

Gloucester City Middle School
500 Market Street
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"Where Dreams Are Nurtured"
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Dear Parents,

The Gloucester City Middle School team is excited to welcome your child to the 2017-2018 school year. The new building has been a long time coming and we promise the experience will live up to the hype. Our goals center around building a supportive family feel at each grade level. Team work is our number one goal at GMS. Teacher teams at each grade level will work together to develop positive relationships, relevant learning objectives and challenging course work throughout the school year. School spirit is a top priority and we will be developing school wide tournaments and programs to tap into the creative and athletic side of each of our students. We will take time each month to focus our spot light on all our student accomplishments. We will open the school year with a huge ice cream school social on Friday, September 15th. This year promises to be exciting with a lot of new beginnings. Please stay informed by reviewing the weekly folders, tapping into our web page and parent portal, and posting the district calendar at home.

GMS Precept 2017-2018 – "What we want to see is a child in the pursuit of knowledge and not knowledge in the pursuit of the child." - George Bernard Shaw

Important Reminders

1. Tuesday, September 5th 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 new middle school 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.
2. **Parent drop off** will take place off of the 6th Street side of the building. Parents should look to travel up 6th Street and drop their children off at the open gate in front of the play area section of the school yard. A staff member will be available to assist parents as they drop students off on the 6th Street side of the 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 6th Street side of the campus. Parents will be able to use the staff parking lot entrance to pull into the campus and through the parking lot to begin a parent pick up line that will end behind the goal post on the backside of the building. The parent pick up line will then exit the campus off of the 5th Street exit area toward the back end of the 6th Street parking lot. Parents will be able to pull onto campus using the parent pick up staging area.

"The Gloucester City School District does not discriminate in admissions or access to, or treatment, or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities."

4. Students that *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. Information will be sent home in our Thursday take home folder. This procedure has been used effectively in the past and it will be continued this school year. Important papers, announcements and notices will be sent home every Thursday throughout the school year, so please look for the folder and review the contents with your child. Things that need to be signed and returned should be included in the folder when your child returns it to his or her homeroom teacher.
6. 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 20, 2017. 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