

George Washington Carver High School

Student Handbook



3900 24th Street North
Birmingham, Alabama 35207

Mrs. Tikki Hines, Principal

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Our Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Our Mission

The mission of George Washington Carver High School for Health Professions, Engineering, and Technology is to ensure our students the academic success, technological proficiency, communication skills, cultural enrichment, and physical well-being that will enable them to compete in an ever-changing global society.

Our Vision

George Washington Carver High School will be a collaborative and professional learning environment where research-based best instructional practices and data drive superior curriculum and instruction, preparing students to be successful in a global society.

Our Core Values

- We believe that all children can learn.
- We believe that learning is a lifelong process.
- We believe that parental involvement is an integral part of the learning process.
- We believe everyone needs to develop respect, a positive self-image, and interpersonal skills facilitated by character education and staff modeling.
- We believe everyone needs a strong skills base and the ability to investigate solutions.
- We believe that children learn best when their instruction matches their learning styles and actively participate in the process.
- We believe that every child has worth.
- We believe that every child has a right to a safe environment.
- We believe everyone needs to possess the technical skills needed to function in our rapidly progressing society.
- We believe that assessments should employ a variety of evaluation techniques.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for a student's successful academic progress. The right to attend school and arrive on time is the responsibility of the student and the parent (in the case of children under seventeen years of age).

Alabama State Law 16-28-3, Code of Alabama, 1975, requires all children between six (6) and seventeen (17) to attend school regularly. Alabama State law states that each child who enrolls in a public school, whether or not the child is required by law to enroll, is subject to the school attendance and truancy laws of the state. Parents or guardians controlling school-age children are responsible for their children's regular attendance and proper conduct. Failure to comply with the Compulsory School Attendance Law requires the Attendance Officer to file a complaint in the Jefferson County Family Court.

Excused Absences

Absences may be excused for the following reasons:

- o personal illness;

- O death in the immediate family;

- o inclement weather (as determined by the principal), which would be dangerous to the life and The health of the child;

- o legal quarantine;

- o emergency conditions as determined by the principal; and

- o prior permission of the principal upon request of the parent or legal guardian.

Written Excuses:

A written excuse from the parent/guardian explaining the absence or a doctor's note stating the reason for the absence must be provided to the school ***within three (3) days*** of the student's return to school to be

Counted as an excused absence. The written statement must include:

- 1.The date(s) of absence

- 2.The reason for the absence

- 3.The parent's signature

A written excuse from parents or guardians, as described above, will excuse absences for up to but not exceeding ten (10) absences during the school year. Further absences require a written excuse from a medical doctor or court official.

Unexcused Absences:

Any absence that does not fall under the category of Excused Absence is recorded as an Unexcused Absence. Any student with seven (7) unexcused absences during the school year may be referred to Early Warning Court.

What to Expect for Excessive Unexcused Absences:

- 3rd unexcused absence: warning letter from the school

- 5th unexcused absence: parent conference with school officials

- 6th unexcused absence: parent meeting with district attendance staff

- 7th unexcused absence: parent and/or student may be referred to the Early Warning Truancy Program

- 10th unexcused absence: petition may be filed in Jefferson County Family Court against parent or student for truancy or educational neglect

Early Warning Truancy Program

Parents and students will be referred to the Early Warning Truancy Program on the seventh (7TH) unexcused absence. Referral to the program includes the following steps:

1. The parent will receive official notification by U.S. Mail. The notice will require the parent and student to report to Jefferson County Family Court.
2. The parent and student will meet with the attendance officer and a court official. The attendance officer will review the system's Attendance Policy. The Court Official will review the State of Alabama's Attendance Laws and the consequences of breaking the laws.
3. If the parent and student fail to appear at the scheduled Early Warning Truancy Program, the parent may receive a legal notice and a court referral.

