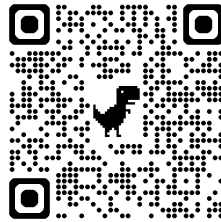


**Jesse Wharton Elementary School
Family Handbook
2024-2025**

JW

JESSE WHARTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5813 Lake Brandt Road
336.545.3700 (phone)
336.545.3703 (fax)



www.gcsnc.com/jesse_wharton_elementary
www.facebook.com/JesseWhartonElem/
@JesseWharton

Teddy Wohlgemuth, Principal
Kerrie Douglas, Assistant Principal

Jesse Wharton Elementary School Family Handbook 2024-2025

APPROVED – February 7, 2023

Guilford County Schools Traditional Academic Calendar 2024-2025

<p>Holidays: 11 Vacation Days: 10 Optional Teacher Workdays: 5 Mandatory Teacher Workdays: 9 Student Days: 180 Student Hours: 1,080</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: 8px;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #008080; color: white;"> <th colspan="7">JULY 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	JULY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31										
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First/Last Day for Students
 Vacation Day Holiday
 Optional Teacher Workday Mandated Teacher Workday



Jesse Wharton Elementary School Family Handbook 2024-2025

August 7th, 2024

Dear Jesse Wharton Families:

We are thrilled to welcome your family to the 2024-2025 school year at Giraffe Nation! We look forward to working with you to provide the best education experience possible for our children.

At Jesse Wharton, we are dedicated to providing a safe, positive and nurturing learning environment where all students can achieve their full academic, social, and personal potential to become a contributing member of society. Jesse Wharton Giraffes will #TowerAbove!

Your involvement in the educational process will serve as the foundation for our children's success at school. We encourage you to join and participate in the PTA at Jesse Wharton. Our PTA works in a variety of ways to support our school, from providing volunteers for events that enrich our school experiences to raising funds for enhancing our academic and extracurricular programs. With the tremendously busy lifestyle that so many of us lead, it is important to understand that there are many ways in which a parent can be involved in the educational process. If you are unavailable to attend PTA meetings or volunteer your time, please know that we greatly appreciate the communication you have with your child's teacher via email, notes, or telephone.

Thank you for sending us your children. Our staff is committed to working with your family to ensure your child's success this year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Teddy Wohlgenuth
Principal

JESSE WHARTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jesse Wharton Elementary School Family Handbook 2024-2025

Daily Lunch Schedule

LUNCH	TEACHER	Grade	Tables
10:50-11:20	Owen	Kinder	1
10:53-11:23	Kelly	Kinder	2
10:56-11:26	Venable	Kinder	3
10:59-11:29	Abondolo	Kinder	4
11:15 - 11:45	Farris	1st	5
11:18 - 11:48	Renick	1st	6
11:21 - 11:51	Barnes	1st	7
11:24 - 11:54	Rothwell	1st	8
11:27- 11:57	Manzella	1st	9
11:40-12:10	Caliguire	4th	1
11:43-12:13	Gale	4th	2
11:46-12:16	Smith	4th	3
11:49-12:19	Johnson	4th	4
11:55-12:25	Kelchner	2nd	5
11:58-12:28	Wright	2nd	6
12:01-12:31	Lauterborn	2nd	7
12:04-12:34	Reuter	2nd	8
12:20-12:50	Ratchford	3rd	1
12:23-12:53	Hill	3rd	2
12:26-12:56	Klason	3rd	3
12:29-12:59	Jordan	3rd	4
12:32-1:02	Seeber	3rd	5
12:35-1:05	Penderleith	3rd	6
12:35-1:05	Lampley	5th	7
12:38-1:08	Wheeler	5th	8
12:41-1:11	Hagen	5th	9
12:44-1:14	Filipoff	5th	10



