

Gibson Southern High School

TO THE STUDENT

This handbook contains information about some of the basic services offered by the school and guidelines that students will follow to achieve the best educational experience possible. We encourage you to become a part of the total school program by being involved in many school activities. We hope that you have a rewarding and successful year!

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Michael Bengert, President
 Rachael Johnson- Hileman, Vice President
 Robin Angermeier, Secretary
 Stacy McClellan
 Steve Gruszewski
 Benson Davenport
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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Superintendent	Dr. Bryan Perry
Assistant Superintendent	Tim Armstrong
Principal	Jon Adams
Assistant Principal	Amanda Sefton
Guidance Director	Kelley Asay
Guidance Services	Mark Rohrer
Youth First Social Worker	Vicki Kirkman
Network Administrator	Matt Bilderback
Technology Department	Zach Pullum
District Data Analyst	Laura Nurrenbern

PHONE NUMBERS

High School Office	753-3011
FAX	753-4862
School Corporation Office	753-4230
FAX	753-4081
Corporation Web Site – www.sgibson.k12.in.us	

SCHOOL SONG

GIBSON SOUTHERN, Maroon, gold, and white
GIBSON SOUTHERN, Ready to fight with might
United one with strong loyalty
There is nothing we can't do
Go you TITANS we back you
Onward to victory!

GIBSON SOUTHERN, Maroon, white, and gold
GIBSON SOUTHERN, Proud, bold, and hard to
hold
United one with strong loyalty
There is nothing we can't do
Go you TITANS we back you
Onward to victory!

T-T T-I-T A-A A-N-S T-I-T-A-N-S
TITANS – TITANS – WE'RE THE BEST

BELL SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>FLEX Schedule</u>
1st	8:09 – 9:00	1st	8:09 – 8:54
2nd	9:05 – 9:56	2nd	8:59 – 9:44
3rd	10:01 – 10:52	3rd	9:49 – 10:34
4th	10:57 – 12:22	FLEX	10:34 – 11:10
5th	12:27 – 1:18	4th	11:15 – 12:40
6th	1:23 – 2:14	5th	12:45 – 1:30
7th	2:19 – 3:10	6th	1:35 – 2:20
		7th	2:25 – 3:10

LUNCH

A: 10:52 - 11:22

B: 11:22 - 11:52

C: 11:52 - 12:22

LUNCH

A: 11:10 - 11:40

B: 11:40 - 12:10

C: 12:10 - 12:40

<u>Period</u>	<u>Two Hour Delay</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Early Dismissal</u>
1st	10:09 – 10:40	1st	8:09 – 8:35
2nd	10:45 – 11:16	2nd	8:40 – 9:06
3rd	11:21 – 11:52	3rd	9:11 – 9:36
4th	11:57 – 1:22	5th	9:41 – 10:06
5th	1:27 – 1:58	6th	10:11 – 10:36
6th	2:03 – 2:34	7th	10:41 – 11:06
7th	2:39 – 3:10	4th	11:11 – 12:40

Lunch

A: 11:52 – 12:22

B: 12:22 – 12:52

C: 12:52 – 1:22

Lunch

A: 11:11 – 11:41

B: 11:41 – 12:11

C: 12:11 – 12:40

HOMEROOM AM

HR 8:09 – 8:35

1st 8:40 – 9:21

2nd 9:26 – 10:07

3rd 10:12 – 10:52

HOMEROOM PM

HR 12:27 – 12:53

5th 12:58 – 1:39

6th 1:44 – 2:25

7th 2:30 – 3:10

SHORT AM HOMEROOM

SHORT AM HR 8:09 – 8:19

1st – 8:24 – 9:10

2nd – 9:15 – 10:01

3rd – 10:06 – 10:52

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to GIBSON SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL, the “Home of the Titans,” where spirit, pride, and tradition are the bywords of a school in which the entire community takes pride. Your success and the success of our academic and activity programs depend upon your active participation. This student handbook has been prepared to acquaint you with your school. Please read over the rules and policies. Share them with your parents, too! Each has been given careful thought and the faculty, staff, and students feel these rules and policies are essential for the welfare of all concerned. The South Gibson School Corporation rules are available on the website at www.sgibson.k12.in.us.

Mission Statement

The Gibson Southern High School Community is dedicated to motivating and educating all students to reach their highest potential as responsible citizens and life-long learners.

Right to Inspect Certain Instructional Materials

The parent or guardian of a child enrolled at Gibson Southern High School shall be entitled to inspect those instructional materials that will be used in connection with any survey, a personal analysis, or an evaluation which is not a direct part of the academic instruction. Instructional materials include teachers' manuals, student texts, films, or other video materials. Any complaints arising under this policy may be submitted in accordance with the policy for parental complaints.

No student shall be required without prior written consent of the student's parent or guardian to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation not directly related to the academic instruction which reveals information concerning:

- political affiliations
- religious beliefs or practices
- mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his/her family
- sexual behavior and attitudes
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship
- legally recognized privileged or confidential relationships such as those of lawyers, physicians or ministers
- income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program)

Any consent form used in compliance with this policy must state the contents and nature of the personal analysis, survey, or evaluation.

SGSC Denial to Publish Student Information/Student Work

The South Gibson School Corporation designates the following items as Directory Information: student name, address, telephone number, date of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, hair and eye color, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent previous school attended, photograph and videotape not used in a disciplinary matter, student work displayed at the discretion of the teacher with no grade displayed. The corporation may disclose any of those items without prior written consent, unless notified in writing to the contrary 15 calendar days from the beginning of a school year.

Non-Discrimination

The School Board of the South Gibson School Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “the Board” or “the Corporation”) does not discriminate on the basis of sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity) in its education programs or activities and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.

The Board prohibits Sexual Harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the Corporation has actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this policy. Members of the Corporation Community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy. Third Parties who engage in Sexual Harassment also are subject to the disciplinary sanctions listed in this policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the Corporation’s education programs and activities.

Visitors

Gibson Southern High School is a **closed campus**. Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school with them during school hours. Infants and toddler children should remain in the administrative area; the staff member or student will come to the office area for the visit. Interested parents and school officials are always welcome. **All individuals entering the school must enter the Main Entrance (Door #1) and report to the office to sign in. All visitors must bring a state issued identification card (driver's license, etc.) Approved adults may be issued a visitor's pass to enter specific areas of the building.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Health Center

Aid is available, when needed, in the health center. A record is kept on the vision, hearing, immunizations, and other pertinent health information of each student. Students should feel free to consult with the nurse concerning any health problem. If the nurse is not in the health clinic, an ill student should go directly to the high school office for available help. In case of illness, injury, or emergency, a student should notify the nearest teacher immediately. **Before reporting to the health center a student should report to class and obtain a pass. A student shall not be admitted to the nurse's office without a pass, except in an emergency, at lunch, or before/after school. The pass indicates that the student has reported to class and is absent from the classroom with the teacher's permission. Students should not remain in a restroom or other area while ill.** The nurse will write arrival and departure times on the pass and sign it. The student should return the pass to the teacher. Students who become ill and have a fever will be sent home whenever possible. If there is no fever, a student may lie down in the nurse's office for one (1) period only. This is limited to 5 MED excuses by the nurse per semester. If a student continues to have medical concerns beyond that for non-urgent symptoms, medical documentation must be provided by an outside professional to certify the absence from class as MED. Students will be sent back to class after one period. **Students may not leave the school for illness without first reporting to the nurse, attendance officer, counselor, or administrator and signing out in the office** - A student in grades 9-12 may be allowed to possess and self-administer an over-the-counter medication. The student must carry the over the counter medicine in its original container and may not dispense the medication to anyone else at school. All prescription drugs must be brought to school by the parent and shall have the pharmacist label.

Students may not be in possession of any prescription medication or drug at any time including bus travel other than under the listed exceptions in IC

20-33-8-13.

- (1) The student's parent has filed an authorization with the principal for the student to possess and self-administer the medication. The authorization must include the statement described in subsection (2).
- (2) A physician states in writing that:
 - (A) The student has an acute or chronic disease or medical condition for which the physician has prescribed the medication;
 - (B) The student has been instructed in how to self-administer the medication; and
 - (C) The nature of the disease or medical condition requires emergency administration of the medication.
- (3) The authorization and statement described must be filed with the principal's office annually.

Immunizations

Indiana State Law requires immunizations. No child will be permitted to attend school without furnishing written proof of immunizations. An immunization waiver for medical or religious exemption requires written documentation.

