Thursday, June 25

GCMS Families:

We hope you are enjoying the first official week of summer. Tuesday the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released guidance for the 2020-2021 school year. This guidance will be another piece of our continued planning for what the school year will look like at Noble. The health and safety of our scholars, staff, and families will be at the forefront of this planning. We appreciate your patience as we incorporate these recommendations into the feedback we have received from families and staff to finalize our plan for the fall. We are working to complete our plan and will provide an update in the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for keeping up with our communications and freely sharing both your questions and your concerns.

Parent Surveys
Our two parent surveys will remain open through June 29. We want to gather as many perspectives as possible to guide our decision making and ensure that our vision as a school aligns with what you want for your children. Please take time to complete the two surveys linked below.

- **Parent Survey 2020.** The GCMS Leadership Team seeks to understand more clearly what the needs are for our parents and families and how we can best support them. This survey was designed to gain feedback to help drive decisions for the 2020-21 school year and beyond. Please click here - [Parent Survey 2020](#)

- **School Culture, Discipline, and Safety.** This survey focuses on school culture, school discipline, and school safety. We want to hear from you about where we have it right, where we can improve, and what we are missing. We believe that it takes a village, and combining all of your perceptions and perspectives is key to creating the ideal school for us all. Please click here - [School Culture, Discipline, and Safety](#)

Summer Homework
To keep our scholars sharp over the summer, we are continuing the tradition of prioritizing summer homework for incoming 6th graders and rising 7th and 8th graders. In years past, scholars have completed work packets for each subject that are collected on the first day of school. Because we are currently remote, summer homework will shift to an online model with the following two components:

- Baseline: Weekly reading and math lessons on MobyMax.
- Above and Beyond: A stretch project for scholars to research an area of interest related to social justice and current events.

All current GCMS scholars are registered for MobyMax, which was used regularly during remote learning this spring. If you need information on how to access the platform, please contact ibriggs@garycomermiddleschool.org

When we return in the fall, GCMS will celebrate scholars who complete baseline work, with additional recognition and incentives for scholars who go above and beyond to complete the stretch project. For additional information, please refer to the attached [Summer Homework at GCMS](#)

NEW INFORMATION: Please refer to this [Summer Homework Supplement](#) for expanded information on the Summer Stretch Project.

New scholars will be able to pick up summer work following a plan that will be communicated separately. Please be looking for that plan to be sent out tomorrow.

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)](#)

Remaining School Fees
For those families that still have a balance due, payments can be made through our Noble Bill Pay portal. Instructions for using the portal are attached [here](#).
We are aware of the uncertainty and hardship caused by this pandemic, and we are prepared to be as flexible as necessary to ensure that we are not adding to your burden. If you are unable to pay before the end of the school year (June 30), please email bijohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org to discuss options.

**Social Worker Resources**
Our Social Worker, Ms. Mino, has curated a collection of supports for issues related to social and emotional health. Those resources can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to omino@garycomermiddleschool.org.

**Food Service**
Noble is providing meals for all families, free of charge, at 8 campuses every weekday from 8am-11am through August 31. 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.
Another great resource for locating food pantries, hot meals, mobile markets, etc. is the Greater Chicago Food Depository: [Chicago's Foodbank](#)

**Leaps and Bounds**
Graduating 8th Graders, Congrats on your recent graduation! Gary Comer Youth Center would like to personally invite you to apply for the Summer 2020 employment opportunity, Leaps and Bounds. The purpose of Leaps and Bounds is to prepare incoming freshmen for high school and equip our youth with job readiness skills. If you are interested in participating, please click the link below After School Matters Application. Once applications are submitted, please be on the lookout for a follow up email regarding an interview. If you have any questions, please feel free to text Mr. Gerald Bufford at 401-213-9618 or Ms. Kiara Clark at 401-285-6294.
Again, congrats on your recent graduation! We hope to see you this summer!
**After School Matters Application Link** - [https://www.afterschoolmatters.org/](https://www.afterschoolmatters.org/)
**“How to” virtual video Link** - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ip8nVH2Fuo4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ip8nVH2Fuo4)

**Information and Resources**
If you have a question that you would like to see addressed in future newsletters, please send it to bijohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org.
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 nobleschools.org/coronavirus.
Other programs and information can be found at the following sites:

- **After School Matters (Virtual this Summer) is Accepting Applications:** To participate in an After School Matters program, a teen must be:
  - A resident of Chicago.
  - 14 years old by September 1, 2020
  - A current Chicago public high school student. Some spots are available to non-CPS high school students.
  - For summer program session, rising freshman and just-graduated seniors are eligible to participate.
  - For internships and assistantships, a teen must be 16 years old by the first day of program.
  - Certain programs may have other requirements that will be noted on the application.

See the FAQ and program details [here](#)
- 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](http://bit.ly/noblenews1).
Additional resources can be found here:
Elevate Chicago Resources
Illinois State Board of Education Internet Resource
Chicago Department of Public Health Coronavirus Response Center
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

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