

**Gloucester City Middle School**  
**500 Market Street**  
**Gloucester City, New Jersey 08030**  
**“Where Dreams Are Nurtured”**  
**Phone (856) 456-7000 \* Fax (856) 456-2061**  
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August 23, 2018

Dear Parents,

GMS Precept 2018-2019 – “ *The only impossible journey is the one you never begin.*”  
*Soren Kiekegaard*

The GMS team is excited to welcome your child to the 2018 -2019 school year. This year promises to be filled with new challenges, relationships, and tons of fun! The staff at GMS is focused on developing quality instruction around effective feedback. We will continue to work in smart conversations around the development of good character. School Spirit is a top priority and we will start the year with our outstanding Ice Cream Social. If you are reading this on your phone or home PC you can begin to understand our efforts in the district to go paperless. We will also embrace our one to one goal for matching each student in our school with their own mobile technology device. The students will receive laptops and carry bags. These tools will be theirs to use through the remainder of their days in the Gloucester City School District. Administration will meet with grade level students to explain and reinforce this great opportunity and responsibility. As we work our way through the school year please keep an ear on your cell phone and an eye on our webpage as we will utilize automated phone calls and web page postings to update our school family about events at school. Please review the information below carefully as we have revamped our procedures for parent pick-up and drop-off at school.

Please check your home email for information from our **Power School System**. Power School will be sending all our families information on how to log into the parent portal and access student schedules and teachers. The portal will also have directives and links for completing the student information packets online. If you do not receive an email by August 28th, please contact the GMS main office at 856-456-7000 to update your email information into our Powerschool system.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer! Happy Labor Day!

## Important reminders

1. **Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>** is the first day of school. We will have a regular full day of school. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. Staff members will be ready to greet students in the back of the GMS and direct them to breakfast. Students who are not coming for breakfast can report at 7:50 a.m. Staff members will help direct all students to class lines in the back of our building. All students should report to the back of the building. Class lines will form outside on the playground and on the field behind the school building. (weather pending)
2. **Parent drop off** will take place off of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street side of the building. Parents should look to travel down 5<sup>th</sup> Street and pull into the campus via the 5<sup>th</sup> Street lower entrance. Parents are asked to pull into the coned area designated for bus and parent drop off. A staff member will be available to assist parents as they drop students off at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street bus lane on campus. Please note, parents will not be able to park and walk students into the school yard from this drop off lane.
3. **Parent pick up** will take place off of the 6<sup>th</sup> Street side of the campus. We will have a coned off lane for parents to pull into on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Students will be able to enter into cars from the sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff will be on 6<sup>th</sup> Street assisting with traffic.
4. Students who **walk** to school should come around to the back of the building each morning. Students should report to school by 7:50 a.m. if they are not attending breakfast. Staff will be in place to direct students regarding arrival procedures each morning depending on weather.
5. Menu choices for children who owe money to our food service provider, NutriServe, will be limited to peanut butter and jelly sandwiches until their balance is paid, and they may not purchase a snack. The cost of the PB&J lunch will be added to the balance owed. Please remind your child that they must make responsible choices in how they spend the money you provide for their lunch. Unless they have been approved for free or reduced lunch, they must pay for their lunch and their dessert/snack choices. The cost for a full priced lunch will be \$2.55 (grades 7-8), \$2.30 (grades 4-5-6) and the reduced cost will be \$.40. The cost of a full priced breakfast will be \$1.10 (grades 7-8), \$1.00 (grades 4-5-6) and the reduced cost will be \$.30.

An application form for Free and Reduced lunch is available at all school offices and will be sent home with your child during the first week of school. If you have not already done so PLEASE take a moment to fill one out and return it to school during the first week of classes (or as soon as possible) – whether or not you think you qualify, whether or not you want the services. The information you provide is critically important in determining the amount of money the State will provide to support our educational programs. Please do not send in duplicate forms, only one form per family is necessary. If you need help filling out the form, we will be happy to work with

you, just call my office to let us know you need help and I will make the necessary arrangements.

The GMS Experience is about expectations, accomplishments, and recognition. At GMS we set our goals high, work hard and take time to acknowledge our success. Remember to mark your calendar for our Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 19, 2018. Should you ever have a problem during the school year please do not hesitate to call me at 856-456-7000, extension 4011.

Enjoy the last few days of summer. We hope all our families have a restful Labor Day weekend!

Sincerely,

William O'Kane  
Principal