



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021 - 2022

1809 SW 36th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33914

(239) 549-0606 Office
(239) 549-2806 Fax
(239) 337-3347 ParentLink

School Website: <http://gfm.leeschools.net/>

Student Hours - 9:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Teacher Hours - 8:44 a.m. - 4:20 p.m.
Office Hours - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This handbook is provided to you to assist you in becoming familiar with our policies and procedures. Please read it carefully and know it is always available for you on your Google Drive.

My Schedule Semester One August 10, 2021 – January 10, 2022

Blue Day - ODD						
Period	1	3	5	7	9	11
Subject						
Room						
Teacher						
Gray Day - EVEN						
Period	2	4	6	8	10	12
Subject						
Room						
Teacher						

**My Schedule Semester Two
January 12, 2022 – June 2, 2022**

Blue Day - ODD						
Period	1	3	5	7	9	11
Subject						
Room						
Teacher						
Gray Day - EVEN						
Period	2	4	6	8	10	12
Subject						
Room						
Teacher						

Clubs & Organizations

***** All Clubs and Organizations are subject to change*****

Art Club - Art students are the ones that paint the murals in the hallways of Gulf. The club allows students to become more creative in different areas of art.

Builder's Club - The Builder's Club is a Kiwanis sponsored organization that provides service to our community.

Drama Club - The Drama Club stages several plays during the course of the school year. Students can act, sing, dance as well as learn about set design, stage management and direction, and various other backstage operations.

Math Club - The Math Club meets once a week beginning in September through April. Both sixth and seventh graders will compete in two Saturday events. Algebra students will be involved in at least three competitions.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) - The National Junior Honor Society has been established to recognize academic achievement and encourages service hours for the school community. The five qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship are required for induction.

SADD Club - SADD stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions. These students meet to educate the school on poor choices that can be made during your middle and high school years. This organization is dedicated to preventing destructive decisions, particularly underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, teen violence and teen suicide.

Student Government - Student Government is a service organization made up of student representatives from sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Their purpose is to serve the needs of the student body by providing a forum for students to transmit their wants, needs and desires to the administration and support the school through various service activities.

Team Sports/Intramurals:

August- October: Basketball & Cross Country

October –December: Volleyball

January-March: Soccer

March –May: Track & Field, Golf and Tennis

****Athletic eligibility is dependent upon a 2.0 GPA and a submitted athletic eligibility form.**

School Messenger Information

SchoolMessenger® Communicate is a program that enables administration from the District and schools to send families important messages, emergency broadcasts, attendance alerts and event reminders.

There is also a way to receive text messages, however under a rule by the Federal Communications Commission, you must opt in for that service. The process is easy and only takes a few seconds to complete. Simply text any one of these words ***subscribe***, ***optin*** or ***yes*** to the number 67587.

You will know you were successful if you receive the following reply message:

You are registered 4 School Messenger notifications. Reply STOP to cancel, HELP for help. Msg&data rates may apply. Msg freq. varies. schoolmessenger.com/txt

You will want to repeat the opt-in process for any wireless numbers that you wish to include:

Please note, although the district does not charge you for this service, it does not pay for text or phone message charges that may be incurred by you for sending or receiving text messages or receiving phone calls. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

In addition to performing the opt-in process above, you will want to ensure that the district has your wireless number(s) in our student information database. If you have not already provided that information to your school, please contact them directly.

Families may sign up for a free account at go.schoolmessenger.com to set communication preferences for calls and emails.

School Expectations

Announcements

Each school day begins with announcements on WGMS. While the news is on, everyone is expected to be seated, remain attentive and silent, and listen carefully.

Arriving Early and Staying Late

Students are not permitted on the school campus unsupervised before 9:15 a.m. or after 4:20 p.m. Students who arrive prior to 9:15 a.m. are expected to check in through the Before School Program (fee-based) located in the cafeteria. Please contact our office at (239) 549-0606 if you are running late and will not be here by 4:20 p.m. to pick-up your child.