Absence Due to Chronic Ailment:

Parents or guardians of any student having a chronic ailment that may cause the student to miss school are required to provide the school with a clinical or doctor's statement verifying the child's condition. The clinical or doctor's statement must be provided when a student enrolls or at the time of diagnosis (if already enrolled). An updated doctor's statement should be provided at the beginning of each school

Year. The written statement must include:

1. The nature of the child's illness
2. A statement from the doctor that the student may have to miss school from time to time due to this illness.

Failure of parent/guardian to provide the school with a chronic ailment statement can result in unexcused absence accumulation and referral to Juvenile Court.

A written excuse from the parent/guardian must be submitted to the school for each absence, explaining why the absence is due to a chronic ailment.

In prolonged absences due to illness, the parent or guardian should seek assistance from the Homebound Program.

Absence Due to Extreme Emergency:

In cases where extreme emergencies exist and can be verified, the principal may extend the maximum number of unexcused absences per term that a student may accumulate before credit is withheld. The principal may establish an alternative plan by which students may redeem credits. This plan must include the completion of assignments as well as a time requirement, such as Saturday School or before/after school time.

Loss of Credit and Appeal:

For high school students, excuses are limited to ten (10) per semester for a full-credit course and five (5) for a half-credit course. Combined (excused and unexcused) absences from a class period more than ten (10) times a semester may result in a loss of credit.

Chronic Absenteeism

As defined by the Alabama State Department of Education, chronically absent students are those students who miss 15 or more days of school for any reason- including excused or unexcused absences. According to the OCR, an absent student is one who misses 50 percent of the instructional day for any reason and regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused. In other words, students who are absent for any reason - including suspension, illness, and death in the family - AND miss 15 or more days of the school year will be considered chronically absent.

Dress Code Policy

Students are required to dress in proper dress code attire. It will be the parent's responsibility to ensure compliance with the dress code policy. All students who attend Birmingham City Schools must comply with the dress code policy.

1. All students will wear the designated school system attire.
2. All students in grades 9-12 must use clear or mesh book bags/backpacks only. All purses must not be larger than a 4x6 crossover bag.
3. ID cards issued by the school are a part of the required uniform and must be worn in a visible location above the waist at all times. (If applicable)

Appropriate Expectations for School Attire

Students are allowed to wear pants, jeans (with holes if tights or shorts are underneath), Capri pants, and walking shorts.

- Walking Shorts lengths are limited to 2" above the knee.
- Any style of enclosed shoe can be worn except:
 - Shoes with open toes, boots with chains, steel toes, metal reinforcement decorations, 3-inch heels or wedges, or any other shoes the principal deems unsafe.
- Gloves, coats, and hooded jackets worn to school must be stored in lockers or other designated locations during the normal school day. Students sensitive to cold temperatures may include a sweater or sweatshirt.

These articles of clothing or styles of dress are strictly forbidden while on the school campus or under school supervision:

- Hoods (including jackets and/or sweatshirts), masks, or coverings over the face
- Cargo-style pants or shorts with excessive pockets; overalls or coveralls
- Over-sized pants or shirts; pants worn below the waist or "sagging"
- Male students are required to wear belts with pants.
- Pajamas, leggings, knit, nylon, spandex, or skin-tight/tightly fitted clothes, dresses, tops, or bottoms
- Tops, dresses, or t-shirts with visible cleavage or tight fitted
- Tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, mesh tops, midriff tops without a cover-up shirt
- Sunglasses, buttons, jewelry, accessories, or any clothing with offensive, Lewd, vulgar, obscene language,
- slogans or pictures which advocate/advertise the use of drugs or alcohol or depict weapons or acts of violence
- Rollers, combs, cosmetology clamps, sweatbands, hats, caps, or other head coverings
- Visible undergarments clothing altered by cuts, slits, or holes or that in any way exposes the skin
- Gold teeth covers or fangs (unless required by a dentist with written documentation on file)
- Anything else the principal or designee deems inappropriate or disruptive of the educational environment.