Communicable Diseases

The local health officer may exclude from school a student who has a dangerous communicable disease that (1) is transmissible through normal school contacts; and (2) poses a substantial threat to the health and safety of the school community. A person who objects to the determination made by the local health officer may appeal to the superintendent, who is the ultimate authority. If the local health officer subsequently determines that a student who has been excluded from school does not have a dangerous communicable disease, the local health officer shall issue a certificate of health to admit or readmit the student to school. If a child is ill, has a communicable disease, or is infested with parasites, the school principal may send the child home with a note to the child's parent or guardian. The note must describe the nature of the illness or infestation and, if appropriate, recommend that the family physician be consulted. A child who is sent home may be readmitted to the school (1) when it is apparent to school officials that the child is no longer ill, no longer has a communicable disease, or is no longer infested with parasites; (2) upon certification of a physician that the child is no longer ill, no longer has a communicable disease, or is no longer infested with parasites; (3) upon certification of a physician that the child has a communicable disease but the disease is not transmissible through normal school contacts; that the child should be readmitted to school, the local health officer shall determine whether the child should be readmitted to school.

Physical Education

Students need to inform the office about any serious health problem that may

affect their participation in physical education. A student must have a doctor's written statement to be excused from participation in physical education for more than one day. Students are responsible for all valuables and are expected to lock up valuables when in class. **A student with five or more "NO DRESSES" will fail the course for the grading period.**

Beginning with the class of 2014, sports and cheerleading participation can substitute for physical education credit. During high school if a student **completes** a sports season, he/she will receive 1 credit in PE; if she/he **completes** a second season, he/she will have satisfied the state requirement of 2 credits in physical education. **If a student fails to complete the season for any reason, he/she will not receive the credit.**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS

IC 20-34-3-20 Emergency preparedness drills Sec. 20. (a) The governing body of a school corporation shall require each school in the governing body's jurisdiction to conduct periodic emergency preparedness drills during the school year in compliance with rules adopted under IC 4-22-2 by the state board. (b) Each school and attendance center shall conduct at least: (1) one (1) tornado preparedness drill; and (2) one (1) manmade occurrence disaster drill; during each semester. (c) Notwithstanding rules established by the state fire marshal under IC 12-17-12-19, a drill conducted under subsection (b) may be conducted instead of a periodic or monthly fire evacuation drill requirement established by the state fire marshal. However, a drill conducted under subsection (b) may not be made: (1) instead of more than two (2) periodic or monthly fire evacuation drills in a particular school semester; and (2) in two (2) consecutive months. (d) The governing body of a school corporation may direct schools to conduct emergency preparedness drills in addition to those required under subsection (b). (e) The governing body of a school corporation shall require each principal to file a certified statement that all drills have been conducted as required under this section. [Pre-2005 Elementary and Secondary Education Recodification Citation: 20-8.1-8-2.] As added by P.L.1-2005, SEC.18. Amended by P.L.132-2007, SEC.8; P.L.103-2015, SEC.1

STUDENT SERVICES AND SCHOOL BUILDING

School Closing

In the event of severe weather conditions causing school to be closed or delayed, students should listen to the area radio station WRAY and/or television stations. The South Gibson School Corporation also has an emergency call system in place to notify parents of school delays, closings or emergency information. **You may also check the school website at www.sqibson.k12.in.us and our social media pages (GSTitans1 on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)**

Bookstore

The bookstore is open during the day from 8:05 am to noon and 12:30 pm to 3:15 pm. Notebooks, pencils, paper, and other supplies are available for purchase in the bookstore. Students must have a pass from a teacher to go to the bookstore during class time.

Locks and Lockers

All lockers made available for student use on the school premises, including lockers located in the hallways, in physical education, and in athletic dressing rooms, are the property of the school corporation. These lockers are made available to students to store school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. The lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state and federal law or school rules.

The student's use of the locker does not diminish the school corporation's ownership or control of the locker. The school corporation retains the right to inspect the locker and its contents, with or without the knowledge or permission of the student, to insure that the locker is being used in accordance with its intended purpose, and to eliminate fire or other hazards, maintain sanitary conditions (open drink containers or food), attempt to locate lost or stolen materials and prevent use of lockers to store prohibited or dangerous materials such as weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products. **Lockers must always be locked when not in use.** Students should not give their combination to anyone else, nor should they leave money or valuables in their lockers.

School Lunches, Cafeteria, and Lobby

Three types of lunches are available to students as well as breakfast. Breakfast is served daily from 7:45-8:05. A "type A" lunch, consisting of meat, vegetable, fruit or salad, dessert, bread and milk may be purchased. There is an "a la carte" lunch line, which serves sandwiches, French fries, vegetables and desserts. Each "a la carte" food item is priced individually. A salad bar is also available daily. Students will pay for their lunches after going through the serving line. Free and reduced lunches are available in all lines for families that meet the financial requirements. **Applications for free and reduced lunch fees are available in the bookstore.** Students bringing their lunch to school are to eat in the cafeteria. Students are not to take any food out of the cafeteria during lunch periods. Students should limit books in the cafeteria to those needed for lunch time study. The only drinking and restroom facilities to be used during lunch period are those adjacent to the main lobby/cafeeteria area. Food and drinks from the vending machines cannot be purchased during school hours. All school rules apply to the cafeteria. Students should clean off the table where they have

eaten, dispose of trash, and return trays to the proper area.

Messages to Students

Only emergency messages will be delivered to students during class time. Other messages will be delivered in a timely manner.

School Pictures

Each year a professional studio takes yearbook pictures of students in grades 9-12. It is important that all students have their pictures taken so images can be used with Skyward and for them to appear in the yearbook. The purchase of this picture and/or additional pictures through one of the picture plans is optional. All seniors should have a picture taken with the school's designated photographer (currently Straub). This is the picture that will appear in the yearbook.

Transportation

According to state and national statistics, school buses are by far the safest form of transportation on our roads. School bus safety requires teamwork and we will always rely on parents for support in promoting bus safety. Our drivers have the responsibility to make safe transportation their first priority. Occasionally, a student's misbehavior will distract the bus driver. The bus driver must act promptly to stop such behavior in order to protect the safety of all students being transported. If misbehavior persists, the driver may deny the offending student transportation for the day, and the principal/assistant principal may deny additional days depending on the severity of the problem. In some cases, the school may permanently deny bus transportation services. No rules or guidelines can cover all incidents that will arise. However, the following guidelines are necessary for the safety of all students who ride buses in the South Gibson School Corporation. Any violation of these guidelines may result in the immediate loss of bus-riding privileges:

- a. All riders shall remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- b. All riders will keep their hands, head, legs, feet and possessions within the bus.
- c. Scuffling, horseplay, eating, and drinking are forbidden.
- d. Bus riders will not litter the bus with debris.
- e. The rider shall pay for any damage he causes to the bus or the property of others.
- f. Riders will cooperate with the bus driver at all times.
- g. Student possessions and all other objects must be kept out of the aisles. Safety requires clear aisles.
- h. Riders will apply all school rules regulating student behavior to the bus.

School officials will determine which acts endanger the safety of others and what discipline will be issued.

Students will not be discharged from the bus except at the school in which they

are enrolled, at designated exchange points, or at their homes. **Requests for exceptions must be in writing from the parents to the bus driver and building principal.** Upon recommendation of the bus driver, school authorities will deny the privilege of riding on the school bus to pupils who refuse to cooperate and conduct themselves in compliance with school rules.

Driving Permits and Student Driving

Students who wish to drive to school must park in the student parking areas. Students should park and lock their vehicles and then go immediately into the school. Students may not leave school grounds once they arrive on school property. **All vehicles parked in the student parking area must display a valid parking permit.** Drivers must obtain a permit from the bookstore for a fee. Designed to hang from the rear view mirror, permits may be transferred to any vehicle owned by the registered driver or the registered driver's family. Any noncompliance may result in disciplinary action, the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense and/or the driver losing driving privileges. Students driving to or from school or on school grounds in a reckless manner shall lose the privilege of driving to school. Only properly licensed roadway vehicles are to be driven to school.

Guidance Services

The Guidance Department of Gibson Southern High School strives to assist teachers, parents, and students. The Guidance Department recognizes the physical, mental, and social influences on the total development of all students, separately and as they relate to each other. The Guidance Department attempts to deal with the teenager in his/her most common roles in the home, school, peer group, world of work, and the adult world of which he/she will become a part. The Guidance Department is the starting point of all enrollment, scheduling, schedule changes, or withdrawals.

A Youth First School Social Worker is available to meet with students and families to address a broad array of mental health concerns, substance abuse issues, or academic challenges. The social worker can meet with students to assess their needs and make appropriate referrals, provide psycho-educational information and work in collaboration with the student, school, and family to maximize academic success. Please contact the school social worker for more information.

