

# Gray Stone Day School



## Parent's Guide for Student Achievement

## I. What are the requirements to be promoted to the next grade?

### Middle School Promotion

The following information is intended to help identify those students who are not performing at their current grade level. If ANY of the following criteria are NOT met, a team that includes the student's teachers and administration will consider retention of the student.

Criteria:

- A. **Attendance Absences** - (excused or unexcused) that number 16 or greater for the academic year will put a student in consideration for retention.
- B. **Academic Success in Core Classes** - All students must pass Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. The class yearly academic average must be 60 or above to be considered passing.
- C. **Academic Success in Elective Classes** - Students must pass at least 50% of their elective classes for the academic year.
- D. **Academic Success on End of Grade Tests** - Students are expected to pass both the Math and Reading EOGs (with a 3, 4 or 5) in order to move to the next grade level. EOG scores are not the sole determinant of promotion or retention.

Promotion decisions are made with the aim of ensuring that students are prepared and confident as they advance to the next grade level. If the team decides to promote a student to the next grade level without meeting items addressed in the above criteria, the team will recommend interventions to support that student moving forward.

### High School Graduation Requirements

For students entering 9th grade prior to the **2024-2025** school year:

- English (4 Credits) - English I, English II, English III or AP English Language & Composition, English IV or AP English Literature & Composition
- Math (4 Credits) - Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, and one course beyond Math 3
- Social Studies (4 Credits) - Civic Literacy or AP U.S. Government & Politics, World History or AP World History, U.S. History or AP U.S. History, and Economics and Personal Finance
- Science (3 Credits) - Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Environmental Science or AP Environmental Science
- World Language (2 Credits) - Spanish I and Spanish II
- Health & PE (1 Credit)
- Electives (4 Credits)

For students entering 9th grade in the **2024-2025** school year:

- English (4 Credits) - English I, English II, English II, English III or AP English Language & Composition, English IV or AP English Literature & Composition
- Math (4 Credits) - Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, and one course beyond Math 3
- Social Studies (4 Credits) - Civic Literacy or AP U.S. Government & Politics, World History or AP World History, U.S. History or AP U.S. History, and Economics and Personal Finance
- Science (3 Credits) - Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Environmental Science or AP Environmental Science
- World Language (2 Credits) - Spanish I and Spanish II
- Computer Science (1 Credit)
- Health & PE (1 Credit)
- Electives (3 Credits)

## **II. What is my child learning?**

Gray Stone Day School is a public charter school; as such, we follow the [North Carolina Standard Course of Study](#).

## **III. What textbooks/supplementary instructional materials are used? How are these materials inspected and reviewed?**

In our commitment to providing engaging, responsive, and advanced academic instruction, our highly qualified teachers regularly evaluate and update the curriculum materials and supplemental resources across all subject areas to meet current educational demands and the needs of our students. While we do not have a formally adopted textbook program for most subjects, we do use the *Auténtico* series with digital integration as the primary textbook for Spanish Language instruction.

Curriculum materials and supplemental resources are carefully reviewed through a collaborative process between teachers and the Director of Curriculum & Instruction. Teachers propose materials they believe will enhance the learning experience, and these are thoroughly evaluated by the Director of C&I to ensure they align with our educational standards and objectives. If a resource is technology-based, it undergoes an additional review by the Chief Operations Officer, alongside the Director of Curriculum & Instruction, to ensure compatibility with our budget, goals, and infrastructure. Technology-based programs utilized by teachers and students include but are not limited to: Canvas, MobyMax, Discovery Education, CK-12, Edpuzzle, Quizlet, Quizizz, Blooket, Nearpod, Khan Academy, Learning.com, Vex PD+, and Schoolnet.

This review process guarantees that all supplemental resources used in the classroom are thoughtfully selected to enhance student learning and align with our high standards.

#### **IV. How will I know about my child's progress in class?**

Student grades are maintained in Canvas and Infinite Campus. These grades are accessible through Canvas at any time and will be updated quarterly on Infinite Campus. Teachers are expected to have grades completely up to date on select dates during the year, and these dates are shared in our [Student Handbook](#). Students will receive a progress report mid-quarter and a report card at the end of each quarter. Final report cards and EOG/EOC reports are sent via email after all grades have been finalized at the end of the school year.

