

GRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2022-23

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OUR VISION

College bound, Career Ready!

MISSION STATEMENT

Gray Middle School cultivates thoughtful citizens who think critically, act compassionately, and collaborate effectively to thrive in a dynamic, interconnected world.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Gray Middle School Families,

Welcome to the 2022 - 2023 school year! I am thrilled to welcome our students and staff back to school. It has been a busy summer at Gray for those students who attended our summer learning programs and a busy time for teachers planning for the new school year. We hope that you were able to relax and make special memories with your friends and families and hope that you are now looking forward to making new school memories.

We recognize that students may be feeling anxious with the start of a new school year and we will continue to place a strong emphasis on social emotional learning while focusing on building classroom community. We are aware that we will also need to address unfinished learning due to various stresses from the last couple of years and will also be working hard on academics.

Gray School is such a special place to learn and grow. We are proud of our beautiful school and have high expectations for each student. Our students are safe, kind, responsible and respectful. Together with our dedicated staff, we strive to make connections with students to help them feel valued, accepted, and safe. Our Gray motto of "Pilots Lead the Way" will continue to guide our mission to provide a rigorous and joyful inclusive school environment. Our overarching goal is to encourage active student engagement to foster a lifetime love for learning.

Partnering with families will be crucial this year as we continue to face uncertainties following the global pandemic. We encourage families to stay connected and informed by following our school and district website for important updates. Please also make sure that you are keeping your information current in HAC so we can get in touch with you right away. Finally, Gray needs a PTA. Please let us know if you are willing to start or join our PTA.

Cordially,

Mrs. Samuels

Principal

2022-2023 DISTRICT CALENDAR

1st – 2nd No school

5th Labor Day Holiday

6th – 7th No school

8th First Student Day

13th Kindergarten Start Date

14th Late Starts Begin

17 student days

SEPTEMBER 22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				N	N	3
4	H	N	N	SS	9	10
11	12	KS	LS	15	16	17
18	19	20	LS	22	23	24
25	26	27	LS	29	30	

OCTOBER 22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	LS	6	N	8
9	10	11	LS	E	E	15
16	17	18	LS	20	21	22
23	24	25	LS	27	28	29
30	31					

7th Data Day (no school)

12th Elementary Conferences
*Early release grades K-5
No late start for elementary students. Late start for high school students. 2-hour late start for middle school students.

13th-14th All Grades Conferences
Early Release grades K-12

20 student days

11th Veterans' Day Holiday

23rd, 24th, 25th Thanksgiving Break

18 student days

NOVEMBER 22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	LS	3	4	5
6	7	8	LS	10	H	12
13	14	15	LS	17	18	19
20	21	22	N	H	H	26
27	28	29	LS			

DECEMBER 22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	*5	6	LS	8	9	10
11	12	13	LS	15	16	17
18	N	N	N	N	H	24
25	H	N	N	N	H	31

5th Elementary Trimester Break
*No school for elementary students only

6th 2nd trimester begins

Dec 19 – Dec 30 Winter Break/
No school

11 days – Elementary students
12 days – Secondary students

2nd New Year's Day holiday (observed)

3rd School resumes

16th Martin Luther King Jr. Day

20 student days

JANUARY 23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	H	3	LS	5	6	7
8	9	10	LS	12	13	14
15	H	17	LS	19	20	21
22	23	24	LS	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			LS	2	*3	4
5	6	7	LS	9	10	11
12	13	14	LS	N	N	18
19	H	21	LS	23	24	25
26	27	28				

3rd Secondary Semester Break
*No school for secondary students only

6th 2nd semester begins

16th Data Day (no school)
17th Snow make-up day
20th Presidents' Day Holiday

17 days – Elementary students
16 days – Secondary students

16th – 17th All grades conferences
Early Release for all students

20th 3rd trimester begins

23 student days

MARCH 23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			LS	2	3	4
5	6	7	LS	9	10	11
12	13	14	LS	E	E	18
19	20	21	LS	23	24	25
26	27	28	LS	30	31	

APRIL 23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	N	N	N	N	N	8
9	10	11	LS	13	14	15
16	17	18	LS	20	21	22
23	24	25	LS	27	28	29
30						

3rd – 7th Spring Break

15 student days

26th Snow make-up day

29th Memorial Day Holiday

21 student days

MAY 23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	LS	4	5	6
7	8	9	LS	11	12	13
14	15	16	LS	18	19	20
21	22	23	LS	25	S	27
28	H	30	LS			