Scheduling

Students are counseled each year by the Guidance Department to ensure proper selection of courses for completion of graduation requirements. Scheduling is handled by the Guidance Department. No schedule will be changed during the semester for any reason other than medical verification or upon administrative approval for extenuating circumstances.

Class Schedule Changes

Students are expected to follow the class schedule they receive for the entire school year. Class changes in the fall will be limited to the correction of scheduling errors and academic adjustments. Schedule changes **must be made within the first 5 days of the semester**. Schedules will be changed only for the following reasons:

- a. An error in scheduling
- b. A failure in a required course
- c. A definite need for a required course
- d. Administrative decision

Withdrawals/Transfers from School

Any student needing to be withdrawn from school for any reason or transferring to another school should consult with the Guidance Department. To complete a withdrawal, a student and/or parent must complete an exit interview with the principal, assistant principal or attendance secretary. A student who is at least sixteen years of age, but younger than eighteen years of age is bound by the requirements of compulsory school attendance. A student may not withdraw from school before graduation unless (1) the student, the student's parents or guardian, and the principal agree to the withdrawal; and (2) at the exit interview, the student provides written acknowledgement of the withdrawal, and the student's parents/guardian and the school principal each provide written consent to the student to withdraw from school. The principal must provide a copy of statistics compiled by the Department of Education concerning the likely consequences of life without a high school diploma. The student reports to the bookstore for return of his/her rental textbooks, Chromebooks and chargers and payment of any fees that may be outstanding. Transfer of grades will not be complete until the student has paid for any outstanding fees. The student will then return to the office and the withdrawal/transfer will be completed. If the student is withdrawing from school and does not meet financial hardship, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Bureau of Child Labor may be contacted.

INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Textbooks/Chromebooks

Textbooks will be distributed to students at no fee. If a book is lost, it is the responsibility of the student to pay the replacement cost. Students are not to give or loan books to other students. Students are responsible for all Chromebooks, chargers, books, and materials issued to them. If an item is damaged in any way, a fine may be assessed.

Computing Resources

Student users of computing resources are expected to accept and follow certain guidelines including the school's **Acceptable Use Policy** in return for the privilege of using the computers, programs, and associated equipment and information. Students are to use only programs and equipment specified by their teachers. Students should not share their individual passwords with others. Students found violating the school's **Acceptable Use Policy** will be given consequences deemed appropriate by the administration. Students must have an Acceptable Use Policy Form signed and on file in order to receive their username and password.

Field Trips

Field trips are an excellent resource to enhance classroom instruction and provide students with opportunities that are unavailable through the regular school setting. It is necessary to have a signed parent/guardian permission form completed and returned to the instructor. No student will be permitted to attend the field trip without the proper form on file. Students with attendance, behavior, or academic problems may be prohibited from attending. Some teachers may require work to be turned in ahead of time.

Honor Roll

Honor Rolls are based on the student grade average. The "A-B Honor Roll" will include students who have a nine-week or semester grade of 3.0 to 3.49 GPA. "Distinguished Honor Roll" will include students who have a nine-week or semester grade of 3.5 to 4.0 GPA. All courses taken count in determining Honor Rolls.

Academic excellence medal

Students who earn a 3.5 or above GPA during the first semester and 3rd nine weeks of the school year will receive an Academic Honors Medal in May of that school year. Students will be invited in writing to participate in the ceremony.

Testing

- **I-LEARN Biology:** Required state test to measure student achievement in Biology. It will be administered to all students in Biology (grade 9) as well as those that take Biology at Gibson Southern High School.
- **P-SAT:** This test is given to all students in grade 10 & 11 each year. It measures college readiness. It can be retaken in grade 11 as a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- **SAT-** Required state accountability test for students in the class of 2023 and beyond. The SAT is also a college entrance exam that is used to measure

college readiness. It will be administered to all students in 11th grade. Achieving a set score is not required for graduation purposes; however, the SAT can be used as one method for demonstrating post-secondary readiness on Graduation Pathways.

- **GRAD PATHWAYS:** For the Class of 2023 and beyond, students must complete a Graduation Pathway, demonstrating employability skills and post-secondary readiness competencies. For more information on Graduation Pathways, please visit <https://www.doe.in.gov/graduation-pathways>

GRADING SCALE/GUIDELINES

Grade	Percentages	G.P.A. Value
A+	100-97	4.0
A	96-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-63	1.0
D-	62-60	.67
F	59 and below	0

Final Exam Exemption Policy

All GSHS students may exempt up to three final exams each semester. Any student may be exempt from taking semester finals in subjects where the following applies:

1. The student has missed no more than **three countable** days from that class.
2. The student has no unexcused absences or truancy from that class.
3. The student has no more than **three** tardies to that class
4. The student has no out of school suspensions and no more than one in school suspension.
5. An incident of academic dishonesty (cheating) will disqualify a student from

exemption in that particular class

6. A student may exempt ONE final examination with a grade of 83% or greater. If a student has achieved a grade of 83% or better in multiple classes, but less than 87% then he/she must choose which ONE final exam the student would like to exempt.
7. A student may exempt a SECOND final exam in a class in which the student shows mastery of the content with at least an 87% or better. If a student has achieved a grade of 87% or better in multiple classes, but less than 93%, then he/she must choose which ONE final exam the student would like to exempt.
8. A student may exempt a THIRD final exam in a class in which the student shows mastery of the content with a score of at least 93% or better.
9. The maximum number of final exams a student is allowed to exempt in any one semester is THREE

The following DO NOT count towards the **three** absences

1. Serving as a page in the state legislature
2. Working for a precinct election board and/or as a helper to a political candidate on Election Day.
3. Following orders to report to active duty with the United States Military
4. School Sponsored field trips
5. Court ordered appearances.
6. Official college visits
7. Any extenuating circumstance requires administration approval
8. **Absences with a medical note from a doctor (MED-D)**

EXAM WEEK ATTENDANCE

Students **MUST** attend all scheduled finals for which they did not earn an exemption. On final exam days, students have the option to provide community service or job-shadow during non-scheduled final exam periods and/or exempted final exams. Most students choose this option. If you prefer that your student remain in school during non-scheduled final exam periods and/or exempted finals, you will receive a form to sign. **NOT** signing and returning this form indicates that you are aware your child has chosen to provide community service or job-shadow during the school day and give your permission.

Please note - Students are only allowed to provide community service or job-shadow when:

- no final exams are scheduled for any students

- students are eligible to exempt a final exam and have chosen to use that exemption

Otherwise, all students are expected to be in class for all finals they are not exempting.

GRADING

Incompletes

A student may receive an "I" for incomplete work if given administrative approval. It is the responsibility of the student to complete all work to change an incomplete grade. If extenuating circumstances exist, parents/guardians should contact the school to work out a schedule for completing the work. All incomplete grades not properly completed shall become an automatic failure.

SKYWARD

The Skyward grading program is available to monitor student grades on-line. Parents will receive username and password numbers to monitor, on a daily basis, a student's grades, progress, or problem areas. Parents may monitor their student's grades daily throughout the year with the on-line access.

Progress reports are sent out on the 4th Friday of each 9 weeks ONLY if the parent(s) have requested this ahead of time in the GSHS school office.

Grade Reports

Grade reports will be issued at the close of each nine weeks. The semester grade is the grade of record used to compute grade point averages and class rankings. The semester grade in a course is calculated using the following formula: 1st 9 weeks = 40%, 2nd 9 weeks = 40%, Final Exam = 20%. When the final exam is exempted the 1st 9 weeks = 50% and the 2nd 9 weeks = 50%. Report cards will be distributed electronically.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete a minimum of forty (40) required credits in order to graduate. To receive credit towards graduation from Gibson Southern High School for courses taken from other institutions (correspondence school, adult night school, etc. . .) approval must be requested from guidance.

Only those students who have earned 38 credits will be authorized to participate in commencement ceremonies. For the Class of 2023, students must complete a Graduation Pathway.

Mid-Year Graduation:

In some instances, students may have completed enough credits to graduate at the end of their 7th semester. In these cases, the following stipulations must be met:

1. Students seeking a mid-year graduation must schedule a meeting with their counselor prior to the start of their senior year.
2. Parent/Guardian of student must approve in writing the mid year graduation.
3. If all stipulations are met, approval must be granted by the principal.

*** Students that graduate early are no longer enrolled at Gibson Southern High School. Therefore, they may not participate as students in any GSHS activity including (academic events, theater, athletics, prom, etc.) Students may, if they wish, participate in commencement ceremonies in May.**

INDIANA DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES for current students through the class of 2028

Using the following criteria, Gibson Southern High School will award one of four different documents at commencement ceremonies. s

Diplomas

- A. Core 40 Academic Honors Diploma
- B. Core 40 Academic Technical Diplomas
- C. Core 40 Diploma
- D. General Diploma

Students must meet the state graduation requirements or qualify for a waiver.

