



Dr. David Hall, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
High School Administrative Services
Richmond County School System

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we progress through the school year, I wanted to take a moment to address some important topics that are crucial for our high school students' success: student attendance, Georgia Milestones testing, End of Course Exams, Georgia high school graduation requirements, maintaining open communication, and tips for supporting your child.

Student Attendance

Regular attendance is vital for your child's academic success and overall development. Research shows that students who attend school consistently are more likely to succeed academically, develop essential social skills, and build a strong foundation for their future. Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of the school year, can significantly impact a student's performance and increase the likelihood of dropping out. We encourage you to ensure your child attends school regularly and to communicate with us if there are any challenges preventing consistent attendance.

Georgia Milestones Testing

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive summative assessment that measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. These assessments provide valuable insights into your child's academic progress and help us identify areas where additional support may be needed. We encourage you to support your child in preparing for these tests by ensuring they have a quiet study environment, adequate rest, and access to study materials.

End of Course Exams

End of Course (EOC) exams are an integral part of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System and are administered to students in grades 8 through 12. These exams assess students' knowledge and skills in specific high school courses, such as Algebra, Biology, U.S. History, and more. EOC exams are crucial for determining students' readiness for graduation and post-secondary education. We recommend that students review their course materials regularly and seek additional help if needed to prepare for these exams.

Georgia High School Graduation Requirements

To graduate from a Georgia public high school, students must earn a total of 23 credits across various subjects. The requirements include:

- **English/Language Arts:** 4 credits
- **Mathematics:** 4 credits
- **Science:** 4 credits
- **Social Studies:** 3 credits

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- **Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE), Modern Language/Latin, or Fine Arts:** 3 credits
- **Health & Physical Education:** 1 credit
- **Electives:** 4 credits

Students must also complete specific courses within these categories and meet any additional requirements set by the state or school district. We encourage you to work closely with your child's counselor to ensure they are on track to meet these requirements.

Maintaining Open Communication

Open communication between parents, students, and teachers is essential for fostering a supportive and effective learning environment. When we communicate openly, we can better understand and address the needs of our students, create a safe and inclusive atmosphere, and work together to support their academic and emotional well-being. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teachers with any concerns or questions and to participate in school events and meetings.

Tips for Supporting Your Child

Here are some practical tips to help you support your child's education:

1. **Create a Routine:** Establish a consistent daily schedule that includes time for homework, study, and relaxation.
2. **Encourage Reading:** Foster a love for reading by providing access to books and reading together as a family.
3. **Stay Informed:** Keep up-to-date with school events, assignments, and your child's progress through school communications and parent-teacher meetings.
4. **Provide a Study Space:** Ensure your child has a quiet, well-lit area to study and complete homework.
5. **Promote Healthy Habits:** Encourage regular exercise, a balanced diet, and sufficient sleep to support your child's physical and mental well-being.
6. **Be Supportive:** Show interest in your child's schoolwork and celebrate their achievements, no matter how small.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we can ensure that our students have the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Sincerely,

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