



August 9, 2024

Dear Upper School Students and Families,

We are excited about your return to school coming soon. Class schedules will be sent via email on Monday, August 12; advisor assignments will be included on the schedule. We look forward to seeing you on **Welcome Night on Thursday, August 15, at 6 p.m. for students and families in grades 7-12.** We will begin in the Upper School Commons with teacher introductions and highlights of a few essential policies. Next, we will dismiss to advising groups where students will receive a hard copy of their class schedule (including any updates that may have been made since the schedule sent on Monday, Aug. 12). Then, students and families can “walk the schedule” to meet teachers in classrooms and learn a little about each course.

New Students: Page-Frederiksen Campus (PFC) Orientation on Tuesday, August 20, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.* is required for all new 9th-12th graders (as well as all 7th graders and new 8th graders). Student arrival is from 8:30 a.m. to 8:55 a.m. Please arrive on time to start the day promptly at 9:00. Eat a good breakfast, and bring a refillable water bottle and a snack. During orientation, students will get acquainted with the campus, teachers and staff, guidelines/policies, and technology devices, as well as receive information about the remainder of the week.

***At the end of PFC Orientation on Tuesday, new NGFS students will remain from 1-2 p.m. to take a math placement assessment.**

On Wednesday, August 21, ALL Upper School US) students return for the first day of school! For the first two days of school, US teachers lead activities devoted to welcoming new students and establishing our community life. We will discuss the next steps for summer assignments; engage students in diversity, inclusion, and equity work; begin our query process; and build a profound sense of community. As we move closer to the start of school, teachers will release a detailed schedule for the opening days of school. We hope that students find joy in participating in these activities.

Friday, August 23, will mark the beginning of our academic classes. The official start time for school is 8:30 a.m., following the schedule listed below.

Upper School Daily Schedule (Note that dismissal is at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays)

	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday		Wednesday
8:00-8:25	Arrival	8:00-8:25	Arrival
8:30-8:40	Morning Meeting	8:30-8:40	Morning Meeting
8:45-9:35	Period 1	8:45-9:30	Period 1
9:40-10:30	Period 2	9:35-10:20	Period 2
10:35-11:25	Period 3	10:25-11:10	Period 3
11:30-12:10	Advising/Consultation	11:15-11:45	Quaker Meeting
12:10-12:45	Lunch	11:50-12:30	Lunch

12:50-1:40	Period 4	12:35-1:20	Period 4
1:45-2:35	Period 5	1:25-2:10	Period 5
2:40-3:30	Period 6	2:15-3:00	Period 6
3:30	Dismissal	3:00	Dismissal

WEDNESDAY - Service Learning/Clubs Day (once/month)	
8:30-8:40	Morning Meeting (announcements/attendance/organize for sites)
8:45	Leave for Service Learning
9:15-12:15	Service at site
12:15-1:15	Return from Service/Lunch
1:15-2:30	Service Debrief & Reflection Time, Clubs/Programming (e.g., guest speakers, assembly, consultation, student presentations, grade level meetings)
2:30-3:00	Quaker Meeting & Closing Circle

Student Schedules: Student schedules will be sent via email on Monday, Aug. 12, and hard copies (with updates, if applicable) will be provided at Welcome Night on Thursday, Aug. 15 for students to “walk the schedule” and meet their teachers. *Please note this exception:* students new to NGFS who have not yet taken the math placement assessment will not receive a schedule on Monday, Aug. 12. They will be provided a mock schedule at Welcome Night for visiting classrooms and meeting teachers, and will receive their class schedule by the first day of academic classes on Friday, Aug. 23. Contact Lisa Bates-Glass at lbatesglass@ngfs.org if you have any questions.

Upper School Supply List

ALL STUDENTS

- Planner, Assignment Book, or similar unless planning to use an online planner
- Backpack
- Pencil Pouch with pencils, erasers, pens

THE FOLLOWING COURSES HAVE SPECIFIC SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS:

History

- US: Pocket folder or section in a binder and a subject notebook or composition notebook
- Civics: Pocket folder or section in a binder AND a subject notebook or composition notebook

English 10-11

- Typical spiral notebook and a pocket folder or section of a binder

English 9 & 12

- Typical spiral notebook and a pocket folder or section of a binder

Personal Finance

- 1 1-inch binder or a subject notebook

Academic Coaching Seminar

- 1 pack of notebook dividers (5)
- 1-1 inch binder

Summer Reading Reminder: Be sure you are working on completing your summer assignment! Please [click here](#) for the detailed assignment that was sent earlier this summer.

If you have not returned your classroom reading books or textbooks from last school year, please arrange a time with me ASAP to drop them off by Friday, August 16.

Upper School Interpersonal Communication Skills Group: NGFS has partnered with Rachel Villalba, M.S., CCC-SLP, to offer a communication skills group to learn and practice social/pragmatic skills. Rachel has worked with children ages 2-18 in diverse settings for the past 20 years, including several NGFS students. She has specific training in social skills and implementation and 5+ years of experience with Autism.