Certificates

Certificate of Completion will be awarded to non-diploma students who complete the public school educational program prescribed in the student's IEP.

NEW INDIANA DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES for the class of 2029 and Beyond

Every student must complete the base requirements for Indiana's New Diploma. Students will also have the opportunity to earn one or more of the readiness seals aligned with their unique path.

A. Enrollment Honors Seal

B. Enrollment Honors Plus Seal

C. Employment Honors Seal

D. Employment Honors Plus Seal

Certificates

Certificate of Completion will be awarded to non-diploma students who complete the public school educational program prescribed in the student's IEP.

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Students will enter high school as part of a graduation cohort defined by their expected graduation year. Students will remain in this cohort throughout high school. In order to remain on track for graduation, students must earn a minimum number of credits each school year. The requirements are as follows:

Freshman- 10 credits

Sophomore- 20 credits

Junior- 30 credits

Senior- 40 credits

The grade classification will determine the locker placement, homeroom placement, and class activities.

Policy for Correspondence and Online Courses

Students may take correspondence or on-line courses through approved institutions to:

- make up credit
- take a class not offered at GSHS
- take a needed class that does not fit into the student's schedule

Coursework must be approved by the student's counselor in advance.

Students will be required to pay for all correspondence or online courses. Exceptions will be made for students on free/reduced lunch or by administrative decision.

Credits for graduation must be on file at GSHS by May 15 of the graduation year.

A student may apply a maximum of six correspondence credits toward

graduation requirements.

The administration must approve an exception to this policy.

Sources of Correspondence Courses:

Citizens High School General Diploma Only

Sources of Online Courses:

Indiana Online Academy

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Athletics

- Boys in grades 9 through 12 are offered baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, tennis, track, swimming and wrestling.
- Girls in grades 9 through 12 are offered basketball, cross-country, softball, soccer, tennis, track, volleyball, cheerleading, swimming, and golf.
- Home School Students: Home School students may participate in athletics if they enroll and pass two solid classes at GSHS.

Indiana High School Athletic Association rules require that students who compete in sports must be **passing five solid classes** for the grading period involved. All subjects for which one credit per semester can be earned are considered solid classes.. Students should check with their counselors to be sure they are meeting these requirements.

The IHSAA also requires that students participating in sports must have an **IHSAA physical form on file** in the Athletic Director's office before they are eligible to practice. Athletes are advised to carry at least six solid subjects each grading period. All athletes are expected to be good citizens on and off the field or playing course. Students participating in athletics will abide by the established IHSAA regulations and the Gibson Southern High School Athletic Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of the athlete to know all specific athletic rules. All the rules and regulations of the school are to be strictly adhered to as well. Coaches may establish other rules they deem necessary to maintain proper control of their team. An athlete's failure to comply with state, school, and team rules may result in the immediate dismissal from the respective team.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

All students who choose to participate in athletics and cheerleading at Gibson Southern High School shall abide by the following rules and any other rules as disseminated by their coach or sponsor. These rules of conduct shall begin with a student's entry into the GSHS Program and continue until said association has concluded. Participants and their parents shall be required to review and sign off on the code of conduct each year. This action in no way indicates that these rules are for anything other than a full career. **Alcohol, drugs and tobacco (including vapes and juul)** - At no time of the year when a student is not participating in athletic activities is the student allowed to use or be in possession of any form of alcoholic beverage, tobacco, vape, juul or illegal drugs. Possession includes having alcohol, drugs, or tobacco (including vapes and juul) in a vehicle that you are driving. If upon investigation it is substantiated that any reported violation of these rules has occurred, a penalty will be enforced. **Character** - A student who commits an act which would be a felony or

misdemeanor if committed by an adult under any circumstance will also pay the same penalty as those who have abused the alcohol, drugs, and tobacco rules.

Penalty - First offense: The participant shall be suspended for a minimum of 20% of the contests scheduled for that season. Only the contests that count towards the wins and losses for that athletic season are considered toward the penalty. If the suspension falls near enough to the end of the season so that the 20% cannot be assessed, the penalty shall carry over to the next season in which the student participates. The carry-over penalty will be based on a percent of the penalty served and the number of events scheduled in the next season. If the student violates the code while out of season, he/she will begin the penalty during the next season in which he/she participates. If a student is caught using a combination of above stated substances on one occasion, this constitutes not only the first infraction, but also the second and will fall under the penalty for the second offense. The student will be encouraged to seek counseling for drug/alcohol infractions. Parents must accompany the student for the initial evaluation and along with the student, must assume responsibility for the expense of the program. If a student is academically ineligible at the time of the infraction, he/she will still miss 20% of the season when he/she becomes academically eligible. **Second Offense:** Constitutes removal from competition for an entire season. If the second offense occurs between seasons, the student will be removed from the next sport in which he/she participates, or the remainder from both sports constituting 100% of a season. Before reinstatement after the second offense, the student must be evaluated by a drug/alcohol counselor and complete a drug/alcohol program. The student will also forfeit all rights to any awards for that season. **Third Offense:** Constitutes removal from activities for 365 days. The student must be evaluated by a drug/alcohol counselor and complete a drug/alcohol program before he/she may be reinstated. The student will forfeit all rights to any awards for the season in which he/she is currently participating. **Circumventing Penalties:** The above is the minimum penalty. A sponsor/coach may institute additional penalties if he/she wishes. Attempts to circumvent these penalties by going out for a sport in which the student does not normally participate will be reported to the athletic director and the principal by the coach/sponsor of the activity in which the student does not normally participate. Any and all suspensions must be served in a sport in which the student has previously participated during high school, except for freshmen. Ex: A male basketball player may not join the tennis team to serve the suspension

Self-Reporting: In an attempt to assist students with drug/alcohol problems, there is a one-time opportunity to self-report a violation. A self-reported violation will reduce the suspension of a first offense by 50%.

The criteria for self-reporting are:

1. Only applies to a first offense

2. Report violation directly to head coach or athletic director within 2 days of incident
3. Must also complete drug/alcohol counseling course

General Guidelines for Athletes:

Students who participate in two activities and quit one may continue to participate in the other.

- A student who participates in one activity and then quits cannot participate in another activity unless released by the coach
- School attendance is required the last 3 periods of the day unless there is a school-approved excuse.
- All counseling programs referred to in this code must be approved by the administration.

Opportunities for Excellence... for everyone!

Activities: Academic Super Bowl, Archery, Art Club, Band, Beta Club, Chorus, Clay Shooting, Drama, E-Sports, FCA, FCCLA, FFA, Fifth Quarter, Pep Club, Southerner (Newspaper), Spanish Club, Spell Bowl, Student Council, Sunshine Society, Theater Club, Yearbook

Athletics: Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Wrestling, Volleyball

HOME SCHOOLED STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH GIBSON SCHOOL CORP. ATHLETICS

The South Gibson School Corporation adopts the following guideline to regulate the participation in South Gibson athletics including all levels K-12, of homeschooled students. The below criteria that references providing the IHSAA verification of compliance applies to high school students, but the spirit of each component applies to all levels of student-athletes.

If a student is enrolled in and attends, full-time, a home school that has been registered with the Indiana Department of Education, the student may have eligibility to participate in the athletic program of the South Gibson School Corporation provided that:

1. The student, in conjunction with the home and the South Gibson School Corporation provides proof to the IHSAA that the spirit of the rules will not be compromised; and
2. The student athlete must reside in the South Gibson School Corporation school district; and
3. The student athlete must have been educated in a non-accredited educational setting for the three previous consecutive school years.
4. The student completes any state-wide examinations authorized by the

Indiana Department of Education(age/grade appropriate); and

5. The student must be enrolled in the South Gibson School Corporation subject classes that will be tested on the Indiana Department of Education standardized testing which will be used for accountability purposes. For example, if math is a tested area for accountability the student must be enrolled in a math course; and
6. The student would submit progress reports and end of grading period reports, including subject, grade and attendance to the South Gibson School Corporation Athletic Director, to prove satisfactory completion of rule 18.1 of the IHSAA bylaws. The courses taken in the South Gibson School Corporation will be counted towards this rule; and
7. The student must complete and have on file with South Gibson School Corporation an annual physical examination proving the athlete is medically cleared to compete in athletics; and
8. The student will be subject to all school rules and athletic code of conduct as all other student athletes.