JUNE 23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	LS	8	9	10
11	12	13	LS	15	16	17
18	H	20	21	22	E	24
25	S	S	28	29	30	

19th Juneteenth Holiday

23rd Last Day of School/
Early Release

26th – 27th Snow make-up days, if needed

16 student days

N = Non-School Day H = Holiday (no school) SS = School Starts KS = Kindergarten Start Date
L = Late Start Day E = Early Release S = Snow Make-Up Day

REGULAR BELL SCHEDULES

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Bell Rings	8:10	(5 min.)
Homeroom	8:15-8:27	(12 min.)
1 st Period	8:31-9:25	(54 min.)
2 nd Period	9:29-10:23	(54 min.)
1st Lunch	10:23-10:53	(30 min.)
3 rd Period	10:57-11:51	(54 min.)
4 th Period	11:55-12:49	(54 min.)
3 rd Period	10:27-11:21	(54 min.)
2nd Lunch	11:21-11:51	(30 min.)
4 th Period	11:55-12:49	(55 min.)
3 rd Period	10:27-11:21	(54 min.)
4 th Period	11:25-12:19	(54 min.)
3rd Lunch	12:19-12:49	(30 min.)
5 th Period	12:53-1:47	(54 min.)
6 th Period	1:51-2:45	(54 min.)

Wednesday

Bell Rings	9:10	(5 min.)
1 st Period	9:15-9:56	(41 min.)
Advisory	10:00-10:30	(30 min.)
2 nd Period	10:34-11:15	(41 min.)
1st Lunch	11:15-11:45	(30 min.)
3 rd Period	11:49-12:30	(41 min.)
4 th Period	12:34-1:15	(41 min.)
3 rd Period	11:19-12:00	(41 min.)
2nd Lunch	12:00-12:30	(30 min.)
4 th Period	12:34-1:15	(41 min.)
3 rd Period	11:19-12:00	(41 min.)
4 th Period	12:04-12:45	(41 min.)
3rd Lunch	12:45-1:15	(30 min.)
5 th Period	1:03-1:52	(49 min.)
6 th Period	1:56-2:45	(49 min.)

THE PILOT WAY

The “Pilot Way”

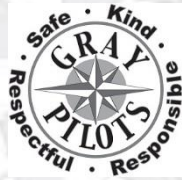
There are four key values we constantly teach, model and emphasize in order to prepare you to be “College bound and career ready”! We call our dedication to these values “The Pilot Way”. Like the points on a compass, “The Pilot Way” will always guide you in the right direction!

Safe *Conduct yourself in a way that avoids hurting or harming yourself or others.*

Kind *Help others and do good things to bring them, and yourself, happiness.*

Respectful *Be considerate of others and treat them properly.*

Responsible *You are trustworthy and can be depended on to do the right thing.*



Pilot Prides

Students caught modeling “The Pilot Way” in some special way may receive a ticket (called a Pilot Pride) in recognition of their good conduct. Pilot Prides can be collected and redeemed for special prizes and privileges throughout the school year.

The Pilot Way - In Restrooms

- Mind others' privacy
- Clean up after yourself
- Wash hands
- Flush
- Voice Level 1
- Be appropriate
- Wait your turn
- Walk
- Hands and feet to yourself

The Pilot Way - In Hallways

- Walk
- Voice Level 1 during class
- Voice Level 2 during passing
- Use school appropriate language
- Keep moving to your destination
- Take the shortest route possible
- Stay on the right side of the hallway
- Have a hall pass during class time
- Help those who need it
- Greet people with a smile
- Keep hands and feet to yourself

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICE - STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are not allowed to use, or have out, cell phones / ear buds / personal headphones while on campus during the school day. The school day begins when students enter the building in the morning and when they are excused in the afternoon.

Students should check their phones before they enter the building in the morning, and once they leave in the afternoon for any important messages.

During the school day cell phones are to be turned off and put away in students' backpacks or lockers. This means no cell phones during breakfast, lunch, passing period, bathroom breaks or in classrooms.

If students need to check in or communicate with a parent or guardian, they may use the school phone in the office. Any messages from family members will be hand delivered to students during the school day

Take, Hold, Educate and Return

Staff may take and hold a personal digital device when a student does not follow expectations. When a staff member directs a student to turn over a personal digital device they are expected to do so immediately. Staff members will return the device at the end of the day or turn the device over to the administration. **If a student refuses to comply with a staff member's directions, they will be subject to discipline for that refusal and any subsequent disruption (based on district and state policy).**

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND PLAYGROUND EXPECTATIONS

Safe, Kind, Respectful and Responsible behavior is expected during breakfast, lunch and on the playground. The following table includes students' responsibilities during these times and prohibited behaviors.

Student Responsibilities	Prohibited Conduct
- Voice Level 2 inside the building	- Loitering in classrooms, hallways or bathrooms
- Eat the food you take	- Screaming, shouting and yelling
- Stay seated at your assigned lunch table	- Pushing, shoving and play-fighting
- Clean your area and table before leaving	- Cutting in line or switching lines
- Wait to be dismissed from your table	- Begging or pressuring others to give you food
- Discard all food before exiting the lunchroom	- Throwing food or garbage
- Finish breakfast and lunch before the end of the eating period	- Popping bags or smashing milk cartons
- Stay inside the designated lunch recess areas	- Moving from table to table ("table hopping")
- Follow directions from supervisors when given	- Leaving food, garbage and messes at a table
- Play safe, participating in a sport during recess means you respect other people's physical boundaries	- Taking food or drinks outside the lunchroom
	- Hanging out or playing on the outer stairwells
	- Going into green zones between the pods
	- Loitering in bathrooms

DRESS CODE

Do Wear:

- A shirt or equivalent (such as a jersey, polo, sweatshirt, or hooded sweatshirt) that covers all undergarments as well as the student's full front, back, and sides under the arms

AND

- Pants, jeans, or equivalent (such as a skirt, shorts, dress, or sweats) that fully covers all undergarments and are at least 3 inches above the knee or longer. Tears/rips/holes are sufficiently covered if 3 inches or above from knee.

AND

- Shoes with closed toes, soles/heels less than 2 inches high, and backs or heel straps. Athletic shoes shall be worn for PE.

AND / OR

- Optional items such as a belt that can be safely secured and fully looped through pants, and/or medical or cloth face masks.

Do not wear:

- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized group
- Images or language containing hate speech or profanity
- Any references to drugs or alcohol

- Images or language referring to violence, weapons, or gang activity
- Vulgar language or images relating to or suggesting sexual activities
- Pants with rips/tears higher than 3 inches above the knee
- Hats or hoods while in the building
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous, used as a weapon, or a distraction to the learning of others
- Pajamas or blankets

Staff Responses to Dress Code Violations

- Students will be asked by a staff member to adhere to the dress code.
- If a student fixes the problem by borrowing clothes from the school, another student, or calls home for a change of clothes, no other actions will be taken. Student will return to class upon fixing the problem.
- Upon refusal to fix a dress code violation, disciplinary actions will be taken in accordance with school district discipline policies.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING EXPECTATIONS

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying are prohibited and will result in correction, parent contact and consequences up to and including suspension for **intentional or repeated acts** that **substantially interfere** **with** the **educational process**. Examples of such acts are listed below:

Act like they rule the world	Act mean	Act rude
Attack people	Boss people around	Brag about being tough
Break people's things	Carry weapons	Cheat
Damage people's things	Embarrass people	Force people to hand over money
Force people to hand over their possessions	Frighten people	Gossip
Harass people	Haze people	Hit people
Humiliate people	Hurt people's feelings	Ignore people
Kick	Laugh at people	Make fun of people
Make obscene gestures	Make racist or sexist comments	Make people feel helpless
Make people feel inferior	Make people feel invisible	Leave people out
Lie	Make people do things they don't want to do	Make people feel uncomfortable
Name call	Pick on people because of their race	Pick on people because they're different
Push	Put people down	Refuse to talk to people
Reject people	Say nasty things about people	Say sarcastic things to people
Scare people	Scream	Shove
Spread rumors	Steal	Swear
Take people's things	Taunt	Tease
Tell mean jokes	Threaten	Unwanted, rude or abusive touching
Use physical violence	Use verbal taunts	Write nasty things about people

LOCKERS

*****THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PERSONAL ITEMS LOST OR STOLEN AT SCHOOL*****

LOCKERS ARE SCHOOL PROPERTY. THEY ARE NOT STUDENTS' PRIVATE PROPERTY.

A student locker is assigned for convenience and storage of outer garments and school materials. Any unauthorized items found in a locker will be removed.

