GCMS Families:

Hello. Today is Thursday, May 21. We hope everybody is doing what they can to stay safe. Below you will find this week’s newsletter. Please reach out to the person identified for any clarification that you need. More information can be found on our website at nobleschools.org/comermiddle and at nobleschools.org/coronavirus.

Parent Feedback Session

Ms. Norris will be hosting two Google Hangouts for parents to gather thoughts, opinions, and ideas around how to best serve our scholars in the three areas of school safety, school discipline, and school culture. To be able to serve your scholar in the best way possible, we need your perspective as we continue to grow our school from good to great. Thank you in advance to those who are able to attend: we know that everyone is extra busy balancing all aspects of their lives through this situation. There will be two opportunities to join the conversation:
- Thursday May 28 at 6pm
- Friday May 29 at 11am

If you are able to attend and would like a direct invitation, please email Ms. Norris at anorris@garycomermiddleschool.org and she will email the information one hour prior to the meeting start time. You can also join the meeting without an invitation by going to meet.google.com and clicking Join/Start Meeting. You will need to enter the nickname GCMSInfoSession to join the meeting.

Enrollment for School Year 2020-2021

We are actively enrolling new scholars in all 3 grade levels for next year. If you know anybody who would be interested, please refer them to our website at nobleschools.org/comermiddle or send them directly to our application online at GCMS SY21 application (downloadable PDF) or GCMS SY21 application (online form).

Attention 7th Grade Parents!

The 7th Grade Team would like to invite you to a night of fun and mayhem, in an online game of Kahoot! The game will be played in a Zoom conference, details below. A parent/guardian must join in order to play; prizes will be Amazon gift cards for $75, $50, and $25. Look forward to seeing you all!

What: Kahoot: Who Knows More About GCMS Remote Learning

When: Thursday May 21 at 7:30pm

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89213743602?pwd=dWoxOHY4VEQ4RjhzVEdXZ2Y2aUpmZz09

Passcode: GCMS. The link will also be posted on Google classroom thread and sent via MobyMax weekly email.

8th Grade Fees Communication

As a result of COVID-19, Noble has credited all students' accounts for 8th Grade Fees, Winter Sports Fees, and Saturday Academy 2020. If a payment was received for any of these activities/events, that payment will be applied to any outstanding fees owed prior to COVID-19. In cases where this results in a positive balance on a family’s account, Noble will mail a check for the amount being returned by Friday, June 12. Any questions or concerns regarding this initiative should go to bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org.
Grading and Promotion

The Noble Promotion Policy for the current school year has been finalized and the details will be released as their own document in the coming weeks. Here are the key points you need to know right away:

- All scholars will promote in 2020-21. Attendance, discipline, community service, and health/fitness requirements are waived for the 2019-20 school year.
- All 8th graders will be eligible to participate in our virtual graduation celebration.
- Academic grades will be assigned on the last day of the semester for 2019-20. These grades will be considered “temporary and in progress” until the end of the first semester, in January of 2021. Scholars will be given opportunities to improve their grades through the summer, and in some cases, through the fall.
- Scholars will have the option to take remote learning summer school classes to improve their GPA and skills-development for any 2019-20 Semester 2 course. This will be strongly encouraged for any scholars who are below 70% and/or have not engaged in remote learning.

More details will be coming in the next few weeks. Thank you for your patience as we work out the details for a plan that is fair and equitable, and does not compromise on our high expectations.

GCMS Calendar for 2020-2021

Our calendar for next school year is complete and is attached here: [GCMS SY21 Calendar]. You can also find it on our website in the Informational Links section.

Remote Office Hours

All GCMS instructors are holding weekly virtual office hours to support our scholars. Office hours are designed to give scholars time to ask questions, discuss content, and work through challenging tasks in a small group setting. Attendance during office hours can also have a direct impact on improving scholars’ grades. Instructors post directions for accessing office hours on the Google Classroom stream. Please view the schedule on our website or click here for the attachment in order to help your scholar plan for attendance in office hours throughout the week.

If you have questions that are not specific to school work, please visit our website at nobleschools.org/comermiddle. There you will find phone numbers and email addresses for submitting your specific questions. You can also continue to leave voicemails at our main office number – 773-535-0755. And don’t forget to follow us on social media @BeNobleGCMS.

If you have a question that you would like to see addressed in future newsletters, please send it to bjohnson@garycomermiddle.org.

Food Service

Noble is providing meals for all families, free of charge, at 8 campuses every weekday from 8am-11am. The food distributed will consist of 3 days of breakfast and 4 days of lunch. Click here for the menu at Gary Comer Middle School, Baker, and Butler College Prep, or view the Take Home Meal Plan at nobleschools.org/comermiddle. Food distribution is also occurring at DRW, Hansberry, Johnson, Noble Street, and Pritzker College Prep.

Technical Support
If you are using a school-issued Chromebook and/or hot spot, the Noble Network IT Team has set up a dedicated hotline for all troubleshooting. You can reach them at 833-NobleIT (833-662-5348).

Information and Resources

The Noble Network has posted a multitude of great resources, including access to free online learning materials, social and emotional support, nutritional advice, and links to several other informational websites. Please check it out at noble.schools.org/coronavirus.

Other programs and information can be found at the following sites:

- **Coronavirus Relief for Struggling Families.** Receive a box of goods on May 24. Beginning at 10am on Sunday May 24, Project H.O.O.D. and New Beginnings Church of Chicago will offer relief packages to those suffering hardship during the Coronavirus health pandemic. With the generous support of sponsors and numerous individuals, boxes will include fruits, vegetables, meat, dry goods, canned food, hand sanitizer, soap, masks, and lotion. Those wanting to receive a box of goods should come to New Beginnings Church, 6620 S King Drive, beginning at 10am on May 24. Volunteers will hand out boxes until supplies run out.
- Looking for resources in your community and throughout the city of Chicago? Sign up for the Noble Advocacy Newsletters. Resources include jobs, food sites, mask giveaways, virtual events for parents and families, and more! Sign up by click the Subscribe tab here: bit.ly/noblenews1.
- **Getting Connected to the Internet.** CPS guidance for accessing free internet can be found here. bit.ly/cpsconnect

Additional resources can be found here:

- Elevate Chicago Resources
- Illinois State Board of Education Internet Resource
- Chicago Department of Public Health Coronavirus Response Center
- CPS Response to Coronavirus
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

And don’t forget to follow us on social media @BeNobleGCMS.

Thank you and stay safe.