

Caldwell-West Caldwell Public Schools
GROVER CLEVELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

36 Academy Road
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(973) 228-9115

Mr. John Bertollo
Principal
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August 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grover Cleveland Middle School,

As mentioned in my previous letter, attached is the *Grover Cleveland Middle School Return to School 21-22 Protocols*, which will explain our anticipated process for this upcoming school year. **Please carefully read this letter.** Due to its length, you may also want to print or download a copy for easy access should you have any questions about any of our plans. In addition, please see some quick reminders/updates for the beginning of the school year.

September 1: New Student Building Tours + Lockers

As previously communicated in July, rather than squeezing everything into a one-hour session on September 1, our 6th-grade team has planned out a fun-filled day on September 9 for our 6th graders (the first day of school). Students will travel through their schedules. However, each teacher will have a specific topic they will cover, including 6th-grade expectations, touring the building, setting up the locker, practicing using a lock, reading a schedule, and other team-building activities.

On September 1 from 2-3pm, we will be utilizing that one-hour time slot as an opportunity for any student who has not yet visited GCMS (incoming 6th graders, 7th/8th graders who were remote last year, new students to the district) to have a building tour led by our GCMS House Leaders, as well as having an opportunity to practice opening their lockers prior to the start of the school year. Students should report to the gymnasium door located on Prospect St. no earlier than 1:55pm. Please do not come to the main entrance on Academy Road.

While our 7th-grade team will also plan on addressing many of the topics on the first day of school- specifically lockers- 7th graders are also be invited on September 1 at 2pm to practice opening their lockers if they feel like they need to practice prior to the start of the school year.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A STUDENT-ONLY EVENT. PARENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE SCHOOL

GCMS Spirit Days

On Thursday, September 9, we will have a GCMS Apparel Spirit Day! Please wear anything related to GCMS or Caldwell.

On Friday, September 10, we will have a Red, White, and Blue Day in honor of Patriot's Day.

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GCMS Virtually Live Open House

In order to minimize any potential transmission, GCMS Open House Night on September 14 will be virtual. Our September HSA meeting will begin at 5pm. Teacher virtual visitations will begin at 5:30pm. While I understand this is earlier than originally planned, since we have many teachers who teach across multiple grade levels, classes have to be scheduled a certain way to ensure that all are available to meet with you. The schedule will be sent as it gets closer to the event with all necessary Zoom links.

School Picture Day

School Picture Day is scheduled for Monday, September 13. No form is needed. You'll receive an online code from Irvin Simon a few weeks after picture day to view and order your portraits. You can visit IrvinSimon.com for more information.

Start Strong Assessment

This fall, students at Grover Cleveland Middle School will participate in the Start Strong Assessment. More information to follow.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, September 9, 2021. As I mentioned in my previous letter, while this year may present challenges similar to last year, the one thing I can guarantee is that the staff at Grover Cleveland Middle School have been preparing all summer for whatever this year throws at us. They will continue to be the same caring and compassionate professionals and will do what is best for your children, no matter what challenges we face as a school.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I am always available.

Be Well and Make a Difference Today,

John Bertollo
Principal
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