



Gauger-Cobbs Middle School
50 Gender Road
Newark, DE 19713

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August 9, 2021

Gauger Families,

I hope this communication finds you doing well, and I wanted to communicate as early as possible about the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. I hope that you are enjoying your summer break and that you have gotten a chance to relax. We have a little time before the new school year begins, but I want to ensure that we will have a great school year. I, along with my administrative team, support staff, and teachers, look forward to serving you and your child at Gauger-Cobbs Middle School for the upcoming school year. The summer months often go by very fast for the school administrative team, but we have been busy preparing for the upcoming school year. As of right now, we are expecting to open the building normally with all students being able to attend school every day. However, the district is closely monitoring CDC and State of Delaware guidelines, and we will communicate with families should we need to change our operations due to COVID 19.

With that in mind, I would like to orient students and families in preparation for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year. This letter focuses on Important Dates, 6th grade “Jump Start” event, 2021-2022 updates, Uniform policy-Updates, Home Access Passwords, and General Reminders. As always, if you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact our main office at 302-454-2358.

Important Dates:

August 31, 2021-SCHEDULES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON Home Access Center (HAC)

September 6, 2021- (Monday) LABOR DAY. No School

September 7, 2021- (Tuesday) STAFF PD DAY-No School

- **6th grade “Jump Start Event” at 1-3 p.m.** Incoming 6th-grade students can tour the school, visit key places, meet 6th-grade teachers as well as the elective teachers, obtain a schedule and get some light refreshments along with snacks. We will also have a supply list and information on our One to One Chromebook program for the upcoming school year.
- Please sign up for the PTA at this event to support our school and students.

September 8, 2021-(Wednesday) 6th Grade Orientation Day (**6th grade ONLY**)

September 9, 2021-(Thursday) **ALL STUDENTS** attend school

September 21, 2021-(Wednesday) OPEN HOUSE @ 6 p.m.

Dr. Daniel Shelton, Superintendent

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The First Day:

You will receive your student's bus information, Advisory class (Homeroom) information in a letter from the Christina School District Department of Transportation (mid-August). If you do not receive a letter, please contact the school's main office at 302-454-2357.

Students will report directly to their Advisory class (homeroom) on the first day of school and they will receive their course schedule in that class. Staff will have rosters, and we will post alphabetical lists throughout the building to assist with finding homerooms. Students who do not know their Advisory (homeroom) will report to the auditorium. For students that are walking or being dropped off, the building is NOT opened until 7:00 a.m. NO students will be allowed to enter the building before 7:00 a.m. for the entire school year. Dismissal for students is at 2:00 p.m. each day.

On the first day of school, students should bring the following materials:

- Pencil
- Pen
- Notepad
- Folder
- **Protective Mask (we have them in school and on buses if they forget masks)**
- Hand Sanitizer (optional)
- **Combination or Key Lock for 6th and 7th grade ONLY.**

All students will be assigned a locker in which they will keep books, school supplies, outerwear, and book bags. Teachers will identify the specific materials that each student will need for the school year and will be sending home a course description and requirements. Students will also be introduced to the Christina School District Manual, which I encourage every family to review closely.

Note: there will likely be many documents for you to sign at the onset of the school year and we appreciate your effort and support in returning these documents in a timely fashion.

2021-2022 Updates

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, I would like to update our families on the following:

- **Grade level teams**
 - Each grade level will have teams divided equally among our staff. This will allow for more cohesiveness among the staff, teachers, and students at each grade level. The teams will be named after different colored cobras.
- **One to One Devices**
 - All students will be issued a Chromebook device for the upcoming school year with the parent and student signature of the District Technology Agreement.

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Please be on the lookout for the insurance forms and technology agreements at the start of the school year.

- **Culturally Responsive Positive Behavior Support**
 - In preparation for the 2021-2022 school year, Gauger-Cobbs will continue to stress school-wide expectations. “At Gauger We...” treat everyone with dignity and respect.
 - We will have Assemblies for all grade levels to address our expectations at the beginning of the school year. Students will earn “COBRA Cash” and school-wide level acknowledgments by meeting expectations in these areas.

- **Anti-Bullying Focus**
 - Gauger will focus on ensuring that we have a bully-free school and will have a school-wide Anti-Bully initiative for the 2021-2022 school year. More information will follow as the school year but this work will be led by our guidance team.

- **SEL-Social and Emotional Learning:**
 - Gauger will be using a program called “Second Step” to deliver lessons on Social and Emotional Learning during the advisory block. We will also have a focus on using “Restorative Practices” to teach the students how to interact and to solve any conflict.

- **Uniform Policy updated**
 - See the updated dress code and letter below. If there are any issues with obtaining a uniform, please contact the school’s main office.
 - See attached or visit this [link](#).

