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"STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking."

- Susan Riley, Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM

Students enrolled at Hawks Nest STEAM Academy are selected through the lottery process and must meet the transfer policy requirements established by Gaston County Schools which is to remain in good standing academically, behaviorally and in the area of attendance. In addition, students must be residents of Gaston County. Any student not meeting these requirements will require a parent conference with administration to discuss a plan of action, may be placed on watch status, or may be transferred back to their home feeder school.

Attendance:

Six (6) unexcused absences will result in watch status. Twelve (12) unexcused absences may result in students being transitioned back to their home feeder school. Students with excessive tardies will be notified about watch status after eight (8) unexcused tardies and may be transitioned back to their home feeder school after twelve (12) unexcused tardies.

Behavior:

Students reaching the behavior tier equivalent to an office referral will get a verbal warning about the type of behavior and replacement strategies to be used as well as a parent phone call. The second office referral will result in a one day behavior lab and watch status notification letter sent to parents as well as a phone call. The third office referral will result in OSS and an administrative conference with parents to discuss possible transition back to their home feeder school.

Academic:

Students must participate in the academic program of our school. Parents of students who refuse to collaborate, complete assignments or are not making academic growth will be contacted by the homeroom teacher. Repeated violations will result in an administrative conference with parents, a plan of action will be created and the student will be placed on watch status. Transition back to the student's home feeder school will result if no improvement is made or the student does not maintain academic progress needed to be promoted to the next grade level. Student retention is an automatic transition back to the student's home feeder school.

THE SCHOOL DAY

- 8:00 AM Earliest time for students to arrive - DROP OFF OCCURS AT BACK ENTRANCE.
- 8:20 AM Preparation Bell - Students get ready for learning.
- 8:30 AM Daily Tardy Bell - Students should be unpacked and ready to learn.
Instruction begins at 8:30 AM.
- 3:30 AM Students Dismissed - PICK UP OCCURS AT BACK ENTRANCE.
Kindergarten students without siblings will be dismissed from the front entrance.

Students are expected to be in attendance at school from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The Preparation Bell rings at 8:20 AM to give students time to get ready for learning. The Tardy Bell rings at 8:30 AM. Students arriving after 8:30 AM are tardy and must be brought into the office by their parents/guardians to be signed in. Car rider line will end at 8:30 AM and the back gate will be closed at 8:30 AM. Parents will need to drive to the main parking lot, park and escort their child into the office to sign them in for the day. Students should NOT be dropped off at the front entrance.

If students must be checked out early, they should be signed out before 3:00 PM. Students should NOT be checked out after 3:00 PM as we are preparing students for dismissal. Photo ID is required to sign out students, regardless of relationship.

Students must be in school until 12:00 PM to get credit for being present at school.

Arrival Procedures

- All students arriving by car should be dropped off at the back entrance between 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM.
- Students should NOT be dropped off at the front entrance.
- The Preparation Bell rings at 8:20 AM to give students time to get ready for learning.
- The Tardy Bell rings at 8:30 AM.
- Students arriving after 8:30 AM are tardy and must be brought into the office by their parent / guardian to be signed in.
- At no time should you park

- All textbooks, library books and school devices must be returned before withdrawing the student.
- Lunch payments and other debts must be paid before withdrawing the student.
- A withdrawal form must be completed and signed by the parent / guardian before withdrawal is processed.

VOLUNTEERS, MENTORS & TUTORS

- ^S Gaston County Schools requires anyone who desires to serve as a mentor,

Charged Meals

- Students who do not have money may charge a meal if their account has not exceeded the limit of \$10.00 for Elementary (K – 5).
- Elementary and middle school students who do not have money and who have exceeded the charge limit may receive a complimentary alternate meal upon request.

Student Accounts

- Check, Cash, or Money Order can be accepted in the school cafeteria.
- Parents/Guardians may utilize LINQ to pay for their child's breakfast or lunch with their credit or debit card.
- Contact the School Nutrition Business Manager at 704-836-9110 ext. 3 to request refunds.
- Positive balances remaining at the end of the school year will remain on students' accounts for the following school year unless a refund is requested.
- NSF checks are referred to NEXCHECK, a checkdo i

- Please attend curriculum nights to receive helpful hints as to what our curriculum is and how to best help your child at home with school work.

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- Students in grades 3-5 will be assessed in reading and math, and science for 5th grade through the NC End-of-Grade (EOG) assessment at the end of the year.

NC End of Grade Testing Program (Grades 3-5) and Beginning of Grade test (3rd Grade)

- The state testing program requires that students in grades 3 - 5 score at grade level on the reading and math EOG tests before they can be promoted to the next grade level.
- 3rd Grade students must take the BOG at the beginning of their 3rd grade year and are subject to the NC Read to Achieve legislation which has special requirements in order to be promoted to 4th Grade. Requirements include special documentation of the student's growth and participation in a summer reading camp for students who do not pass the 3rd grade reading EOG.
- Parents will be contacted and a plan of action will be developed for students not meeting these requirements.

TECHNOLOGY

- Each child should have their own personal headphones (earbuds) to use.
- Each child will be assigned a school device to use.
- Students are responsible for proper care and usage of their assigned devices and chargers.
- Parents will be given a technology agreement at the beginning of the school year that indicates potential charges if the device and/or charger is damaged or lost.

CITIZENSHIP / CHARACTER EDUCATION

- It is each student's responsibility to display qualities of good citizenship.
- Best conduct is expected when you are moving about the building, during lunch time, on the playground, in the classroom, on the school bus, or when leaving the school grounds.
- Courtesy and good manners should be the key to a student's conduct at school. A good attitude toward teachers and fellowstudents will make school enjoyable.
- Students are expected to have respect for school property and to take good care of books, desks, school devices and other furniture and equipment
- Character education is a part of our daily curriculum. Gaston County Schools acknowledges that its role is to reinforce and complement the efforts of parents, families, religious and civic organizations in developing citizenship traits which ensure the continuity of a free and democratic society. Each month we will emphasize a particular trait. The traits are as follows: respect, responsibility, courage, kindness, good judgment, honesty, perseverance, and self discipline.

- All students will be able to demonstrate citizenship and character traits through participation on the HNSA Color Squad and other activities throughout the school

- Parents should check the Dojo app regularly for behavior reports and send teachers messages if you have questions.

PBIS

- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive, multi-tiered approach to discipline that promotes appropriate student behavior and increased learning. PBIS is an evidence based, three tiered framework to improve and integrate data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS creates schools where ALL students succeed by utilizing

- REZONE
 - Teacher will put behavior in Educators Handb
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VISITORS AND ID BADGES

- Visitors must sign in at the front office with their ID.
- Parents must show their ID in the camera at the entrance to our building to pick up students.
- Anyone picking up a student must also be listed as a contact in PowerSchool.
- All guests within the school building must wear a visitors ID badge at all times and will be expected to follow all school safety guidelines should a safety issue arise.
- All staff within the school building must wear a Gaston County Schools ID badge at all times.

ASBESTOS STATEMENT

- Hawks Nest has no friable material within our building or its materials.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Covid updates and restrictions will be shared in a separate as it pertains directly to guidelines from the CDC, NCDHHS, NCDPI and Gaston County Schools. Covid information will also be shared on the school website, Parent Link, email, and Facebook.

For any questions or concerns, you may contact Tammy Mims, the principal, at the school phone number 704-866-8467 or at tmims@gaston.k12.nc.us.

