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Take to your Guidance  
Counselor when requesting  
to enroll in a Virtual course.



## GCS Virtual School Programs

### Parent/ Guardian and Student Information

While the Greenville County's Virtual School Program (GCVSP) and South Carolina's Virtual School Program (VIRTUALSC) offer our students options and opportunities to take high school courses beyond their academic work at their home school, it is important for students as well as their parents to have a clear understanding of what is involved in online instruction and what it takes to be successful in these types of classes.

Online classes taken through the GCVSP and VIRTUALSC programs are high school courses and are not self-paced, but rather adhere to a strict schedule in completing sequential modules. All classes have a specified start and end date. VIRTUALSC courses require a face-to-face final exam proctored at the school. Online classes are **very rigorous** and often require more of the student's time than a regular class at his or her school. They are high school courses so they adhere to all high school guidelines and policies as laid out in the Uniform Grading Policy and in district guidelines.

Online classes are available to all Greenville County Schools students, but not all students are a good fit for online instruction. In completing and passing an online class, we have found that **successful students** are good readers, well organized, self-disciplined, able to work alone, and have good computer skills.

We want all students who take online classes to be successful, but it is important that they and you, the parent, understand the demands of virtual courses in order for success to occur. Please consider carefully the information in this letter, and realistically assess your student's suitability for online instruction.

In addition, a fee is required for all **GCVSP** online courses unless the student is taking a virtual class embedded in the student's schedule at one of the select schools approved for embedded classes. In that case, it is free of charge. According to the Uniform Grading Policy, if a student withdraws from a semester or yearlong course after the first ten days of instruction, the student will receive a WF (withdraw failing) and a final grade of 50 in the course. (5 days for a quarter class) Fee is not refundable. The failing grade is averaged into the student's GPA.

Students must see their school counselor for information on VIRTUALSC exams. Parents may opt to contract with ProctorU, an online proctoring company, so that the exam can be taken from home. (NOTE: ProctorU cannot be used for an End-of-Course Exam, i.e. Algebra 1, English 1, US History, Biology) All Exam questions are to be directed to the school counselor.

Students who enroll in a GCVSP class and move to another district in mid-term will lose access to all GCS programs, including GCVSP course content. Therefore, students who know that they will be withdrawing from Greenville County Schools during a GCVSP term should NOT enroll in a GCVSP course.

### ***"ADVISEMENT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES"***

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has very strict guidelines regarding credit for courses taken online, such as courses offered by GCVSP and VIRTUALSC. **Many online courses Are Not Approved by the NCAA.** Student athletes should consult with their Athletic Director and School Counselor before enrolling in a virtual course.

***I have read and understand the information presented above and confirm that I have given careful consideration of the suitability of my child enrolling in an online class offered by the Greenville County Virtual School Program or South Carolina Virtual School Program before approving him/her to do so.***

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Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_