

**North Middle School**

August 6, 2022

Dear North Middle School Parents:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. At NMS we take care of one another #protectthisden. This letter will provide information about our fall opening, general information about North Middle School, and a list of resources to begin the school year. This includes a "One Stop Shop" during fall orientation.

Great Falls middle schools address the unique nature of middle school children. Middle school curriculums are more exploratory than elementary school and less specialized than high school. Recognizing the uniqueness of individual disciplines, and emphasis on interdisciplinary study is part of our learning environment. This is the time in your child's life when he or she naturally becomes more independent and is expected to take ownership of learning and behavioral choices. Students find new friendships, become less reliant on parents, and begin discovering future opportunities for their future, which is natural for students in this age group.

At NMS, we only have two grade levels. We have three 7<sup>th</sup> grade "teams" and three 8<sup>th</sup> grade "teams." Our teams have about 135 students each and are "selected" by a software program. The computer balances the teams by gender, ability levels, chosen music courses, foreign language, and other variables. That means all teams are equal regarding the cross-section of students represented. Students remain on their assigned team for the full school year.

Another change is our master calendar. In elementary school, students were graded quarterly, and information was sent home through a Wednesday envelope. In middle school, the school calendar is divided into three 60 day or 12-week sections called trimesters. Students at the middle school level hand-carry report cards home. School binders are expected to go home nightly. Information including assignments, homework, book fines, low lunch balances, permission slips, and reminders are organized in the binders. Think of them as a communication tool between school and home. Please check your child's binder nightly.

North Middle School and its staff are dedicated to addressing the unique nature of middle school children by focusing on their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. We work to provide a sensitive, caring, and supportive learning environment that includes experiences to assist students as they transition from elementary to high school. On the opposite side of the letter, you will find information about the middle school, including plans for orientation. We hope you find this information reassuring and helpful. We look forward to partnering with you during this critical time in your child's life!

Tara Rosipal  
NMS/Principal  
tara\_rosipal@gfps.k12.mt.us  
(406) 268-6530

**North Middle School**

**Upcoming Events and Information**

- August 10** Student schedules mailed home
- August 17** Fall Orientation grade 7 (See schedule below)
- August 17** Parent Information Night - 6:00 p.m. in the gym
- August 18** Fall Orientation grade 8 (See Schedule below)

**Fall Orientation:** This is an opportunity for parents and students to get information about North Middle School, meet teachers, receive the school district policy information, pay for student lunch accounts or complete lunch forms, get the Tdap booster immunization, ask questions, select lockers, and tour the building with your child. You may access our digital student code handbook at our website or you may get a printed copy at the main office. *\*Bring your schedule and begin in Connections classroom.*

<b>7th Grade Teams</b> Wednesday Aug 17		<b>8th Grade Teams</b> Thursday Aug 18	
9:00 - 10:00	<b>Spartan Team</b>	9:00 - 10:00	<b>Gladi8or Team</b>
11:00 - 12:00	<b>Ursidae Team</b>	11:00 - 12:00	<b>Extreme Team</b>
1:00 - 2:00	<b>TAG Team</b>	1:00 - 2:00	<b>TNT Team</b>

- August 24** First Day of 2022-23 school year
- August 23** First day for Football. *\*All sports physicals must be completed and downloaded on your Dragonflymax.com account before students may practice or play.*
- August 29** First day cross country and girls basketball

**Connect to North Middle School:**

- Our North Middle School website <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/NMS>
- PowerSchool grades <https://ps.gfps.k12.mt.us/public/home.htm>
- Teacher lesson plans [www.planbook.com](http://www.planbook.com) or use the link on our webpage.
- Grade level teams will communicate by email, phone, team Remind, and letters home, so please make sure your demographics are up to date in Powerschool. If you need to update your demographic information you are welcome to call 268-6533.
- Join our NMS PTA. These volunteers run our food pantry, fundraise through family dinner nights, student picture days, and various fundraisers. PTA provides funding for school safety, student activities, academic team travel, music and arts program, and grade level team events. If you have an interest in serving in our PTA, you may visit their Facebook page [www.Facebook.com/GFPSnms](http://www.Facebook.com/GFPSnms).

**As safety is a top priority in Great Falls Public Schools, please accept this message as your required official notification from the District on renovation projects that occur in schools. You will find the Lead Renovation pamphlet and a letter explaining the District notification process for construction projects on our District Website under Parents & Students, Student Safety, Lead Renovation. If you choose to be notified by an alternate means, please email Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations at [brian\\_patrick@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:brian_patrick@gfps.k12.mt.us) or call 406-268-6050. Also, in the Student Safety tab is information regarding optional student accident coverage.**