

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Have You "Herd"?



School Bus Safety Guidelines for Students



Transporting over 5,100 school bus riders daily, GCSS Transportation department takes pride in ensuring that student riders get to and from school safely. Parents are urged to encourage their children to follow safety rules when getting on and off the bus. Students need to do their part by staying alert and aware of their surroundings to prevent accidents or injuries. Here are a few bus safety rules to help students have a safe bus ride.

1. When waiting at the bus stop, students should stay away from traffic and line up away from the street (at least 12 feet away) as the bus approaches.
2. Students should wait until the bus has completely stopped and doors open before approaching the bus and use the handrail when boarding. Wait for the bus driver to give a signal to board the bus.
3. Students should remain in their seats until they reach their destination and should not put heads, arms, or hands out of the window.
4. Students should not yell, talk loudly, or make loud noises that could distract the driver.
5. Aisles should be clear of books and bags to prevent falling or tripping.
6. Students should wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from their seats and should use the handrail when exiting the bus.



**GAINESVILLE
CITY SCHOOLS**

A Georgia Charter System

Jeremy Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board Members

Brett Mercer, Chair
John Filson, Vice Chair
Delores Diaz
Willie Mitchell
Sammy Smith

Important Dates

August 16

Community Pep Rally
City Park
6-8 pm

August 18

One Gainesville Tailgate
City Park
5:30 p.m. - Kickoff

7. If students have to cross in front of the bus, first walk at least 12 feet ahead until the driver is seen and make sure that the driver sees them. Students should wait for the driver to signal for them to cross the street.

8. When the driver signals, students should look to the left and right before crossing, making sure that there are no cars traveling in either direction.

9. Remember: Students should not cross the center of the line of the street until the bus driver signals that it is safe to cross the street, and students should remain alert and attentive when crossing for any sudden changes in traffic.

10. Students should walk to their destination and should refrain from playing or running behind or near the bus or traffic.

GCSS Transportation Director Jerry Castleberry urges parents to explain to their children the importance of following safety precautions when riding the bus. "Loading and unloading is the most dangerous time for a school bus ride," states Mr. Castleberry.

"Parents, please remind your child to not approach the bus until the bus has completely stopped and the driver motions for the students to start loading. Students should not leave their seats until the bus has stopped before unloading at the bus stop. This is particularly important where there is a large number of students who get on or off the bus such as at an apartment complex." The goal of the Transportation Department is for all student riders to have a positive and safe experience when riding the school bus!

Motorists Urged To Use Caution For Bus Safety



As students return to school, motorists are urged to use caution when approaching a school bus and to brush up on the law regarding passing a bus.

According to Georgia law, vehicles traveling in BOTH directions must stop when a school bus activates its stop-arm on a two-lane road or a multi-lane road with no median or barrier. Vehicles traveling

August 21

BOE Meeting
Public Safety Complex

September 4

Labor Day Holiday

September 6

Progress Reports

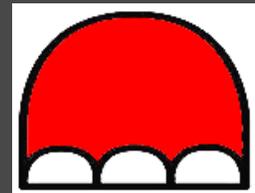
September 5

BOE Work Session
School Board Office

September 18

BOE Meeting
Public Safety Complex

Upcoming Events



[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

[ELEPHANT TRACKS NEWS](#)

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Points of Pride



in the same direction as a school bus must always stop, but motorists traveling in the opposite direction can proceed (with caution) when there is an unpaved median or concrete barrier separating the opposing lanes.

A warning that a bus stop is about to take place will always be given with the flashing amber lights on the front and rear of the school bus. Upon seeing these flashing amber lights, vehicles approaching the school bus from both the front and rear should immediately slow down and prepare to stop. All drivers must pay special attention to children, be focused, and exercise caution when in the vicinity of a school bus stop, as student riders can sometimes be unpredictable. Once the bus is fully stopped, the flashing red lights will activate and the stop arm will deploy. Vehicles must stop and should remain stopped until all loading students are aboard in the morning or all unloading passengers have cleared 12 feet off the roadway in the afternoon. Motorists should proceed with caution only after passengers have cleared the roadway, the stop arm is canceled and the flashing red lights are deactivated.

