August 4, 2023

Gauger Families,

I hope this communication finds you doing well, and I wanted to communicate as early as possible about the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. I hope that you are enjoying your summer break and that you and your child 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.

With that in mind, I would like to orient students and families in preparation for the opening of the 2023-2024 school year. This letter focuses on Important Dates, the 6th-grade Open House “Jump Start” event, 2023-2024 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: (CSD Calendars)**

**August 28, 2023**-(Monday) SCHEDULES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON Home Access Center (HAC) by 4 p.m.

**August 29, 2023**-(Tuesday) 1:30-3:30 p.m. (6th grade ONLY Jump Start event)

- 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.
- **THIS IS NOT A REQUIRED EVENT.**
- Please sign up for the PTA at this event to support our school and students.

**September 4, 2023**- (Monday) LABOR DAY. No School

**September 5, 2023**-(Tuesday) 6th-grade orientation- ONLY 6th grade attends on this day.

**September 6, 2023**-(Wednesday) ALL STUDENTS attend school

**September 27, 2023**-(Wednesday) OPEN HOUSE @ 6-8 p.m.

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**Dr. Daniel Shelton, Superintendent**

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Christina School District, 600 North Lombard Street,
Wilmington, DE 19801; Telephone: (302) 552-2600.
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 open 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 or Composition notebook
- Folder
- 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.

2023-2024 Updates
As we prepare for the 2023-2024 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. Please be on the lookout for the insurance forms and technology agreements at the start of the school year.

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Culturally Responsive Positive Behavior Support

- In preparation for the 2023-2024 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 called “Jurdy” for the 2023-2024 school year. More information will follow as the school year but this work will be led by our guidance team.
- We will have “Jurdy Ambassadors” to model and support our students throughout the school year.

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 focus on using “Restorative Practices” to teach the students how to interact and solve any conflict.
- Second Step Website: [https://www.secondstep.org/](https://www.secondstep.org/)

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.
- 6th-8th grade must wear a collared polo shirt.
  - 6th: RED
  - 7th: GRAY
  - 8th: NAVY BLUE
- Hoods will be allowed to be worn this school year but must be in the grade level color and must be worn down at all times due to school safety concerns.

Athletics

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We have soccer for the fall season and tryouts will be announced to start the school year.

- All athletes must have a DIAA sports physical on file with the school nurse in order 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 Wise (Middle School Athletic Director) e-mail: monica.wise@christina.k12.de.us

**General Information:**

- School Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **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.
- All students are expected to be in school by 7:00 a.m. and in their first class by 7:10 a.m.
- 8th-grade students will enter the building near the SHOP doors.
- 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.
- **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 itself, the secretary will contact an administrator to speak to the parent.

**School Security:**

- We will follow a Standard Response Protocol for all emergencies which is taught to staff and students. Additionally, ALICE protocols are taught to all teachers to ensure safety.
- 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.**
- Parents are not permitted to visit classrooms during the school day.

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- **Lockers:** All students will have access to a locker. Some students must 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.

**Teacher Schoology Sites**
- Each teacher will post homework and daily 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/assignment 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 we can provide a username and you will do the forgot password to reset your access.

**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 bi-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.

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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 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 the Assistant Principal, and then the School Principal. All disciplinary APPEALS must be scheduled by the principal’s secretary.

Change of Classes:

- Students are given 3 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 that all students are 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.

- Report student absence. CLICK HERE

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**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 Drills 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 alarms.

**Lunches:** We will have grade-level lunches and will rotate grade-level lunches each marking period.

**Supplies:** Teachers will send home a supply list at the start of the school year. A general list has been posted below as well as 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 28 at 4 p.m. for student schedules to get schedules.
  - [http://hac.doe.k12.de.us/homeaccess](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 (Andrew Grunow) 7th grade (Jeff Frampton) 8th grade (Tywania Spicer)
  - Guidance: 6th grade (Andy Feldmann) 7th grade (Kristin Jeanne) 8th grade (Amber Schneider)
- **Attendance Concerns:** the secretaries in the main office or our visiting teacher (Dawn Jackson)

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A Medical Concern: The school nurses are Ms. Kathleen Luna (Kathleen.luna@christina.k12.de.us) and Ms. Aubrey Rogers (aubrey.rogers@christina.k12.de.us) or 302-454-2358 ext: 105

A Concern about Special Education: The Special Education Coordinators, Ms. Colleen Konkle (6th grade), Ms. Karen Treibly (7th grade), and Ms. Laurie Gremminger (8th grade).

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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There might be additional items for individual courses that are not on the list. Teachers will inform students of these items (if any) once school begins. Through the course of the school year, students will need to replenish some of the supplies (pencils, lined paper).

