

Hello Ghent Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and success at Ghent School. Our faculty and staff have been hard at work preparing for a smooth and joyful start to the school year, and we are eager to welcome our students back to campus.

Below is some highlighted information to review prior to the start of the school year. The updated Ghent School Handbook will be published shortly.

Middle school students can pick up their schedules at Meet and Greet or when they arrive on the first day of school. Elementary students will receive their teacher assignment by mail prior to Meet and Greet.

**IMPORTANT: 7th Grade Required Immunizations-** Tdap, HPV, and meningococcal are required to enter seventh grade. Please ensure you have turned in your student's updated immunization record to Nurse Smith, **prior to the first day of school**. If your student does not have an updated immunization record or an immunization appointment scheduled, which will require documentation, your student will not be able to attend school on the first day.

#### **MEET AND GREET ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025**

Drop off supplies, pick up dismissal tags, and meet your teacher(s) on Thursday, August 14th. This is an open event with no formal presentation.

- Grades K-2 10:00-11:00
- Grades 3-5 11:15-12:15
- Grades 6-8 12:30-1:30

All Meet and Greet visitors must enter from the front doors and pass through our **WEAPONS DETECTION SYSTEM** as you are greeted by our friendly Lead Security Officer.

#### **CARPOOL/WALKER DISMISSAL (PARENT PICK-UP) TAG DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST 14, 10:00-1:30**

- If your student already has a number, they will use the same number again this year. You can use the same car tag to hang from your rear view mirror in your vehicle.
- If your student already has a number from last year, you may pick up a new book bag tag for your student at Meet & Greet or we will place a new one on their book bag on the first day of school.
- Please have your student(s) practice buckling and unbuckling before the first day of school.
- Address verification will be required in order to receive a walker tag.

#### **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025**

1. Breakfast and lunch are free for all students, of course you can pack a lunch if you choose. Please start practicing having your child open their own lunch containers and drink containers and do not pack any metal utensils and/or knives to be used for their meal. **Please do not bring your student lunch/drinks or have it delivered.** This often creates a significant disruption to the learning environment, and may present a health concern for those with various types of allergies.
2. Be on the lookout for a Class Dojo invite. This is a digital communication tool for our entire school. Your teachers will use this to communicate with all families. We use your email and cell phone numbers for invitations. If you don't get an email/message from Dojo, it could mean we have an incorrect email or phone number on file.

3. Cell phones/smart watches/headphones/personal electronic devices **are not permitted** for *elementary students AT ALL*. Please do not put cell phones in your child's backpack. Please see Student Code of Conduct for more information.
4. Cell phones/smart watches/headphones/personal electronic devices for *middle school students* are allowed but **MUST BE TURNED OFF** and secured in their book bag from the time they enter the school until they leave the school. They CANNOT be kept on their person or in their purse and cannot be used at lunch or for learning purposes. Please see Student Code of Conduct for more information.
5. Parents cannot walk students to class. We will have a team of staff members to make sure everyone gets to their classroom locations safely. This will help students become quickly adjusted to routines and procedures.
6. If your student(s) will be a car rider, then your student(s) will receive a backpack tag with a carpool number (parent pick up) and you will be issued a corresponding car tag to hang from your rear view mirror every afternoon upon pick-up in the carpool lane. When you arrive at dismissal, your student's carpool number will be displayed within the school and your student(s) will proceed to the appropriate carpool lane.
7. **MORNING CAR ARRIVAL:** ALL car riders will be dropped off in the carpool lanes in the staff parking lot on Shirley Avenue. Parents should stay in the car. Please make sure your student(s) have all their items needed for the day and are ready to unbuckle and exit the car once stopped in the parking lot carpool lane. Please have your student(s) practice buckling and unbuckling before the first day of school.
8. **DISMISSAL: K-4th grade** car rider parents will pull into the staff parking lot on Shirley Avenue to enter the carpool lanes in front of the school, just like morning drop off. If a K-4th grade student has older siblings, they will be picked up from this lane too. As you exit the parking lot, please turn to the right so we can ensure everyone's safety through our neighborhood streets. **Please do not get out of your cars.** Be patient with us for the first week. The process will move faster as the students become more accustomed to the process. **Do NOT enter the parking lot for dismissal until 2:30.**
9. **DISMISSAL: 5th- 8th grade** parents should enter the carpool lane located on the side of the school on Llewellyn Avenue, which also functions as our bus lane. **Please do not block the corner of Shirley & Llewellyn or get out of your car.** Stay to the right so that passing traffic and buses can pass. Please be patient with our team and other cars. If you are not in line by 2:50 p.m., please join the K-4 carpool line, as buses begin arriving by 3:00 p.m.
10. **WALKERS (without cars)** will be allowed to enter and exit via the main entrance at the front of the building. We will issue you a walker pick up tag in the afternoon, **upon verification of the address being within walking distance**, and tag your child's backpack as a parent pick up/walker. **If you are parking a car and walking up to our doors, you'll be issued a carpool tag and be asked to go to the carpool lane.** If it is raining and you drive instead of walking, please go to the designated carpool lanes. It is okay if you do not have a carpool number, please provide your student's first and last name and have your ID ready for verification and we will call your student(s) to carpool for pick-up.
11. If your child is a bus rider, please put them on the bus on the first day of school. This will ensure that they are appropriately assigned to the bus in the afternoon. Dropping off in the am and riding the bus in the PM causes confusion for the younger students on the first day. Students need to ride the bus consistently or transportation will drop them from the manifest.
12. If your child attends our Before or After Care program with the YMCA, the YMCA team will make sure they get dropped off to their classrooms in the morning and picked up at the end of the day.

13. *If you are arriving after 8:15 a.m., our front doors will be closed. You will need to park and bring your student to the main entrance to sign-in your student(s) with security. An adult will have to sign-in a student, please be prepared with an ID to enter the building. The school day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 2:45 p.m. Students are tardy after 8:15 a.m.* The doors open for students to receive breakfast and report to class at 7:55 a.m. During the first few weeks, we will start dismissal at 2:20 p.m. to help ensure all students have exited the building by 2:55 p.m. to allow for bus arrival & departure. If your student is in grades 5-8 and not picked up by 2:55, then you will need to report to the K-4 carpool lane to pick up your student. Dismissal for walkers and car riders will end promptly at 3:00. Once the system's kinks have been worked out and the process runs more smoothly, we will begin dismissal at 2:35 for K-4 and 2:45 for grades 5-8. This will be communicated to all families. The first few days can mean longer than normal wait times for pick up and drop off. Please be patient with us. Safety is our #1 priority.
14. Bus students will be called for boarding as soon as their buses arrive on the campus.
15. Be on the lookout for the release of bus stop times and locations on our NPS website and social media, and use the "Versatrans" app on your devices to help track your child/their bus.

#### **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025**

We will have 2 sessions to help accommodate parent schedules & families with multiple students enrolled at Ghent School.

- Session 1: 5:00-5:45
- Session 2: 6:00-6:45

We are looking forward to an amazing year and cannot wait to see your student(s) on Monday, August 18th!

Have a great rest of your summer!

*Dr. Banks*

Dr. Banks

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