Drivers are urged to be alert and exercise patience and caution, especially around children waiting at school bus stops or loading and unloading school buses.

Developing Good Study Habits



Now that those days of sleeping in late during the weekdays and lounging around all day watching television and playing video games are officially of the past for students (at least on school days), parents and students should focus on developing study routines centered around children's and teenagers' school schedules. Developing good study and homework habits help ease the burden and stress of feeling overwhelmed or unprepared at school. For those who need a little nudge to get on the right track, here are a few tricks that will make studying a little easier.

[District & School Achievements](#)

[GCSS Data Facts](#)

Alumni News



[125th Anniversary Slideshow](#)

[Class of 2017 Achievements](#)

[Class of 2017 College Acceptances](#)

[View the GCSS Alumni Page.](#)

Vision

Our students will think critically, act compassionately, work meaningfully, choose wisely, and live joyfully.

Mission

As **ONE GAINESVILLE**, we will **INSPIRE, NURTURE, CHALLENGE & PREPARE** our students

Our Schools

Gainesville High

Gainesville Middle

Centennial Arts Academy

Enota MI Academy

1. **Pay attention in class.** When students pay attention in class and take good notes, they begin the process of learning and studying. Students should alert their teachers and/or parents if there are any issues that prevent them from paying attention and taking notes.

2. **Good notes makes studying easier.** Students should write down important facts that their teacher mentions or writes on the board during class.

3. **Plan ahead for tests or quizzes.** Don't wait until the night before the test to begin studying! Get a cool calendar or planner, and write down due dates of tests and assignments. Develop a plan to determine how much studying to do after school each day and how much time to spend on each topic.

4. **Break it up!** When there is a lot to study, break down the information into "chunks". For instance, try studying spelling or vocabulary words in five-word chunks at a time. Once the first chunk is mastered then began studying the second chunk. Also, different "chunks" can be mastered each night instead of learning everything in one night. Another helpful trick is when trying to memorize a list of things, make up a phrase of the first letter of each item to help remember. For instance, to memorize the order in which to do arithmetic - Think: Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally to remember the order is Parenthesis, Exponents, Math, Division, Adding, Subtraction.

5. **Use index cards.** On index cards, students can write each study question on individual index cards, listing the answers on the back of the cards. Students can then read each card until they have mastered the answer to each question. This is also a great way to review for tests and quizzes.

6. **Ask for help!** If students don't understand information discussed in class, they should always ask the teacher for help. Students should also ask their parents for help if they get stuck on a problem at home.

7. **Get a good night's rest!** When students get a good night's rest, they are able to retain what they have learned. Remember: The brain needs time to digest all of the information that it has processed while studying, and getting a good night's rest helps the brain retain information and allows students to be alert and ready for the next school day!



Did you know that research shows that the majority of kids ages 6-17 agree that it is very important for their future to be a good reader? Did you also know that 6 out of 10 children like reading books for fun, but only 32% of children are frequent readers (kids who read for fun 5-7 days a week) and 24% are infrequent readers (kids who read for fun less than one day a week)?

Daily independent reading can help children develop vocabulary, comprehension skills, and stamina - all critical skills for school success. As students balance homework and extracurricular activities, families more than ever need to utilize available resources to make reading at home a top priority.

Listed below are five helpful reading tips to help students read at home more frequently.

1. Children should read at least 10 minutes each day. Ask your child's teacher for a list of books to read for fun at home.
2. Keep books in the home for independent reading time throughout the year. Schedule bi-weekly trips to the local library to keep a steady supply of books on hand, or children can check out books from their school's media center. Your local librarian and school media specialist can also provide book suggestions.
3. For younger readers, parents and children can read aloud at home at least 10 minutes a day, and keep it going beyond ages 5 and 8. This can also be designated as special "family time".
4. Look for children's books that feature characters that are "smart, brave, or strong" and who "face a challenge and overcome it." Children need to connect with stories and characters in order for them to associate reading as an enjoyable activity.
5. Allow children to choose their own books to read for their enjoyment. Usually, a child's favorite book is the one that he or she has chosen.

