



August 12, 2020

Dear Jackson Middle School Family,

Welcome back to school! We are so glad to have your child at our school for the 2020-21 school year. Whether you're new to our school or a familiar face, we thank you for choosing GCS and we look forward to a great year of learning, service, and fun. As you prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, we want you to have some important information about what to expect. Based on public health guidance, the first nine weeks of school will be delivered remotely. In the next week, you will receive more details about:

- your student orientation date and time
- student assessments
- health and safety protocols
- remote learning expectations

Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 18th at 5:30pm and 6:30pm

This year Open House will be virtually due to the recent health care pandemic (COVID-19). We will have two sessions to accommodate our parents and students needs. The first session is for 6th grade parents at 5:30pm, as these students will be transitioning to middle school and needs will be a little different. The second session will be combined for 7th and 8th grade returning students at 6:30pm. This meeting will share the current virtual teaching and learning program for the next 9 weeks of school, as well as expectations for student's engagement and success. Additionally, there will be information shared about Jackson Middle School's Title I program and funding. Guardians will receive a physical copy of our School Compact Title I Compact and Title I Family Engagement documents by mail within the upcoming weeks. Parents will also be asked to complete the Free/Reduced School Lunch Application. There will be a brief question and answer session held at the conclusion of the meeting. We welcome all students back to school virtually on Monday, August 17th for our first day of this new school year.

Instructional Day

The school day for our students begins at 8:00am with breakfast at home, until 8:30am. Although our students are not present physically in our school building, we are asking parents to hold them to a daily schedule and routine in order to keep them on track with our normal school practices.

The First Three Weeks of Remote Learning

For the first three weeks of school, **students will login to Canvas daily**. To login, students will need their student ID #. Please contact your child's school if you do not know your child's student ID #. Students will have recorded lessons daily with assignments to complete. Students will turn in assignments to teachers. **Assignments will be graded, and student attendance will be monitored by classroom teachers.**

Recorded lessons will include math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Art, Physical Education, Global Languages, Library/Media and social and emotional learning opportunities (like tips

for managing stress and getting to know you activities). Teachers will contact students daily through phone calls, messages and small group sessions. Live daily online instruction will begin September 8th and families will receive more details on the next six weeks of remote learning during their student orientation appointment. Supports for remote learning can be found on the www.gcsnc.com homepage under the Reopening Schools tab.

Schedules

Individual student schedules will be mailed out within the upcoming week. Our goal is to ensure students are placed in the appropriate level courses in order to limit the amount of disruptions throughout the school year, however minimal changes could occur within the first couple of weeks of school to ensure we are meeting the needs of all our learners. Unfortunately, we will not make schedule changes to accommodate a change in teacher at this time. If there are any additional concerns regarding schedules, please contact the school.

Students Receiving Special Education Services

Parents who need to request Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings or schedule time for related services appointments (like occupational therapy and physical therapy) that cannot be provided remotely should contact the school directly.

Technology and Hotspots

GCS will send out 125 smart buses with internet access while students are participating in remote learning. Buses will be located at various sites throughout Greensboro and High Point. Wireless internet access is available in several school parking lots. The list of the 24 schools with outdoor internet can be found at <https://www.gcsnc.com/Page/64905>

If your student still has a device checked out to them from the 2019-2020 school year, please understand they will not be issued a new device for this current school year. Those devices will need to be updated in order to function at their full capability, so we will schedule a time to accommodate these necessary updates. If your student is still in need of a tablet devices, please complete the attached document to request a device [clicking here](#). We will work with families to ensure they have necessary materials as quickly as possible.

Communication

It is our goal to keep parents/guardians abreast with what is going on at our school at all times. We have set up a Remind Group which will send text updates to families with important information. Please join the group by either clicking the link <https://www.remind.com/join/k3hefg>, or by texting “@k3hefg” to 81010. You can also follow your student’s progress by signing up for a Power School (Parent) account at the following link: <https://gcsnc.powerschool.com/public/home.html>; which will allow you to access your student’s grades, attendance, and assignments. We will also continue to use the Blackboard ConnectEd system to send out voice recorded calls regarding important updates; it is important that we have updated contact information in order for you to receive these updates.

It would also be helpful for you to bookmark Jackson Middle Schools website at http://jackson.gcsnc.com/pages/Jackson_Middle.

You can also connect with GCS online and on your phone! Follow us on Facebook @ [facebook.com/guilfordcountyschools](https://www.facebook.com/guilfordcountyschools) for district updates, and www.facebook.com/jackson415/ for JMS updates; on Twitter @ [gcschoolsnc](https://twitter.com/gcschoolsnc) for district updates, and twitter.com/WCJackson4 for JMS updates. Be sure to follow our school to get the latest messages, flyers and event information.

Where to Get School Meals/Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

Through August 31st meals are available for children under the age of eighteen at 41 schools and 65 neighborhood locations. Information on the times of service and the locations can be found at <https://www.gcsnc.com/Page/64834>

Starting September 1st, GCS students or the parent/guardian of a GCS student can pick up meals at all schools. Times of services will be announced prior to September 1st.

The application for free & reduced meals can be found at <https://www.lunchapplication.com/select-district>. This application can be completed by any parent/guardian of a student in a Guilford County School at any point during the school year. All families at all schools are encouraged to complete this application as approval may qualify a family for additional benefits during the global pandemic.

If you have any questions about our school, please contact the school at 336-294-7350. We are proud of the great things that are happening at Jackson Middle School. Thank you for letting us be a part of your child's future.

Sincerely,



KaTrinka Brown
Proud principal
Jackson Middle School