



August 9, 2024

Dear Middle School Students and Families,

We are excited about your return to school. Class schedules will be sent via email on Monday, August 12. 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 Middle School Commons with teacher introductions and a few essential policies. We will then gather in advising groups where students will receive a hard copy of their class schedule (including any updates that may have been made since the schedule was sent on Monday, Aug. 12). Students and families can then “walk the schedule” to meet teachers in classrooms and learn a little about each course. See the original email for the list of Middle School Advising Groups.

New Students: Page-Frederiksen Campus (PFC) Orientation: Tuesday, August 20, from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.* is required for all 7th graders and new 8th graders (as well as new 9th-12th 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. They will also 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 Middle School (MS) students return for the first day of school!

For the first two days of school, MS teachers lead “Jump-Off” 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 Jump-Off schedule. 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.

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

| | Monday Tuesday Thursday | | Wednesday | | Friday |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 8:00-8:25 | Arrival | 8:00-8:25 | Arrival | 8:00-8:25 | Arrival |
| 8:30-8:45 | Morning Meeting | 8:30-8:40 | Morning Meeting | 8:30-8:45 | Morning Meeting |
| 8:50-9:35 | Period 1 | 8:45-9:25 | Period 1 | 8:50-9:35 | Period 1 |
| 9:40-10:25 | Period 2 | 9:30-10:10 | Period 2 | 9:40-10:25 | Period 2 |
| 10:30-11:15 | Period 3 | 10:15-10:55 | Period 3 | 10:30-11:15 | Period 3 |
| 11:20-12:05 | Period 4 | 11:00-11:40 | Period 4 | 11:20-12:05 | Period 4 |

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|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 12:10-1:00 | Lunch/Recess | 11:45-12:45 | Lunch/Recess | 12:10-1:00 | Lunch/Recess |
| 1:05-1:40 | FLEX* | 12:50-1:20 | Quaker Meeting | 1:05-3:30 | FLEX** |
| 1:45-2:35 | Period 5 | 1:25-2:10 | Period 5 | 3:30 | Dismissal |
| 2:40-3:30 | Period 6 | 2:15-3:00 | Period 6 | **Advisory/Social Curriculum | |
| 3:30 | Dismissal | 3:00 | Dismissal | | |

*Mon - Advisory/Social Curriculum; Tue/Thu - P.E.

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.

MS Supply List

- Pencils/Erasers
- Pens
- Pencil box/bag
- Earbuds that fit in a pencil pouch
- Reusable water bottle with spill-proof cap (plastic or metal bottle, no glass)
- Any size sketchbook (if enrolled in Art)
- Metronome for at-home practice (if enrolled in Ensemble)
- PE (Physical Education): athletic T-shirt, athletic shorts or pants, and sneakers

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

Middle 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 middle school group would meet weekly on Wednesdays during lunch (11:45 a.m.-12:40 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.

Traffic Procedures:

ARRIVAL

Arrive 8-8:25 a.m.

- Turn into the main entrance.
- Make a right turn to loop around in front of building A.

DISMISSAL

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. - 3:30 p.m.; Wed 3:00 p.m.

- Turn into the main entrance.
- Form 2 car lanes upon entering so no cars are stopped on Pleasant Ridge Road.
- Take turns forming a single line when approaching the front of the school.
- Pull your vehicle as far forward as you can each time; please don't stop in front of the covered area if there is room to pull forward.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exit out the main entrance. Watch for cars from Upper School using the same exit. |
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Cell Phones & Devices with Cellular Service: Cell phones and devices with cellular service will be turned off and safely stored in the advisor's room. Students can retrieve the device at the end of their school day.

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 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 our musical theater production. We partner with Greensboro Performing Arts for all aspects of performance and production. 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. [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 is 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