Now that you have these resourceful tips, it's time to get your child started with daily reading! You can tweet photos of family reading time at #OneGainesville! Happy Reading!

Gainesville City Board Work Session August 7, 2017

The Gainesville City Board Work Session was held on August 7th at the School Board Office. The Board reviewed and approved agenda items as submitted by district personnel. To view the board agenda and reports, please click the links below.

- [Board Agenda](#)
 - [Facilities Request](#)
 - [Millage Rate](#)
 - [Milestones Report : EOC Report & EOG Report](#)
 - [Comprehensive Needs Assessment/District Improvement Process](#)
 - [Five Year Facility Plan Resolution](#)
 - [Personnel Report](#)
-

COMMUNITY PEP RALLY

IT'S ALL
ABOUT THE



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16TH
CITY PARK FROM 6-8 PM
COME MEET THE
2017 RED ELEPHANTS

\$5 BOUNCE HOUSE WRISTBANDS FOR THE KIDS!

"ONE" GAINESVILLE TAILGATE

GHS VS. WEST HALL

Come meet the Gainesville City School Leadership!
Have your picture made with the Red Elephant!

FRIDAY, August 18, 2017

5:30 til Kick Off

City Park

Upper Parking Lot

Catered by

Dairy Queen



*Gainesville Red Elephants
Gainesville, Ga.*



Sponsored by- *GHS VARSITY FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS*



GCSS Proof of Residency Requirements



All students attending the Gainesville City School System are required to provide two updated proofs of residency to the school that they attend.

Acceptable proofs of residency include one of the following:

- non-contingent sales contract
- current lease/rental agreement
- most recent income tax return or IRS Form 1099
- current paycheck stub
- current warranty or quit claim deed
- current home purchase agreement
- current homeowner's insurance policy

Additionally, one of the following must be provided:

- current gas bill (within last 30 days)
- current water bill (within last 30 days)
- current electric bill (within last 30 days)
- current cable/internet bill (with service address within last 30 days)
- Students who are non-residents will be required to submit one proof of residency from the list in order to verify mailing address for the school.

Students who do not present valid proofs of residency by September 1st will be withdrawn as of that date.

Parents and guardians should contact their child's school for any questions concerning this process.

**Online Donations Now Available for
REACH Scholarship Program**



2016 REACH Georgia Scholars

Gainesville City School System encourages the community to support our REACH Georgia Scholars program by making a financial contribution to provide an opportunity for select GCSS students to pursue a college education. REACH Georgia is a needs-based scholarship program that pairs middle school students (Scholars) with mentors, coaches and additional resources to prepare them for college and careers. REACH Scholars who successfully complete the program and graduate from high school earn a \$10,000 scholarship paid over four years at a Georgia college or technical college of their choice. 100% of all donations collected will contribute toward REACH scholarships.

Gainesville City School System and Hall County Schools have joined efforts in raising donations for our REACH scholars. Donations can now be made online at www.ngcf.org. Monetary donations to REACH can be made in the Gainesville-Hall Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation and are tax deductible (501c3). Checks may be mailed to NGCF at 615 Oak Street, Suite 1300, Gainesville, Georgia 30501. (When submitting checks, please note REACH: Gainesville-Hall Fund on the check memo line).

For individuals interested in mentoring REACH scholars, please contact Marie Davis at marie.davis@centerpointga.org. For additional information regarding the GCSS REACH program, please click [here](#).

**Share your photos & great news @
#OneGainesville**



- **Gainesville City School System - @GCSSK12**
- **Centennial - @GCSS_CAA**
- **Enota - @enotamiacademy**
- **Fair Street - @GCSS_FS**
- **Gainesville Exploration - @GCSS_GEA**
- **Mundy Mill Academy - @GCSS_MMLA**
- **New Holland - @GCSS_NH**
- **Gainesville Middle School - @GCSS_GMS**
- **Gainesville High School - @GCSS_GHS**