



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

Telephone:(302) 454-2357
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August 5, 2019

Gauger Families,

I wanted to communicate as early as possible about the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. I hope that you are enjoying your summer break and that you have gotten a chance to take a vacation. 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 look forward to serving you and your child at Gauger-Cobbs Middle School along with my administrative team, support staff, and teachers. 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 2019-2020 school year.

This letter focuses on Important Dates, 6th grade “Jump Start” night, 2019-2020 updates, Uniform policy-Updates, Home Access Passwords, and General Reminders.

Important Dates:

August 29, 2019- (Thursday) **6th grade “Jump Start” Night at 6-7 p.m.** Students can tour the school, visit key places, meet 6th grade and 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 on this night to support our school and students. Our PTA has arranged a Food Truck for families to get something to eat.

August 29, 2019-SCHEDULES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON Home Access Center (HAC)

September 2, 2019-(Monday) School and Office closed for Labor Day

September 3, 2019-(Tuesday) 6th Grade Orientation Day (**6th grade ONLY**)

September 4, 2019-(Wednesday) ALL STUDENTS attend school

September 11, 2019-(Wednesday) OPEN HOUSE @ 6 p.m.

Richard L. Gregg, Superintendent

The Christina School District is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender (including pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions), national origin, citizenship or ancestry, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity, against victims of domestic violence, sexual offenses, or stalking, or upon any other categories protected by federal, state, or local law. Inquiries regarding compliance with the above may be directed to the Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, 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 and 1st block (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 1st block (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 1st block (homeroom) will report to the auditorium. For students that are walking or being dropped off, the building is NOT opened until 7:05 a.m. NO students will be allowed to enter the building before 7:05 a.m. for the entire school year. Dismissal for students is at 2:05 p.m. each day.

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

- Pencil
- Pen
- Notepad
- Folder
- **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.

2019-2020 Updates

As we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year, I would like to update our families on the following:

- **Grade level teams**
 - Each grade level will have two teams divided equally among our staff. This will allow for more cohesiveness among the staff, teachers, and students at each grade level.
- **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. Insurance is required in order the device to be taken home and we will have Technology Protection plan for \$20. Please be on the lookout for the insurance forms and technology agreements at the start of the school year.
- **The Gauger-Cobbs PTA**
 - The Gauger PTA will meet once a month in the Staff Development Room. Meetings are open to all Gauger-Cobbs Families and community members. Please consider joining the PTA, applications are available on the school website. Any questions about PTA, please contact Ms. Danene Watkins at dwatkins4674@aol.com

- **Culturally Responsive Positive Behavior Support**
 - In preparation for the 2019-2020 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.

- **Jurdy-ANTI BULLYING FOCUS**
 - Gauger will join Shue Medill Middle school in having Jurdy agents and a school wide Anti-Bully initiative for the 2019-2020 school year. More information will follow as 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 twice a week. 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 updated dress code and letter below. If there are any issues with obtaining a uniform, please contact the school’s main office.

- **Athletics**
 - All athletes must have a **DIAA sports physical on file** with the school nurse 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

General Information:

- School Hours: **Doors open at 7:05 a.m. ALL DOORS will be closed to students until 7:05 a.m.** We do NOT have the support staff to monitor the students in the morning.
- Breakfast served for all students each morning. It is a “Grab and Go” in the morning and students will eat breakfast in the first 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 **7:15 a.m.** Announcements will follow the 7:15 a.m. bell.
- **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 parent.
- **School Security:** Following 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 will 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. 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.

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](#)

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.

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 Dana Crumlish, 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 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 for insubordination or defiance. Hall sweeps are done regularly to ensure clear hallways and all students being on time to class. School-

wide locker times for Gauger are when students arrive at school, prior to lunch block, and prior to dismissal.

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. To this end, 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. 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 first-period 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 events 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 drill during the year. Typically, I will send a parent link alerting parents that we will be doing a drill to minimize alarm.

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 Night will receive their schedules on the first day of school.
- HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC) will NOT be active until the end of August.
 - <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 (Greg Collins) 7th grade (Tywania Spicer) 8th grade (Andy Grunow)**
 - **Guidance: 6th grade (Kristin Jeanne) 7th grade (Amber Harmon) 8th grade (Andy Feldmann)**
- **Attendance Concerns:** the secretaries in the main office or our visiting teacher (Dawn Jackson)
- **A Medical Concern:** The school nurse. Ms. Judy Lattanzi
- **A Concern about Special Education:** The educational diagnostician. Ms. Lisa Morgan or Rudolph Nails
- **A General School Concern:** Begin with the Assistant Principal. 6th and 7th grade-Mr. Robert Jefferson 454-2358 (ext.: 121) Grade 8-Ms. Dionne Avant (ext.: 117) Principal ask to speak to Patty Landreth (Principal Secretary)
- **A Registration Concern:** Please contact the main office and speak to a secretary. Ms. Wilson or Ms. Derr.

Sincerely,

Sean Mulrine
Principal
Gauger-Cobbs Middle School
302-454-2358 ext: 115
sean.mulrine@christina.k12.de.us



50 Gender Road
Newark, DE 19713

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Memorandum-ALL STUDENTS-UNIFORM

August 5, 2019

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 2019-2020 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.

Uniform Dress Policy

- Shirt/Top – collared long or short sleeve polo without labels or monograms (Red-6th, Gray-7th, or Navy Blue-8th)
- Pants/Bottom – Navy, Khaki, or school plaid (no jeans) shorts, pants, skirts, jumpers, skorts, capris, dresses. A belt should be worn to secure pants at the waist
- Shoes – the student may wear their choice of shoes. However, athletic shoes must be worn during PE classes Uniforms can be purchased from any retailer but suggestions are JC Penny, Old Navy, Target, Kmart, Wal-Mart, and Dollar General for the best prices.

Sincerely,

Gauger Cobbs Middle School Administrative Team

Christina School District Uniform Dress Code

FACTS FOR PARENTS ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORMS 2019-2020

- All Christina School District Middle Schools will have matching school uniforms in 2019-2020: Bayard, Gauger-Cobbs, Kirk, and Shue-Medill;
- In many public school districts where uniform dress codes have been established, school officials have found that school uniforms enhanced school safety and improved the learning environments;
- Bridged socioeconomic differences between children;
- Promoted good behavior; improve children's self-respect and self-esteem;
- Produced cost savings for participating families;
- The decision to implement a uniform code is about equity and high standards of academic achievement; and
- For our students to reach the high standards we have set for them, we must create environments where they receive challenging instruction and are held accountable for their dress, behavior, and personal success;

THE FOLLOWING CLOTHING GUIDELINES ARE IMPLEMENTED IN ALL CSD MIDDLE SCHOOLS: (Dress Code will be strictly enforced)

Shirts: (No other colors are acceptable)

6th Grade – Red

7th Grade – Light Grey

8th Grade – Navy Blue

- Long or short-sleeved, collared polo-style shirts are acceptable
- 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
- The 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 student's grade color

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, 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 shirt.
- Hoodies/sweatshirts with a hood are not permitted
- No hoods or 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

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
- Facial Piercing - Unacceptable (nose, tongue, eyebrows, etc.)

Purses

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

Hair

- Hats, caps, hoods, and bandanas are NOT PERMITTED

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, 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 school year, the administration reserves the right to amend said dress code and will notify all constituents of amendments in writing.

NOTE: students who are non-compliant with the dress code will be excluded from PBS events.