



GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL . . . *AT A GLANCE* (revised 1-20-2024)

2026 Woodlawn Rd. in Greenwood, SC, 29649. Office phone: 864-229-2427; school hours 7:30 am to 4 pm

HISTORY: GCS was established in 1992 with a vision by Christians in the surrounding areas who recognized the need for an independent, non-denominational Christian school. The doors opened in the fall of 1992 with approximately 70 students.

ADMINISTRATION: The Head of School is Chris Johns, PhD. He is supported by 65 administrative staff and college-educated faculty. GCS policy is governed by a nine-member School Board of Directors.

ACCREDITATION: GCS is accredited by the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS), and AdvancED. GCS is a member of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA). The school serves families from Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, and Saluda counties with a January 2024 enrollment of 450 students in K3 through 12th grade.

FACULTY: Teachers hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree. In addition, all faculty members are required to fulfill the teacher certification requirements set forth by ACTS with continuing education classes.

FAITH: GCS serves families from six counties that represent about 75 churches. Being non-denominational, the Bible curriculum focuses on scriptural truths and not specific denominational doctrines. Chapel services (four age-appropriate sessions) are provided bi-monthly. Worship teams are composed of middle and high school students who express interest and talent in music.

ADMISSIONS: The three-step enrollment process includes an online application with a \$120 fee; student testing/family interviews and, upon acceptance, an enrollment fee of \$175.

ACADEMICS: GCS teaches a six-subject core curriculum to all enrolled students with an emphasis on traditional values: Math, Science, History, Bible, Grammar, and Literature. The college prep/honors curricula, primarily Bob Jones University-based, include routine homework and test assessments. GCS does not have resources for students with IEPs or 504 accommodations.

TESTING/GRADUATION: Students in K5-8 take the Terra Nova test annually. Grades 9-11 are given the PSAT each fall. We also provide on-site SAT and ACT testing for 11th, 12th, and selected 10th graders. Graduation requirements are supervised by a high school guidance counselor. Foreign language, honors classes, and dual enrollment classes are introduced at the high school level. GCS offers an aggressive Dual Enrollment program with Piedmont Technical College and Lander University to expand the number of courses already available to juniors and seniors. High school students are required to complete pre-approved volunteer service to graduate. Since 1992, GCS has graduated 636 students, with 99 percent accepted to 4-year or 2-year colleges.

ENRICHMENT & FINE ARTS: Students do not thrive on academics alone. GCS offers various enrichment and electives to balance the rigors of academia. Related arts classes for elementary students include PE, Media Center, Music, and Art. Middle school students are offered the following electives: PE, Music, Art, Band, and Basic Computer. High school students may choose from the following electives: PE, Music, Art, Communications, Life Skills, and Media Arts as well as STEMS-based electives: Pre-Engineering, Coding, Anatomy/Physiology, and Horticultural Science.

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP: National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society induct students from grades 7-11 who meet the criteria. High school students have leadership opportunities by serving on the Student Activities Council or the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. Emerald City Rotary Club sponsors the GCS Interact Club. High School students also organize a Mission Day to provide service in the community. Middle school and high school students are selected as student ambassadors for new students and special events.

STUDENT LIFE: All students are encouraged to participate in field day and seasonal musical performances for their grade level as well as spirit week. Elementary students attend various field trips that coordinate with classroom lessons. High school students host Homecoming activities, the selection of Homecoming Queen, the annual prom, and various extra-curricular events.

ATHLETICS: GCS offers seasonal sports teams for male and female students in Grades 6-12: Cross Country, Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Golf, Soccer, Track and Field and Speed and Strength. School colors are Navy, Silver, and White; the athletic mascot is the Hawk. GCS teams promote inclusivity, however, for safety precautions, playing time is based on the skill level of each student-athlete. Several team sports also conduct tryouts to identify skill levels.

