

Hello Students and Families!

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer vacation! It is hard to believe, but we are only a few days away from the start of the 2024-25 school year. The school is filled with positive energy and preparation for an extraordinary year ahead. Before school is in full operation, I wanted to share a few reminders and important information that will help the next few weeks run smoothly.

I know below is A LOT of information. This letter will also be available on the website under Director's Notes for future reference.

Back-to-School Social:

Monday, August 26th, 2024 2:00pm-3:30pm: Join us for our GCCSA Back-to-School Social. This event is a great time to meet teachers and support staff, drop off classroom supplies and donations, learn about upcoming events, and discover ways to get involved in our amazing community. We will have sweet treats to celebrate!

*****Drama Announcement: The long-awaited announcement of Gate City's Drama Club play for this year will take place at the Back-to-School Social LIVE at 2:30pm!*****

- **School begins on August 27th! It is a FULL DAY!**
- **Wednesday, August 28th is also a FULL DAY!**
- **Reminder: All other Wednesdays are 1pm dismissals!**

School Arrival/Dismissal and Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures:

Arrival:

- The GCCSA Main Office Hours are 8:00am-3:30pm.
- Student Drop-Off Time for K-8th grades is at 8:20am.
- Class instruction begins promptly at 8:35am.
- Arrival after 8:40am will constitute a tardy.

For their safety and due to lack of appropriate supervision, students may not be dropped off earlier than 8:20AM.

Dismissal:

- M,T,TH,F dismissal takes place at 3:00pm.
- Every Wednesday (except the very first one) is an early dismissal day, is at 1:00pm.

GCCSA Wednesday Aftercare: Starting Wednesday, September 4th

- Aftercare begins at dismissal and ends promptly at 3:00pm.
- Boys & Girls Club and the Merrimack buses arrive at 1:00pm.
- The YMCA bus arrives at 3:00pm. YMCA students will need to sign up for the GCCSA Aftercare Program or have other pick-up arrangements by 1:00pm.
- Fees:
 - (Monthly) \$15 per session per student x # of sessions per month **or** \$20 for one time/sporadic use
 - Fees to be collected by Front Office staff prior to aftercare session or paid on the website indicating aftercare, student name, and date(s) of aftercare sessions

Busing: Merrimack busing begins August 29th. There is NO BUSING for Merrimack students on August 27th and August 28th. The busing company should have reached out to all Merrimack residents regarding interest in busing. Please contact Melissa Bancroft 603-424-7880 if you have not already received information. **YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club begin busing on the 27th of August.**

Before and After Care: Available through the Merrimack YMCA, Boys & Girls Club of Nashua. For only Wednesday early release days GCCSA Aftercare, please see information above.

Student Drop-off Procedure:

1. **To ENTER the parking lot:** please only use the entrance on Henry Clay Drive (opposite YMCA). Please drive cautiously and slowly!
2. Stay to the left.
3. Pull up to the carpool lane on the right at the main entrance.
4. Only the student(s) is to get out of the vehicle on the right (passenger side) and walk on the grass up to the entrance (if there is a line).
5. No parking in the carpool lane - students must be ready with items and move swiftly.
6. **Never pass cars in the carpool lane.**
7. All students will enter through the front door/main entrance.
8. If you need to escort your Kindergartener (**for the first two weeks only**), or a new student, into the facility, please park in a designated parking spot.

Pick-Up Procedure:

1. **Name tag MUST be displayed.** (Tags will be available during the Back-to-School Social and on the first day of school.)
2. Use the entrance closest to the YMCA, enter the parking lot in a single line no earlier than 2:45 PM. **Traffic is not permitted to proceed beyond the blue dumpster until directed by the traffic attendant.** This is to offer respect to the other tenants in our building.
3. You will be directed into two rows of no more than five to ten vehicles. If you are picking up a grade K-3 student, please go to the right. If you are picking up a grade 4-8 student go to the left. All siblings will be sent to the youngest student's location.
4. Awaiting students will be called via walkie talkie as you enter the rows.
5. Please pull all the way forward to avoid congestion, students will be directed to vehicles.
6. Vehicles will be directed to move forward when all vehicles have their students.
7. The next set of cars will be lined up for the next group of students being dismissed.
8. **If you must buckle your student, you must pull forward out of line, please do not get out of your vehicle while in line.**
9. You must **notify the office before 2:00 pm** if an individual not on your designated pick-up list will be dismissing or picking up your child. Make sure to notify the office, not just the student's teacher.
10. Please **also notify the office before 2:00 pm** if pick up plans change in any way.