Enter following Cafeteria TOWER Expectations

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Specials Schedule

SPECIALS	Grade Level							
7:25-8:30			Planning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:15	K	8:30-9:15	Art	Abondolo		Venable	Kelly	Owen
			Music	Owen	Abondolo		Venable	Kelly
			Physical Education	Kelly	Owen	Abondolo		Venable
			Coding	Venable	Kelly	Owen	Abondolo	
			A Week Media B Week Guidance		Venable	Kelly	Owen	Abondolo
10:20 - 11:05	1st	10:25-11:15	Art	Barnes	Rothwell	Renick	Manzella	Farris
			Music	Farris	Barnes	Rothwell	Renick	Manzella
			Physical Education	Manzella	Farris	Barnes	Rothwell	Renick
			Coding	Renick	Manzella	Farris	Barnes	Rothwell
			A Week Guidance B Week Media	Rothwell	Renick	Manzella	Farris	Barnes
9:20 - 10:05	2nd	9:20-10:05	Art	Kelchner	Wright	Reuter		Lauterborn
			Music	Lauterborn	Kelchner	Wright	Reuter	
			Physical Education		Lauterborn	Kelchner	Wright	Reuter
			Coding	Reuter		Lauterborn	Kelchner	Wright
			A Week Media B Week Guidance	Wright	Reuter		Lauterborn	Kelchner
11:10 - 11:55	3rd	11:20-12:15	Art	Ratchford	Klason	Penderleith	Hill	Jordan
			Music	Jordan	Ratchford	Klason	Penderleith	Hill
			Physical Education	Hill	Jordan	Ratchford	Klason	Penderleith
			Coding	Penderleith	Hill	Jordan	Ratchford	Klason
			A Week Guidance B Week Media	Klason	Penderleith	Hill	Jordan	Ratchford
12:30 - 1:15	4th	12:30-1:15	Art		Gale	Johnson	Smith	Caligiure
			Music	Caligiure		Gale	Johnson	Smith
			Physical Education	Smith	Caligiure		Gale	Johnson
			Coding	Johnson	Smith	Caligiure		Gale
			A Week Media B Week Guidance	Gale	Johnson	Smith	Caligiure	
1:20 - 2:05	5th	1:15-2:00	Art	Wheeler	Lamley	Hagen	Filipoff	
			Music		Wheeler	Lamley	Hagen	Filipoff
			Physical Education	Filipoff		Wheeler	Lamley	Hagen
			Coding	Hagen	Filipoff		Wheeler	Lamley
			A Week Guidance B Week Media	Lamley	Hagen	Filipoff		Wheeler

*3rd Grade Mrs. Seeber's class will be split into 5 groups and attend specials with the other five classes.

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In addition to the information provided in this handbook, all Policies and Procedures outlined in the Guilford County Schools Student Handbook apply at Jesse Wharton.

ADDRESS/TELEPHONE CHANGES

Please inform the office of changes in address or telephone numbers. We often need to contact parents or guardians; therefore, **we must have a telephone number in the event of an emergency or sickness. You may also update this information in Powerschool Parent Portal**

ATTENDANCE

- The school day for students begins promptly at 7:25 am and ends at 2:10 pm. Because every minute of the instructional day is critical to your child’s success, we ask that as much as possible you attempt to schedule medical appointments after school hours. Please support your child’s educational success by leaving them in the classroom until the dismissal bell rings. Attendance is one of the most important aspects of a student’s success over all the years they are in K-12 schools, and your efforts to ensure their presence is greatly appreciated.
- For safety purposes, students should ***not*** arrive on campus before 7:05 am. The school day begins at 7:25am, and students arriving after 7:25am will need to check-in at the office to receive a tardy pass for class.
- A student must attend one half of the instructional day (11:00 am.) in order to be counted present for the day.
- If your child is absent, please **send an EMAIL to our data manager** (copy the teacher) within three days stating the reason for the absence. The excuse should include:
 - kansarp@gcsnc.com (*Poonamben Kansara, Data Manager*)
 - *Cc: Homeroom Teacher*
 - *Student’s name*
 - *Date(s) absent*
 - *Reason for absence(s)*
 - *Parent’s name*

- Excused Absences:

Illness	Injury
Quarantine	Death in immediate family
Medical/Dental appointments	Court/Administrative proceedings
Religious observances	Educational opportunity
Suspension	Expulsion

- Travel is not an excused absence unless it relates directly to an educational opportunity and has received prior administrative approval.
- Teachers and students should work to make up assignments missed during the child’s absence.