Informal Dances

Dances will be arranged at various times of the school year. Appropriate attire is required. **All other school rules and regulations apply.**

Formal Dances/Prom

During the spring of each school year, the junior class plans and sponsors the Junior-Senior Prom. Only those juniors and seniors officially enrolled as students at Gibson Southern High School will receive an invitation to the Prom. Prom is a school function; parents/students are expected to use good judgment when selecting appropriate attire. Students dressed inappropriately may be asked to leave by the administration. **Prom and other dances may be attended only by students in high school and less than 21 years of age, unless the student is married. Guests must also receive approval from administration by filling out the guest permission form.**

BREATHALYZER

All students will be breathalyzed at all Gibson Southern High School dances. A student who registers positive will be given a breathalyzer by security hired for the dance. A student who registers a positive test on the breathalyzer will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students who have been expelled may not attend any dances or activities on school property.

Student Assistants

Student assistants are assets to the school. It is a privilege to be selected as a

student assistant. Student assistants must meet the following criteria:

1. A teacher may have up to two student assistants per period.
2. Student assistants must be in grades 10, 11, or 12. *9th grade students with a 3.0 or higher during the first semester may be considered as a teacher assistant for the second semester.
3. Student assistants must remain with the supervising teacher during class time unless supervised by another staff member.
4. Student assistants must be in good academic standing to be eligible: no "F" grades and no more than 1 "D" grade. They also must maintain this standard each nine weeks to remain an assistant.

Suicide Prevention Policy

In the event school personnel become aware that a student is in danger of hurting themselves or others, the school counselor, social worker and/or administrator will be notified immediately. The counselor, social worker, and/or administrator will meet with the student to assess the student and/or situation. Based on the assessment, a plan will be established and parents will be contacted. If further care is needed, the counselor, social worker or administrator will inform the parent/guardian of local resources which can be of assistance to professionally treat the student.

*If a student indicates he/she has suicidal or self-harming thoughts, the practice of confidentiality no longer applies.

Honorary Organizations

Beta Club: Membership is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors who meet the following academic criteria: **Sophomores 3.7 GPA, Juniors 3.6 GPA, Seniors 3.5 GPA.**

Members must demonstrate a high level of scholarship, service and character. Members are evaluated each semester to determine eligibility to continue in good standing.

International Thespian Society: The International Thespian Society is an honor society that recognizes those students who excel in dramatic activities.

DISCIPLINE

Due Process

The school will follow the procedures and processes as prescribed in Indiana Code enacted and amended by the Indiana General Assembly with regard to all disciplinary action.

Search and Seizure

- A. As used in this section, “reasonable suspicion for a search” means circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the search of a particular person, place, or thing will lead to the discovery of (1) evidence of a violation of the student-conduct standards contained in the student handbook; (2) anything which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person.
- B. All lockers and other storage areas provided for student use on school premises remain the property of the school corporation and are provided for the use of the student, subject to inspection, access for maintenance, and search, pursuant to this section. The student has no expectation of privacy in school owned storage areas. No student shall lock, or otherwise impede access, to any locker or storage area, except with a lock provided by, or approved by, the principal of the school in which the locker or storage area is located. Unapproved locks shall be removed and destroyed. (1) The principal, or a member of the administrative staff designated by the principal, may search a locker and its contents at any time. (2) The principal, or a member of the administrative staff, may search an individual, desk or any other storage area on school premises, based upon reasonable suspicion at any time. A law enforcement agency may assist a school administrator in searching a student’s locker and the locker’s contents at the request of the school principal. IC 20-33-8-32.
- C. The principal, or another member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the principal and acting at the direction of the principal, may search the person of a student during a school activity if the principal has reasonable cause for a search of that student. Searches of the person of a student shall be limited to: (1) searches of the pockets of the student; (2) any object in the possession of the student, such as a purse or briefcase, and/or: (3) a “pat down” of the exterior of the student’s clothing. A person of the same sex as the student being searched shall conduct searches of the person of a student in a private room. At least one, but not more than three, additional persons of the same sex as the student being searched shall witness, but not participate, in the search. At the request of the student and reasonably available on school premises, a person of the student’s choosing shall witness the search. The parent or guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as possible. Handheld metal detectors may also be used during a search. Handheld devices will also be used randomly in the mornings as

students come to school.

- D. The privilege of bringing a student-operated motor vehicle onto school premises is hereby conditioned on written consent by the student driver, the owner of the motor vehicle, and the parent or guardian of the student to allow search of that motor vehicle. Refusal by a student, parent or guardian, or the motor vehicle owner to provide or allow access to a motor vehicle, shall be cause for termination, without further hearing, of the privilege of bringing a motor vehicle on to school premises. The principal, or another member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the principal, may request a law enforcement officer to search a motor vehicle on school premises, subject to subsection G of this section.
- E. Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section, which is evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the student handbook, may be (1) seized and admitted as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding, if it is tagged for evidence at the time it is seized and kept in a secure place by the principal or the principal's designee, until it is presented at the hearing, (2) returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized, (3) destroyed if it has no significant value, or (4) turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with subsection G.
- F. Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section, which by its presence presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person, may be seized and: (1) returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized, (2) destroyed, or (3) turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with subsection G.
- G. The principal, or a member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the principal, may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to (1) search any area of school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on school premises (2) identify or dispose of anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section. Where law enforcement officers respond to such a request, no school employee shall assist or otherwise participate in any search conducted.

Suspension and Expulsion

According to Indiana Code 20-33-8-14:

- A. The following are grounds for expulsion or suspension, subject to the procedural requirements (up to 10 days)
 - i. Student misconduct
 - ii. Substantial disobedience
- B. Apply when:

- i. A student is on school grounds immediately before, during and after school hours and at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;
- ii. A student is off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event, or;
- iii. A student is traveling to or from school or school activity, function, or event.

In addition to the times listed above, a student may be suspended or expelled for engaging in an unlawful activity on or off school grounds if the unlawful activity may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or the student's removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property. Any unlawful activity meeting the above criteria which takes place during weekends, holidays, other school breaks, and the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

The following types of student conduct constitute grounds for expulsion or suspension under the Indiana Code but are not limited to:

1. Using violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or other comparable conduct constitutes an interference with school purposes or urging other students to engage in such conduct. The following enumeration is only illustrative and not limited to the type of conduct prohibited by this rule:
 - A. Occupying any school building, school grounds, or parts thereof with the intent to deprive others of its use.
 - B. Blocking the entrances or exits of any school building, corridor, or room therein with the intent to deprive others of lawful access to or from, or use of the building, corridor, or room.
 - C. Setting fire to or damaging any school building or property.
 - D. Prevention of or attempting to prevent by physical act the convening or continued functioning of any school or educational function or of any lawful meeting or assembly on school property.
 - E. Continuously and intentionally making noise or acting in any matter so as to interfere seriously with the ability of any teacher or any of the other school personnel to conduct or participate in an educational function.
2. Engaging in any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another person or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct includes coercion, harassment, bullying, hazing, or other comparable conduct. Bullying has been defined as overt, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications transmitted; physical act committed; or any other behavior committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass,

ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student.

3. Engaging in violence and/or threat of violence against any student, staff member, and/or other persons. Prohibited violent or threatening conduct includes threatening, planning, or conspiring with others to engage in a violent activity.
4. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property, stealing or attempting to steal school property. Vandalizing computers or computer equipment, altering computer software without the expressed consent of the teacher, or entering the personal files of teachers, the administration, or students.
5. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property, stealing or attempting to steal private property.
6. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury or behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause physical injury to any person. Self-defense or reasonable action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person is not a violation of this rule.
7. Threatening or intimidating any person for any purpose, including obtaining money or anything of value.
8. Threatening (whether specific or general in nature) injury to persons or damage to property, regardless of whether there is a present ability to commit the act. This includes the possession of a threatening or intimidating statement in writing or any other form which may intentionally or unintentionally come into another student's or staff member's possession.
9. Failing to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where those actions or plans, if carried out, could result in harm to another person or persons or damage property when the student has information about such actions or plans.
10. Possessing, handling, or transmitting a knife or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, is represented to be a weapon, or looks like a weapon.
11. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being affected by any controlled substance, prescription drug, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, intoxicant or depressant of any kind, or any paraphernalia used in connection with the listed substances. Also prohibited is the consumption of any of the stated substances immediately before school or at a school function or event. **The only exception to rule 11 is listed under the Health Center section of this handbook.**
12. Possessing, using, or transmitting any substance which is represented to be or looks like a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, or intoxicant of any

kind.

13. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being affected by caffeine-based substances other than beverages, substances containing phenylpropanolamine (PPA), stimulants of any kind, or any other similar over-the-counter products.
14. Possessing, using, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco products of any kind or in any form (including vapes and juul)
15. Offering to sell or agreeing to purchase a controlled substance or alcoholic beverages.
16. Failing to comply with directions of teachers or other school personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under their supervision, where the failure constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function.
17. Failing to completely and truthfully respond to questions from a staff member regarding school-related matters including potential violations of the student conduct rules or state or federal law.
18. Falsely accusing any person of sexual harassment, or of violating a school rule, and/or a state or federal law.
19. Engaging in any activity forbidden by the laws of Indiana that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function.
20. Aiding, assisting, or conspiring with, another person to violate these student conduct rules or state or federal law.
21. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
22. Taking or displaying pictures (digital or otherwise) without the consent of the student or staff member in a situation not related to a school purpose or educational function.
23. Engaging in pranks that could result in harm to another person.
24. Use or possession of gunpowder, ammunition, cigarette lighter, or an inflammable substance.
25. Violating any rules that are reasonably necessary in carrying out school purposes or an educational function, including, but not limited to:
 - a. engaging in sexual behavior on school property;
 - b. engaging in sexual harassment of a student or staff member;
 - c. disobedience of administrative authority;
 - d. willful absence or tardiness of students;
 - e. engaging in speech or conduct, including clothing, jewelry or hair style, that is profane, indecent, lewd, vulgar, or refers to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, sex, or illegal activity, or is plainly offensive to school purposes;

- f. violation of the school corporation's acceptable use of technology policy or rules;
 - g. violation of the school corporation's administration of medication policy or rules;
 - h. possessing or using a laser pointer or similar device;
26. Any student conduct rule the school building principal establishes and gives publication of it to all students and parents in the principal's school building.
 27. Disrespect to school staff. Substitute teachers and student teachers are recognized as classroom teachers by the administration. Students are expected to afford them the same courtesy and cooperation as they afford regular teachers.
 28. Failure to serve detention.
 29. Failure to complete required school paperwork.
 30. Failure to comply with dress code.
 31. Excessive tardiness or truancy.
 32. Leaving school, class, or a school activity without proper authorization.
 33. Violation of school's attendance policy (Attendance Information).
 34. Being in a gang at school, or engaging in gang activity at school or at any school sponsored function. This includes wearing clothing, writing, or posting of symbols, and using hand gestures that would denote gang affiliates.
 35. Displaying or trying to sell profane, obscene, or pornographic materials.
 36. Receiving excessive referrals – repeated and continual violations of school rules when no apparent effort is being made to improve behavior.
 37. Displaying affection in public. School and school-sponsored functions are not proper places for boys and girls to demonstrate their affection for each other. Physical contact such as kissing, hugging, and embracing is not allowed on the school grounds during the regular school day or school-sponsored functions.
 38. Violating the school's driving or parking policies.
 39. A student may be expelled from school if the student's legal settlement is not in the attendance area of the school corporation where the student is enrolled. IC 20-33-8-17
 40. Having food and/or drink in the academic areas is prohibited. Exception: Water will be allowed in containers with secure lids. Additionally, (Food will be allowed in the classroom for special events at the discretion of the teacher with prior administration approval.)
 41. Being in the halls during class time without a hall pass from the office or a teacher. All students must have a hall pass to be in the halls during class time.

42. Students may use their cell phones prior to the 8:09 AM bell, during lunch, passing periods, and after 3:10 PM.

At the discretion of each individual classroom teacher, students may use their phones in the classroom ONLY at designated times agreed upon by that classroom teacher for educational purposes. Possession of an electronic device/cell phone in the classroom is not a violation; however, unauthorized use of cell phones may result in disciplinary consequences.

The first violation of this will result in the confiscation of the phone (returned to the student at the end of the day) and a lunch detention.

The second offense will result in confiscation (returned to the student at the end of the day) and an additional lunch detention. In addition, students must turn the cell phone/electronic device into the office during the school day for a period of one week. The phone/electronic device will be returned to the student at the end of each day.

Further violations will be considered insubordination and will result in suspension as well as the student must turn his or her phone into the office during the school day for the length of an entire semester (approximately 90 school days). Further violations will be deemed excessive and students will lose phone/electronic device privileges for one school year and will face potential suspension/expulsion.

The Cell Phone policy is not violated when:

- A student has been given permission from a teacher to use a wireless device for educational purposes during instructional time
- A wireless device is used in an emergency or to manage student's health care
- A wireless device is part of a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan

43. Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, IPODS, MP3 Players, etc.). Students may not send, share, view, or possess pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form, including the contents of a cell phone or other electronic device. The unauthorized recording of students or staff members is strictly prohibited.

Important Notice to Students and Parents Regarding Cell Phone Content and Display

- The Child Abuse/Neglect Law requires school personnel to report to law enforcement or child protective services whenever there is reason to believe that any person/student is involved with "child exploitation" or "child pornography" as defined by Indiana Criminal Statutes.
- It is "child exploitation," a Class C felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(b), for any

person/student (1) to exhibit, photograph, or create a digitalized image of any incident that includes “sexual conduct by a child under the age of 18; or (2) to disseminate, exhibit to another person, or offer to so disseminate or exhibit, matter that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child under the age of 18.

- It is “child pornography,” a Class D felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(c), for any person/student to possess a photograph, motion picture, digitalized image, or any pictorial representation that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child who the person knows is less than 16 years of age or who appears less than age 16.
- “Sexual conduct” is defined by I.C. 35-42-4-4(a) to include sexual intercourse, exhibition of the uncovered genitals intended to satisfy or arouse the sexual desires of any person, or any fondling or touching of a child by another person or of another person by a child intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or another person.
- The Indiana Sex Offender Registration Statute at I.C. 11-8-8-7 and the Sex Offender Registry Offense Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-11, as of May 2009, require persons convicted of or adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent for violating the Child Exploration Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-4(b) to register as a sex offender.
- Because student cell phones have been found in a number of Indiana school districts to have contained evidence of “sexual conduct” as defined above, it is important for parents and students to be aware of the legal consequences should this occur in our school system.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools used by students must ensure academic integrity, promote ethical behavior, and encourage innovation in learning.

Definition of AI Tools

AI tools include any software, apps, or online platform that generates content or responses based on user input, including but not limited to:

- Chatbots (e.g., ChatGPT, etc.)
- AI writing assistants (e.g., Grammarly)
- Image/audio generators

Permissible Use

Students may use AI tools:

- As directed by teachers for assignments, research, or projects.
- For brainstorming or organizing ideas, provided the final submission is the student's own work.
- To assist in learning concepts or practicing skills

Prohibited Use

Students may **not** use AI tools to:

- Complete assignments, essays, or assessments in place of their own work unless explicitly allowed.
- Plagiarize or present AI-generated content, no matter how small, as entirely their own without disclosure.
- During testing processes, such as during quizzes, exams, or closed-book tasks.

Academic Integrity

Use of AI must follow the school's Academic Integrity Policy. Students must:

- Cite AI tools if their content is used.
- Be transparent about how AI contributed to their work.

Violations may result in:

- Re-doing assignments
- Potential Loss of credit
- Disciplinary action consistent with school academic honesty procedures

Privacy and Safety

Students must not input sensitive or confidential information into AI tools. AI use must comply with South Gibson School Corporation's technology and data privacy policies.

BULLYING

The School Board is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Bullying behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal, and psychological abuse as provided herein. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. Engaging in bullying behavior through the use of cell phone, data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system or computer network also is prohibited. This policy applies when a student is on school grounds immediately before or during school hours, immediately after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group; off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event; traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or, using property or equipment provided by the school. Additionally, this policy applies regardless of the physical location when:

- A. the individual committing the bullying behavior and any of the intended targets of the bullying behavior are students attending a school within the Corporation; and
- B. The bullying behavior results in a substantial interference with school discipline or an unreasonable threat to the rights of others to a safe and peaceful learning environment.

Bullying as defined in State law means overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

- A. places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
- B. has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
- C. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
- D. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

This type of behavior is a form of harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It includes, but is not limited to, such behaviors as stalking, intimidation, menacing behavior, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing. It also includes the use of digital or electronic communications to engage in such behaviors.

However, Indiana law exempts the following from the definition of "bullying":

- A. Participating in a religious event.
- B. Acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial danger.
- C. Participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a student's rights protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, or both.
- D. Participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of one or more adults.
- E. Participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written direction of the student's parent.
- F. Engaging in interstate or international travel from a location outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana.

Any student who believes s/he has been or is currently the victim of bullying should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal or the Superintendent. The student also may report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. This report may be made anonymously. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President. A parent may file a complaint on behalf of a student in the same manner.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be bullying behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above or online.. Staff members who

fail to report bullying or who fail to conduct an investigation when assigned that duty are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

All complaints about bullying behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated according to the timeline established by the Superintendent's administrative guidelines.

