

# WHAT TO EXPECT

**MIDDLE SCHOOL is a learning adventure every day!** Every day we expect you to **BE AT SCHOOL, BE ON TIME,** and **STAY ALL DAY!** Your teachers will be expecting you each day, ready to learn!

- **178 days of classroom instruction**
  - First Day: August 5, 2025 Last Day: May 20, 2026
- **School starts at 8:05 am each day**
  - TARGET arrival: 7:50 am Earliest arrival: 7:30 am
- **School dismisses at 3:05 pm each day**
  - Bus riders need to know their bus number
  - Car riders can be picked up in front of GMS East
  - All students should be picked up by 3:30 pm each day
- **7 Periods of Instruction each day; 50 minutes each**
  - Math, Science, Social Studies, English/Language Arts, Academic Study Skills (WIN), and two Exploratory classes each day

GMS BELL SCHEDULE		
	Start	End
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Period</b>	<b>8:05</b>	<b>9:00</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Period</b>	<b>9:05</b>	<b>9:55</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Period</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>10:50</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Period + Lunch</b>	<b>10:55</b>	<b>12:15</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>12:20</b>	<b>1:10</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>1:15</b>	<b>2:05</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>2:10</b>	<b>3:05</b>

# GET INVOLVED with CLUBS & SPORTS


## GMS East Clubs

- Chess Club
- FBLA
- FCA
- FCCLA
- Garden Club
- Junior Beta Club
- Multiculture Student Union
- National Honor Society
- Radio Club
- Reading Bowl
- Robotics Team
- Student Council
- TOME Society
- Yearbook

At GMS, we believe that participation in school activities develops skills, provides direction in goal setting, and contributes ultimately to a positive school experience. All students are provided with information about joining our clubs, earning your way into honor societies, and tryout information for our sports. Follow us on social media for latest updates.



GMS offers clubs, honor societies, and organizations that are established for YOU! Join a club that you truly feel passionate about. Each group provides a structured yet informal setting for you to participate in activities, competitions, and service opportunities.

Gainesville provides competitive sports at the middle school level. Our student athletes represent themselves, our school, and **GAINESVILLE** when they put on the . Student athletes are required to be in good academic standing in each classroom and follow the 4Rs to compete. All student athletes must have a physical and active athletic account in <https://www.dragonflymax.com>



## Fall Sports

- Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Softball
- Volleyball

## Winter Sports

- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Swimming
- Wrestling

## Spring Sports

- Baseball
- Golf
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track

# MIDDLE SCHOOL MYTHS

*You hear lots of rumors and stories about what happens in middle school, so let's get to the **FACTS** about middle school life!*

- **Will students get stuffed in a locker or trash can?** No. We don't use lockers in middle school so no worries about lockers! And, the trash cans are not a problem either. They hold trash, not YOU!
- **How many teachers does a student have?** 6 teachers. A team of 4 teachers for the year with 2 exploratory teachers each 9 weeks
- **How do students move (transition) between classes?** At the end of class, one team transitions by teacher to the next class period. Students are taught paths to take during transitions.
- **Do students have classes with the same people all day?** No. Students are on a team of about 100 students. Classes are mixed on the team. Each class has about 20+ students and students are in classes based on academic need.
- **Do students need money at school?** Need--no. Want—probably. Students can buy ice cream for \$1 at lunch each day. Other money needs for special events are communicated with parents when necessary.
- **Can parents eat lunch with students?** Parents can volunteer at GMS, but parents don't typically eat with students. Parent volunteer opportunities are shared at Open House and throughout the year.
- **When do students eat lunch?** Students eat lunch with their 4<sup>th</sup> period class. Students can pick up lunch at no cost or bring lunch from home. And don't forget that students can also eat breakfast each day for no cost. No outside food deliveries or drop off for students allowed.
- **Do students need a PHONE at GMS?** No. Cell phones are required to be turned OFF and in the students bookbag each day, along with SMART WATCHES. Students have access to their CHROMEBOOK for all school needs. Communication with students through the school phone is always available.
- **Will students have a CHROMEBOOK?** Yes. All students, with parent signed agreement, are provided a GMS Chromebook and charger. Students are responsible for the Chromebook. They take it home and return to school charged daily to each class. Parents are encouraged to purchase school insurance for the device.
- **What school supplies are needed?** Parents are asked to provide basic supplies for their child: a BOOKBAG, a 3 Ring notebook that is 2 inches with 8 tabs, 2 composition notebooks, notebook paper, and pencil each day.
- **How do parent conferences work in middle school?** Teachers are available for parent conferences during planning periods. Common topics are student attendance, grades, and behavior for growth in all areas.
- **Do parents need PARENT PORTAL account?** Yes. Each parent/guardian needs the APP or account online. Daily communication is shared through the app and through parent email.
- **How do I know my bus number?** During open house we will have a transportation table for students and parents to visit. The transportation department at GCSS will always be able to provide this information.