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CAFETERIA

Jesse Wharton will serve free breakfast and lunch to all students for the upcoming school year. Snacks and treats may be available for an additional charge.

The cafeteria manager is Tabitha Reid, reidt2@gcsnc.com

The menu for breakfast and lunch is posted each month on the School Nutrition website <https://gcsmeals.com>.

CHILD CUSTODY

We encourage parents to work together to present a united front about their child's education. If you have court papers regarding your child, please share them with the office so that we can provide the most respectful and responsive service to your family.

CLASSROOM INTERRUPTIONS

The teachers and students have a full schedule and program each day. During this time office personnel will be glad to assist you in any way possible. **During the school day, messages may be left in the office for staff members. You can expect a response within the next business day.** If you wish to volunteer, please arrange it in advance with your child's teacher so that they may have tasks for you to do.

COMMUNICATIONS

Student work and newsletters will come home in **Monday** folders. **Please check your child's book bag on Monday to receive important weekly information.** Each student will also be on the Principal's Connect-Ed list to receive phone calls and emails with reminders and updates, as well as emergency information. Please make sure that we have your correct telephone number and email address on file. We also encourage you to follow Jesse Wharton Elementary and Jesse Wharton PTA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JesseWhartonElem/>

CONFERENCES

One of our goals at Jesse Wharton Elementary is to develop and maintain respectful and responsive relationships with our parents. Because all staff members instruct and supervise our students between 7:05 am – 2:25 pm, conferences and phone calls must take place outside of these hours. Teachers will schedule at least two conferences during the school year with all parents to discuss academic progress. Contact your child's teacher through an email, note, or telephone call if you would like to request a conference in addition to these times. Teachers and parents working together can help a child reach his/her potential.

CELEBRATIONS

We realize that a birthday is a big event in the life of any child. In order to ensure that all students receive the instruction they need, we ask that parents abide by the following guidelines to recognize birthdays:

- Please notify your child's teacher about the celebration in advance.
- Feel free to send in pre-packaged (store-bought) foods that can be eaten **during your child's regular lunch period.**
- Due to safety considerations and distractions to the learning environment, we ask that parents refrain from sending balloons, flowers, or other gifts to school. Any deliveries received will be held in the office until the end of the instructional day. Students will not be permitted to take deliveries on the bus.

CONCERNS

If you have a problem or concern, please reach out to us. The first contact should be made with the child's teacher. Please realize the teacher may not be aware of the problem and will appreciate your sharing the

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concern. In general, problems and concerns can best be resolved at the level at which they occur. A class-related problem would be most effectively resolved by calling the teacher and arranging a conference. If the teacher conference fails to resolve the matter, the assistant principal or principal will be happy to work with the teacher and parent to ensure the child's success and safety.

DRESS

Student dress should be comfortable and appropriate for learning. Please follow the guidelines below:

- Clothing containing inappropriate language or messages is not permitted.
- Clothing should fit in such a way that undergarments / midriffs are covered and the clothing does not interfere with safety.
- Students should not wear sunglasses or hats except on spirit days.
- Students must wear shoes at all times for health and safety reasons. Flip-flops are strongly discouraged for safety reasons.

HEALTH CONCERNS

A public school nurse visits the school one day per week. She oversees the general health supervision of pupils, including the coordination of health screenings, making necessary referrals, and doing follow-up care.

