

## Incoming 6th Grade Frequently Asked Questions

### Lockers

Are lockers arranged by alphabetical order?	Lockers are grouped by homeroom. Within each homeroom, lockers are assigned alphabetically, by last name.
How many times do we go to our locker during the day?	4 (before homeroom, before and after lunch, at the end of the day)
Are we allowed to decorate our lockers?	Inside = yes, Outside = no
What do students use to decorate their lockers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● magnets</li> <li>● pictures (family, pets, etc.)</li> <li>● a phone holder</li> <li>● pencil holder</li> <li>● sports pictures</li> <li>● shelves (12 inch)</li> <li>● mirrors</li> <li>● mini -whiteboards</li> </ul>
What is some locker decorating advice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-items must be school appropriate</li> <li>-make your locker your own</li> <li>-don't decorate it too much; it will jam</li> <li>-simpler the better</li> </ul>
Can we carry our backpacks?	No, everything is kept in your locker.
What are quads?	<p>Quads are "teams" of five core academic teachers:</p> <p>The "Grover" quad is: Mr. Teshkoyan (Social Studies), Mrs. Forte (Science), Miss McCarthy (Language Arts), Mrs. Keenan (Math), and Señora Reyes (Spanish)</p> <p>The "Cleveland" quad is: Mrs. Otinsky (Social Studies), Miss Hennighan (Science), Mrs. Spina (Language Arts), Mr. Saito (Math), and Señora Arango (Spanish)</p> <p>Mrs. Chomko, Mrs. Best, Miss Sheridan and Miss DeVincenzo are also sixth grade teachers you will see in class and in the hallways.</p>
Are there any special events in middle	Musical (Drama Club), Hoopapalooza,

school?	Field Day, various House events, Student Council events and fundraisers, Pumpkinology, end of year variety show
How big is the middle school?	The building is one block-long. There are 3 floors (6th grade homerooms are on the 3rd floor). There are about 700 people in the building on a daily basis (students and staff).
What are some options for before school?	-Wait outside, the gym, library, music rehearsals, and extra help with teachers (upon appointment). -Assuming students have no prior appointment, they are allowed in the building at 8:30.
Do we get to pick our locker combinations?	No, they will be given to you on the first day of school

### School life

Is there snack?	No- but you should bring a water bottle daily. Our water fountains have filters to refill your bottles.
Are we allowed to use phones in class?	<b>Only when a teacher plans a lesson that needs use of phones, otherwise phones should be kept on silent in one's locker.</b>  No. Phones are to be kept in your locker during the school day. (maybe we change to this?)

### Subjects

How long are classes?	Classes are 45 minutes.
What classes can you pick?	None
How many classes do we have?	7 per day
Are all your classes on the same floor?	No. Depending on your schedule, classes can be on all 3 floors.
How much time do you have between classes?	You usually have 3 or so minutes for passing time between classes.

How do you know what classes you have next?	You will get your class schedule at the beginning of the school year on Genesis.
Is my schedule the same day to day?	Yes, with the exception of a different elective each marking period, your schedule will be the same each day. However, every Wednesday there will be a 30 minute advisory period worked into your schedule.

### Lunch

Are you allowed to sit with whomever you want at lunch, or do you have assigned seats?	In the beginning of the year, you have assigned seats according to homeroom. With good behavior, you may earn the privilege to choose your seats.
How long is lunch?	Lunch is 30 minutes long.
What happens if I forget my lunch and/or money?	Students who are buying lunch should have money in their online account. Otherwise, they can bring their own lunch. If they forget their lunch, they can call home to have a parent bring it in.
How much money is lunch?	Depends on what you purchase, but about \$5.00 on average.
Is there time during lunch to go outside and play with our friends?	If the weather is nice, you may have outside time for about 10 minutes.
Are you allowed to have your phone at lunch?	No. Phones are to be kept in your locker during the school day.

### Specials/Electives

What elective classes are offered in the middle school?	There are no electives. You cannot choose classes.
Do we have art, physical education, etc? If yes, how often?	Special classes meet every day for one marking period each. Phys Ed meets every day for 3 marking periods, then health for 1 marking period. Spanish meets every day for the entire year.
Are there required special classes?	Yes. Music, Innovation & Research, Art, and Art of Writing

## Clubs

If we want to start a club, what do we do?	Speak to the principal
Do the clubs meet every day?	Usually once per week. Drama club has its own schedule, based on the production. Drama club generally meets January-February-March.

## Homework

Do you go to detention when you miss your homework? What are some consequences?	Not typically, but if you are a student who frequently forgets homework, there could be a consequence. For late homework, the biggest consequence is getting points deducted from your grade and not being able to participate in activities that require completed homework. Also, teachers contact parents or guardians for students who forget homework more than once or twice.
Do you get homework on the weekends?	Sometimes. Generally, this would be part of a larger assignment that you would be able to complete prior to the weekend. In Language Arts, you should always have a book to read.

## Miscellaneous

Do we have summer work?	Students will be given summer reading assignments only and that information will be posted on GCMS website.
What supplies do we need?	Students will be provided a Chromebook and planner once the school year begins. Additional supply lists can be found on GCMS website.
What things do you get detention for?	Typical reasons for detentions include: talking at inappropriate times during class, being disruptive in the hallway or bathroom, arriving late to class, misbehaving for a substitute teacher,

	inappropriate physical contact, using a phone when you are not allowed to, vandalizing school property, etc.
Do you go on trips? If so, what have you done in the past?	Yes. Last year, the 6th grade went to West Point and the Bronx Zoo.
What do you do in homeroom?	In homeroom, students view the morning announcements, and teachers take attendance. Sometimes, special announcements are made by your homeroom teacher or house leaders.
Do you have a snack in the morning?	No
Do you carry your bag around all day?	No
Can you bring a water bottle to class with you?	Yes, it is highly recommended to bring a water bottle to class. You can even refill them as you travel from class to class, as needed.
Do we get a tour of the building or get a map?	A virtual building tour will be given at GCMS's virtual orientation. Other students and staff in the building can be very helpful if you ever get lost.
How many kids are usually in a quad and a class?	Changes each year. Each quad is half of the grade. Depends on the class, but class size can be from 18-25 students, on average.
If I am having a problem with someone or something; is there anyone in the building I can speak to?	If there ever is a problem, your teachers, guidance counselors, and bridge counselor are the best people to see. They always have ways to help you through your problems. Don't ever be afraid to ask!