

**August 20, 2020**

**Subject: An update on our school year at Gary Comer Middle School**

Dear Families:

I 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. Please read through this message and reach out directly with any questions.

We look forward to embarking on this new journey with all of you.

### **Policy changes for the upcoming semester**

Given the remote nature of the upcoming semester Noble has made adjustments to our Student Parent Handbook. The 2020-2021 Student Parent Handbook and Addendum detailing these changes is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Mandarin](#). The changes include:

1. **Promotion policy**

For the 2020-2021 school year, only the Academics portion of the promotion policy will be in effect. Students must pass and earn the credits from all classes in which they are enrolled during the regular school day and school year. Students who fail a class will be required to enroll in a corresponding makeup class in order to be promoted to the next grade level or graduate. The attendance, enrichment, discipline, and health & fitness criteria will be waived (students still need to pass PE as a course which will include the NobleFit Health Content Assessment).

2. **Student Code of Conduct**

Demerits will not be issued and no detentions will be issued. Campuses will have a clear place to identify behaviors of concern and a method to track that students exhibiting these before have support. If student misconduct occurs that is egregious, meaning it poses immediate and continuing threat to the safety of students and/or staff, suspensions will be considered but must be in consultation and with the approval of the Director of Student Culture and Support.

3. **Dress Code**

While we have a remote setting, uniforms will not be required. This preserves an equitable experience for students coming to campus in person along with those remaining fully remote. Students are encouraged to wear Noble or campus gear.

4. **Student Fees**

Due to unprecedented times, Noble will waive the \$90 first semester fee.

5. **Technology Access**

To ensure that all students have the tools they need to engage fully with remote learning, all Noble students will receive a personal device upon enrollment with Noble. Returning students will use the device they received in the spring, or receive a device if they did not have one in spring. New students will receive more information about device pickup soon. Those devices will be gifted to students upon successful graduation from our campus. If a student must transfer out before graduation they must return the device. All students will be asked to sign an acceptable use policy for the devices for the year, more information coming soon.

Please continue to refer to <http://nobleschools.org/coronavirus> for the latest information in addition to our campus website. The full Noble reopening plan is available [here](#).

Thank you and looking forward to a great year,  
Trent Epley