#### **V. How can I learn about the qualifications/licensure status of my child's teachers?**

Teacher qualifications/licensure status can be accessed on the Gray Stone Day School website or by clicking [here](#).

#### **VI. What are the requirements for enrollment?**

Our enrollment process can be accessed on the Gray Stone Day School website or by clicking [here](#).

#### **VII. How can I strengthen my child's academic progress?**

- Make sure your child arrives at school on time and is prepared to learn.
- Ensure your child does not have excessive absences from school.
- Maintain positive communication with the school and your child's teachers.
- Ask your child what they are learning about in their classes.
- Monitor your child's grades regularly on Canvas and Infinite Canvas.
- Ensure your child is completing their assignments and turning them in on time.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has also published a helpful guide for parents about how to support their child's learning.

[How to Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning](#)

#### **VIII. How can I strengthen my child's citizenship and social skills?**

Implementing Gray Stone Day School's motto of Responsibility, Integrity, and Service is a starting point for parents and guardians to support their student's development.

**Responsibility**—Teaching by example how to follow through on commitments

**Integrity**—Encouraging student to do the right thing even when no one is watching

**Service**—Supporting your student's Senior Service Project. All Gray Stone graduates design and implement a service project of their own choosing, so help your student become aware of needs in the community which they can address through their service project.

The Gray Stone student body is composed of a diverse population. Parents can help their children develop quality social skills and respect for others by seeking to understand students who hold or come from a different background. Being able to interact and even disagree respectfully is a key social skill that requires effort from both educators and parents.

## **IX. How can I strengthen my child's realization of high expectations and setting long-term goals?**

Making the choice to enroll your student at Gray Stone is an important step in supporting high expectations and setting long-term goals. Gray Stone's mission is to prepare students for success in a 4-year college or university of their choice. All aspects of this program keep an emphasis on the long-term goal of college entry and success. Students are encouraged to maintain a long-range focus through projects, papers, and presentations that require learning the skills to break large tasks into smaller achievable steps encouraging perspectives that go beyond immediate needs.

The Gray Stone Day School Honor Code also gives a framework for supporting high standards in your student:

*"On my honor, I have not sought, given, or received purposeful or inadvertent aid not permitted by the spirit of this assignment."*

Talk to your student about what following the Honor Code means to them and how it helps them to hold themselves to a higher standard.

Keep an open dialogue with your student about their progress in each class, and use progress reports, report cards, and registration for the next year's classes as an opportunity to support and challenge your student on their progress.

## **X. How can I strengthen communication with the school/teacher?**

Communication is vitally important to us. The primary way we communicate with our stakeholders is through the [Gray Stone Day School website](#). Additionally, we also maintain a variety of social media pages. Click [here](#) for information on how to follow us. Teacher emails can be found on our website or by clicking [here](#).

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has also published a helpful guide for parents about how to maintain a strong, positive working relationship with their child's teachers.

[Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teachers](#)

## **XI. What services are available for parents and their children?**

### **College and Career Readiness: Enroll, Employ, Enlist**

**Academic Advising:** In tandem with the school counselor, the college counselor meets individually with students and families to chart an academic course forward that makes them the best possible candidate for their post high school goals. Meetings happen annually and adhere to a four year course plan.

**Career Exploration:** In tandem with the school counselor, the college counselor hosts a college fair and career day each spring. The college counselor utilizes the Naviance suite of assessments to help students explore career pathways. The college counselor networks with individuals and organizations to find internship and job shadowing opportunities for students upon request.

**Military Opportunities:** The college counselor maintains relationships with local armed services representatives and ROTC/NROTC, AirForceROTC scholarship programs to help students learn about military options and enlist if they choose.

**College List Building:** The college counselor meets individually with students and families to build an appropriate college application list.

**Testing Plans:** The college counselor meets individually with students to chart what tests should be attempted, how many sittings, and what tests should be shared with college admissions offices. Advising for outside test preparation is also shared on a case by case basis.

**Recommendation Letter Writing:** The college counselor creates individualized letters of recommendation for each student quantifying and characterizing their high school record.

**College and Scholarship Essay Advising:** Writing workshops and one on one essay review are offered to all students.

**Application Submission:** The college counselor provides start up instruction on the college application process, addresses questions along the way as students fill out forms, and reviews all applications for admission before submission, ensuring optimal and accurate representation of the student record.

**Interview Preparation:** The college counselor maintains a datafile of potential college and scholarship interview procedures and questions. Roleplay and interview advice/feedback are available for all students. Mock Interviews with outside interviewers are set up as requested by students.

**Resume Building:** Resume templates, Naviance Resume tool, and resume edits/reviews are available to all students.

**Financial Aid Information/Counseling:** Financial Aid Workshops are provided each year. Outside FA resources are shared. FAFSA information sessions and support are communicated through email, zoom, and individual meetings.

**Scholarship Searches:** Scholarship search workshops are available to all students. Classroom presentations are made each year regarding the scholarship process.

**Scholarship Applications:** Similar to college applications, individualized counsel is available for the scholarship process. From learning where to look, to selecting which ones fit, to essay advice and interview preparation. The college counselor assembles a faculty scholarship committee to select students for nomination based programs.

**Summer Enrichment Programs:** Summer enrichment programs opportunities for all grade levels are shared with students and support for the application process is provided by the college counselor.

## **XII. What opportunities are available for parent participation?**

Parents who are interested in participating should join our parent organization, The Lance. More information about The Lance can be found on our website or by clicking [here](#).

### **XIII. What rigorous academic programs are available for my child?**

Gray Stone Day School is a college preparatory public charter school where middle school courses are taught at an accelerated rate, and all core academic classes are honors. Additionally, high school students may participate in Advanced Placement and/or the Career and College Promise Program. Please see below for more details regarding these offerings.

#### Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program of college level courses and examinations that gives advanced, motivated students an opportunity to earn college credit, college placement, or both while they are still in high school. Gray Stone is committed to supporting students in their desire to take advantage of the college credit and placement opportunities afforded by the AP program. AP courses are more rigorous than our standard honors classes, and students should expect a heavier workload with classroom policies and procedures more in line with what one would find at the collegiate level.

#### Career and College Promise (CCP)

Gray Stone Day School partners with Stanly Community College (SCC) to provide qualifying 11th and 12th grade students the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. Students must have a 2.8 unweighted GPA to participate in the program, and all courses are subject to the policies and procedures regarding registration, add/drop, and grading as set forth by SCC. These courses are tuition-free for students; however, any other costs associated with the course, such as textbooks or lab fees, are the obligation of the family. Students who participate in this program should be highly-motivated and self-driven, and it is the sole responsibility of the student to ensure they are communicating with their SCC instructor. If a student fails or withdraws from a course, this will result in a W/F which will impact the student's GPA.

### **XIV. What educational choices are available to parents?**

Gray Stone Day School is a public charter school. "Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State

assessment and accountability system." For more information regarding charter schools, please visit the [NCDPI website](#).

Other educational choices available to parents include:

- Traditional public schools
- Private Schools
- Homeschool

## **XV. What rights do students with disabilities have?**

To learn more about the resources available for students with disabilities, please visit [NCDPI's Exceptional Children website](#). Please see the handbooks linked below, which contain information regarding the legal rights of students with disabilities.

[Parent Rights and Responsibilities In Special Education](#)

[Derechos Y Responsabilidades De Los Padres De Familia En Educación Especial](#)

## **XVI. What is the contact information for the school?**

Parents/Guardians may contact the school at (704) 463 - 0567.

[Gray Stone Day School](#)

[Gray Stone Day School Staff Directory](#)

## **XVII. What resources are available on the importance of student health? What immunizations are required?**

Information regarding student health, including immunizations, meningococcal meningitis, and influenza can be found on the [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services website](#).

[Immunization Schedule](#)

[Entry into 7th grade.](#)

[Entry into 12th grade.](#)