

November 18, 2021

Catamount Families:

Here's what 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!

**UPCOMING DATES:** November 24-26- Thanksgiving Break: building closed  
December 6- Picture Retakes -- 6th and 7th grade only  
December 17- PD Day: no school for scholars  
December 20-31- Winter Break: building closed  
January 3- PD Day: no school for scholars  
January 6- Ageless Eyecare exams

You can find our updated calendar [HERE](#).

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

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 our scholars 12 and older, ACCESS Health at the Gary Comer Youth Center is another alternative. 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.

To view other vaccination opportunities, visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov)

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

Students may only receive a rapid or PCR COVID test from Noble if their parent/guardian has a signed consent form on file with us. The form asks parents/guardians to opt-in to weekly COVID testing and also requests the vaccination status for your children. Links to the online consent form are below.

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Simplified Chinese](#)

If completing the online form is not an option, then you may submit a hard copy of the form to the school. When doing so, a hard copy of the vaccination card should be submitted along with



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the form so we have proof of your student's status. You can print the forms using the PDF links below, or pick up a form in our main office.

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Simplified Chinese](#)

### **SKATE PARTY CANCELLATION**

We have some disappointing news. As you know, this Saturday we were hosting a Skate Party for our scholars at The Rink. Last weekend, there was an event at The Rink with another school, and the event got out of hand. There was extensive damage done to the facilities, and they informed us today that they need to cancel our event while they conduct repairs. We are committed to planning another event to bring joy to our GCMS community. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for upcoming events, and if you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Ms. Leverentz at [anorris@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:anorris@garycomermiddleschool.org).

### **8th GRADE FAMILIES SAVE THE DATE**

Please join us for an 8th Grade Family Meeting on Monday November 22 at 6pm. This will be a virtual meeting with Principal Hemingway to address 8th grade culture and the work we are doing, as well as where we need your partnership. Watch your email tonight for more information.

### **GIRLS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS**

Tryouts for 6th-8th grade girls basketball will take place Tuesday November 30 from 4:30-5:30pm in the GCMS gym. Please send any questions to [kjames@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:kjames@garycomermiddleschool.org).

### **SPIRIT WEEK IS DECEMBER 10-16**

Show your #CatamountPride by dressing up and having fun with the themes of the day. Scholars must have 0 F's and 0 Friday Culture Sessions (11/15-12/3) to participate. Eligible scholars will be notified on Friday December 3 in PMA.

Friday 12/10- Green and White Day + Pep Rally & Staff vs. Students Basketball Game

Monday 12/13- Pajama Day

Tuesday 12/14- Twin Day

Wednesday 12/15- Career Day

Thursday 12/16- College Signing Day + Winter Formal

More info to come!

### **INSTRUCTIONAL CORE DESIGN TEAM**



Noble Schools is creating a team consisting of students/alumni, parents, teachers, administrators, and other key stakeholders to examine the following questions over the remainder of the school year: 1) What standards, content and knowledge, at minimum, should all students have access to and/or be engaged in? and 2) What does assessment under an anti-racist instructional core look like at Gary Comer Middle School? If you would like to be a member of the team, please read the form [HERE](#) and complete the short application. A membership selection committee will review your responses and aim to select members by early December. Stipends of \$1000 will be provided to members at the end of the year.

### CLUBS AND SPORTS

GCMS clubs and sports are off to a great start. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to the coach or club lead. Activities meet on the following days/times:

Mr. Minkens	Boys Basketball	Tues/Thurs in Gym, 3:45-5:30
Ms. Martin	Call Me King/Queen	Wednes in 212, 4:15-5:30
Ms. Walker	Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)	Tues in 307, 4:15-5:30
Ms. Gist Ms. Austin	Cheer/Pom	Tues in 110, Wednes in hall, 3:45-5:30
Ms. Williams Ms. Austin	Dance	Thurs in 110, 3:45-5:30
Mr. Dunlap	Chess Club	Tues in 308, 3:45-5:30
Ms. Briggs	Positive Vibes Only	Wednes in 308, 4:15-5:30
Ms. Martin	Tennis	Thurs, 4:15-6:30

### SCHOOLWIDE BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

All Scholars, Parents, and Guardians: to ensure that scholars are set up to be safe and successful, we want to make all schoolwide expectations known to all stakeholders. Linked here you will find the [TIER BEHAVIORS AND SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS](#). Please reach out to Ms. Leverentz at [anorris@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:anorris@garycomermiddleschool.org) with any questions or concerns.

### ATTENTION ALL 8TH GRADE FAMILIES!



**High School applications** for the GCMS class of 2022 are now live: you can create your account at [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu) and start to apply to schools. The deadline for all student applications is **December 15.**

Ms. Agosta is available to meet with any family or student to support in the application process via phone, email, or Zoom. To schedule a 1:1 meeting please make an appointment:

<https://calendly.com/aagosta-1>

### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

GCMS has partnered with Possip for biweekly pulse checks with our scholar community. All parents will receive a short text and/or email biweekly to provide feedback, give praise/gratitude, and to share anything additional. The feedback is completely anonymous unless you decide to share your name and opt for follow up. Please be as open and honest as possible and also be sure to let us know what we're doing well. All feedback is welcomed and required as a necessary component in our commitment to you.

### **TOP CATAMOUNT CYCLE 6**

CONGRATULATIONS to our Cycle 6 Top Catamount winners: the Scott advisory for the males, and the Edmondson advisory for the females. Way To Go!

Runners up this week were Diaz and Adao for the ladies; and Smith, Agosta, and Bhatia for the boys. Most improved advisories were Diaz and Junk. Keep up the great work!

### **GCYC LEGACY & CHANGE MAKER'S FOOD DRIVE**

GCYC LEGACY & CHANGE MAKERS ARE HOSTING A HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE from October 25 to November 23. A donation box can be found in the GCYC lobby. We are hoping everyone can get involved, and we are asking for non-perishable food items to be donated.

Please contact GCYC instructor Natasha Webb at [nwebb@gcychome.org](mailto:nwebb@gcychome.org) with any questions.

### **INTERNATIONAL CLASS TRIPS**

8th graders and parent/guardians: If you are interested in joining the class of 2022 in Panama, you can find all the tour info and register at [www.eftours.com/2418754ud](http://www.eftours.com/2418754ud)

For our current 7th graders: we are thrilled to share the International Class Trip for GCMS Class of 2023 will be Italy! Learn more about this exciting tour and register at

<http://www.eftours.com/2487914ut>

Please email Mrs. James at [kjames@garycomermiddleschool.org](mailto:kjames@garycomermiddleschool.org) for any additional information related to either tour.

### **INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS**



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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).

ATTENTION PARENTS OF SCHOLARS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS (IEP's): please complete [THIS SURVEY](#) to provide feedback to the Special Education team regarding Quarter 1.

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- Health and Safety Guidelines can be viewed [HERE](#)
- Our Technology Acceptable Use Policy can be viewed [here](#).
- Many issues with Chromebooks can be addressed using this guide: [Noble Chromebook Support](#). For troubleshooting Chromebooks outside of school hours, 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.
- 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
- 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](#)
- The Comer Spirit Store is linked here: [Comer Spirit Store](#)
- Student fee payments may be made in the main office with cash or credit card, and instructions for paying online are linked [here](#)
- Interested in volunteering? 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. Volunteer designations are detailed here: [VOLUNTEER DESIGNATIONS](#)

