



Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA) **Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106**

It is the goal of Gate City Charter Academy to provide parents and guardians of our students access to valuable information regarding student achievement through the school's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Paper copies of this document and its contents can be requested through the school's office.

How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	Information on Gate City's promotion and retention procedures can be found in the Parent and Student Handbook. The following are the relevant state and local requirements for a student to be promoted to the next grade level. The relevant part of this link is found in Part 1A (pages 15-28) regarding retention and promotion: State and Local Promotion Requirements.
What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	Every school in North Carolina must follow the Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These guidelines outline the knowledge and skills that students are expected to know by the end of each grade/course. The NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website included standards for various subjects such as: • Arts Education • Career Technical Education • Computer Science • English Language Arts • English Language Development • Student Success Standards • Healthful Living • Information and Technology • Mathematics • Science



	• Social Studies • World Language Local school districts, schools, and teachers have the autonomy to decide the instructional methods for these standards including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, and other resources. <u>Gate City Charter Academy's Curriculum</u> The following links provide information about Gate City Charter Academy's curriculum: NHA North Carolina Curriculum Overview. <u>Instructional Materials</u> Information related to the inspection of instructional materials can be found in the Parents' Bill of Rights Policy deck found here: Inspection of textbook and supplementary instructional materials. <u>Literacy Intervention Plan</u> Parents' and guardians may view Gate City Charter Academy's Literacy Intervention Plan here: NHA North Carolina Systematic Intervention Implementation Guide.
How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?	Gate City Charter Academy believes that open communication between school and home improves the quality of the educational experience. Every marking period, parents receive detailed written reports of student performance and accomplishments. These reports are coupled with fall and spring parent-teacher conferences. The reports and conferences include interpretation of internal and external measures of assessment. Teachers and parents may also schedule additional meetings. At all other times throughout the year, parents can use the Parent Portal via the internet to view their child's grades and progress. This web-based information center provides parents with both classroom information and student academic data. Information regarding assessments and the evaluation of student progress at Gate City Charter Academy can be located at the following links: NHA North Carolina Assessment Strategy Testing and Assessment FAQ



	<u>Local assessments</u> Quarterly report cards which detail grades, attendance, and assessment are distributed as specified in the school calendar. Parents can access and monitor their child's progress in school, obtain information on assessment results, and more through the Parent Portal. For assistance with Parent Portal, parents may contact the school. <u>State Assessments</u> Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are accessible in Gate City's Parent Portal. In NC, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS® 8th Edition as the state's K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading.
What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Parents and guardians may look up their child's teacher licensure status at the following website: Licensure Lookup
What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	<u>Enrollment Requirements</u> The requirements for enrollment and eligibility to attend Gate City Charter Academy can be located here: Enrollment requirements. The following are Gate City's enrollment policies: Admission and Enrollment Policy. Parents and guardians can enroll students at the following link: Apply Gate City Charter Academy. <u>Statutory school entry requirements</u> Admission requirements: GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) Immunization records: GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov)



	Immunization requirements: GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64”) Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students is available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). <u>NCDHHS Resources</u> Immunizations <u>NCDHHS Recommended Immunization Schedule</u> Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements <u>CDC Recommended Immunization Schedules</u> Birth-18 Years Immunization Schedule – Healthcare Providers CDC
How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?	Gate City parents are asked to sign the School-Parent Compact, which outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State’s high standards. This includes: • Understanding that your child is enrolled at Gate City Charter Academy, so he/she has opportunities to achieve. • Realizing that the expectations and standards at this school are high and agreeing to support them. • Monitoring your child’s attendance and homework completion. • Participating in parent-teacher conferences and volunteering for school activities when possible. • Staying informed about your child’s education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school either received by your child or by mail and responding, as appropriate. • Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as being a Title I, Part A parent



- representative on the school's School Improvement Team, or other school advisory or policy groups.
- Understanding that your child must behave respectfully and responsibly to protect the safety, interest, and rights of others in the school. Parents should model appropriate behavior while in the school.

Here are additional ways that you can support your student:

- Check the Parent Portal to ensure you are up to date on student grades.
- Review the School-Parent Compact quarterly.
- Signing the student's agenda or sending communication in the cloud folder.
- Middle school parents should ensure their students know how to access the student portal and can monitor their grades

Utilize local resources such as homework assistance and refer to the following parent guides for academic standards. These guides provide information to help parents understand the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and offer practical strategies for implementation at home.