**School Supplies**

- Mouse (USB) – to use with Chromebook
- Combination lock or key lock – for classroom locker
- Earbuds to use with Chromebook
- 2 packs of loose-leaf paper
- 2, 12-count pack of pencils
- 4 composition notebooks
- Erasers
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils, individual pack of markers
- Ruler
- 1, 3-inch 3-ring binder or a zipper binder to carry during the school day
- 8, 2-pocket folders (hole punched to click into a binder)

**Extra Items that are Greatly Appreciated for School Usage (drop off in the main office once school begins)**
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Tissues

*Students may not carry book bags or drawstring bags* during the school day. They must remain in the locker if brought to school.

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Memorandum-ALL STUDENTS-UNIFORM

August 4, 2023

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 2023-2024 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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Gauger Cobbs

MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORM DRESS CODE

The following Christina School District middle schools participate in the school uniform program:

The Bancroft School (Grades 6-8)
The Bayard School (Grades 6-8)
Gauger-Cobbs Middle School
George V. Kirk Middle School
Shue-Medill Middle School

The following clothing guidelines have been adopted for students in grades 6-8 at the schools listed above.

Reminder: Hoodies/Hoods are permitted to be worn at school but are not allowed to be worn in the up position during the school day due to safety concerns.

HOODIES MUST BE IN GRADE LEVEL COLOR

Shirts (No other colors are acceptable)
- 6th Grade – Red
- 7th Grade – Light Gray
- 8th Grade – Navy Blue
  - Long or short-sleeved collared polo style shirts
  - Shirts must have 2-3 buttons and be conservative and modest in appearance
  - Shirt sizing: Must cover chest and midriff (when hands are raised)
  - Cannot hang above fingertips when arms are at sides
  - Shirt cannot be cinched, tied, or clipped in the back
  - No patterns, designs, or artwork are allowed
  - Sleeveless shirts or T-shirts are NOT permitted
  - Undershirts must be a solid color, either white or the student’s grade color

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Pants
- Students will wear navy blue, black, or khaki pants, skirts or jumpers
  - Pants must be Dockers-style with belt loops
  - Denim jeans or (look-a-like), sweat pants, and pants with patterns or designs are NOT permitted
  - Skirts, scooters, and jumpers may not be shorter than 2 inches above the knee while seated
  - A solid color belt must be worn if pants have belt loops
  - Clothing must be worn at the natural waist at all times
  - No oversized, baggy, saggy, wide-leg, low-riders, below the waist, hip huggers, tight fitting, cargo pants/shorts/skirts or nylon athletic shorts
  - Leggings, Jeggings/Tights
    - Must be solid in color, either black or navy blue
    - No patterns, artwork, or designs permitted
    - Must cover entire legs down to the ankle
    - Leggings, Jeggings/Tights cannot be worn as a substitute for pants
    - Leggings, Jeggings/Tights may only be worn under length-appropriate skirts

Footwear
- Footwear must be closed-toed and heel with a hard sole.
- Footwear must cover the entire foot.
- Footwear with embedded wheels is NOT PERMITTED
- Heels may not be higher than 1”
- The following footwear is NOT PERMITTED: CLOGS, FLIP FLOPS or SLIDES, CROCS, SANDALS, MOCCASINS, SLIPPERS, BOOTS OR FOOTWEAR WITH HEELS OVER 1”

Sweaters
- Cardigans, pullover sweaters, or non-hooded sweatshirts, are permitted but must be the same color as grade-level shirts.
  - Hoodies/sweatshirts with a hood are permitted (grade level color) but must be down for school safety.
  - No oversized collars ex. – fur
  - No patterns, designs, logos, or artwork, other than a school insignia,
  - Collared school uniform shirt must be worn under these garments

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Accessories
- Belts
  - Belts must be plain in design (Solid black or Solid brown)
  - Belts must be worn through the pant loops no exceptions
  - No initial or oversized buckles
  - Belts may not be too long so that the end of the belt hangs down
  - Belts may not have studs or metal trappings

- Jewelry
  - No jewelry that will distract or disrupt the educational environment will be allowed

Purses
- Must be 8 ½” x 5 ½” or smaller (a regular piece of paper, folded in half)

Hair
- Hats, caps, and bandanas are NOT PERMITTED. Unique situations (Medical, religious, etc. will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the grade level dean/admin)

Students will be permitted to participate in religious expression to the limit currently permitted.

Administrative Prerogative: The Administration reserves the right to address uniform issues that present themselves as a distraction to the students or the educational process. A parent who objects, on behalf of their student, to the school uniform because of his or her religion, religious belief, or because of a medical condition must obtain a copy of the policy dress code, and submit a request for exemption in writing. The principal will review the written request for exemption and will accept or deny the request. During the course of the school year, the administration reserves the right to amend said dress code and will notify all constituents of amendments in writing.

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