CONNECT: FACTS (formerly RenWeb) is the school-wide student information system and financial account management platform available with the branded GCS app. It is used to communicate “all things” GCS including attendance, lunch, grades, homework, lesson plans, calendar of events, handbooks, financials, etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Follow [gcs_now](#) and [gcs_hawks_athletics](#) on Instagram or visit our website at [greenwoodchristianschool.org](#). Like us on Facebook at Greenwood Christian School – Official.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

Does GCS follow the local school district’s year-round calendar?

GCS board voted not to adopt a year-round calendar because our students do not need added remediation teaching time. However, for the convenience of our parents who work in the local school districts, the board has compromised by streamlining our Fall, Christmas, and Spring breaks to better align with the district.

Do students wear uniforms?

Students do not wear official uniforms. GCS students and staff adhere to a modest dress code which minimizes distractions in the classroom. Specifications are found in the family handbook.

Are students allowed to use their cell phones during the school day?

Students are not allowed to have cell phones with them, in their lockers or in their book bags during school hours. Cell phones must be stored with the homeroom teacher or school office. Specifications are found in the family handbook.

Are GCS teachers certified?

Teachers hold a minimum of a bachelor’s degree. In addition, all faculty members are required to fulfill the teacher certification requirements set forth by ACTS with continuing education classes.

What are drop off and pick up times?

Drop off begins at 7:30 am. Class starts at 8 am for 6th-12th grade; 8:10 am for K3 - 5th grade. Dismissal begins at 2:30 pm for K3 - 2nd grade; 2:40 pm for 3rd - 5th grade; 3:02 for high school; 3:05 for middle school.

What is the average classroom roster size?

K3 - K4 maximum of 16 students per classroom; K5 - 8th grade has two classrooms per grade with approximately 18 students in each classroom/homeroom. High school averages about 32 students per grade.

Do you teach cursive handwriting?

Yes, beginning in second grade.

What safety precautions do you have in place?

GCS employs a full-time safety coordinator. Other safety measures include secured perimeters, video surveillance, practice numerous drills, and contingency plans.

Do you have an after-school program?

Yes, it’s called Hawks Nest and is open to K3 - 8th grade GCS students. Hours of operation are 3 - 6 pm and rates are \$15 per day or \$55 per week; includes adult supervision, homework help, snacks, and recreation.

GCS, accredited by ACTS (nationally); AdvancED / SACS (regionally); a member of SCISA (statewide); does not discriminate against race or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational, admission, and athletic policies, tuition assistance, or any other school-administered programs.

Revised 1-20-2024 afm

GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TEST SCORES

TERRA NOVA (administered to students in K5 to 8th grade in April; results reported in September)

The National average is the 50th percentile. GCS sets a standard of the 65th percentile for the average score in each grade and grade level. GCS regularly meets and exceeds this benchmark.

The Spring 2023 Terra Nova Average Scores:

K(5)-1st Grade: Math, Reading: **74.25**

2nd-5th Grades: Math, Reading, Language: **69.67**

6th-8th Grades: Math, Reading, Language, Spelling and Science: **65.00**

Acceptance rates for GCS students to 4-year or 2-year colleges average 99 percent. GCS students are competitive for college scholarships including the South Carolina Palmetto, Life, Hope Award as well as Greenwood Promise. Through the high school guidance department, students receive encouragement and opportunities to pursue their choice of career or field of interest. GCS has awarded diplomas to 626 graduates since opening its doors in August 1992. The Class of 2023 (21 graduates) earned more than \$2.4 million in scholarships.

SAT Score Comparison

Test	GCS Average Score	National Average Score	GCS Average Math	National Average Math	GCS Average ERW	National Average ERW
Fall 2023	978	940	461	458	517	482
Spring 2023	1088	955	504	467	584	488
Fall 2022	1051	938	498	457	553	482
Spring 2022	1142	1012	544	500	598	513

ACT Score Comparison

Year	GCS Average Score	National Average Score
2023	21.5	19.5
2022	23.0	19.8
2021	23.1	20.3