MEDICATION

The school recognizes that a student with chronic or unusual health problems may require medication during school hours. When possible, arrangements should be made with the physician to adjust the dosage so that it can be given before and after school. If this is not possible, please adhere to the following procedure:

“Any prescription or non-prescription medication must be accompanied by a “Parent’s Authorization of Medication for a Student at School” permission form (available online or in school office) DO NOT send medication to the school without a completed medication form. The school cannot administer medication without appropriate documentation. We are required by GCS policy to adhere to this regulation. Medication of any kind should be delivered to the office by the parent. Children should NOT transport medication of any kind to school. Any non-prescribed medication must be properly labeled and contained, showing the child’s name, dosage, and frequency, and must be accompanied by a note from the doctor’s office. Prescribed medication must be in the prescription container and properly labeled.”

FIRST AID REGULATIONS

Although we do not have a full-time school nurse, we have several staff members who are trained as First Responders. First Responders can assess ill or injured students to determine the medical response needed. Parents of students who become ill or are injured will be contacted as soon as possible.

ILLNESS

Should your child become ill during the school day, parents will be notified so the student can be picked up from the school office. **It is crucial that we have a telephone number where the parent or other designated individual may be reached in an emergency. Please do not send your child to school with a fever.** Children should not return to school until 24 hours after the temperature has returned to normal.

IMMUNIZATIONS

No child may attend any school, whether public or private, **unless a certificate of immunization indicating that the child has received the immunizations required by G.S. 130A-152(s) is presented to the school.** The law allows parents of a child who is not immunized 30 calendar days after the child's first

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day of attendance at school to present proof of immunizations, proof that the child is on a schedule to receive immunizations, or proof that the child has a medical or religious exemption from receiving immunizations. After 30 days, the child must be suspended from school for non-compliance until proof of immunizations is presented to the school. Students entering Kindergarten will also be required to show proof of a physical examination with the current calendar year.

GRADING

Students will receive report cards at the end of each 9-week period. In grades K-2, students' mastery of skills will be measured as follows: **4-Outstanding, 3-Satisfactory, 2-Needs more practice, and 1-Unsatisfactory-not yet meeting expectations and exhibits below grade level performance.** In grades 3-5, letter grades are given in subject areas (**90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F**) and S, N, U is given for work habits, conduct, etc.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Label your child's personal belongings such as coats, caps, sweater, books, lunch boxes, etc. If items are lost, call the school or send a note to the teacher. We will make an attempt to locate the lost article. Labeling does help us find lost items. All unclaimed items are taken to the Salvation Army/Goodwill.

MONEY, PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students should not bring money to school unnecessarily. Money brought to school is a student's responsibility. Students may not buy, sell, or trade items at school. Students also may not ask for money from classmates, teachers, or staff. The school day is so full of learning activities that students do not have time for cell phones, electronic items, or toys. Leave these things at home. If your child has a cell phone, it should remain in their bookbag and turned off during the school day.

No knives, weapons, or illegal objects are allowed on school property at any time. Additionally, toy weapons, multi-tools, files, and other items that may be used as weapons are prohibited.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are sent home quarterly. Progress reports will also be sent home detailing specific growth of your child. Quarterly expectations will be sent home so that you can know what is being taught to your child.

SCHOOL SAFETY

The safety of students while at school is a national concern that we take very seriously at Jesse Wharton. Throughout the year we practice safety drills for Fire, Weather, and Lockdown / School Violence. Please know that our responsibility as educators is to know our roles in such emergencies so that we are able to guide students to safety as quickly and calmly as possible. Much about our safety plans is confidential so that information does not end up in the wrong hands. However, our staff is trained to handle events to ensure their safety and that of our students.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The staff at Jesse Wharton Elementary is committed to creating a safe and orderly environment for learning. We set the stage for positive behavior by teaching students our expectations in all school areas using the acronym "TOWER":

- T** Take Responsibility
- O** Offer Kindness
- W** Work Collaboratively
- E** Encourage Perseverance

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R Respect yourself, each other, and our world

All teachers will create classroom management plans with expectations for student behavior that are based on the Guilford County Schools' Student Code of Conduct. Our goal is to create responsible citizens who are ready to contribute to our country's democracy as adults. When disciplinary infractions occur, we focus on educating the student about appropriate behavior and working with parents and guardians to ensure the appropriate behavior develops. While consequences are necessary at times, our goal is to help the student take responsibility for their action and restore their relationship within the classroom and school community.

