



July 18, 2023

Dear GSL Families,

Hello and happy summer! Can you believe it's time to start preparing for the coming school year?

We have enjoyed seeing so many GSL students here on campus for SummerFest this month. And as you may know, we relaunched an important GSL tradition this year – our annual GSL Europe trip! Some of our oldest students are having fun and making lifetime memories this week on a 10-day tour of Italy with Mr. Roncal and Mrs. McCloud. Time is really flying by for all of us, and we can't wait to officially welcome everyone to campus next month for the start of the 2023-24 year!

Please read through the following important to-do's carefully so your child will be prepared for our first day of school on Monday, August 14.

BLACKBAUD: NEW INFORMATION SYSTEM

In May when we posted student report cards, we announced the implementation of Blackbaud, a new Parent Portal / School Management System, that takes the place of our previous Rediker Software. All families should have already received an email invitation to [log into Blackbaud here](#). Tomorrow you will receive an email with more details about updating your contact information and your child's medical information. Please be on the lookout!

IMPORTANT DATES

Please [click here](#) to access the 2023-24 Important Dates for the coming school year.

IMMUNIZATION FORMS for RISING SK & 7th

Parents of rising SK and 7th grade students must have up-to-date immunization forms on file for their children to attend school. If you have not submitted your form, you should have received your second email reminder from Angela Merideth on July 13 regarding this requirement. Updated forms are due back to the school office **by Monday, August 7**, in order for your child to attend the first day of school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SNACK PASS

Make your life easier and let GSL provide the snack for your Middle School student's daily break in Lassandrello Hall! The cost is \$297 for a full year (\$1.75/day) or \$164/Fall and \$176/Spring if you prefer to purchase by half year (\$2 per day). Middle School families may [click here to purchase](#).

NEW FAMILIES' ORIENTATION

New to Preschool

Be on the lookout for an invitation from your child's teacher with a specific time to come visit the Preschool campus on Friday, August 11. If you have any questions, please reach out to Head of Preschool [Cynthia Hill](#).

New to Lower School

New students and parents are invited to come join us in the Lower School on Friday, August 11 at 9 a.m. for orientation followed by a visit to your child's new classroom. You will receive an email invitation. If you have any questions, please reach out to Head of Lower School [Marti McCloud](#).

New to Middle School

New students and parents are invited to come join us in the Anchor Library (250 Lemaster) on Friday, August 11 at 9 a.m. for orientation followed by a visit to your child's new classroom. You will receive an email invitation. If you have any questions, please reach out to Head of Middle School **Ellen Hendry**.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

GSL provides school supplies to students. No action is needed by parents.

STAFFING UPDATES

In our first summer email sent June 5, we listed teacher changes for the coming school year. We are pleased to announce an additional hire since then. **Jenna Bencini** will join us as a Senior Kindergarten Assistant Teacher. Jenna has most recently worked as a prekindergarten teacher in Mill Creek, Wash. She and her husband moved back to Memphis this summer, and they have two children who will also join us at GSL – Will (1st) and Eleanor (JK). Jenna previously worked for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and for LEDIC Management Group. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Memphis and graduated magna cum laude. Please join us in welcoming Jenna and her family to GSL!

SUMMER WORK

Summer assignments for Preschool, Lower School, and Middle School were emailed to families on June 6. Please encourage your child not to wait until the last minute to tackle these activities!

SUMMERFEST: NEW CAMP OFFERING

Have your children tried our SummerFest camps yet? We still have great options for these remaining two weeks, plus one new addition we wanted to share with you:

Math for 3rd-4th Grade

Instructor: 2nd Grade Teacher Sara Ralston

July 31-Aug 4 from 1-5 p.m.

Campers will review math skills from last year and prepare for the new school year. Time will also be provided to complete any required summer math work.

This camp and more are still open for registration, and SummerFest ends August 4. **Click here** to access the full brochure and registration link.

TEXTBOOKS for SK-8

Purchase Lists

MBS Direct is our online school textbook vendor where families of students entering SK-8th grade can purchase textbooks. **Click here to visit the MBS online textbook store** where you can view and purchase the textbooks needed for your child's grade. **PLEASE NOTE!** We encourage you to order soon if you have not already done so: There is the possibility of a UPS Teamsters strike at the end of July that could cause supply chain delays and shipping disruptions. Order now to get books before classes start!

Buyback Lists

MBS also offers a textbook buyback program. **Click here** to access the buyback section of the MBS site.

Note: We are accepting four used textbook donations in Middle School this year:

- 8th grade Structure & Methods Algebra
- 8th grade History book
- 6th grade Math book
- 5th-8th grade Warriner's Handbook (English grammar hardback)

These can be dropped off outside Mrs. Hendry's office or in the Admin Office. Thank you! We are not accepting any other used textbook donations at this time.

UNIFORMS & DRESS CODE INFO for GRADES 1-8

Uniforms are required for students in 1st-8th grade. You can [click here](#) to see basic requirements on our website. As a reminder, the exclusive uniform provider for GSL is **Lands' End**. Questions? Contact Head of Lower School **Marti McCloud** for grades 1-4 and Head of Middle School **Ellen Hendry** for grades 5-8. P.E. Uniforms will not be required this year.

As a reminder, the Administrative Office's summer hours are 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Monday-Friday through July 31. Normal office hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. resume on Aug 1.

We will continue to share updates in the next few weeks, so please be on the lookout. Coming soon, we will share information on lunch service registration through Piccadilly, more details about our new Blackbaud system, and next year's class lists. Go, Saints!

Sincerely,

Andy Surber, Ed.D.
Head of School