If, during an investigation of reported acts of bullying and/or harassment, the investigator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, or disability, the investigator will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one (1) of the Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 Anti Harassment.

If the investigator finds an instance of bullying behavior has occurred, prompt and appropriate action or responses shall be taken to address the bullying behavior wherever it occurs including, as appropriate, disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students, discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Bullying acts shall be reported to law enforcement officials immediately upon determining that a report to law enforcement is necessary

The parents of the targeted student and the reported bully shall be notified of the alleged bullying incident at the beginning of the investigation, the findings of the investigation at the conclusion of the investigation, and, as appropriate, any remedial action that has been or will be taken to the extent disclosure is permitted by law. In addition to discipline, remedial action may include support services for the targeted student and bullying education for the bully, among other actions.

Retaliation against any person, who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying. Making intentionally false reports about bullying for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and making intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

For a definition of and instances that could possibly be construed as hazing, consult Policy 5516.

Confidentiality

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation

will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations.

Safe School Committee

In accordance with State law, there shall be a *Safe School Committee* in each school within this Corporation (see Policy 8400 - School Safety).

The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.

FIREARMS, DEADLY WEAPONS OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES (IC 20-33-8-16)

- A. Firearms – Any student who is identified as bringing a firearm to school or on school property or who is in possession of a firearm on school property **must be expelled for a period of at least one (1) calendar year, with the return of the student to be at the beginning of the first school semester following the one year period.** The superintendent may, on a case-by-case basis, modify this period of expulsion for the student. **The following devices are considered to be a firearm under this rule:** any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device which is an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or any similar device; any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; an antique firearm; a rifle or shotgun that the owner intends to use solely or sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes.
- B. Deadly Weapons – A student who is identified as bringing a deadly weapon to school or on school property or who is in possession of a deadly weapon on school property may be expelled for a period of not more than one (1) calendar year. **The following devices are considered to be deadly weapons as defined in I.C. 35-41-1-8:** a weapon, taser or electronic stun weapon, equipment, chemical substance, or other material that in the manner it is used, or could ordinarily be used, or is intended to be used, is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury; an animal readily capable of causing serious bodily injury and used in the commission or attempted commission of

a crime.

- C. Destructive Device – A student who is identified as bringing a destructive device to school or on school property or who is in possession of destructive device on school property must be expelled for a period of at least one (1) calendar year, with the return of the student to be at the beginning of the first school semester following the one year period. The superintendent may, on a case-by-case basis, modify this period of expulsion for the student. **For purpose of this rule, a destructive device is:** an explosive, incendiary, or overpressure device that is configured as a bomb, a grenade, a rocket with a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, a Molotov cocktail or a device that is substantially similar to an item described above; a type of weapon that may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant through a barrel that has a bore diameter or more than one-half inch; or a combination of parts designed or intended for use in the conversion of a device into a destructive device. A destructive device is NOT a device that although originally designed for use as a weapon, is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety, or similar device.
- D. In any case where a student is expelled for firearm or destructive device violations of the Student Discipline Code, the superintendent must notify the prosecuting attorney in the county where the school district is located. Upon receiving such notification, the prosecuting attorney shall begin an investigation and take appropriate action.
- E. A student with a disability who possesses a firearm on school property is subject to the procedural safeguards under 20 U.S.C. 1415.
- F. Headwear (bandanas, hoodies, etc.) or sunglasses.
- G. Hats are prohibited during the school day (See note below on specifics)
- H. Wallet chains and spiked jewelry
- I. Clothing, jewelry or grooming styles that are disruptive to the educational environment or are a safety hazard.
- Hats-
day 1st offense, hat is confiscated and returned at the end of the school day
 2nd offense, hat is confiscated and a parent must pick up
 Subsequent offenses will be treated as insubordination and handled accordingly
 - School administration shall be the final judges as to the appropriateness of student dress. Students will not be allowed to return to class until the inappropriate clothes have been changed. On the 2nd offense, students must change and serve 30 minutes of detention. On the 3rd and subsequent offense, students must change and will serve a suspension.

- Spirit days and any other dress code exceptions (medical, etc.) must be approved by administration and the exception must match the spirit day theme (EX: Red white and blue day would allow red, white and blue hats, etc.)

BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

A Driver's License or learner's permit may not be issued to an individual who falls under these conditions:

1. Is a habitual truant under IC 20-33-2-11
2. Is under at least a second suspension from school for the school year under IC 20-33-8-14 or IC 20-33-8-15
3. Is under an expulsion from school
4. Is considered a dropout under IC 20-33-2-28.5
5. Withdraws from school for a reason other than financial hardship

If the student fails to attend the exit interview or does not meet requirements to withdraw under IC 20-33-2-28.5, it will result in revocation or denial of student's driver's license or permit; and their employment certificate.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is required to invalidate a student's license or beginner's permit for the reasons listed above when the appropriate information is filed with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles by the building principal. A student whose license or permit has been invalidated for any of the reasons listed above will be eligible for a license or permit or have a license or permit revalidated upon the earliest of one of the following events:

- a. The student's eighteenth birthday
- b. One hundred twenty days after the person is suspended
- c. The suspension or expulsion is reversed after the person has had a hearing under IC 20-33-8

The building principal is responsible for completing all written requests for withholding or declaring invalid beginner's permit or operator license. An appropriate written statement verifying the student's eligibility to apply for a driver's license or permit will be provided to the student by the building principal when the requirements listed above have been met. IC 20-33-8-33

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

Violations of the above rules may result in corrective disciplinary action. Discipline is to teach and maintain the educational function of the school. Discipline is given to help students become responsible citizens and ensure order and safety in our schools.

Any one or a combination of the following actions may be used not necessarily in the order in which they are listed: written warning, counseling, parent conference, detention, restriction of extra-curricular activities, suspension of privileges, suspension from class, suspension from school, suspension from the bus, community service, expulsion from school, referral to juvenile court, substance abuse programs or any other reasonable disciplinary action which is left to the ***discretion of the administration of the South Gibson School***

Corporation.

Detention

Any teacher or administrator may place any student in detention for improper conduct or for violating any school policy. All detentions will be reported to the office and become part of the student's discipline record the current year. Students will be required to serve a minimum of 30 minutes each time they report for detention. **A student will serve his/her detention on the agreed upon date.** Failing to serve detention by the first due date will result in the detention being doubled. Failure to serve detention by the second due date may result in a suspension. Transportation arrangements must be made in advance; no buses are available. Detentions will be served after school from 3:15 to 3:45, before school from 7:30 to 8:00 am in the office or during lunch. Students must be in the room on time and have work with them or it will count as a failure to serve.

Out-of-School Suspension (O.S.S)

The student will not attend school or any school functions (including practices) during the suspension. The juvenile corrections department may be notified and the student may serve community service time during the suspension. Parents are responsible for transportation and any expenses incurred. The absences will not count toward the student's total of days allowable under the school's attendance policy. While a student is suspended from school the student will receive: 1) Notice of any assignments or school work due; 2) Teacher contact information in the event the student has questions regarding the assignments or school work; and 3) Credit, in the same manner that a student who is not suspended would receive, for any assignments or school work assigned during the period of the student's suspension that the student completes. Athletes and extra-curricular participants are subject to their Code of Conduct as well. Depending on the charters of the various student organizations (Student Council, Beta Club, etc...) a student may lose his/her position or membership in that organization because of O.S.S. **On the second out-of-school suspension, a letter notifying the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will be sent.**

One (1) calendar year expulsion for firearms, weapons, destructive devices.

In-school SUSPENSION (ISS)

A separate area from normal student traffic is identified as the ISD area. Students removed from class will be placed in the area for a class period, part of a day, or one or more full days. Students will bring work to do in ISS and this work will count towards a student's grade.

Restraint/Seclusion

A student will not be subject to seclusion or restraint unless the student's behavior poses an imminent risk of injury to the student or others. However, significant violations of the law, including assaults on students and staff, will be reported to the police. As soon as possible after any use of seclusion or restraint, the student's parent or guardian will be informed and provided with a detailed account of the incident, including the circumstances that led to the use of seclusion or restraint."

In-school Work Study (SRO Supervised)

In-school work study consists of students working under the supervision of the School Resource Officer during the school day. Students will be performing various tasks of building maintenance as well as one on one mentoring from the School Resource Officer.

