



Dear Middle School Students and Families,

We are excited about your return! As hard as it may be to believe, we will be back into the swing of school in a few weeks, beginning with our Middle School Jump-Off!

For the first three days of school, MS teachers lead Jump-Off activities. **Wednesday, August 24 - Friday, August 26**, will be devoted to welcoming new students and re-establishing our community life. We will discuss the next steps for summer assignments, engaging students in diversity, inclusion, and equity work, beginning our query process, and building a more profound sense of community. As we move closer to the start of school, teachers will release the Jump-Off schedule in more detail. Our teachers work hard to plan activities following safety recommendations from our federal, state, and local public health officials. We hope that students find joy in participating in these activities.

Monday, August 29, will mark the beginning of our first quarter of academic classes. The official start time for school is 8:30 a.m., following the schedule listed below.

Grades 7 & 8				
M	T	W	Th	F
Morning Meeting 8:30-8:45 Transition				
1st Period 8:50-9:35 Transition				
2nd Period 9:40-10:25 Transition				
3rd Period 10:30-11:15 Transition				
Flex	PE	Quaker Meeting 11:20-12:00	PE	Flex
Lunch 12:00-12:25				
Recess 12:25-1:00 Transition				
4th Period 1:05-1:50 Transition				
5th Period 1:55-2:40 Transition				
6th Period 2:45-3:30				
Dismissal				

Student Schedules: Families will receive student schedules Monday, August 15. If you have any questions, please contact [Lisa Bates-Glass](#), NGFS Director of Information Technology.

Arrival & Dismissal (3:30 pm)

Arrive between 8:00 am-8:25 am

- Turn into the main entrance.
- Make a right turn to loop around in front of building A.
- Form 2 car lanes upon entering so that no cars are stopped on Pleasant Ridge Rd.
- Exit out the main entrance. Watch for Upper School cars using the same exit.

Summer Reading Reminder: Be sure you are working on completing your summer assignment! Please [click here](#) for the assignment in detail that went out 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 19.

MS Supply List

- **Planner** (*If you are **not enrolled** in the **Skills for Academic Success** class and you are interested in purchasing a planner from the school for \$5, please [click here](#).)
- **3- 2" three-ring binders**
- **2 X 1 writer's notebook (Choose something that is appealing and comfortable, something you'll enjoy writing in.)**
- **Notebook Dividers (12)**
- **Pencils**
- **Pens**
- **Highlighters (at least 3 colors)**
- **Markers or colored pencils (at least 5 colors)**
- **Pencil box/bag**
- **Reusable water bottle of your choice, with spill-proof caps, 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**

Parent Canvas Training: Lisa Bates-Glass will host on-campus parent orientation sessions if you want to learn more about Canvas, our online learning management system used by teachers and students. The original dates included with this letter will be rescheduled, and we will send the new dates as soon as they are confirmed. In the meantime, if you have questions about Canvas, please email [Lisa](#).

Cell Phones: Cell phones will be off and safely stored in the advisor's room. Students can retrieve the device at the end of their school day in Advising.

Lunch Option: New Garden Friends School partners with My Hot Lunchbox to provide a secure, fast, and easy to use online ordering system that allows parents to view the lunch menu, order, prepay, and manage student lunches on the web. The lunch program is open to all students, preschool- grade 12.

REGISTRATION and ORDERING INFORMATION

Go to www.myhotlunchbox.com

Click on "Order Now" at the top

Click "Create a New Account" for Schools

School Code is: NGFS31

Complete the steps to create your family account

Order and be sure to Check Out

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 keycard. If you have an NGFS keycard in your possession, bring it to your advisor who will arrange with Hanna to reactivate your card. There is a fee of \$5 for a replacement key card.

NGFS Athletics: Middle Division sports are offered for students in grades 5-8. JV/Varsity sports are offered for students in grades 7-12. Please visit the [NGFS Athletics webpage](#) to learn more about these programs. If you have any questions, please contact the Athletics Department at athletics@ngfs.org

Athletics Program Interest Meeting, Thursday, August 25: All NGFS athletes must have the forms below completed and on file with the Athletics Department. These forms are also found on the Athletics webpage. This meeting is for parents/guardians and students and will begin at 6 p.m. for Middle Division sports (grades 5-8). At 6:30 p.m., we will discuss JV/Varsity sports (grades 7-12).

- [NCISSA Consent to Participate and Release Form](#)
- [NCISSA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation](#) - this form must be completed by a healthcare provider*
- [NCISSA Concussion Form](#)

*We encourage families to have this form completed before school begins, particularly for students interested in fall sports.

Fall Sports for Middle Division (grades 5-8) - All Middle Division sports are coed. The fall season begins with cross country, followed by soccer. Practices are held on Mondays and Wednesdays and games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The fall sports schedule has not yet been released by the Independent School League (ISL). We will send an email when it is available and the dates are posted on the Athletics calendar.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, August 23, 6-7 p.m. - Middle and Upper School Walk the Schedule Night
- Wednesday, August 24 - First Day of School
- Friday, August 26, 8:30 a.m. - New Parent Orientation
- Thursday, September 15, 6 p.m. - Middle School Parent Meeting
- Friday, September 2 - Hopes and Dreams Conferences (No School)

Please let your student's advisor know if you have any questions along the way. We look forward to an amazing school year! See the Welcome Letter email, sent on August 8, for the **MS Advising Groups** chart.

Middle School advisors are:

Barry, bbell@ngfs.org

Cheri, cdurham@ngfs.org

Angela, ajackman@ngfs.org

Danielle, dcardille@ngfs.org

In peace,

Tanisha Jones

Head of Middle & Upper School