependent Analysis item.

Beginning in fall 2020, the test will be administered operationally. For students in a high school, credit-bearing course, the score from the operational EOCEP must be included as 20 percent of a student's final grade.

### **Field Trips and College Visits**

As a component of our instructional program students will take academic, civic, collegiate and cultural field trips. In order for students to participate in these learning experiences they cannot miss more than three days of school, be failing a course, or have any discipline resulting in ISS or OSS for the quarter that the trip is scheduled. Below is a list of college visits planned for students this year. Please note that students that are scheduled to graduate in the spring can join a trip scheduled for another grade level if it is to a college they are interested in. Additionally, students can take two additional college trips on their own. Those trips require a college visit form that must be submitted upon their return to the Early College for the visit to be coded as an excused absence/ college visit. Students can see Guidance for that form once school starts.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Fall Location</b>	<b>Spring Location</b>	<b>Lunch and Learn Series</b>
6	USC Upstate	Voorhees	Francis Marion Furman University Berea College Morris Allen Benedict UNC Asheville Georgia Southern Georgia Military Winthrop
7	Newberry	Erskine	
8	Wofford	USC	
9	Anderson	Benedict	
10	Greenville Tech/ North Greenville	Presbyterian	
11	Spartanburg Methodist	Furman	
12	Lander	Open for other choices	

\* Please note that these schools may change based on the availability of the college.

## Class Trip

This year the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be working with Orange Sky Travel to take a trip to Charleston, South Carolina. This trip is a component on an integrated project that addresses several content standards. The cost of the trip to students is \$175 per student. An information session will be held for students and parents in September. Orange Sky will handle the logistics and payment for students. Payment plans and options will be discussed. Parents that are interested in chaperoning the trip must be a Level II screened volunteer and participate in a Chaperone Meeting in order to attend. If you are interested in serving as a chaperone for this trip, please contact Rebekah Genovese [rgenovese@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:rgenovese@greenville.k12.sc.us) **after** completing the Level II volunteer screening application.

## Level II Volunteers

This level allows interaction with students without a GCS employee present. Level II volunteers must have a National Sex Offender Registry check conducted every time they volunteer at the school as well as a criminal background check good for three years. Chaperones for field trips are required to be a Level II volunteer, regardless of the destination.

*LEVEL II application process:*

To access the volunteer application system, the applicant enters:

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MzE6ZW4tVVM=>

Española: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MzE6ZXMtVVM=>

and completes the Volunteer Application Form, A Level II volunteer can select all functions available including those with (Vol. II) in the name. By selecting Vol. II functions the system will conduct a criminal background check. **Once approved the Level II volunteer is notified by email.** This process could take up to two weeks to complete. Level II volunteers must sign in each time they volunteer. Photo identification must be presented each time for verification.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13 Teacher Workday	14 Teacher Workday  Back to School Night 6-8pm	15 Teacher of the Year Breakfast  Teacher Workday	16 Teacher Workday
19 Teacher Workday	20 Back to School for Students!	21	22	23 Carolina HS vs. St. Joseph's
26 Communities In School Parent Enrollment	27	28	29 Communities In Schools Parent Enrollment	30 Berea HS @ Liberty Carolina vs. TRHS