



Welcome Back Lions!

Dear Parents and Students:

This school year is going to be another great year at Giles. We have a new schedule, Evidence-based Grading, new Lions' Den courses, and wonderful teachers and staff members who are ready to make this year your best ever. Please take some time to read a few announcements that will help you successfully navigate the first day and the first week.

New Drop Off Time: 8:00 AM on Cullom (one way heading East)

Cullom Avenue Gates (large one across from Oleander) open for supervision at 8:00 AM. Students are to congregate in the back of the building. We prefer that parents say goodbye at the gate. Students are let into the building at 8:10 AM and are considered tardy at 8:13 AM. We want to eliminate tardies! Please help us have everyone at school and on time!

LABEL EVERYTHING!

We have far too many items that end up in the lost and found. Please put your student's name on everything.

Class Schedules:

The schedule that you may have received at registration was only a draft. During First Block on Monday, you will receive a new schedule with your Lions' Den assignments and our new room numbers. Only in rare cases did the order of your academic block classes change. If you forgot your schedule, you can come and pick your new schedule up in the library.

MAP Fall Tests and Spring Scores:

We will be handing out the Spring 2018 MAP test scores to students in Science Class and setting goals for improvement during the first few days of school.

Students will be taking Fall MAP tests after Labor Day. When we hand these

scores out, you will receive notice to look for them coming home. Students who scored 40th percentile or below on last Spring's MAP Reading and Math Tests will need support for reading and/or math this school year. To help students improve learning, we have assigned Reading Lab or Math Lab Lions' Den courses to many of these students. Please feel free to contact me if you see that your student has Reading or Math Lab and you have questions.

Lions' Den Assignments:

On Monday, your student will receive a new class schedule with Lions' Den assignments. Some of these assignments are requirements, such as Reading Lab/Math Lab, 8th graders taking Xello, and 5th graders taking DARE or Second Step. Student preferences are honored whenever possible. If your student would like to explore dropping a non-required course and adding a different one, he/she may do so during the first week of school. Announcements will be made to direct Lions' Den change requests to occur during Lunch/Recess in the Library. All Lions' Den courses should be set by Friday, August 31.

Snack: Optional

Students are allowed a healthy snack (one item) and water (bring bottled water/refillable container to class) DURING SECOND BLOCK ONLY. This is completely optional. No morning milk is provided at Giles. Teachers will be discussing their classroom snack procedures with students.

Band: still time to sign up

We are thrilled to have over 100 students already enrolled in band for this year.

Our 5th graders will have an opportunity to try out instruments in General Music and recruitment will continue through September and October. **If you would like your student to participate in band, you may pay the \$295 fee any time up to the end of October. Students are not allowed to participate in small group lessons or ensemble rehearsals until the fee is fully paid.**

Phones: Policy Information for the beginning of school

Giles' phone policy is that student phones should be off and away during the day.

We want maximum focus on student learning. However, many parents have expressed concerns about the current situation involving our school phone system.

Students who feel uncomfortable turning off their phones may leave them silenced instead of "off" until the phone system is replaced. Students must place phones in their backpacks and not take them to the bathroom. Students should also leave them in their backpacks during lunch/recess. Students may ask any teacher to use their phone during the school day. If students are found to be using their phones

inappropriately, they may be issued a warning, have the phone sent to the office, or lose phone privileges at school. Please discuss phone use with your student. At 2:55 PM, all students are welcome to use their phones on school property unless serving an after school detention.

Any Further Questions?

Please contact the office or me if you have any further concerns. I encourage students and parents to email (students and parents) or call (parents only please) any time. Email: spalmer@norridge80.net and phone: 847-354-0428 (text preferred--please identify yourself).

Go Lions!

Principal Palmer