

Grahamwood Elementary Optional Program: FAQ Sheet

**What grades are Optional?*

Students can qualify for the Optional program in 1st to 5th grades.

**What are Grahamwood Elementary's Optional School requirements?*

Students wishing to qualify for Grahamwood's Optional Program must meet 80%tile on required tests plus have a B or better grade average, Satisfactory or better conduct, and 15 or less attendance issues for the year.

**What size are typical Optional classes?*

For 1st grade there are typically about 20 students per class adding a student per grade topping out at approximately 25 students per 5th grade class.

**What is the status of CLUE at Grahamwood?*

Grahamwood has approximately 350 K-5th grade CLUE students and seven full-time CLUE teachers. For the 2016-2017 school year, Grahamwood has added Pre-kindergarten CLUE classes.

**What is the school model?*

Grahamwood Elementary utilizes the "school within a school" model whereby about half of the students are in the Optional program and half are in the Optional Bound program.

**What are the school hours?*

Grahamwood's school hours are 8:15 AM to 3:15 PM. At 8:00 AM, students can enter the building.

**Is onsite daycare available?*

Onsite extended care is available from 7:00–8:00 AM and 3:15-6:00 PM. Before care alone costs \$25 per week and after care alone costs \$40 per week. If you want both, the total cost per week is \$40.

**What about student meals?*

All students are offered free meals. Students wanting breakfast are admitted at 7:45AM. Lunch is free with about 1/2 of the students bringing lunch from home and 1/2 eating school lunches.

**What are the colors of the school uniform?*

Pants and skirts are khaki, black or blue with tops being white, light blue, navy blue or Grahamwood logoed.

**How does the school keep parents and stakeholders informed?*

Teachers communicate with parents and guardians routinely via phone, texts, class websites, weekly reports, notes/letters, progress reports, report cards, assessments, conferences, and personal interactions. Our teachers keep parents informed and encourage their involvement in classroom activities. Our administration values strong, ongoing school-parent communication as evidenced by monthly newsletters, informational phone calls, school website, and an open door policy.

**How is parental involvement encouraged?*

Grahamwood's Parent Teacher Organization (GPTO) is one of the most active school support groups within Shelby County Schools (SCS). Parental involvement in daily activities at the school are not only encouraged but solicited. Grahamwood wants parents to participate in their children's education and at Grahamwood they do!

**What weekly support classes are offered?*

Students participate in daily 50 minute support classes. These include a variety of creative, physical, and intellectually challenging programs such as Art, Orff Music, P.E., Computer, and Library.

**What extra curricula activities are available to students?*

Each year the extracurricular activities evolve based upon student and parent requests. However, traditionally Grahamwood offers chess, martial arts, strings, piano, guitar, cheerleading, tutoring, Mandarin, Math Club, Book Club, gymnastics, ballet, tap, Beta Club and so much more.

If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Maxwell at 901.416.5993.