



NORTHWEST GUILFORD
VIKINGS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Weekly Parent Update

It's a Great Day to be a Viking!

September 25, 2026

Spotlight Breakfast

We loved celebrating our Northwest Middle School Spotlight Students today! These amazing students were nominated by their teachers for consistently showing **Responsibility**– and we are so proud of them.

A huge **shout out to Oak Ridge Bagels & Deli** for generously sponsoring the breakfast so our Spotlight Students and their families can enjoy a special treat! 🍩✨ Additionally, we are so grateful for our friends at **To The Moon & Back** of Oak Ridge for their special treats for spotlight students!

Attendance Matters Every Day

Today marks the 23rd day of school, and we want to remind families how important daily attendance is.

Students who have missed **two or more days** are already considered **chronically absent**.

Consistent attendance is directly linked to academic success—**school attendance = school success.**

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

Did you know?
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but it adds up!

When a student misses <u>2 days</u> a month:	When a student misses <u>4 days</u> a month:
• They will miss <u>20 days a year</u> • They will miss <u>30 hours of math over the school year</u> • They will miss <u>60 hours of reading and writing over the school year</u> • They will miss <u>over a year of school by graduation</u>	• They will miss <u>40 days a year</u> • They will miss <u>60 hours of math over the school year</u> • They will miss <u>120 hours of reading and writing over the school year</u> • They will miss <u>over 2 years of school by graduation</u>

Testing Information:

This year, your child will take the fall, winter, and spring administration MAP® Growth™ tests from NWEA® (reading and math). These assessment results will provide a more complete picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below his/her grade level. Below are the fall assessment dates per grade level:

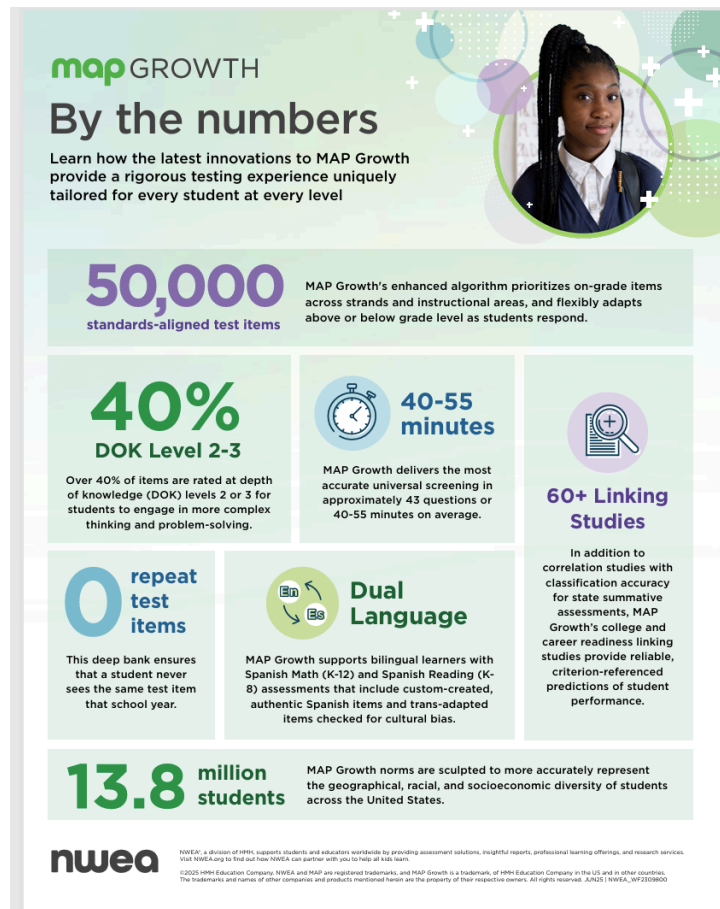
7th grade: 9/24-Reading; 9/25-Math

6th grade: 9/28-Reading; 9/29-Math

8th grade: 9/30: Reading; 10/1: Math

How can you learn more? Visit the [NWEA Family Toolkit](#) for further information on the assessment. If you have questions or want to talk more about your child's

progress, we're here to support you. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's learning journey.