TOWERS

In addition to teaching students our expectations, we also know that building meaningful relationships with every student will result in a positive, safe school cultures. Towers are each student's family within the Jesse Wharton family. Our four Towers – Masai, Kordofan, Rothschild, and Thornicroft – welcome each student into a team of staff members and students from across grade levels. Students will remain with their Tower throughout their years at Jesse Wharton. Members of Towers are expected to support fellow Towermates, contribute towards the success of your Tower, and show sportsmanship during competitions. Students will have the opportunity to be celebrated and recognized throughout the year for feats of achievement, growth, and character. By earning points, students will be contributing to their Tower in the hopes of winning the Tower Cup!

TELEPHONE USAGE

Students will be actively engaged in learning from the time they enter the school until school is dismissed. For this reason, students will not be called to the telephone to accept calls. The office staff will take messages for students only in cases of emergency. In addition, students will not be permitted to place calls during the school day. Should the need to telephone home arise, an adult will call for the student. **The use of cell phones during the school day is prohibited.**

TRANSPORTATION

A note should be sent to the teacher anytime there is a change in student transportation.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

If your child will take bus transportation, we strongly encourage you to use the “**Here Comes the Bus**” app. Instructions are on our Jesse Wharton school website.

Please be sure to have your child at the bus stop on time. Remind students to avoid play at the bus stop and to wait a safe distance from the road. If your child misses the school bus, please make every effort to get him/her to school.

Should your child's bus be late in transporting your child in the morning or afternoon, please call the GCS Transportation Call Center at 1-888-511-4427 Monday – Friday; 6am – 9pm for assistance. They have the capability to contact buses by radio to determine estimated time of arrival for your child, *whereas the school does not.*

CAR RIDERS

We take great pride in moving our morning and afternoon car rider line as quickly as possible! It may take a few days to get things running smoothly, but we will move you in and out as quickly as possible. Please use the entrance labeled “Car Rider Line”.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES:

- Have your child wait in the car until a staff member / safety patrol member opens the door.
- While you are waiting, encourage your child to be ready by putting on their and having One Card and book bag in hands.

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- Remain in line until the cars in front of you begin moving.
- DISMISSAL PROCEDURES:**
- All car riders will be given a NUMBER CARD—please display this in your windshield when entering the car rider line. A staff member will enter this number into an app and show you a Cone Number.
 - Inside of our classrooms, the child’s name and corresponding Cone Number are televised so that your child will know where to meet you. All of our staff members are stationed throughout the building to make sure that children know exactly where to go.
 - Follow the line until you reach your assigned cone and staff will ensure that your child gets in your car safely.
 - Sometimes the numbers are off-track and we may ask you to pull forward as your child comes from inside the building. Don’t worry—we will get them to you!
 - Remain in line until the cars in front of you begin moving—do not pull around.

In addition to cars and buses, **ACES** is another dismissal option for students. The goal of the ACES Program is to provide a quality, affordable and convenient after-school care program where children in kindergarten through fifth grade can study and play with school friends in a safe, nurturing and fun environment.

VOLUNTEER and VISITORS

Volunteers are important to the overall success of our instructional and enrichment program. Please work with our counselor, classroom teacher, or PTA to schedule volunteer times. Parents are welcome to join their children for lunch. If you would like to visit the classroom during other times, please schedule this with the teacher or administration so that we can ensure valuable instructional time is not interrupted.

JESSE WHARTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL