Greetings Yellow Jacket Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I hope that each of you had an opportunity to relax, rejuvenate, and spend time with your loved ones this summer. This academic school year will be a unique experience for all stakeholders. It will also come with many emotions and feelings, some that we are comfortable with and some we are uncomfortable with. Together we will begin to unpack these feelings and walk into this school year united, committed, and engaged.

As you know PGCPS will begin the academic school year using a full distance learning model. The full distance learning model is scheduled to take place from August 31st until the end of 2nd quarter. In a full distance learning model, students will receive live synchronous lessons daily in all scheduled classes. Some classes are scheduled to meet every day and some meet every other day using a 5 module schedule. This year’s school supply list can be found on our schools website, https://www.pgcps.org/gwynnparkms/. For additional information on the districts reopening plan, the reopening plan can be found on the districts website, https://www.pgcps.org/reopen/.

Student schedules are expected to be available in schoolmax on Friday, August 21st. Gwynn Park MS will continue to follow our normal school hours of 7:30 AM- 2:10 PM. Students do NOT have to wear uniforms daily, but are expected to be appropriately dressed for school daily, as it pertains to the PGCPs dress code. All students should use their username and passwords from the previous school year. If your student needs to reset their password, please contact our Instructional Lead Teacher, Ms.Francesca Woods, Francesca.Woods@pgcps.org. For questions about registration or enrollment please contact Ms.Marie Newman, marie.newman@pgcps.org.

Our theme for this school year is “Adapting, Accepting, and Achieving Through the New Norm”. We will continue to prioritize (1) instructional rigor in all content areas, (2) Use data to drive instruction, and (3) build a strong Culture and Climate – The GPMS Way.
During the upcoming school year, I encourage you to take an active role in your child’s learning. Parents play a critical role in the academic success of our students. If you have not done so already, please make sure you’re registered to receive blackboard alerts. Blackboard is the primary app used to communicate with families and the community, [https://www.pgcps.org/bbapp/](https://www.pgcps.org/bbapp/). Here are some Ways to support and increase your child’s academic success include:

- Make attendance a PRIORITY including limiting tardiness and absences
- Check SchoolMax Parent Portal regularly to stay informed of student progress
- Communicate often with your child’s teacher

Gwynn Park Middle Schools mission will continue to provide a safe and orderly learning environment in order to ensure that our stakeholders have access to a dynamic educational experience that will serve as a foundation for lifelong learning. As always, we look forward to partnering with you in order to ensure a successful school year. The educational needs of students can best be served through a collaborative approach between parents, teachers, and administrators.

Nationally, there has been a high demand for the procurement of electronic devices, which has resulted in delay of receiving them for PGCPS. We have placed an order for our students and are awaiting delivery. If your child is currently utilizing a personal device in the home, we ask that they continue to do so until our order is received. We anticipate that additional devices will be available by September 21, 2020. Once received, you will be notified and a date and time will be scheduled for you to pick up a device. Your understanding is appreciated. With that being said, Gwynn Park MS will distribute student materials from 10 AM - 2 PM on the following dates:

**Monday, August 24th - 6th Grade Students**
**Tuesday, August 25th - 7th Grade Students**
**Wednesday, August 26th - 8th Grade Students**

On **Friday, August 28th**, we will host a mock school day for **ALL** students. During this time students will have a brief introduction of GPMS’s routines, curricular programs, and academic expectations. Students will also transition to all classes mocking a regular school day. Lastly, please plan to attend our upcoming **Back to School Night, Wednesday, September 9th** from 6:00 - 9 PM. Each grade level will conduct their back to school night separately, 6th Grade 6-7 PM, 7th Grade 7-8 PM, and 8th Grade 8-9 PM. The zoom meeting codes for back to school night will be shared in the future. We appreciate and value your partnership and look forward to working with you this school year.

Educationally Yours,
Courtney Forbes-Colquehoun, Ed.D
Principal