- **Athletics**
 - All athletes must have a **DIAA sports physical on file** with the school nurse(Kathleen.luna@christina.k12.de.us) to participate. Also, all athletes must be meeting the district GPA requirement of a 2.0 GPA. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
 - [Link to DIAA form](#)
 - Information on Sports programming can be directed to Monica Tucker (Middle School Athletic Director) e-mail: monica.tucker@christina.k12.de.us

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General Information:

- School Hours: **Doors open at 7:00 a.m. ALL DOORS will be closed to students until 7:00 a.m.** We do NOT have the support staff to monitor the students in the morning.
- 8th-grade students will enter the building near the **SHOP doors** and 6th and 7th grade will enter the building near the **auditorium doors**. Staff will direct students upon arrival to the building.
- Breakfast is “Grab and Go” bags which are free and served to all students each morning. In the morning all of our students will eat breakfast in the advisory period. Students will be given a late bus pass and allowed to eat breakfast if the bus is late.
- All students are expected to be in their first class by **7:10 a.m.**
- **Early dismissals will not be granted after 1:40 p.m.** Please send in a note with your student indicating the time you will be picking up your student from school. Your student will be called to the office upon your arrival. Please have photo identification available to show in the main office. NO student will be called out of class until the parent has arrived.
- **Students will NOT be called out of class to speak with parents on the phone.** If there is an emergency, a note can be delivered to a student. If an emergency presents, the secretary will contact an administrator to speak to the parent.

School Security:

- Following the arrival of students, the back doors near the auditorium will be locked by the administrator or custodial staff. All late arrivals must report to the main office to sign in and come in via the front door.
- **ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE AND GET A VISITOR BADGE.** Failure to do so could result in possible trespassing charges by the Delaware State Police.
- **Lockers:** All students will have access to a locker. Some students will need to share a locker with a buddy in their homeroom(Advisory). ***ALL 6th and 7th -grade students will need to purchase a combination lock to secure their items.*** Locks can be a combination lock or key lock.

Breakfast and Lunch

- Breakfast and Lunch will be available to all students. Gauger is a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Breakfast in Classroom (BIC) School. Therefore, there is no cost to the students for breakfast or lunch. Students will be expected to enter their student pin (student ID) in the lunch line to obtain lunch.

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Schoology Homework Site

- Each teacher and team will post homework assignments on the site which will be readily available to all students and parents. An access code will be given to the students by the teacher and can be accessed via <https://www.schoology.com/k-12>. The teacher will provide an ACCESS CODE so you can enter the homework site.

Home Access Center

- Home Access Center allows parents/guardians to view attendance, grades, interim progress report, report cards, discipline, and email teachers directly. Access can be given by the student's guidance counselor. Access will be sent home with students in September. HAC (Home Access Login) [HAC LOGIN](#). If you need a login and password, please contact that Main office.

Parent Link

- We have a phone system that will be used to enhance communication between home and school. Important messages will be sent via this phone system. I try not to use this too much but will send out important information when needed.

Newsletters

- I will send out a communication weekly and only send it when it is necessary. It will be a link to a "SMORES" letter and I encourage parents to review the information.

Gauger Website

- Information will be posted on our website throughout the school year and it can be accessed via the CSD school website. Here is a link to it for more information.
 - [Link to website](#)

Transportation Concerns:

- If you have a transportation concern or issue, please call the Transportation office at 302-454-2281.

School Expectations:

Christina School District Manual

This school publication is designed to provide practical information for parents and students about your child's school. The content in the agenda handbook (Students will receive on the first day) is in no way intended to supersede or to amend Christina School District Policy including but not limited to Christina School District Manual. Parents/Guardians may obtain the Christina School District in English or Spanish for their child's school office or from the Christina School District website at www.christinak12.org. Questions about the discipline policies may be directed to Dr. Gina Moody, Student Services Department at 302-552-2600. If there is a question about discipline, the first call should be to the Dean of Students/Guidance Counselor, followed by Assistant Principal and then the School Principal. All disciplinary APPEALS must be scheduled by the principal's secretary.

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Change of Classes:

- Students are given 5 minutes between classes for passing time. Students are expected to be on time for each class. Students who are repeatedly late to class will receive a consequence per the student manual. Hall sweeps are done regularly to ensure clear hallways and all students being on time for class. Lockers can be accessed at all times during hallway transitions.

Book Bags/Back Packs

- Students may bring a book bag to school, but the bag must be left in the locker throughout the school day. The student will be able to go to their lockers at scheduled times throughout the school day. Shoulder bags are not permitted during the school day either. (Small purses or handbags are acceptable)

Cell Phone Usage

- Students must have permission to use any phone in the school. Cell phones are discouraged from being used in school during class time. School phone usage will be restricted to emergency use ONLY. Cell phones that are visible during the day **may be** confiscated and handled per the Christina School District Manual. We do allow phones during lunchtime in the GREEN ZONE. ALL other times the phones are restricted and are not to be used during class time or the school day. The administration reserves the right to stop all cell phone usage if it becomes problematic or a distraction to the school day.

