

September 9, 2021

GCMS Families:

See below for all of the most important information that you need to know.

Si necesita información traducida, llámenos al 312-825-5936 o envíenos un correo electrónico a [dloma@nobleschools.org](mailto:dloma@nobleschools.org). Gracias!

For comprehensive information about our return to school, follow this link: [Full Return Guide](#)

**Wednesday, September 22, will be an Early Dismissal day.** All scholars will be dismissed at 2:15.

Find the calendar for our full year here: [Noble Calendar SY 2021-22](#)

### **DUE SEPTEMBER 10 -- NOBLE COMMUNITY PACT (NCP) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

All families must complete the online acknowledgement of our Noble Community Pact by Friday September 10. Instructions for completing the Acknowledgement can be found [here](#).

You can view our Noble Community Pact here:

<https://nobleschools.org/noble-student-parent-handbook>

### **COVID TESTING CONSENT & VACCINATION STATUS FORM FOR STUDENTS**

Beginning Monday September 13, scholars at GCMS will be able to receive free COVID tests up to once per week. In order to participate, scholars must have a signed consent form on file with us. The consent form is [here](#). The form will ask you to “opt-in” to weekly COVID testing and also requests the vaccination status of your child.

PLEASE NOTE: if you have already submitted your child’s proof of vaccination to us, we have that information noted. You will still need to complete the consent form above in order for your child to participate in weekly testing.

### **DUE OCTOBER 15 -- PHYSICALS AND VACCINATIONS**

Illinois State Law requires that all enrolled students have proof of medical compliance on file by October 15, 2021. Physical exams are required for students entering GCMS for the first time and a new physical exam is required for sixth graders in addition to updated immunizations. To find out what’s required for your child, please review the [2021-2022 Minimum Health Requirements](#). Parents and guardians, please make sure you submit proof of your child’s required immunizations and health exams as soon as possible. With your help, we can ensure all of our students enjoy a healthy 2021-2022 school year.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022**



@BeNobleGCMS

The Health and Safety Guidelines are intended to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for staff, students, and families who are in our school buildings. These guidelines will continue to evolve as public health conditions change.

Combined, these guidelines layer key risk mitigation strategies in order to help keep our community safe as we fully return to in-person learning. Collectively, the core strategies recommended by public health authorities and outlined in these guidelines are:

1. Vaccination: currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. **If your scholar is vaccinated, please complete this form and attach a screenshot or pic of their vaccination card. Questions should be directed to [bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org).**
2. Universal masking. Face masks must be worn over the mouth and nose at all times by staff, students, and visitors when inside a Noble school. Students should bring their own masks to ensure proper fit. Students who cannot provide their own mask will have one provided for them.
3. Frequent testing, especially for unvaccinated individuals. **All unvaccinated scholars are able to participate in a free COVID testing program at the school on Mondays.**
4. Air quality, including ventilation and purification.
5. Contact tracing, including isolation and quarantine when necessary. **Our full quarantine and isolation protocol can be viewed here.**
6. Physical distancing where possible.
7. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
8. Staying home when sick, especially with **core symptoms of COVID-19: a fever, cough, muscle aches, nausea/vomiting, or loss of taste or smell.**
9. Cleaning and disinfection.

These mitigation strategies, when layered together, provide the greatest potential for reducing transmission of the virus. No single measure is sufficient in and of itself.

## STUDENT CHROMEBOOKS

All returning scholars will be expected to continue to use the Chromebook that was assigned to them last school year. If your Chromebook is lost or damaged, please alert your child's advisor or bring it to our main office.. There will be \$150 charged to your account for any lost or damaged Chromebooks.

All new scholars will be supplied with a Chromebook that will be for their use throughout their time at GCMS. The Chromebook remains the property of GCMS and must be returned if a scholar transfers out of GCMS. Chromebooks will be distributed on the first day of school.

Since our campus stock of Chromebooks will be very limited, **scholars are expected to bring their Chromebooks with them to school every day.**

Our Technology Acceptable Use Policy can be viewed [here](#).



Many issues with Chromebooks can be addressed using this guide: [Noble Chromebook Support](#). For issues that cannot be resolved with this resource, scholars must call the Noble Student IT Support Helpline (833-NobleIT or 833-662-5348) and leave a voicemail detailing their name, return phone number, campus, and a description of the problem.

### **INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS**

Parents: if your scholar has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), please complete the survey [here](#). Any questions or concerns can be directed to Chelsea Stepnoski, Dean of Specialized Services, at [cstepnoski@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:cstepnoski@garycomermiddleschool.org).

### **ALLERGIES AND FOOD SUBSTITUTIONS**

NEW: If your scholar has dietary needs or allergies that would require menu modifications please provide your child's physician with the [Physician Statement for Meal Accommodations](#) form. After completion, please provide it to the GCMS Main Office to start a request for the menu modification process. Please allow seven business days after submitting the form to hear back from the Noble Food Team.

### **GCMS STAFF CONTACT INFO**

Please make extensive use of this sheet whenever you need help and are not sure who the best point of contact is: [Who Can I Run To - GCMS Contact List](#)

### **FREE VISION SCREENINGS**

GCMS will be able to facilitate vision screenings for any scholar who has a completed consent form. The date of the visit is TBD. To complete the form, please follow the link here: [Vision Consent English](#) or [Vision Consent Spanish](#).