Discover GCS~

Find Your Place. Fuel Your Future. Become a Viking. You Belong Here.

during Discover GCS Month, our school will host Tuesday tours and a School Preview Night for future families.

These opportunities are especially for families who live in our attendance zone but do not currently attend our school. Visitors can tour the school, meet staff, learn about programs and supports, and see how NW Middle School connects to the larger GCS pathway.

Current families, please help us spread the word. If you know a friend, neighbor, relative or coworker with a child zoned for NW Middle, encourage them to join us.



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 at the high school.**

1. The **only approved drop-off location** is the official car rider line.
2. 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

Menus

- View daily menus here: gcsmeals.com

Important Reminders

- **No glass bottles or containers** allowed.

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

Northwest Middle School Family Handbook

- Click [here](#) to view the Family Handbook

7th Grade Immunization & Health Requirements

Important Reminder:

Students who do not have proof of required immunizations may be excluded from school.

To comply with North Carolina immunization requirements, all 7th-grade students must provide documentation of the following:

- ✓ **Tdap Booster**
- ✓ **Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV)**
- ✓ **Current Immunization Record**

Please submit updated immunization records as soon as possible to avoid any interruption in your child's school attendance.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and healthy school environment for all students.

Weekly Information:

September 28- 6th grade Reading NWEA Testing

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

September 29- 6th grade Math NWEA Testing

September 29- Football HOME vs Southwest Middle

September 29- Q1 Interim Reports

September 30- 8th grade Reading NWEA Testing

October 1- 8th grade Math NWEA Testing

October 1- 7th Grade Vision Screenings

October 2- 6th Grade Field Trip to the Science Center

October 5- Girls Soccer and Boys Volleyball Try Outs 3:30-5:30 pm

October 7- Football HOME vs Jamestown Middle 5:00 pm

October 9- Fall Picture Day

October 12-Boys Volleyball and Girls Soccer HOME vs Southern

October 14-Football HOME vs Northern Middle

October 15-Boys Volleyball and Girls Soccer HOME vs Jamestown Middle

October 19- Boys Volleyball and Girls Soccer TBD

October 20- Boys Volleyball and Girls Soccer HOME vs Southeast Middle 4:00 pm

October 20-Football @ Kernodle 5:00 pm

October 21- 8th Grade Field Trip to the State Fair

October 22-Sports Photos (Girls Soccer, Boys Volleyball) 8:00 am

October 26- Boys Volleyball and Girls Soccer 4:30 pm

October 28-Football @ Northeast Middle

October 29-Boys Volleyball and Girls Soccer HOME vs Kernodle 4:30 pm

October 30- No School - Teacher Workday

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, 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, including smartwatches, throughout the day. If it is necessary for a student to call home, they will have access to the school phones in the classroom or in the front office. Parents should call the front office if they need to get a message to their student.

Personal electronic devices, including cell phones, earpieces, headphones, and earbuds, may be collected from students who use them during the school day and stored in the front office until the end of the school day. This includes smartwatches used for communication. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen electronic devices or accessories, including cell phones, chargers, earpieces, headphones, or earbuds.

Repeated offenses or failure to comply with the device expectations will result in the device being taken and held for parent/guardian pickup.

Thank you for helping us provide a focused, distraction-free learning environment for all students!



  Thank you, Viking Families,  

As we welcome the fall season and settle into the rhythm of the school year, we are reminded how fortunate we are to be part of such a supportive school community. Thank you for the trust you place in us and for allowing us the opportunity to work with your children.

One of the greatest joys of our work is learning alongside your children. Their curiosity, creativity, and unique perspectives enrich our school community and inspire us every day.

Thank you for your partnership and support. Together, we can continue to create an environment where every student feels valued, challenged, and empowered to grow. We are grateful to be part of their journey.

Warmly,

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