Student Responsibilities

- Leave money and valuables at home
- Signs and pictures should be appropriate
- Use only magnets or clips to display pictures
- Keep your locker neat and clean
- Keep your locker combination private

Prohibited Conduct

- Sharing lockers
- Displaying inappropriate words or pictures
- Using glue or tape on lockers
- Damaging lockers in any way
- Disabling the latching mechanism on a locker

How-To: Combination Lock

1. Turn the dial **3 times** to the **right**, then **STOP** when the 1st number lines up with the indicator.
2. Turn the dial **1 full turn** to the **left** (passing the 1st number), then **STOP** when the 2nd number lines up with the indicator.
3. Turn the dial to the **right**, then **STOP** when the 3rd number lines up with the indicator.
4. Lift handle sharply. Open!



CLUBS AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Club opportunities will be updated on the Family App. Check for details!

Leaders Wanted! – You are the key! You help create and sustain a safe, supportive and nurturing environment by becoming **LEADERS** and participating in **YOUR COMMUNITY!**

Anime Club

A community of students all enjoying the best game!

Contact Mr. Aleshrie at aaleshi@tacoma.k12.wa.us

ASB (Associated Student Body)

Help build a better community!

Contact Ms. Keller at rkeller1@tacoma.k12.wa.us

AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)

Achieve your dreams by improving your student skills!

Contact Mrs. Laeder at lleder@tacoma.k12.wa.us

Bonsai Club

Enjoy growing and caring for bonsai trees!

Contact Mr. Brown in Room 1803 (ext. 5243)

Chess and Cribbage Club

Sharpen your thinking skills while having fun!

Contact Mr. Shaffer at jshaffe@tacoma.k12.wa.us

E-Sports and MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement)

Learn to design and build anything you want!

Contact Mr. Schmitt at pschmit@tacoma.k12.wa.us

Jazz Club

Learn to play your instrument will skill and soul!

Contact Mr. Tooley in Room 1004 (ext. 5284)

Unity Club

Creating a safer, more welcoming school particularly for those that identify as LGBTQ+ youth!

Contact Ms. Tran at ttran@tacoma.k12.wa.us

PILOT Club

A year-round program for academic excellence!

Participating students will receive a complimentary membership to the Boys & Girls Club!

Contact Ms. Mabel at Thompsonm@bgcsp.org

Communities in Schools

A year-round program for school supports!

Contact Ms. Tia in Room 2801 (ext. 5272)

Nmanaea1@tacoma.k12.wa.us

Session I Sports* (September - November)

Boys Basketball, Baseball, Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country

Session II Sports (November to January)

Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer

Session III Sports (January to March)

Girls Basketball, Football, Bowling

Session IV Sports (April to May)

Fast Pitch, Track & Field, Wrestling

**Contact Mr. Trummert at extension #5248 or ktrumme@tacoma.k12.wa.us for Athletics.*

Yearbook Club

Capture lifelong memories for all to share!

Contact Mrs. Kondrat in the Library (ext. 5230)

Youth Leading Change Club

Community-based activities for change (partners with Safe Streets)!

Contact Ms. Smith in Room 1805 (ext. 5245)

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Formal Grade Checks and Grade Point Average

The Athletic Director and coach will conduct a grade check at least once per week during the session.

Students must maintain their GPA at 2.0 or above and have no E's to be eligible to participate in athletics at GMS.

Academic Probation

If a formal grade check shows a student has any E's or a GPA below 2.0, they may be placed on academic probation. If placed on academic probation the student **will not be eligible to participate in competition events**. Students will remain on probation until the formal grade checks show no E's and a GPA 2.0 or above.

Misconduct Probation

A student assigned a suspension of any kind (Single-Class, In-School, Out-of-School, Emergency) may be placed on misconduct probation. If this happens, they **will not be permitted to participate with the team in the next competition event**. If the student is assigned a second misconduct probation during the season, they may be **removed from the team** permanently.

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance at school is critical. Students must attend school the day of a sporting event to participate in the competition. Being on time to class is an important student-athlete responsibility. If a student-athlete arrives to class **tardy unexcused at least 3 times within the last 10 school days**, they may be assigned afterschool detention which could impact their ability to **participate with the team in the next competition event**.

After School Expectations

The following is expected of students participating in clubs and sports:

- Always be under the supervision of an adult after school
- Immediately report to designated meeting place
- Do not loiter in hallways, outside of school, or in classrooms
- Do not wear cleats or spikes inside of the building except in the locker rooms
- Always have a pass if using the restroom

Failure to abide by these expectations may result in probation from the club or sport.

Participation Requirements

In order to participate in afterschool activities, students must:

- Have an ASB sticker
- Participate in 8 practices for all sports (for athletes only)

After-School Activities Bus

Students who ride the ASA bus are expected to wait for it at the predetermined location. They are not to leave school grounds and then return to take the bus. Failure to abide by this expectation may result in probation.