

GCS Middle School Basics for rising 8th Graders

Classes

The 7th and 8th graders will have six - 45 minute classes everyday with several different teachers. There will be a short break mid-morning for recess and time to eat a snack. Middle school students will eat lunch at 12:45 p.m., followed by a brief recess. Physical Education classes will be held twice a week for an hour. There is a 30 minute study hall daily with additional study hall periods dependent on afternoon classes. Students' first quarter schedule will be available at the Open House Day.

Cumulative Tests

Students in 8th grade will have cumulative tests at the end of each 9-weeks in vocabulary, literature, science, and history (math and grammar are cumulative in nature). Teachers will review with the students in advance of these tests.

Summer Reading & Honors Reading

Summer Reading: All students in grade 6 through 12 are required to read several books during the summer to enhance their learning. There are a variety of books from which to choose. This information will be posted on the GCS website, see Resources tab, Summer Resources tab.

Honors Reading: This program is also available for our middle school students. The requirements for this are also listed on the website. Awards for Honors Reading are given in our awards assembly at the end of the school year. Books read for summer reading will count towards the Honors Reading program. This information will be posted on the GCS website, see Resources tab, Summer Resources tab.

Physical Education

Students are required to have a uniform for physical education.

Afternoon Classes

Middle school students will take special afternoon classes throughout the year. Students in the 8th grade are required to participate in Survey of the Arts, PE and a computer class, as well as keyboarding until a time/accuracy test is passed. Students may sign up for additional classes based on their interests. You and your student will choose their preferences for these afternoon classes online through your Family Portal Account (FACTS).

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress with a sense of appropriateness for the over-all school environment with special emphasis on modesty, neatness, and cleanliness. The specific dress code guidelines for the middle school will be posted on the school website by mid-June, along with other school information (on the GCS website, see Resources tab, Summer Resources tab). PE uniforms may not be worn to school. Each Friday is a casual day for the students.

Locker Assignments

Each student will be assigned a locker in the MS hallway. Locker assignments will be posted on the Open House Day, which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18th.

Socials

MS socials will be held during the year. These activities will provide supervised time for the students to have fun and enjoy peer friendships.

Communication

You will be receiving a communication newsletter via email (Warrior Weekly) to help keep you informed of upcoming events for the school.

Teams

The seventh and eighth graders will be divided into teams. Members of the 8th grade class will serve as team leaders. They will work together periodically throughout the year.

Sports

The following sports are available for 7th and 8th graders:

Fall: MS Cross Country - girls and boys (5th – 8th), MS and JV Volleyball – girls (6th-8th),
MS Soccer – boys (6th – 8th)

Winter: MS and JV Basketball – girls and boys (6th-8th), MS Wrestling – boys (6th-8th)

Spring: MS Golf – girls and boys (6th-8th), MS Soccer - girls (6th-8th)

Practice for fall sports will begin in August. All athletes who play at the Junior Varsity or Varsity level must have a VHSL physical form completed by a doctor and returned to the school before the first day of practice. This form is available on our GCS website on our Athletics page, under Athletic Forms and Handbooks. If you are playing on a middle school team, parents may choose to sign a waiver in lieu of a physical. This waiver is also available on our GCS website.

If you have not already signed up to participate in fall soccer, volleyball or cross country, please email Frank Kahrs at fkahrs@gcswarriors.org. Students who have signed up will receive detailed information about the upcoming season this summer.