Parent Guides for Academic Standards

[ELA Parent Guides](#)

[ELD Parent/Caregiver Guide for English Language Development](#)

[Math Parent Guides K - 5](#)

[Math Parent Guides 6 - 8](#)

Reading and Literacy Support

This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments: [Amplify Parent Resources](#)

Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at: [North Carolina's Digital Children's Reading Initiative](#) (DCRI) and [DCRI Printables for Families](#).



How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills, and respect for others?

We believe that a strong moral identity is foundational to student success. We strive not only to support the virtues parents try to instill at home but also to explicitly teach students the skills, behaviors, and virtues necessary for leading an ethical life. Gate City's nine monthly virtues are *wisdom, respect, gratitude, self-control, perseverance, courage, encouragement, compassion, and integrity*. Students learn to internalize these virtues because we intentionally and consistently apply Moral Focus concepts throughout all aspects of school life. This integration is essential for students to learn the importance of developing and maintaining strong personal character. To support this effort, we create a learning environment built on a foundation of respect and care, a milieu in which everyone works hard to achieve academic goals and improve school culture. The Moral Focus program is an essential part of every student's education.

Information about Gate City's moral focus program can be found here: [NHA North Carolina Moral Focus Program Overview](#).

Moral Focus lessons are being taught throughout each week with students. The expectation is that all students are able to define, provide examples, and live out the Moral Focus virtues in all areas of their lives. At home, you can support by reviewing the virtues, definitions, and examples as well as finding ways to exhibit those expectations at home. Having a reward system, tracking positive Moral Focus behaviors, not only in your home, but also in your community, will prove to be extremely beneficial. Creating space and opportunity for this is key. Showing your child the value of living these out in all areas of life will encourage your child to lead an ethical life.

Additional ways you can support your child in developing citizenship, social skills, and respect for others include:

- Read the monthly Moral Focus newsletter sent home.
- Ensure your student(s) is participating in the two hours of community service required quarterly.
- Signing your student(s) behavior log.
- Ensure your student(s) is having positive interactions in the classroom and with peers routinely.



How can I help establish high expectations for my child's success in school?

Our school provides a rigorous college-prep education and a strong moral focus program. Our goal is for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and moral strength they need to succeed in college, work, and life.

In addition to preparing our students for academic success, we seek to develop a strong sense of responsibility in each child. We want students to take personal ownership of their success or failure, regardless of their background or previous experiences. This includes sound decision-making, an ability that is becoming critical in our ever-changing, complex world. Students must meet high expectations both academically and behaviorally. Our teachers work with students and parents to promote the responsibility necessary for success both in and out of school.

Strengthening a child's realization of high expectations and fostering a commitment to lifelong learning involves creating a supportive and motivating environment.

We believe that open communication between school and home improves the quality of the educational experience. Parents and family members of students are vital contributors in the education of their children. The school will ensure that all parents/guardians are involved in our school in a meaningful manner in order to improve student academic achievement. Two-way communication between the school and home, both verbal and written, provides a sound base for a good partnership to provide an effective educational program for all students. Full realization of the partnership will be achieved through on-going commitment and active participation by both home and school.

Every marking period, parents receive detailed written reports of student performance and accomplishments. These reports are coupled with fall and spring parent-teacher conferences. The reports and conferences include interpretation of internal and external measures of assessment. Teachers and parents may also schedule additional meetings.

At all other times throughout the year, parents can use Gate City's Secure School Website via the Internet to view their child's grades and progress. This web-based information center provides parents with both classroom information and student academic data. The Secure School Website promotes the increased accountability of all participants in the educational process—teachers, students, and parents.



How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?

Effective communication between the school and home is vital to the successful academic, emotional, and social well-being of students. To keep parents informed of school events and student growth, the school communicates often with parents through email newsletters, telephone calls, and individual and group meetings.