Arriving Late to School

Students who arrive at school after the 9:45 a.m. bell are to report to the main office and sign the Tardy Log Book. The Code of Conduct will be followed for enforcing the tardy policy. For the first and second offense, a warning is issued. For the third offense, a detention is issued. Additional consequences are outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Athletic Sports (Intramural) Program -

GMS offers several athletic sports which operate after school. Some of these programs which occur throughout the school year are as follows: Basketball, Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer, Track & Field, Golf and Tennis. Student athletes must maintain proper behavior and conduct, especially when their sport is in season (any type of suspension may jeopardize the student's participation during the intramural sport and will jeopardize the student's participation during the extramural sport). Student athletes must maintain proper academic status to fully participate during their sport (minimum 2.0 G.P.A.). Further information may be found on the G.M.S. website by clicking on the link for sports.

Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for a student to take full advantage of available educational opportunities. All students shall be counted in attendance when they are present in their assigned classes, serving internal suspension, participating in a school sponsored function, or on an educational field trip. Students are expected to be in school except in cases of emergency or for reasons as outlined in the Code of Conduct:

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

- To be in school every day, on time, in dress code, and in every class unless excused.
- To bring appropriate materials (including their charged Chromebook) to all classes.
- To be responsible for obtaining and completing all assignments missed during an absence. *Work must be made up in a reasonable amount of time according to the School Board Policy (number of days absent plus one day). 24 hour notice is expected to gather classwork for absent students.*

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

- A parent/guardian is expected to send in a note on the day your child returns specifying the date(s) and the reason for the absence.

Before, After School Program

GMS operates a **fee based program** for students needing to be on campus prior to or after school hours. This is a prepaid program that operates from 7:00 a.m. until the morning bell, and from dismissal until 6:00 p.m. For more information please call 239-549-0606 or check out the school website at <http://gfm.leeschools.net/>

Birthdays/Celebrations

Students are not allowed to have balloons, flowers or gifts delivered to them in the classroom or to carry them throughout the day. Any item(s) delivered to the school for students will be held in the office until dismissal. Balloons are not allowed on the school buses as they are a distraction for drivers.

Bus Change Requests

Students may not enter or exit a bus stop other than their own, except in the case of an extreme emergency. Changes must be approved in advance by one of our administrators and a bus pass must be issued.

Cafeteria (Breakfast/Lunch)

Breakfast will be in the cafeteria in the morning. If you are having breakfast please report to the cafeteria prior to going to class. All students are eligible for free breakfast.

Each student will have a lunch account. Money may be added to this account to cover a la carte items. Checks should be made payable to G.M.S. and contain the student's first and last name.

With the exception of water, concession or vending machine items are not permitted to be taken outside of the cafeteria. Students are permitted to have water bottles in class – bottles must be clear, and the water must be clear and non-flavored.

Change of Address

Please contact the school information specialist in the event of an address change, phone number, or email address. Having accurate information facilitates communication between school and home.

Chromebooks

All students will be issued a Chromebook. Chromebooks will be checked out to students, and are the responsibility of students, just as textbooks.

Clinic

Any student who becomes ill during the school day is to report to the clinic. Students must use a CASTLE pass to go to the clinic. If a pass is not available, the teacher must provide a paper pass that includes the student's name, time, reason, and sending teacher's name. The clinic aide will contact the parent/guardian if the student needs to go home. **Some students that demonstrate the symptoms associated with COVID will be moved into the isolation room where they will remain until a parent or guardian can pick them up.**

Clubs and Organizations

GMS has service clubs, special interest groups, and intramural sports. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for all students to become involved in a school-sponsored activity. Students should listen to WGMS announcements for more information about available activities offered here.

Code of Conduct for Students

Students' rights and responsibilities are outlined in The Lee County Code of Conduct printed by the School Board of Lee County. An electronic copy is available on the district website (or click [here](#)). Please make sure you go over this booklet carefully with your parents and return the signature page to school. The consequences for breaking school rules are progressive in nature. Repeated rule violations will yield stricter penalties. Any staff member has the right to discipline a student who is not exhibiting proper behavior in school.

Dress Code

Gulf Middle School enforces the student dress code adopted by The School District of Lee County. The purpose of our dress code policy is to encourage students to focus on the learning process without the distractions of unsuitable dress and grooming. Students should maintain a clean appearance at all times. The following establishes the minimum acceptable standards for student dress to be interpreted and enforced by the principal or designee.