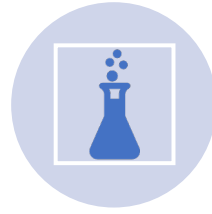
Graduation Requirements



ENGLISH
4 CREDITS



MATH
4 CREDITS



SCIENCE
4 CREDITS



SOCIAL STUDIES
4 CREDITS



CAREER TECHNICAL
EDUCATION/FINE
ARTS/WORLD LANGUAGES:
3 CREDITS



CAREER PREPARATION
1 CREDIT



HEALTH EDUCATION .5 &
PHYSICAL EDUCATION:
1 CREDIT



GENERAL ELECTIVES:
2.5 CREDITS

Graduation Requirements

English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
English 9	Geometry	Biology	World History
English 10	Algebra I	Physical Science or/and Chemistry	US History 10
English 11	Algebra II w/Trigonometry	Human Anatomy or /and Earth Science	US History 11
English 12	Precalculus	Environmental Science	Government/Economics

Additional Required Credits

- Physical Education – 1 Credit
- CTE/Foreign Language/Art Education -3 Credits
- Health - .5 Credit Electives -2.5
- Career Preparedness -1 Credit
- Credit Total: 24

Graduation Requirements

- Students are promoted from grade to grade based on academic credits earned during the school year, in summer school programs, or in such other academic programs approved or recognized by the Board. Students who are eligible for promotion from grade to grade may nevertheless be retained by agreement of the parents and appropriate school officials.

- **High school counselors uses the following criteria to determine promotion:**
 - Students must earn 6 credits to earn sophomore status. Two or more course credits must be in core courses.
 - Students must earn 12 credits to earn junior status. Four or more course credits must be in core credits.
 - Students must earn 18 credits to earn senior status. Six or more must be in core course credits.

Graduation Requirements

Merit Endorsement

In order to receive the Alabama Diploma with Merit, a student must meet the minimum requirements for the Alabama High School Diploma. In addition, students must earn a total of **24** credits and:

- earn one math credit in a math course higher than Algebra II *with* Trigonometry
- ***successfully*** complete two of four core credits as evidenced by passing with an average of “C” or higher each semester in advanced or Pre-AP coursework in grade 10.
- ***successfully*** earn
 - three Advanced Placement credits as evidenced by an average of “C” or higher each **semester, or**
 - three International Baccalaureate credits as evidenced by an average of “C” or higher each **semester, or**
 - two AP *and* one Dual Enrollment credits **or** one AP/IB and two Dual Enrollment (for a **total of 3**) as evidenced by an average of “C” or higher each **semester** ...must complete a minimum of one AP/IB.

Graduation Requirements

Career and Technology Endorsement

In order to receive the Alabama Diploma with Career and Technical Endorsement, a student must meet the minimum requirements for the Alabama High School diploma in addition to **three sequential** Career and Technical Courses in the same pathway **and** earn credentialing in that area.

College & Career Readiness Certificate Levels/Employability/ACT Benchmark/Enlistment

***The ACT WORKKEYS**

- **Silver Level-4-Employability 65% of jobs**
- **Gold Level-5-Employability 90% of jobs**
- **Platinum Level-6-Employability 100% of jobs**

***INDUSTRY Credential**

- **AIDT-Academy of Craft Training- NCCER**

Graduation Requirements

College & Career Readiness Certificate Levels/Employability/ACT Benchmark/Enlistment CONTINUED...

***MILITARY ENLISTMENT**

- **Documentation of formal enlistment**

***THE ACT TEST-BENCHMARK**

- **English=18**
- **Math=22**
- **Reading=22**
- **Science=23**
- **Students only have to meet ONE of these benchmarks**

***ADVANCED PLACEMENT QUALIFYING SCORE**

- **AP Qualifying Score= 3,4, or 5**

***DUAL ENROLLMENT**

- **Successful completion of dual enrollment course to be determined by partnered colleges/universities.**

Grading Scale

Letter	Range Scores	Quality Points	Advanced/DE	Advanced Placement /IB
A	90-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
B	80-89	3.0	3.5	4.0
C	70-79	2.0	2.5	3.0
D	60-69	1.0	1.5	1.0
F	0-59	0	0	0

Promotion/Retention/ Career Opportunities

- **Credit Recovery- Acellus & Edgenuity (Imagine Learning)**
- **Credit Advancement-Acellus**
- **Dual Enrollment- Partnerships w/Lawson State Community College & Jefferson State Community College**
- **Internships/Apprenticeships- Partnerships w/Ed. Foundation & Birmingham Promise**
- **Early Graduation- students seeking early graduation must meet all requirements set and adopted by Birmingham City Schools Board of Education on April 13, 2021.**

Academies and Career Pathways

In the Carver Career Technical Education (CTE) program, students will gain skills through real world activities that they can use in any profession.

