

Principal
Lisa C. Buckshaw, Ed.D.

Assistant Principals
Kimberly Doty
Kenya Rollins
Costa Tavelaris

August 2020

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Thank you for your patience as we wrap up the final details on reopening schools. Last night we welcomed to the building our 6th grade students and new to District middle schoolers. They enjoyed seeing our updated facility. We are excited beyond belief to open our doors to staff and students this fall. If your child is learning remotely, we look forward to working with them virtually.

We will be hosting a virtual *Secondary Open Forum* for families on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 from 4 – 5 pm. Details regarding how to sign into the program will be shared prior to the event. This letter includes some important information to help you get the school year started.

1. **Student Schedules and Length of Day:**

- a. Schedules will be available in Parent Portal Friday, September 4, 2020. This is a change from information shared last night at our building tours. We were able to make it happen earlier than anticipated.
- b. The MS start and end time has changed for the 2020 – 2021 school year. We are starting earlier and ending earlier. The length of the day is 8:00 am – 2:50 pm.
- c. As we start the school year, there will be no after school clubs. When extracurricular activities are added back into the school day, the Activity Period will be from 2:55 – 3:20 pm.
- d. Students will have an eight-period day with a 35-minute lunch.
- e. The days are identified as “A” days and “B” days. We are not using the A- H letter days we used last year.

2. **Parent Portal:**

The student and parent portals may be accessed from the district website located under the Parents and Students tabs.

- Student Access: grades 6-12 only
 - a. Username: computer login - first initial, middle initial, last name (example: jasmith)
 - b. Password: computer password
- Parent Access: primary contacts are automatically added to the parent portal.
 - a. Username: current email address that you have provided the district. If you do not remember or did not receive an email with your password send a request to support@gateschili.org. Your request will be reviewed, and you will receive an email once your account is reactivated.
 - b. If you are not the primary contact, you will not have automatic access to the parent portal. If you would like to request access, please email support@gateschili.org.

3. **Building Map:** Attached to this e-mail is an updated MS Building Map.

4. **Laptops:** Gates Chili CSD is providing all students in grades UPK-12 with a district-issued laptop. Families will be provided with a laptop protection plan at no cost for the 2020-21 school year, upon the completion of the User Agreement. Go to <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome> no later than Sept. 18, 2020, to complete all laptop paperwork electronically. If the User Agreement is not completed, the family will be responsible for carrying full liability in the same way they do for other damaged or lost school property

- a. **MS students who currently have their laptops:** If you kept your laptop over the summer, you need to renew your paperwork and Protection Plan as stated above.

- b. **New entrants, incoming 6th graders, and MS students who did not keep their laptop over the summer:** If you did not pick up your laptop during the deployment days this week, it will be distributed during the first few weeks of school.
5. **Lockers:** Lockers will not be assigned to students at the start of the school year. Therefore, students will be permitted to carry a backpack with them throughout the school day.
6. **Code of Conduct:**
The Code of Conduct has been updated to reflect some changes during the pandemic. Some of the changes for students include: backpacks can be carried (because lockers will not be issued), cell phones need to be off and away, face masks need to be worn, and water bottles will be issued for students to carry and refill at bottling stations.
7. **First Day of School:**
The first day of school for ALL students is Monday, September 14, 2020. ALL students are required to “attend school” as follows:
- Monday/Thursday students will report to their A-day period 1 class. This room number can be found on the student’s individual schedule.
 - Tuesday/Friday students will log into their Schoology account and follow their “A” Day schedule while working at home. Course materials will be posted for students to begin completing.
 - Remote learners will log into their Schoology account and follow their “A” Day schedule. Course materials will be posted for students to begin working on.
8. **Breakfast and Lunch:**
- Students who choose to eat breakfast in school will be able to pick up breakfast in the morning and then report to their A-day period 1 class.
 - Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria. They will be separated by a clear view barrier to socially distance.
9. **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every day. Students working at home will have their attendance monitored through their participation in Schoology assignments.
10. **Updated Supply Lists:**
We have updated our student supply lists to reflect our new learning models. They can be accessed on our website: <https://www.gateschili.org/Domain/489>
11. **Summer Reading Assignment:** Please be sure to complete the summer reading assignment. More information about it can be found on the following website: <https://www.gateschili.org/Domain/985>
12. **Family Handbook:**
The *Family Handbook* can be accessed on the Middle School website <https://www.gateschili.org/Domain/500> It contains valuable information about our school. If you have any questions, counselors will be available to assist you until the start of school (247-5050, ext. 31500).
13. **Student Drop-off/Pick-up:**
If you choose to transport your child, it is important to note that for the safety of our students, the Middle School bus loop will be closed daily from 7:30 am – 8:00 am and 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm. All students being dropped off in the morning for the start of school and/or needing to be picked up at student dismissal, must be dropped off and picked up at Door #19 which is located in the South Parking Lot. Please plan accordingly and allow additional time in your schedule when dropping off or picking up your children. First period starts promptly at 8:00 am. Students arriving to the classroom after that time are considered late. Before school, students being dropped off at Door #19 will be permitted to enter the building at 7:40 am. In the afternoon, students must be picked up promptly at 2:50 pm.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lisa C. Buckshaw, Principal