The upper school group would meet weekly on Fridays, during consultation and lunch (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) for ten weeks. The participation fee is \$50 per week. There is a minimum number of participants required to be able to offer this group. [Click here](#) to learn more about the topics, skills, and interventions that would be covered and to indicate your interest in your child participating.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Student drivers must park in the two lots closest to the entrance coming from Old Oak Ridge Road. Parking spaces closest to building B are designated staff parking.

- **Upon arrival**, turn into the first school entrance coming from Old Oak Ridge Rd. Always enter and never exit here! Student drivers use this entrance as well.
- Make a right turn to pull in front of building B. Form 1 car line upon entering.
- **At dismissal**, all Upper School family drivers and student drivers must exit out the main entrance. Watch for Middle School traffic merging to exit as well.

Upper School Driver and Rider Information

For families of student drivers and those who have permission to ride with student drivers, please [click here](#) to complete the required driver and rider form.

- In addition to this form, if your student will drive to school each day, please log in to [ParentsWeb](#) and complete these steps: Click "Web Forms" > then family and student web forms > then student information for the school year, and complete the section labeled "For Upper School Student Drivers Only." You will input the car make, license plate number, and driver's license number.

Please contact Hanna Hobson (hhobson@ngfs.org) if you have questions. If you have trouble logging into ParentsWeb, contact Lisa Bates-Glass (lbatesglass@ngfs.org).

Personal Device Policy: Students are issued a Chromebook at the beginning of each school year. Personal laptops and other devices must be left at home. Students may request to use a personal device for the following reasons: dual enrollment classes and learning plan accommodations. A committee evaluates each request to use a personal device. Students may not bring a personal device unless their request is approved. Families must submit a request each school year by completing [this form](#).

Cell Phones and Devices with Cellular Service: Student phones and devices with cellular service will be turned off and stored in their bookbags, locker, or lockbox provided by the school.

Lunch Option: New Garden Friends School partners with My Hot Lunchbox to provide a secure, fast, and easy online system that allows parents to view the lunch menu, order, and pay. This optional lunch program is open to all students from preschool-grade 12. See the [Back to School page](#) for directions for creating an account and placing orders. Ordering for the 2024-25 school year is open now.

Student Key Cards: Key cards are distributed within the first three days of school. If you did not return your key card at the end of last year, you will not receive a key card. If you have an NGFS keycard, bring your card

and present it to your advisor, who will arrange with Hanna to reactivate it. There is a fee of \$10 for a replacement key card.

PFC After-School Study Hall and Activities:

Study Hall: After school Study Hall will be available on regular school days for Middle School (grades 7-8) and Upper School (grades 9-12) for an additional fee of \$22/day. Hours of operation are 3:30-5:30 p.m., except on Wednesdays when Study Hall will begin at 3 p.m. An email with more details, including how to sign up, will be sent to 7th-12th grade families.

Fencing: Students in grade 7-12 have the opportunity to participate in fencing through an outside vendor, Greensboro Fencing Academy (GFA). In May, we shared with families that this opportunity includes a one-time equipment fee of \$225 plus \$100 per month. If we have enough interest, the meetings will start in September and take place the rest of the school year. Sessions will take place immediately after school, one day per week, for 90 minutes. If your student is interested in participating, please [click here](#) to complete the fencing interest survey.

Drama: Students in grades 7-12 have the opportunity to participate in a musical theater production through our partnership with Greensboro Performing Arts. Information about auditions will be sent in November, and the production takes place in the spring.

Information about other opportunities for after-school activities of high student interest (e.g., Dungeons & Dragons and Magic: The Gathering) will be shared at a later date via email.

NGFS Athletics: Middle Division sports are offered for students in grades 5-7. Junior Varsity/Varsity sports are offered for students in grades 7-12 students. [Click here](#) to review the Athletics welcome email that was sent on July 23, 2024, which includes information about sports offered and requirements for participation. If your child may be interested in participating in Athletics, please complete the [Athletics Interest form](#) and plan to attend the **Athletics Interest meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 6-6:30 p.m.** If you have any questions, please contact the Athletics Department at athletics@ngfs.org.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **Thursday, Aug. 15** - Welcome Night for Middle School and Upper School, 6-7 p.m.
 - Presentation starts at 6:00 in the Upper School Commons, followed by meeting in advising groups and classroom visits.
- **Tuesday, Aug. 20** - Campus Orientation for students new to P-F Campus (PFC), 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 - This orientation is required for all 7th graders and new 8th-12th graders.
 - 1-2 p.m. - Students new to NGFS take math placement assessment
- **Wednesday, Aug. 21** - First Day of School
- **Friday, Aug. 23** - Middle and Upper School New Parent Orientation, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- **Friday, Aug. 30** - ½ day, early dismissal at 12 p.m., afternoon Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences

Please contact your student's advisor if you have additional questions. We look forward to a fantastic school year!

In peace,

Tanisha Jones,
Head of Middle & Upper School