TOPS

- **Translucent (see-through), tank tops, or lace tops are not permitted.**
- **Shirts may not be tied or twisted up.** Shirts or dresses shall be appropriately fastened in accordance with the design of the clothing.
- Tops may not be excessively tight and sleeves must cover the shoulder.
- Midriffs should not be shown at any time.
- **Strapless or low-cut clothing (including plunging V-neck shirts) is not permitted even with a camisole or tank top underneath it.**
- All shirts or dresses worn under jackets, sweatshirts or sweaters must adhere to the dress code.
- Long, oversized sports jerseys are prohibited.

BOTTOMS

- **Pants with holes are not permitted.**
- **Shorts and skirts must be no shorter than three inches above both the front and back of the knee. Leggings are not permitted to be worn under shorts or skirts.**
- Pants may not be excessively tight (no leggings, tights, yoga style pants or sweatpants).
- Pants shall be properly fastened, buttoned, zipped and worn at the natural waistline.
- **Pajama pants and undergarments may not be worn as outerwear, nor should they be visible at any time.**

FOOTWEAR

- Shoes (appropriate footwear) shall be worn at all times. All footwear must have backs/straps. **Bedroom slippers, flip-flops, Crocs, and sport sandals are not permitted.**

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Hair must be a natural color.**
- **Face masks are optional as of 8/3/21.**
- Shaved designs into the eyebrows are not permitted.
- Adornments, which are attached (pierced) to exposed body parts (other than the ears) are not permitted. Specifically, jewelry for pierced tongues, noses, eyebrows, and lips is not permitted. Gauging of the ears is also not permitted.

- **Writing, tattoos, or body stickers on face, arms, hands, or legs is not permitted. Writing on clothing with pens or markers is not permitted.**
- **During the school days the wearing of hats, stocking caps, bandanas, jacket hoods, and sunglasses are not permitted.** Hats may be worn at P.E. only.
- Any articles of clothing or jewelry (chains, bracelets, rings, chokers) that could likely cause injury are not permitted. Wallet chains, mesh gloves, and fingerless gloves are prohibited.
- Symbols that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, weapons, or any other illegal activity are not permitted.
- Gang-related tattoos, or other tattoos that may cause a substantial disruption to the educational environment as determined by the principal, are prohibited.
- Clothing with slogans or advertising of a controversial or obscene nature are not permitted.
- **Due to various health issues for some students and staff, perfume, cologne, body spray, sunscreen, and other strong aromatic items must be applied at home.**

Students are expected to meet dress code expectations each day of school. **Students who choose not to meet the dress code will not be permitted in class until appropriate clothing is secured. The administration reserves the right to declare other items not covered in this dress code inappropriate for school. The final decision as to whether an item is appropriate for school rests with the school administration. Repeated, purposeful violations of the GMS dress code will be considered as insubordination. Insubordination will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines in the Code of Conduct for Lee County Public Schools.**

Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Smart Watches, Tablets, Etc.)

Students are permitted to have cell phones and other personal electronic devices while on campus. ***Wireless peripherals (i.e. Air Pods, Bluetooth speakers, etc.) are not allowed.*** Cell phones and smart watches must be turned off at all times. Possession of all electronic devices is done at the student's own risk and the school assumes no responsibility with regard to these items.

Emergencies/Health Information Card

All students are required to have an up to date health information card. Most forms are accessible in Focus Forms. For questions on completing the form in Focus, call the school at 239-549-0606. Students/parents may also receive a card on the first day of school. In the event of an emergency, the school must have accurate telephone numbers for both parents, guardians and/or other designated people. Any updated information should be given to the Information Specialist.

Emergency/Fire Drills

Emergency/Fire Drills will be held monthly during the school year. An evacuation plan is posted in each room. Teachers will give detailed instruction on proper evacuation procedures. All students must remain with the teacher at all times. Inappropriate behavior during any drill may result in a referral.

Final Exams

Students may be given final exams at the end of each semester. If for some reason a student is unable to take an exam, the parent must contact an administrator to be excused and the student is responsible for making arrangements with the teacher to make up the exam.

Field Trips

Students must observe all school rules on field trips. Students who do not return completed and signed permission slips will not be allowed to participate. Some trips have established criteria for eligibility based on student discipline records.

Grading Scale

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F 0-59

Gum

Gum is not permitted on campus. Our goal is to maintain a clean and attractive environment. A student's Dolphin Card will be signed if they have gum.

