Thursday, October 22

GCMS Families:

We hope that everyone is doing well.

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New Items

GCMS Grading Updated
To honor our commitment to meeting scholars’ needs through equitable grading practices, GCMS will be making an adjustment to how we calculate semester grades. Historically GCMS has calculated semester grades by averaging a scholar’s Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 grades. For school year 2020-2021, scholars’ semester grade will be a single grade based on the first 18 weeks of school (through January 22). While there are benefits to the old approach, they were outweighed by one major drawback: scholars were unable to make up, resubmit, or complete assignments for Quarter 1 after Quarter 2 had begun. To ensure our grading practices are more equitable and to reflect our belief that grades are a measure of a scholar’s mastery of the material, we are instituting this new system, which allows scholars time to improve upon their performance from the first eight weeks of school and to demonstrate their growth toward mastery over a more extended period of time.
If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our Deans of Instruction for more clarity. You can reach Jack Pruitt at jpruitt@garycomermiddleschool.org or Ina Briggs at ibriggs@garycomermiddleschool.org.

8th Grade Parents – GoCPS Registration
For all of our 8th grade parents: the GoCPS high school application system is live. If you have not yet activated your account, please use the information from the letter mailed to you by CPS or the email sent to you from CPS. If you have not received the letter or the email, please call the CPS Office of Access and Enrollment right away at 773-553-2060, or reach out to Ms. Agosta at aagosta@garycomermiddleschool.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Big Brothers Big Sisters is enrolling youth ages 7-14 for our mentoring program, and every step in the process is now virtual. Our one-to-one mentoring program provides critical resources from fun interactive games and educational tools to guidance on managing stress, maintaining focus on schoolwork, and combating boredom and negative influences.
To apply for the program: https://bbbs.tfaforms.net/l/SB_Youth_Application_20-21

Top Catamount
The TOP CATAMOUNT winners for cycle #4 are the NIU Huskies of Ms. Diaz and Ms. Edmondson’s Purdue Pearls. Congratulations to both!
Male runners up were Mr. Reinberg’s U of I Illini and the Wisconsin Badgers of Ms. Walker. The female advisory runners up were Ms. Hampton’s Sisters of Spelman and Mrs. Buchanan’s Oxford.
The most improved advisories for cycle #4 were the U of I Illini and Ms. Tippy’s Columbia Lions. Keep up the great growth!
Special shout out to the Florida Gators of Mr. Fisher for having the highest male advisory GPA again this week, as well as to the Sisters of Spelman for having the highest female advisory GPA.

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Reminders

NWEA Testing
Attention Parents and Scholars: GCMS will be administering the NWEA MAP Reading test on Wednesday October 28. The test will begin promptly after Advisory at 9:00am and will last until 11:30am. Scholars will take their NWEA test on a Zoom call with their advisory. Scholars will be able to ask their advisor questions as they arise. For those unfamiliar with NWEA MAP testing, please take a moment to learn more about NWEA here – https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/.
Please help set your scholar up for success by following the below steps:

- Remind your scholar that testing will begin on 9am sharp on October 28;
- Remind scholars of the importance of trying on this assessment;
- Be sure scholars have a quiet space to test for an extended period of time;
- Remind scholars of the importance of academic honesty when testing. Visiting other web pages, or using phones during testing is not permitted;
- Refrain from helping your scholar on test questions. Scholars will see test questions over content they have not been taught, which is the purpose of the adaptive test. The test wants to measure what scholars know and what they don't know, so they will see unfamiliar content at times.

Helpful Resources:

- Family Toolkit: [https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/](https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/)
- FAQs: [https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/](https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/)

If you have any questions, or concerns in regards to NWEA testing, please contact Mr. Pruitt at jpruitt@garycomermiddleschool.org, or Ms. Briggs at ibriggs@garycomermiddleschool.org.

**Quarter 1 Report Card Conferences**

The final day of Quarter 1 is Friday October 30, and report card conferences will be held virtually between November 6 and November 20. You can expect your advisor to reach out during the week of November 2 to set up a time with you. Report cards will be delivered directly to parent/guardian email addresses on November 6.