## MAKING AN APPEARANCE

Our dress code is generally based on what we like to think of as “school appropriate.” All clothing must fit modestly and provide appropriate coverage and length. All skirts, shorts, and dresses should be longer than fingertips. Shirts should touch waist band. Pants should be worn at the waist. Shoes should be safe for the school environment. Care must be taken to avoid distractions caused by tattoos, piercings, and unnatural hair colors and styles.

# ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR ABCs

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## ATTENDANCE

Every day.  
On time.  
Stay all day.

## BEHAVIOR: BE RED

Student expectations follow our school wide focus of the 4Rs: **READY, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, ROLE MODELS**. Every day. Everywhere. Be **RED!**

## CLASSROOM SUCCESS

Grades show the MASTERY level of standards for each class. **GROWTH** is always the focus. From a 1,2,3,4 to the Numeric Grade Scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), and F (Below 70) in middle school.

# INFINITE CAMPUS: PARENT PORTAL

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Infinite Campus is the district's Student Information System—where parents may access attendance, schedules, grades, and assignment information regarding your child. Parents have to create their account using the unique code for each student. This code is available from your school. Online access and the APP are both options to STAY CONNECTED. Parents can update contact information (phone, address, emails, etc. ) inside Parent Portal at anytime. We ask that you always keep your phone numbers and email updated to help with contact for health and safety reasons. Parent Portal also allows parents to update any adult that is allowed to pick up your child with a photo id from school right inside campus. Our district site has many how to guides and videos to guide you through the APP. The parent coordinator can guide you or assist with your Infinite Campus accounts.



# CONNECTING INFORMATION

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We look forward to **PARTNERING with PARENTS** for a fun, educational middle school experience. Always feel free to reach out to your child's teacher by email for direct communication, contact the Admin Team, call the school for questions, or come by the school as needed for support. The GMS East website has much more detail of programs, policies, procedures, specifics team emails, our student Code of Conduct, and more! And, we love to showcase our students, staff, and school through social media. GET CONNECTED!

- Misty Freeman, Principal  
[misty.freeman@gcssk12.net](mailto:misty.freeman@gcssk12.net)
- Gary Papka, Assistant Principal  
[gary.papka@gcssk12.net](mailto:gary.papka@gcssk12.net)
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[titia.sargent@gcssk12.net](mailto:titia.sargent@gcssk12.net)
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- LaToya Battle, Counselor  
[latoya.battle@gcssk12.net](mailto:latoya.battle@gcssk12.net)

Phone Number: 770-534-4237 | Website: <https://gmsweb.gcssk12.net>

Twitter: @GCSS\_GMS | Instagram: gainesvillemiddleeast

# Making the Move to *Middle School*

**GAINESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL** is an exciting time for students and families. The journey through middle school begins with questions, excitement, and ideas about what to expect. Physical development with rapid growth leads to the independence students want, but also have to earn. Part of the middle school experience is to meet new friends, integrate technology as part of daily educational life, and develop organizational and social skills to balance daily living. Along with a new school, what else is new? Learning to manage emotions, completing daily homework and study needs, and juggling your schedule.

## **GMS East is READY for YOU!**

We are excited to learn and grow together through the middle school years. Get connected with us through social media, website, email, and stay connected by volunteering your time and talents to our **HERD!**



**As ONE GAINESVILLE, we will INSPIRE, NURTURE, CHALLENGE and PREPARE our HERD!**