9th Grade: Through a variety of activities in the Career Preparedness class, students will gain knowledge about the career pathways offered at Carver.

10th Grade: Students have the option to explore up to two career pathways by taking intro level courses that prepare them for credentialing.

11th Grade: Students will take the second level course in one to two career pathways.

12th Grade: Students will complete the final course in their career pathway(s).

How does a student select a career pathway? A student chooses their career pathway during course selection. There are no prerequisites to begin a pathway. **All students are eligible to select the pathway of their choice.**

As students complete their three courses in a career pathway, they will visit businesses, organizations, and post-high school learning institutions. They can even apply for paid internships. Through each career pathway, they have the potential to earn an industry credential/certification to use in their future career.

Academies and Career Pathways

Academy of Engineering: Engineering is designed to offer students an overview of the engineering profession and fundamental skills utilized in general engineering. Students investigate various engineering disciplines and related career paths. They develop communication and teamwork skills as well as increase their understanding of basic scientific and mathematics principles used in problem solving through the engineering design process. Students will also explore the application of engineering principles in various technological areas including construction, transportation, communication, manufacturing, and bioengineering.

Academy of Health Sciences: The Health Science Academy provides students with essential knowledge and skills for pursuing careers in the following areas: Therapeutic Services, Diagnostic Services, Health Informatics, Support Services, and Biotechnology Research and Development. Rigorous and challenging content may include a variety of instructional strategies, work-based learning experiences, and simulations.

Cosmetology: This pathway is for students who are interested in pursuing careers that provide services to consumers in the field of beauty application and treatments, such as hairstyling, skin care, cosmetics, manicures/pedicures, and electrology.

Graphic Arts (Academy of Visual Communications): Graphic Arts (Printing) provides students with information regarding safety, image preparation, press operations, and finishing operations in a laboratory setting. Students learn skills enabling them to enter specialized advanced graphic arts courses.

JROTC: The United States Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) offers students an opportunity to grow as a leader both in the classroom and in the community. Although students are given opportunities to learn about military enlistment, this program focuses on developing students as active citizens through the study of ethics, citizenship, leadership skills, communication skills, and life skills.

Sports Marketing: The Sports Marketing Career Pathway provides students with the knowledge they need to create brands and promote businesses. Students will learn how to plan, staff, and carry out sporting events while studying the finances needed to design such events.

Library

Library Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

General Rules:

1. Students are expected to follow the Birmingham City Schools Code of Conduct and respect the library space/materials and other students by keeping areas clean and keeping voices at a reasonable level.
2. Students are not allowed to eat meals i.e. breakfast or lunch in the library. Beverages with a lid are allowed if handled responsibly.
3. Large furniture should not be moved; desks and chairs can be moved for collaborative purposes (see the librarian first).
4. Students are not allowed to checkout materials for other individuals.
5. Students are expected to use the library, its resources, and electronic devices for educational purposes only.
6. Students who are not on task, disrupting other students, or engaging in inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the library to return to their classroom teacher and administration will be notified.

Library

Online Tools:

Students can view the library catalog via the Destiny platform. Also, students can access the Alabama Virtual Library for free research resources.

Borrowing Books:

Students can borrow up to four books at a time for two weeks. Books can be renewed if there are no holds.

Students are responsible for the book upon checkout. A charge will be placed on the student's account if the book is returned severely damaged.

All library books must be turned in by the end of the year to avoid charges on the student's account.