**No School November 3**

As a reminder, there will be no school on Tuesday November 3 for Election Day. Our network calendar is attached here – [Noble Calendar SY21](https://nobleschools.org/comermiddle) – and all days off can also be found on our website at nobleschools.org/comermiddle.

**Enrollment for School Year 2020-2021**

Do you love the work we’re doing at Comer Middle? Want to share it with your family and friends with middle school-aged children? We have a handful of remaining seats for new 6th graders for this 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)](https://nobleschools.org/comermiddle) or [GCMS SY21 application (online form)](https://nobleschools.org/comermiddle). Incoming 7th and 8th graders may also complete applications to be added to our waitlist.

**Mobile Medical Services**

Every scholar must be up-to-date on the state-mandated vaccinations and physical examinations. GCMS is partnering with Comer Pediatric Services to bring no-cost vaccinations to Comer Middle School. If your scholar needs a back to school physical, immunizations, or back to school medical care you can be seen by the medical mobile van on November 4 at GCMS. Call Felicia at 773-834-8850 to schedule an appointment. Slots are limited and will be given in the order they are requested.

**Dinner Service**

Starting Monday October 5 meal kits will also include convenient, ready to heat dinners! This means our food station will now include three days’ worth of breakfast, lunch, and dinner, for a grand total of nine meals per kit. Please visit [noblenetwork.org/coronavirus](https://noblenetwork.org/coronavirus) for menu, nutritional and location information.

**Noble Student Computers**

For scholars using Noble-issued Chromebooks, our Remote Use and Replacement of Noble Student Computers is attached. Chromebooks will be for use by the scholar throughout their time with Noble and gifted to them upon graduation. Scholars who transfer out of GCMS before completing 8th grade will be required to return the device. Replacement of damaged devices will cost $150. Technical problems with Noble technology should be directed to our dedicated family tech support line at 833-NobleIT.

**From our partners at the Gary Comer Youth Center**

**GCYC Meal Service**
GCYC is providing free meals and snacks for youth Monday-Friday from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Meals are prepared fresh daily and can be picked up at the GCYC front patio on Ingleside Ave. October’s menu is [here](#).

**Free Tutoring & Mentoring for SY 2020-21**
We would like to get your support as we launch our partnership with Gary Comer Youth Center's student tutoring and mentorship programs this school year. Within this program, students will meet with tutors once a week for individualized academic support afterschool, and with a mentor once a week during school for group mentoring opportunities. The program began on Monday September 28. If your family is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please complete the application below as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please email [tferguson@gychome.org](mailto:tferguson@gychome.org). Thank you!

**ENROLL NOW FOR FALL PROGRAMS at GCYC!**
Registration is open for Fall 6th-8th grade programs running 9/21-12/16. We have remote and in person programs offerings that includes: sports, fitness, dance, art, robotics, recreation G.E.M.S and more! Please keep in mind you can only register for one onsite program and space is very limited. If you have any questions please contact Chlyla Wilson, Program Director. You can get started here: [Join Us](https://forms.gle/CYOFgmUmpf33b8j4A)

**Study Buddies Mon – Th; 2pm – 4pm**
Need help with homework? Don't know how to stay organized in the new online classroom? Having trouble studying? Contact Study Buddies for one-time drop-in help or to schedule an appointment with a tutor for yourself or a small group. Click for more details and to apply. Have a quick question drop-in and ask it here: [meet.google.com/sju-ovok-csd](https://meet.google.com/sju-ovok-csd)

Need more help? Want individual attention? Or Work on the same subject with classmates? Sign up here: [https://forms.gle/CYOFgmUmpf33b8j4A](https://forms.gle/CYOFgmUmpf33b8j4A)

Day of reservations must be submitted no later than 1:00

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**Main Office Hours**
Our Main Office will be open to essential business every school day from 8am-2pm. You can continue to reach us by phone at 773-535-0755 or by fax at 773-439-2169.

If you have a question that you would like to see addressed in future newsletters, please send it to [bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:bjohnson@gychome.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](http://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](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.

Stay safe and be well.