Homework

Homework can be an important part of learning. Students are encouraged to set aside time on a daily basis for study at home. This practice will add to the academic learning experience and certainly improve grades. If a student is absent for three or more days from school, homework may be requested by contacting the main office.

Immunizations for Students

All students, including those students presently enrolled, who attend 7th grade in a Florida school will be required to follow the Florida Department of Health Immunization Guidelines.

Lost and Found

Personal belongings should be clearly marked with the student's name. The school is not responsible for any loss of personal property. The Lost and Found is located in the Clinic. If you find something, please alert a staff member and they will turn it in to the Clinic as soon as possible.

Medications

For students who must take medication, arrangements should be made with the appropriate physician so that the medication may be given at home before and after school hours. Medication may be given at school only if failure to take it could jeopardize the student's health. If this is the case, the Parent Permission for Medication Form (MIS/398), available from the school, must be filled out by the student's parent/guardian. If any medication is needed for more than a two week period, the Doctor's Permission for Medication Form MIS/401 must also be completed.

If a doctor orders a non-prescription medication such as aspirin or cough medicine/drops, the doctor must give the parents a written note to send to the school. No over the counter medications (non-prescription) will be given without a written statement from the doctor.

All medication must be fully labeled and in the original container with the student's name and direction for dosage. All medication must be brought to the nurse before school begins and must be stored in the clinic.

Money and Valuables

Large sums of money or valuables should not be brought to school. All jewelry must be personally secured and expensive items should never be brought to school. The school is not responsible for the disappearance or theft of a students' personal property.

Pledge of Allegiance - Current law requires each school to post a notice in a prominent place to inform students they have the right to not participate in the morning pledge with written permission from their parents. The bill clarifies that the student's right to not participate includes not standing or placing the right hand over his or her heart.

Prohibited Items

Any items that may distract the school/class learning environment are not to be brought on campus. A list of prohibited items may be found in the Lee County School District's Code of Conduct.

Request to Leave School Early

In the event that a student needs to be signed out early, the parent must check in with the front office. In order to sign out a student, the parent/guardian must have a photo I.D. and be listed on the Student Emergency Card. The child will be located and requested to report to the main office. The child will not be called to the front office until the parent arrives.

Restrooms

Students are expected to sign out on their Chromebook through CASTLE before leaving their classroom. Students may only use the restroom or water fountain in their designated area during class time, not transitional time.

School Counseling Services

We have two school counselors available to help students with a variety of situations, including issues in class, peers or home situations. Students may submit a request through CASTLE to see the school counselor.

School Resource Office (SRO)

School Resource Officers are representatives of Cape Coral Police Department. The SRO may serve as a classroom lecturer and resource in matters concerning the law and law enforcement. The SRO may counsel students and faculty and serves as positive role models for students. They may also assist with school clubs and activities.

Search and Seizure

If at any time there is reason to believe that a student is concealing stolen or illegal property, alcoholic beverages, tobacco or tobacco products, illegal drugs or substances, weapons or any other prohibited item, the administrative staff has the right to search the student or his/her personal property. All searches are done with at least two adults present.

Textbooks

Students are responsible for damage to or loss of textbooks assigned to their care. Students who damage books or school property will be required to pay for the damage or replacement cost of the item.

Transfers

Students who transfer to another school within the Lee County School District must have their parent/guardian contact our Information Specialist. Parents withdrawing a student from the Lee County School District will need to sign a Release of Student Records form, which will allow us to forward the student's records to the new school. The Information Specialist is your contact person for starting these procedures. The student must return all books and materials and pay any outstanding fines prior to leaving school.

Visitors

All visitors to the school must report to the main office to register and receive a visitor's pass. All visitors must have a Driver's License scanned into our Keep-N-Track system for security purposes. Once cleared, the visitor will receive a visitor pass/sticker to adhere to their clothing. Parents are encouraged to make appointments to see administrators, counselors, or teachers. Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an asset to the success of our school program. We invite parents, senior citizens, retirees, and others to become part of our volunteer program. Volunteer assignments are made by our Volunteer Coordinator. All volunteers must complete the School District of Lee County Volunteer Application.

Web Page

Our web site can be found at <http://gfm.leeschools.net>