Passes

Each student is scheduled to an assigned area for each period he/she is attending our school. All students not in their scheduled locations must have a pass. **Passes will be issued by** the teacher in charge of the class or another teacher or administrator who is authorized to withdraw the student from class. Passes are issued for a specific purpose and are to be used for that purpose only. Any student without a pass and not in their assigned area is in violation of school rules

Tardiness

Any student tardy to school after the beginning of first period must sign in at the office and obtain a pass for admittance to class. (All excused tardies must be called in within five school days)

All tardies to school are considered unexcused unless the student is riding corporation transportation that arrives late to school or unless a parent has called to report the student late. Parents must call informing of the reason for the tardiness or absence. Arriving after 8:09 a.m. will result in a tardy to first period. Arriving after 8:34 a.m. will result in an absence to first period. Tardies to school will be charged against first period attendance. Arriving to other classes after 20 minutes will result in an absence charged to that class. A student will be considered truant for any full classes missed before a late arrival if proper documentation is not provided. A 4th unexcused tardy will result in detention. Any additional tardy will result in a decision made by the administration. Any unexcused absence will result in detention or possibly suspension. Any student with 10 or more tardies will face suspension.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

(Please note that Indiana Statute on attendance has changed and we are awaiting final guidelines from the IDOE)

Attendance Procedures

Regular and punctual school attendance is vital to deriving maximum benefit from the instructional program and to developing habits of responsibility, punctuality, and self-discipline. Consistent daily attendance of students **is not an option**; it is a requirement under the laws of Indiana as expressed in the **Compulsory Attendance Statute (IC 20-33-2)**. Ensuring students consistently attend class on a daily basis is a responsibility which is shared, and rightly so, by students, school officials, parents/guardians, and the general community at large. Unless a student is legally emancipated, parents are considered by South Gibson School Corporation to have educational rights until graduation even if the student is eighteen. Therefore, the parent is responsible for attendance and will receive grade reports. Students who are in violation of school attendance regulations may be reported to the judicial system. A parent/guardian must also recognize that time away from school for vacations, health-care appointments or other events or occasions not directly related to the student's educational program should be kept to an absolute minimum, and when unavoidable, scheduled at times that would result in the least interference with the school day, and thus, the educational process. Attendance is recorded each period and is reported by grading period on the student's report card. Consequently, the Board of School Trustees of the South Gibson School Corporation has determined attendance shall be reflected in the individual student's records, and those students who are avoidably absent shall be subject to academic and disciplinary penalty.

Upon arrival to school, all students should immediately enter the building. Loitering in the parking lot is not allowed. Students may not leave school at any time during the day without the consent of the parent/guardian and the principal/designee. Students are expected to be present in school before or after appointments whenever possible. Any students who are leaving and/or returning during the school day must sign in/out in the main office. Failure to comply with these expectations results in an automatic unexcused absence.

Attendance Guidelines

More than five countable, excused or unexcused absences from any class in one semester are considered excessive. **When a student reaches a point of concern in a semester with attendance, the parent/guardian will be notified. When a student reaches the level of ten countable absences, excused or unexcused,**

from any class in one semester, the parent will again be notified and a conference may be requested. The parent/guardian will be advised of the serious consequences that will follow when a student accumulates ten absences from school in one semester. Exceptions to these restrictions will be reviewed by the administration.

Upon the student's incurring eleven (11) countable absences from any class in one semester, the student may lose credit. The parent/guardian will be notified in writing of the loss of credit(s) in any or all classes for the semester. Any student incurring five (5) unexcused absences from any class in one semester will be referred to the SRO for truancy.

Appeal Process

The Board of Appeals consists of the principal, a counselor, and a faculty member. The purpose of the Board of Appeals is to preside over and conduct a formal hearing concerning any students who have lost credit(s) because of accumulated absences. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to file an official appeal within ten days of the postmarked date on the letter sent to them concerning the loss of a student's credits. This appeal must be filed in writing with the building principal stating the reasons for the appeal. Reasonable requests by the Board of Appeals for documentation concerning absences must be honored. Based on the results/findings, the Board of Appeals may establish a contract system for the student involved.

Reporting Absences & Tardies

1. A parent/guardian should contact the school by 8:30 AM describing the reason for the absence. The school can be contacted in the following ways:
 - a. Call the school at 753-3011 between 7:30 and 8:30 AM.
 - b. If you need to call earlier than 7:30, you may leave a message on the school answering machine.
 - c. Email the school at attendance@sgibson.k12.in.us.
2. A parent/guardian who does not contact the school office will receive a call from school asking about your child's absence. If we are unable to reach you or anyone on your contact list, the absence will be unexcused unless a note is received within five school days. The student will receive a referral if a note is not received within five school days.
3. After five days and no note, an unexcused absence may not be changed.

Appointments/Leaving School Early Procedures

1. Parents and students should make every effort to schedule medical, dental, etc... appointments after school hours.

2. A note must be given to the office the day of an appointment.
3. A document will be issued to the student that will serve as a pass to come to the office to sign out.
4. Students should present a document signed by the physician/dentist/court etc... and returned to the office the next day in attendance.
5. A student who becomes ill may only leave school through the nurse's office procedure.
6. Students are not excused for appointments, trips, etc. during final exams.

Failure to follow the procedure may cause the absence to be counted as truancy.

ABSENCES

School absences are classified in one of the following three categories and will be countable **or** exempt from the 10-day limits:

Excused – Parent has called, sent a note and the reason is acceptable according to State and South Gibson School Corporation guidelines: pre-approved travel, illness, funerals, and prearranged approved absences. Make-up work will be accepted within one day of the student's return. (Teachers may allow a longer length of time, but it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for make-up work.) (See Absence Count below)

Excused/Personal – Parent have called, sent a note, etc.. knowing of the child's absence. Examples: car trouble, missed bus, child care, and oversleeping. With the exception of out-of-school suspensions, all excused/personal absences are counted toward the 10-day limit.

College Visits – Seniors are allowed three college visits and juniors' two college visits per school year which will be counted as an approved absence. Students must provide documentation showing they attended the college visit.

Unexcused/Truancy

Any absence without the parent's approval or knowledge

Leaving class without the permission of the teacher

Being tardy to class more than 5 minutes without a verifiable reason

Three tardies (excused or unexcused) equal one countable absence.

Aiding another student in being truant

Students who arrive **on school property** for the school day may not leave until their class day is complete unless the building principal or assistant principal grants permission. **If a student leaves without permission for any reason, he/she will be considered truant.** All truanies are counted toward the 10-day limit. **No make-up work is permitted and additional disciplinary action may occur.**

Absence Count

- A. Count against the 10-day loss of credit limit:
 - a. Illness – parent calls before 8:30 a.m. or sends a note to verify
 - b. Non-immediate family funerals and visitations
 - c. Excused personal absence or truancy
 - d. Prearranged with Principal's approval
- B. Does not count against 10 day limit:
 - a. Family funeral or visitations for deaths in immediate family (mother, father, siblings, grandmother, grandfather or principal approved)
 - b. Field trip or school related absence
 - c. Service as a Page in Indiana General Assembly
 - d. Precinct election worker – arranged and documented
 - e. Indiana National Guard service
 - f. Court ordered subpoena
 - g. College or military visitation – arranged, documented and within limits
 - h. Medical excused with documentation from healthcare provider
 - i. Principal excused/unusual circumstances

Truancy

Truancy is an absence without parent/guardian approval and school knowledge. Habitual truant is defined **as a student who is chronically absent, by having unexcused absences from school for more than ten (10) days of school in one (1) school year** or willfully fails to attend school in defiance of parental authority in any one of the following circumstances: 1) Absence for three (3) days in any school year in defiance of parental authority; or 2) any unexcused absence (no make-up) of ten (10) days in any school year. **A student identified as a habitual truant may not be issued an operator's license or a learner's permit to drive a motor vehicle under IC 9-24 until the individual is at least eighteen (18) years of age. The Compulsory Attendance Laws of the State of Indiana require each child who is more than seven years of age**, and not more than seventeen years of age, to be in school each day that school is in session. If other corrective measures fail, the habitual truants will be subject to the provisions of Section 31 of Public Law 218 – Student Due Process which states: Confirmed truant on petition of recommendation of the attendance office and superintendent having jurisdiction, a child who habitually absents himself/herself from school in violation of compulsory laws may be tried by the judge of any juvenile circuit or superior court. If the judge finds that the child is confirmed truant, he may (a) commit the child to the Indiana Boy's School or the Indiana Girl's School, as appropriate, (b) commit the child to another custodial

institution in this state, or (c) place the child in the care of a probation officer. In truancy situations, the student has no privilege to make up any classroom assignments. Also, the school will impose further disciplinary measures in a truancy case. In most cases, the student will serve detention equal to the number of hours truant. The Office of Family and Children will be notified in the case of a habitual truant or a student with excessive absences. The Gibson County Prosecutor's Office may also be notified and potential charges could be filed against the parent for educational neglect.