### **SCHOOL HOURS FOR 2021-2022**

Monday - Thursday: doors open at 7:45. The school day will be 8:00am-3:30pm.

Friday: doors open at 7:45. The school day will be 8:00am-2:15pm.

Scholars not participating in afterschool programs must be picked up within 10 minutes of dismissal.

### **FOOD SERVICE AT NOBLE SCHOOLS**

We are happy to announce that effective immediately all students at GCMS will receive one free breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack/dinner each day, regardless of income or household size. Second meals will be charged at the full price rate. **Scholars with food allergies must inform the school.** Please direct questions to [kjames@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:kjames@garycomermiddleschool.org).

### **SCHOOL DRESS CODE**



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The [student dress code policy](#) has been updated for the coming year to align with our commitment to antiracism. We encourage all scholars and families to review it.

### **INTRODUCING THE COMER SPIRIT STORE**

The Comer Spirit Store is live and available for purchasing! Apparel purchased on the site can be worn daily in accordance with the school dress code. All purchases made will ship directly to the address you provide at checkout. Please allow 7-14 business days for purchase deliveries. For more information, check out this [link](#). The Comer Spirit Store is linked here: [Comer Spirit Store](#)

### **STUDENT FEES**

In recognition of the unique hardships posed by the pandemic, Noble Schools decided to waive all student fees for the 2020-2021 school year. In the coming school year, 2021-2022, we will resume the student fee requirement of \$180 per student per year. Student fees allow us to expand programming, purchase additional curricular materials, and ensure that our supplies for both teachers and students are well-stocked. Payments may be made in the main office with cash or credit card, and instructions for paying online are linked [here](#). Student fees are due on or before the first day of school. If you have questions, including how to access the online payment portal, please reach out to [bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:bjohnson@garycomermiddleschool.org).

### **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**

Parents and Guardians: we encourage and welcome the service of anybody who wishes to volunteer at our school to meet identified needs, whether it be speaking at an assembly, chaperoning a field trip, or assisting with duties in the main office. To ensure the safety of our scholars, we require that all Level 1 volunteers submit a fingerprint-based background check: the form and information on submission can be found in our main office. As an added precaution this year, all Level 1 and Level 2 volunteers must either provide a proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test conducted no less than 72 hours before the volunteer opportunity. For more detail on what differentiates a Level 1 from a Level 2 volunteer, please refer to the attached table: [VOLUNTEER DESIGNATIONS](#).

### **AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING AT THE GARY COMER YOUTH CENTER**

All scholars are welcome to join the GCYC in the Fall for Afterschool Enrichment and Continued Education! Fall program registration at the Youth Center will open Monday August 16, and programming will begin Monday September 13. We urge all parents to take advantage of this amazing resource. More information can be found here: [GCYC General Program Flyer 2021-2022](#)

### **IF YOUR CHILD IS AT LEAST TWELVE YEARS OLD, ACT NOW TO GET THEM VACCINATED**



@BeNobleGCM5

The most effective way to protect our community is to have a high rate of vaccination against COVID-19. Since the current COVID-19 vaccines are approved for everyone ages 12 and older, we strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Esperanza Health Centers is offering vaccinations to Noble students. Anyone in our Noble community can go [here](#) to learn more about the vaccine and [here](#) to find a location to get a shot.

For vaccination opportunities at ACCESS Health and through Cook County Health, see the information below or visit [vaccine.gov](https://www.vaccine.gov).

ACCESS Health at the Gary Comer Youth Center is now providing the Pfizer vaccine for children 12 years and older. Individuals do not have to be patients of ACCESS to acquire the vaccination. Community members can now call the dedicated toll-free phone number at 833.754.2149 to schedule a vaccination appointment, or they can contact the clinic inside GCYC directly by calling 773.324.6942.

Cook County Health continues to offer COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J) at all of its health care facilities across the county. Every person age 12 and older is encouraged to get vaccinated. The vaccine is safe and free. Neither citizenship status nor insurance are required to get the shot. No one will be turned away. Locations include:

- **Austin Health Center-** 4800 W Chicago Ave
- **Englewood Health Center-** 1135 W 69th St
- **Logan Square Health Center-** 2840 W Fullerton Ave
- **Prieto Health Center-** 2424 S Pulaski Rd
- **Provident Hospital Sengstacke Health Center-** 500 E 51st St
- **Ruth M Rothstein CORE Center-** 2020 W Harrison St
- **CCH Professional Building-** 1950 W Polk St

To see all vaccination locations and details, including hours, or to make an appointment, call 833-308-1988.

## **HELP IS AVAILABLE TO GET CONNECTED**

The federal Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary program that provides discounts of up to \$50 a month for internet service at home. Participants also get a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a device (purchased through a participating provider). A household can qualify if at least one member:

- Participates in a federal assistance program like SNAP or Medicaid;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school meal program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Lost a job or experienced a substantial loss of income during the pandemic.

To find out if you qualify, go to [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) or call 833-511-0311.

