



# NORTHWEST GUILFORD **VIKINGS** MIDDLE SCHOOL

## *Weekly Parent Update*

### *It's a Great Day to be a Viking!*

August 21, 2026

#### **Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!**

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We enjoyed seeing so many new and returning families at Open House and appreciate everyone who took the time to join us. We look forward to a fantastic year of learning, achievement, and partnership.

#### **Attendance Matters Every Day**

We need our students here every day, and we truly **miss them when they're not**.

Thank you for partnering with us to build strong habits and ensure every child has the best opportunity to learn and grow.

#### **Morning Arrival Reminder**

To be marked **present and on time**, students must be in their **homeroom by 8:30 AM**.

To ensure they make it on time, students should walk through the **front doors no later than 8:25 AM**.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students arrive on time and ready to learn!



## Car Rider Line Procedures: Arrival and Departure

### Morning Drop-Off Begins at 8:00 AM

- Cars will begin unloading at **8:00 AM**.
- A staff member will signal when the bell rings and unloading may begin.
- **Do not drop off students before 8:00 AM.**

### Drop-Off Zone Instructions

- Stay in the car rider line.
- **Drop off students from the top spot near the main intersection down to the crosswalk at the mobile units.**
- Once unloaded, cars should exit to make room for the next group.

### Important Safety Reminders

- **No drop-offs** in parking lots or near the high school.
- The **only approved drop-off location** is the official car rider line.
- Students may **not walk from cars parked in nearby neighborhoods.**

### Walking to School

- Neighborhoods across NW School Road are **not approved walking zones** by GCS.
- If you choose for your child to walk:
  - You are responsible for their safety crossing NW School Road.
  - Inform your child's **last teacher of the day** about your walking plan.
  - **No crosswalk assistance** is provided by the school.

### Verification of Walking Students

- Students must have a **permanent address** in the neighborhood across the street to be approved to walk.
- We verify addresses for all students who walk to ensure safety.



**Our Priority: Student Safety**

With nearly **1,000 students**, we strive for a **safe and efficient** morning and afternoon routine.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe!

## **Dismissal Reminder – No Early Check-Outs After 3:00 PM**

For the safety of our students and to keep our dismissal process organized, **we are unable to dismiss students after 3:00 PM each day.**

After this time, our staff is fully engaged in preparing students for dismissal, coordinating transportation, and ensuring that all children get home safely. Early dismissals after 3:00 PM create confusion, disrupt classroom routines, and can compromise student safety.

Please plan ahead and complete all early check-outs **before 3:00 PM**, if necessary. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

## **Breakfast & Lunch Information**

### **Meal Options**

- Students may **bring their own lunch** or **purchase meals** from the cafeteria.
- **Breakfast and lunch** are served daily in the cafeteria.

### **Free & Reduced Meals**

- Apply online at the **GCS School Nutrition Website**.
- Or request a **paper application** from our main office:  
 (336) 605-3333

### **Pre-Pay for Meals**

GCS now uses **SchoolCafé** for meal payments and applications!

- **Add money** to your child's account easily.
- **Apply online** for Free & Reduced Meals.
- Get started: [schoolcafe.com/GUILFORDCOUNTYSCHOOLS](https://schoolcafe.com/GUILFORDCOUNTYSCHOOLS)

- View daily menus here: [gcsmeals.com](https://gcsmeals.com)

## Important Reminders

- No glass bottles or containers allowed.

No food deliveries (e.g., DoorDash, Grubhub) are permitted for students.

## 7th Grade Immunization & Health Requirements

To ensure a safe and healthy school environment, all rising 7th-grade students must meet the following **North Carolina immunization requirements**:

- Tdap Booster
- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV)
- Up-to-Date Immunization Record

 **Deadline: Please submit records by September 24, 2025**

## Sports try-outs begin on the first day of school

*Please turn in sports physicals to our Athletic Directors.*

## Weekly Information:

August 24- First Day of School!

August 24- Sports Try Outs for Football, Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Cheerleading

September 3- Girls Volleyball; Boys Soccer @ Southern Middle 4:00 PM

September 7- No School, Labor Day Holiday

September 8- Girls Volleyball; Boys Soccer @ Jamestown 5:00 pm

September 10- Girls Volleyball; Boys Soccer HOME vs TBD 4:30 pm

September 16-Girls Volleyball; Boys Soccer Home vs Northern

September 16- Football HOME vs Southern

September 21- No School, Optional Teacher Workday

September 22- School Based Leadership Meeting 4:00 pm

September 22- Girls Volleyball; Boys Soccer @ Kernodle 5:00 pm

September 23- Football HOME vs Jamestown Middle

September 24- Girls Volleyball; Boys Soccer @ Northeast Middle 4:30 pm

September 28- Girls Volleyball; Boys Soccer HOME vs Mendenhall Middle 4:30 pm

## **Northwest Middle School is a NO Cell Phone School**

Per North Carolina House Bill 959, students are **not permitted to use cell phones, earpieces, headphones, or Meta Glasses** during the school day. Cell phones are to be powered off and placed in bookbags from 8:00-4:00pm. If students need to call home, they will have access to the school phones in the front office. Parents should call the front office if they need to get a message to their child.

### Northwest Middle Cell Phone Policy

**North Carolina House Bill 959**

North Carolina has passed a law requiring all student cell phones and personal communication devices to be turned off and put away during the instructional day except in the event of school-wide emergencies or if they are part of a student's 504 or IEP (as part of their diabetes monitoring plan, for example). Students are permitted to bring cell phones, smart watches, and earpieces/headphones/earbuds to school. However, they are not allowed to have cell phones or headphones out during the school day (8:00 am - 4:00 pm).

Cell phones are to be powered off and placed in your bookbag, not visible, before the beginning of the school day, and remain there the entire school day.

**Students are not permitted to call/text from their personal devices,**



**Thank You for Your Partnership**

*As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, we are excited to partner with you and your children to create a year filled with learning, growth, connection, and achievement.*

*Wishing you and your family a wonderful weekend!*

**CeCe Matson**

Proud Principal of NWMS

*~ Where Hearts and Minds Grow Stronger Each Day*