

## Middle School PTA Meeting

September 18, 2025, 9:15 am

Middle School Auditorium (& Zoom)

### Agenda

Call to order

Welcome- Tara Kelly, MS PTA Director

Welcome – Lots of question about the new free lunch

Middle school Updates- Mr. Escobar, Principal

- Please reach out if you need anything. 1<sup>st</sup> day of school we met with each grade in auditorium. Contact information: [escobare@gcufsd.net](mailto:escobare@gcufsd.net)
  - Three things to be successful: academics, Get involved with something, be friendly with everyone but choose your friends carefully. Message was tailored to each grade. Asked 8<sup>th</sup> graders to remember they are leaders at the school
  - Your children are wonderful- I've been doing this a long time in many districts. The students here are respectful and polite and it comes from the home. Thank you, it's wonderful.
  - NWEA testing is coming up – Math, and 1<sup>st</sup> week of Oct is Eng. Will be on Parent Square.
  - Sports started- 450 students are playing a sport which is incredible
  - Math Lab- 6<sup>th</sup> Monday/Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> Tues/Fri and 8<sup>th</sup> Monday/Thursday in the mornings 7:20 -8:05
  - HW club after school in library 2x a week Tues and Thurs 3:30-4:30- Math, Language and Special education teacher available
  - Core value awards will continue- Trustworthy this month
  - 6<sup>th</sup> graders received the iPads– Thank you tech department it was seamless
  - Clubs have started- New Clubs: ASL Club, Speech and Debate,
    - Club list will be updated and posted tomorrow
    - Is there a place to find all extra help schedules? Check your child's google classroom.
    - Will there be a Spanish club? Looking for an advisor – we aren't there yet.
    - Homecoming is on Saturday

Get to know the Middle School Presentations:

- Guidance Counselors- Ms. Karen Whiston
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor – Karen Whiston
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Ms. Ingolia
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade- Mr. Tumminello
  - Please encourage them to get involved with clubs
  - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> can be part of the play
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade gets a little more difficult academically they will feel a difference. They will get a hang of it.
  - Junior Honor Society- Ms. Madden is Advisor- 7<sup>th</sup> grade is when students can be inducted
    - grades 92 or higher GPA, no grade in major subject can fall below and 85, cannot fail a class, discipline is a factor, and you can apply in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All information is in their planner. Community service requirement is 3 hours. Plenty of opportunities at school.
    - 85 grade is the final grade not a test grade
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade- Large grade but a wonderful group. Last opportunity to get involved so you are more comfortable getting involved in HS. Academics is always a conversation- it's great to be accelerated or not. They have opportunity to enter honors classes in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We want them placed correctly for HS and lot of it is maturity. Come to guidance if anyone is struggling
  - Do accelerated class grades get weighted? No, it is jumped up a year but it is not honors or AP
  - Accelerated are Algebra 1 or Earth and Space and World Language- goes on HS transcript
    - Students must pass regents or FLAX those are the final and goes on the transcript
    - Students can retake the class if they are unhappy with the grades
    - Will they get rid of the regents? As of now, no
    - Average of 92 is not weighted is that GC or all Public Schools? Depends on the school district GC only give eight to Honors or AP
    - What do the math and science grades need to be for accelerate? 92
  - In January will be meeting to discuss the accelerated program. Please attend
- Food Service Director – Diana Intinoli (via Zoom)
  - Garden City Public School Website- All lunch info is there under Families-School lunch program- middle school breakfast/lunch- menu, pay school central (add money for ala cart items) Meals are free. Pre order lunch but you don't need to pre order at MS or HS. Actually, can be easier to just come through the line.

- Not all food is free- Entitled to one breakfast and one lunch. You will be charged for a second meal. If you preorder they need to take that otherwise they will be charged for a second lunch.
- Questions
  - Oct. menus- where are they? Menus are not posted yet online ordering is open
  - Items in Payschool central what are the options? Entrée hot food can't be preordered. Look at FD Meal planner lists allergies and options. Condensed menu shows everything that is available every day.
  - How do students use money on the account? Enter their 6-digit ID number
  - MS preorder will the kids get all the extras? They can pick all the add-ons at school grab and go section
  - Children can get lunch onsite without preordering? Yes
  - How do they add money to Payschool- Log in to PaySchoolcentral.com and can fund the lunch account.
  - MS and HS orders can be ordered 1 week in advanced
  - Lines are really long? - Working on a 3<sup>rd</sup> cashier
  - Last period lunch there hasn't been enough left? We are upping our quantities and it will get better
  - Oct. menu hasn't been posted yet.
- Meals are free for everyone so there are a lot of orders. Primary and elementary also have free lunch brown back cold lunches because there are no kitchens.
- What is a meal? Protein, grain, fruit, vegetal, and milk. Must take everything fruit vegetable and milk or you will be charged ala cart as per the state.
- Technology at the Middle School
  - School Tool Parent Resource Page Michael Davola
  - Library Media Specialist – Nadine Wenger
    - [Presentation](#) (on the parent website)
      - Use SchoolTool Website: [nassau01.schooltool.com/gardencity](http://nassau01.schooltool.com/gardencity)
      - Kids should use ClassLink as a single sign in

#### SEPTA News and Events-

- 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting: 9/30 7pm Via Zoom. Kim Nau will be presenting on Dyslexia
- Fundraiser will be 10/30. Details to follow!
- Questions or Comments? [Middleschool@gcsepta.org](mailto:Middleschool@gcsepta.org)

Middle School News and Events- Tara Kelly

Committee Updates:

Sportswear

- [Online Store](#) open until October 10<sup>th</sup>

Reflections

- This year's theme is "I Belong." Submissions are due by November 25. Visit <https://gardencitypta.org/reflections> for more information

Curriculum Committee

- Committee forming this week. Please sign up! [Curriculum@gardencitypta.org](mailto:Curriculum@gardencitypta.org)
- Initiatives this year will include Portrait of a Student, and reviewing and implementing results of a Literacy Review

Nominating Committee – Stephanie Buttrill

Dinner Committee- Deborah Donaghy

- PTA Dinner will be held on March 31, 2026. This year's Theme is 'I Belong as I Am'
- Volunteers needed! Email [dinner@gardencitypta.org](mailto:dinner@gardencitypta.org)

Questions/Comments

Adjourn

## **Upcoming Dates**

- Spirit Week: Sept. 15-19
- Sept. 20: Homecoming Parade @ 1:00PM and Football Game @ 3:00PM
- Schools closed form Rosh Hashanah: 9/23 and 9/24
- SEPTA General Meeting: 9/30 @ 10am
- Schools closed for Yom Kippur: 10/2
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Reports: 10/6
- Last day to order sportswear 10/10
- Schools closed Columbus Day: 10/13
- All Schools PTA Meeting: 10/15 @ Middle School
- Oct 22: Unity Day