Gate City Charter Academy uses a range of events and communications vehicles to share information with parents and give them opportunities to offer feedback. This includes:

- *Newsletters:* The school publishes a newsletter for families to provide updates on current events and programmatic developments.
- *Social Media:* The school maintains a strong, user-friendly website to give parents access to information on the school and on their children's experience at the school. The school also takes advantage of Facebook and Instagram, with the goal of further strengthening connections among school leaders, teachers, and family members.
- *Classroom Communication:* Teachers regularly give students information to take home to their parents. Examples include weekly updates and take-home folders with classroom-specific information. Teachers also give parents regular reports on their students' progress using letters, online communications, phone calls, texts, and/or face-to-face meetings.
- *Parent Meetings:* The school regularly schedules parent information sessions so parents can learn what their students are doing and learning in school. In addition, the teachers conduct parent teacher conferences to discuss student's academic progress with parents.
- *Parent Portal:* In addition to using the online Parent Portal to access their child's academic information, families can also use it as a resource for many uses including filling out forms, emailing their children's teachers, receiving important notifications, adding funds to lunch accounts, and viewing information about school events.
- *SchoolConnect:* The school utilizes SchoolConnect to provide families with important school information including upcoming events, school closures, etc.
- *Family Nights:* We schedule various social and educational events during the school year to strengthen relationships among students, parents, teachers, and administrators.
- *Parent Survey:* Each fall and spring, the school conducts a parent satisfaction survey to gather feedback from parents.



	Additional information about parent communication can be found in Gate City's Parent and Student Handbook. Guidelines for the appropriate use of technology can be found here: Technology Use and Internet Safety Policy and the Parent and Student Handbook. Gate City Charter Academy has developed policies to support effective communication between parents/guardians and the school. The policies can be found here: Parent Involvement Policy and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child's teacher and supporting communication between home and school: Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program). How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning (NC Rethink Education Program). Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the NC Rethink Education Website.
What services are available for parents and their children?	The school provides the following services that are available to parents and their children: • Monthly Parent Information Meetings – Coffee with the Principal • Donuts with the Dean Meetings – these outline curriculum and academic supports • Parent University informational sessions
What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	A successful learning experience would not be possible without the partnership and dedication of our students' parents. Parental participation in each school's program is solicited and highly encouraged. Our parents are involved on committees, in the classroom, and in the details that make a school function effectively. Gate City parents know they are always welcome and that they are a key to the success of every student.



	Gate City Charter Academy provides opportunities for parental engagement in their child's education. This involvement is outlined in the Parent Involvement Policy and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Additional opportunities for parents to participate with school include: • Parent participation and involvement in the PTA • Watch D.O.G.S. Program • School Improvement Team Please contact Gate City Charter Academy for more information on parent and family engagement opportunities.
What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?	Gate City Charter Academy offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests and skills at their academic level. Our EXCEL-ERATE program provide differentiated learning opportunities for advanced learners. More information on Gate City's EXCEL-ERATE program can be found here: EXCEL-ERATE program. Additional opportunities include: • Advanced Placement • National Junior Honor Society
What school choices are available for my child?	Gate City Charter Academy is a 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. Additional information on charter schools can be found here: NC charter school.



	<u>Local district school</u> Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by the Local Board of Education. <u>Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants</u> Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration. A list of private schools can be found here: NC Private Schools. For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information. Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority.
What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?	For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education. <u>IDEA Procedural Safeguards</u> Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Special Education Surrogate Parents <u>Section 504</u> NHA Section 504 Manual NHA Section 504 Procedural Safeguards <u>Special Education</u> NHA Special Education Policy Manual NHA Special Education Procedural Safeguards



	NHA Project Child Find <u>Special Education Resources</u> North Carolina Early Learning Network Resources NCDPI Exceptional Children Website NC Special Education Policy Manual Project Child Find Parents of students who may be in need of special educational services should contact the school office.
What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	Parents and guardians may contact Gate City Charter Academy at 336-617-5900 or our website's contact page.
What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	Gate City Charter Academy provides the following information and resources to support your child's health and wellbeing: Student Health and Safety Policy Wellness Board Policy Additional ways Gate City supports students' health and wellbeing include: • We are a healthy lunch school and do not allow fast food lunch deliveries, promoting healthy foods at school. • Our wellness policy is posted in each classroom and students have physical activity built into their day. Medical information can be found in Gate City Charter Academy's Parent and Student Handbook. Influenza is a virus spread from infected persons to the nose or throat of another. Influenza can cause fever, sore throat, chills, coughs, headache, and muscle aches. A yearly vaccination is available.



Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It is an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings and can cause blood infections. The vaccine for this is required for individuals entering 7th grade or by the age of 12.

For more information on these and other vaccines go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/vaccines-diseases.html>

Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services ([NCDHHS](#)) and includes the following resources:

[Immunizations](#)

[Health Assessment](#)

[Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting](#)