



Thursday, August 20

GCMS Families:

We hope that everyone is doing well.

Working with parent and staff feedback across the Noble Network, we have finalized some policy changes that we believe are necessary for us to continue to excel in these unprecedented times. A letter from our Principal summarizing those changes is here: [Policy Update Letter](#)

Please read through the entire letter. It details major changes to our promotion policy, student code of conduct, dress code, student fees, and technology access. If you are unable to access the link, please contact bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org.

There will be more crucial information in the coming days. This is what you can expect over the next week:

- **Tech needs assessment.** Tomorrow (August 21) you will receive a separate communication to assess your need for a Chromebook and/or hotspot. We will be able to distribute Chromebooks to all scholars who did not receive one from us in the spring, as well as all new scholars. Hotspots are in short supply, so we ask that families that already have internet access not request one.
- **Student Supply Pickup information.** We will be providing school supplies for all of our families, as well as Chromebooks for those families that need them, at our Student Supply Pickup. Families will be assigned a specific time during the week of August 31 to come to the school. Details for this event will be sent out by Wednesday August 26.
- **Orientation invitation.** Our mandatory Family Orientations will take place on Zoom (more information below). Invitations will be sent to all families by Friday August 28.
- **Student Schedules.** These will be sent out electronically by Monday August 31 and available to be picked up during the School Supply pickup event (see below). Instructions for activating a PowerSchool Parent Portal account will also be available for parents who do not already have an account.

You can expect to hear from your child's advisor next week, with calls beginning Tuesday and continuing through the end of the week. In the meantime, please continue to use our website and the directory of staff emails that you can find there: nobleschools.org/comermiddle.

Back-to-School Orientation

The first day of remote learning for all scholars will be Tuesday September 8. In the week before school begins, we will be holding our Back-to-School Orientations. This will be a remote event conducted over Zoom. Invitations and instructions for joining us will be sent out to all families by Tuesday August 25.

- **New Family Orientation:** Tuesday, September 1, 6pm-8pm
- **Returning Family Orientation:** Thursday, September 3, 6pm-8pm

School Supplies and Technology Resources

For the month of August our building is closed with the exception of essential operations. However, we will be hosting opportunities in the final week before school begins for families to pick up Learning-from-Home Supply Kits. These kits are being supplied by GCMS and will contain many of the essential items that scholars need to create a learning environment. This will also be an opportunity to help families that need access to technology resources in order to participate in Remote Learning. Tomorrow, August 21, a tech needs assessment will be sent to all families that did not receive a Chromebook in the spring. Please reply to that as soon as possible so that we can prepare to meet the needs of every scholar.





Enrollment Paperwork

For our new families, all enrollment paperwork is due within 2 business days of receiving your notification of acceptance. If you are having any trouble, please reach out to Ms. Hampton at khampton@garycomermiddleschool.org or 312-805-4679. Ms. Hampton will also be hosting two Remote Office Hours sessions, on Wednesday August 26, from 10am-11am and from 6pm-7pm. Any new family with questions about enrollment is welcome to join in at any time during the hour.

Remote Learning Website

GCMS will maintain a Remote Learning Website to serve as a source for everything families need to engage successfully in Remote Learning this Fall. The site is in the process of being put together, but you can view the current draft at sites.google.com/garycomermiddleschool.org/gcmsremote/home. The site will be fully operational by Monday August 31.

Remote Office Hours

We are currently planning to open our office to essential business on Tuesday September 8. Until we re-open our offices, our website and this newsletter are a resource to answer most of your questions. If you are not sure where to direct your question, please email bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org and your question will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member. You can also call our remote office phone at 312-805-4679 between the hours of 9am and 3pm. If your call is not answered, please leave a message and your call will be returned the same day whenever possible, and always within two business days.

Enrollment for School Year 2020-2021

We are actively enrolling new 6th graders for the coming 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 \(online form\)](#). Incoming 7th and 8th graders may also complete applications to be added to our waitlist.

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. For our returning scholars the summer work will consist of 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.

New scholars can request to have work packets emailed to them by reaching out to bjohnson@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](#) and this [Summer Homework Supplement](#) for expanded information on the Summer Stretch Project.

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](#)

Need help buying food for your school-aged children? The deadline for Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) SNAP benefits has been extended to August 31. This is a special benefit that can help you buy food for children age 3 to 17 years old who would receive National School Lunch Program free or reduced-price meals when schools are in session. For more information, go to [the IDHS website](#).

Information and Resources

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

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 clicking the Subscribe tab here: 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.

Stay safe and be well.



@BeNobleGCMS