Library

Activities

The library hosts three main clubs for students—Anime & Manga Club, K-Pop Club, and the RAMS Reading Society. In addition, throughout the year, students can participate in reading challenges, makerspace activities, and other library programming.

Fine Arts

Fine Arts

Art, Band, Choir, and Orchestra classes are offered to students in 9-12 grades at Carver High School. Participation in the fine arts not only teaches students how to learn a new artistic skill, but also affords students to build self-esteem and self-discipline, to work cooperatively within groups and to effectively express themselves. Integrating the arts into other subject areas improves academic achievement, motivates attendance, promotes involvement, and encourages disciplined behavior.

Band offers Marching band during the Fall semester and Concert band in the Spring semester. Orchestra is comprised of learning the violin, viola, cello or double bass. Band, Choir and Orchestra students all participate in numerous performances throughout the year both in and outside of school. Students also participate in many adjudications throughout the year both at the local and state level.



Athletic Program

The Athletic Department at George Washington Carver High School promotes athletic programs that will provide relevant learning experiences to student-athletes while enhancing their achievement of educational and athletic goals. With "Excellence as Our Standard," we uphold the values of teamwork, pride, respect, commitment, good work ethic, and sportsmanship. Through our programs, participating student-athletes will develop a positive winning attitude that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.



Athletics Offered

Fall Sports:

Football

Girls Flag Football

Cheerleading

Cross Country

Swimming

E-Sports



Winter Sports:

Boys/Girls Basketball

Wrestling

Indoor Track

Bowling



Spring Sports:

Boys/Girls Soccer

Softball

Baseball

Tennis

Outdoor Track



Clubs and Organizations

The following clubs and organizations may be available to students to participate at G.W. Carver High School:

- Anime & Manga Club
- Choir
- DECA
- FBLA
- Heritage Panel
- HOSA
- InFocus
- JROTC
- K-Pop Club
- Marching Band/Concert Band
- National Honor Society
- Orchestra
- PeerHelpers
- R4 Recycling Club
- Rambassadors
- RAMS Reading Society
- Robotics
- Senior Class Sponsors
- Senior Officers
- SGA
- SkillsUSA
- Yearbook

G.W. Carver High School Grievance Procedure

(for students)

A grievance may be raised regarding one (1) or more of the following:

- Violation of the student's constitutional rights
- Concern for the student's safety
- Denial of an equal opportunity to participate in any program or activity for which the student qualifies not related to the student's individual capabilities.
- Discrimination is based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

The complainant must file a grievance within thirty (30) days of the time the complainant knew or should have known there was a reason for the complaint. The initial grievance should be made using the attached form. You can also access the grievance form using the QR Code attached. **Note: A student's parent/guardian may initiate the complaint process.** A verbal complaint may be made to any school staff, and the receiving school staff shall immediately inform an administrator of the grievance. The staff member shall preserve the confidentiality of the subject, disclosing it only to the appropriate school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor or as otherwise required by law. **If the receiving school administrator is included in the allegation, the grievance shall be transferred to another administrator or the next higher supervisor.**

A grievance may be withdrawn at any time. Once withdrawn, the process cannot be reopened if it is not within thirty (30) days.

Retaliatory or intimidating acts against any student who has made a complaint under this policy or against a student who has testified, assisted, and participated in any manner in an investigation relating to a grievance, are specifically prohibited and constitute grounds for a separate grievance.

A student who knowingly submits a false grievance will be subjected to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension or expulsion. The District policy will be followed.

G. W. Carver High School Grievance Form

Name				Date	
Address		City		State	
Phone		Phone			
Email Address					
I wish to complain against:					
Name		School		Position	
Specify your complaint by stating the problem. Describe the incident, the participants, the background to the incident, and any attempts you have made to solve the problem. Be sure to note all relevant dates, times, and places.					
If there is anyone who can provide more information, please list their name and number below.					
Name		Phone			
Name		Phone			
Indicate what you feel should be done to solve the problem.					
Complainant's Name (printed)			Complainant's Signature		