This process will expedite pick-up and eliminate delayed times outside during inclement weather.

Holiday Weekend: There will be no school on Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2nd. School will resume on Tuesday, September 3rd, after the Labor Day Holiday.

Snacks and Water:

- Students should bring 2 snacks from home every day.
- Students should bring 1-2 water bottles every day labeled with the student's name.

Check Out the Updated [GCCSANH.ORG](https://www.gccsanh.org) for information about the items below:

- School Calendar
- Upcoming Events
- Report an Absence
- Find out what's for lunch
- Contact Staff
- Find Notes from the Director
- And SO MUCH MORE!

Instrument Rental: September 11th, students will receive information regarding instrument rental. Additional information will be available on September 18th at our parent/guardian Back-to-School Night. Lessons will begin the week of September 25th.

Music Lessons:

Along with instrument lessons related directly to our band (which take place at school and are free of charge, GCCSA offers independent after school lessons in piano and guitar. The cost for these lessons are \$100 per trimester for GCCSA students. Lessons are also available to non-GCCSA students for \$150 per trimester. More information to follow soon!

Extra Clothing: We have found that it is always a good idea to send in an entire extra change of clothes no matter the age of your student. They can be kept in lockers, cubbies, or classrooms and should be labeled for younger students. We make a big, glorious mess often at GCCSA!

Picture Day:

September 20, 2024

These photos will be used for student identification in our Student Information System as well as fun memories. Order forms will be available soon.

Food Service Program:

If you have not already requested lunches, please fill out [SEPTEMBER LUNCH ORDER FORM](#) by Tuesday, August 27th - no later than noon.

NOTE: Lunches DO NOT begin until Tuesday, September 3rd.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

MANDATORY Student Information Form: If you have not already done so, please fill-out this form regarding photo/video authorization, free and reduced lunches, fees, busing, medication...All the fun stuff! This MUST be completed **every year!** Please complete by Tuesday, August 27th: [STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

Medical Needs:

As the start of the new 2024-25 school year begins, we would like to be able to update your child's health record. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, we need written consent to change, update or leave pertinent information on the health record. Students with chronic health conditions are required to have annual visits to their health care provider. If there has been any change in your student's medical needs please submit updated doctor's notes with your child's diagnosis and provisions needed during the new school year.

Please send in an updated immunization record for your child. Please submit a Religious Exemption if your students will not be immunized.

If your child will need medications during their school day, we will need an Administration of Medication Form completed and the medications sent in the originally labeled bottles. The form can be found here:

[☰ Medication Form 24-25](#) Please be aware that this includes over-the-counter (OTC) medications such as Tylenol or Advil. GCCSA does not stock OTC medications.

New Students:

Make sure the Front Office has a copy of your student's:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunizations
- Latest Physical

ALMA Registrations: Alma is our student information system. Among other information, we use it to share urgent announcements and even report cards. It is very important that you have activated and have access to your ALMA account. If you've not received an ALMA Activation Link, contact [Paige Duval](#).

Remind: We use the Remind system to send text notifications to our families. This is a very convenient way to get reminders and information regarding GCCSA. You can download the Remind App on your phone. Our school code is: @h86g9kb

Hope to see you at the Back-to-School Social TOMORROW, August 26, 2024, beginning at 2pm!

Our amazing Gate City team is eager and prepared for another year of learning, creating, and growing together!

Onward and upward ALWAYS!

Jenn Blanchette
Director, GCCSA