Absence Notes

- When a student returns from an absence, he/she must provide a note to the homeroom “advisory” teacher. In the event of excessive absences, a note from a doctor will be required. If absences are frequent and unexcused the visiting teacher will follow up with a letter and phone call. In some cases, Truancy charges are filed for excessive unexcused absences.

Buses

- Students who ride a bus to school are assigned to a particular bus. If a student is requesting to ride another bus, a note from home must be brought to school. We will call to verify the note and in special circumstances, a bus pass will be issued.

Other Important Information:

Emergency Evacuations: Unfortunately, we sometimes have to evacuate the building without much notice. In the event of an evacuation, we advise that students remain in school until an official decision has been made regarding a dismissal. Cell Phone use is NOT permitted in school during emergencies.

Fire Drills: Fire Drill occur each month and will happen at random.

Lockdown Drills: We are required by State Law to do “two” lockdown drills during the year. Typically, I will send a parent link alerting parents that we will be doing a drill to minimize alarm.

Lunches: We will have three lunches and each grade level will be separated and each in its own location. We will be spreading students out during lunch to mitigate any COVID concerns.

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Other questions you may have:

- Supplies: Teachers will send home a supply list at the start of the school year. A general list has been posted on the school website.
- Schedules: Students except for 6th graders who come to the JumpStart Event will receive their schedules on the first day of school.
- **HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)** will NOT be active until **August 31** to get student schedules.
 - <http://hac.doe.k12.de.us/homeaccess>

Who Do I Contact?

- **For an Academic/Classroom Behavior Concern:** The first person you should always contact for an academic concern is your student's teacher. Voicemail and email are available and all parents should expect a reply within one business day. If not, please contact the grade level administrator or Principal.
- **For a General Behavior/Social Concern:** Contact the grade level dean of the students or grade level counselor.
 - **Deans: 6th grade (Tywania Spicer) 7th grade (Andrew Grunow) 8th grade (Greg Collins)**
 - **Guidance: 6th grade (Amber Schneider) 7th grade (Andy Feldmann) 8th grade (Kristin Jeanne)**
- **Attendance Concerns:** the secretaries in the main office or our visiting teacher (Dawn Jackson)
- **A Medical Concern:** The school nurse. Ms. Kathleen Luna. (Kathleen.luna@christina.k12.de.us) or 302-454-2358 ext: 105
- **A Concern about Special Education:** The educational diagnostician. Mr. Rudy Nails, Ms. Laurie Gremminger, or Ms. Colleen Konkle
- **A General School Concern:** Begin with the Assistant Principal. 6th grade 7th grade-Mr. Robert Jefferson 454-2358 (ext.: 121) Grade 8-Ms. Dionne Avant (ext.: 117) To speak with the Principal, please contact the main office and ask to speak to Patty Landreth (Principal Secretary)
- **A Registration Concern:** Please contact the main office and speak to a secretary. Ms. Wilson, Ms. Derr, or Ms. Landreth.

Sincerely,

Sean Mulrine
Principal
Gauger Cobbs Middle School

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Memorandum-ALL STUDENTS-UNIFORM

[Click here for information on Uniform Policy.](#)

Aug 9, 2021

Dear Gauger Families,

As you continue to enjoy the summer with family, friends, trips to the beach, and other vacation adventures; we want to make you all aware that the Christina School Board continues to support a Uniform Dress Policy at Gauger Cobbs Middle School (GCMS). During the 2021-2022 school year, students at GCMS will be required to wear a uniform. There has been extensive research that overwhelmingly supports the positive effect of uniforms in schools. School uniforms have shown to have a positive impact on students' learning and behavior in and around the school, uniforms serve to unite students, uniforms increase school pride, and eliminate class barriers that develop when some students cannot afford expensive name-brand clothing.

Schools have many good reasons for instituting a Uniform Dress Policy; however, the reasons for instituting a Uniform Dress Policy at GCMS are:

- Uniforms are cost-effective /Save money on school clothes
- Uniforms improve punctuality /knowing what to wear saves time in the morning
- Uniforms inspire school unity, pride & school spirit
- Uniforms decrease bullying & teasing /enable students to concentrate on studies, not on clothes
- Uniforms teach students the importance of looking academic; looking academic will motivate students to do well academically

All students will be expected to participate in our Uniform Dress Policy and will be encouraged and motivated to wear the uniform with many individual, class, and grade level prize incentives. However, students will not be required to wear the school uniform on school picture days and scheduled school spirit days, and announced school field trips.

We ask that you please support our Uniform Dress Policy by ensuring that your child is always dressed accordingly. We firmly believe that if our students are dressed for school in clothing consistent with our Uniform Policy, they will be prepared for work in the classroom.

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