

# **Smooth Moves 2016-2017**



## **School Contact Information**

### **Gray Station Middle School**

**324 Hwy 18 East**

**Gray, GA 31032**

**Phone: 986-2090**

**Fax: 986-2099**

**School Website: <http://jones.gsms.schooldesk.net/>**

**Wes Cavender, Principal**

**[wcavender@jones.k12.ga.us](mailto:wcavender@jones.k12.ga.us)**

**Dr. Dianna Hollins, Assistant Principal**

**[dhollins@jones.k12.ga.us](mailto:dhollins@jones.k12.ga.us)**

**Shannon Edmondson, School Counselor**

**[sedmondson@jones.k12.ga.us](mailto:sedmondson@jones.k12.ga.us)**

**Kim Hanner, Title 1/Parent Coordinator**

**[khanner@jones.k12.ga.us](mailto:khanner@jones.k12.ga.us)**

**Dana Hutchison, Instructional Coach**

**[dhutchison@jones.k12.ga.us](mailto:dhutchison@jones.k12.ga.us)**

## **Gray Station Middle School Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How many classes will my child attend?**

Your child will have 6 classes: Math, English/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and 2 connection classes. Current connection classes offered are PE, Art, Band, Computers, Music, Chorus, Weight Training, and Current Events. Your students will change connection classes every 9 weeks. If your child takes band, he or she will still be able to participate in the other connection classes. If you would like to preview 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, please go to [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org).

### **How does middle school work?**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes, except connections, are located on the D hall. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes are divided among A, B, and C halls. Your child will travel from class to class with the same students in his/her homeroom. Students generally change classes together and are escorted to connections by a teacher. Don't worry, we won't let you get lost!

### **Does GSMS offer gifted and/or accelerated classes?**

If your child is currently served in the gifted program in elementary school, then your child will continue to be served in middle school. Gifted classes vary between grade levels. All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity to sign up for accelerated math if so desired. Starting the 2016-2017 school year, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be given the opportunity to get high school credit for Algebra, Physical Science, and Georgia Studies. In addition, 8<sup>th</sup> graders can choose to take Introduction to Agriculture, Beginning High School Band, or Introduction to Technology as a high school elective credit.

### **How will I find out who my child's teachers are next school year?**

GSMS will host an Open House before school starts next school year. At that time, you will meet your child's teachers. Be sure to check our school website and the Jones County News for the Open House date and time.

### **How does the school communicate with parents?**

First, be sure that you get your Infinite Campus login and password. On Infinite Campus, you can view your child's grades and attendance. You can also view teacher web pages. Go to <http://jones.gsms.schooldesk.net> and click on the 'Teacher' tab to search for your child's teachers websites. Teachers should update their pages frequently with assignments and test information. Also, your child will receive a progress report every 4 1/2 weeks and a report card every 9 weeks. These dates will be posted on the school calendar. Both must be signed by you and returned to school. Please do not hesitate to call or email your child's teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

### **What do I do if my child needs extra help in his/her classes?**

Talk with the school counselor or homeroom teacher about ways your child can get extra help at school. Although we do not have EIP (Early Intervention Program) at the middle school level, we do have RtI (Response to Intervention). If a student is struggling in a subject, then a plan can be developed through RtI to help the student. GSMS also has a redo policy, which allows students to redo a certain number of assignments each grading period. More information will be sent home about the redo policy at the beginning of the school year.

During part of the school year, we also have an after school program. Information regarding the after school program will be sent home with eligible students in the fall. Finally, some of our teachers offer tutoring either in the morning or after school. Speak with your child's teachers for more details.

**Which school supplies should I buy for my child?**

A school supply list for 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be sent home with your child before the end of this school year. If you do not receive one, the list will be available in the GSMS front office and online. A planner can help students keep track of homework assignments and can help your student get into the habit of writing down assignments. Using a planner to keep track of homework is a great habit to develop and is useful throughout middle school, high school and college. Planners are offered by the school at the beginning of the school year for a small fee.

**Will my child have a locker?** Lockers are offered for a fee. Students will be given time at the beginning of the year to practice with locks. Book bags with wheels are not allowed because it won't fit in the locker and it scuffs up floors.

**What is the make-up work policy?**

Students are generally given 3 days to make up one absent day.

**How often will my child have homework?**

Students generally have math homework 3 nights a week. Students are also encouraged to read for 30 minutes each night. Each subject also has projects and tests that are assigned throughout the year.

**What is the attendance policy?**

Jones County has the same attendance policy for all grade levels. If your child is out sick, please provide a parent note or doctor's excuse to your child's homeroom teacher within 2 days of your child returning to school. The current Jones County Schools Attendance Policy is under revision. Please look for more information regarding attendance at the beginning of next school year.

**Does GSMS have a school-wide behavior plan?**

Next school year (2016-2017), GSMS will implement PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports). The elementary schools have already implemented PBIS and your child should be familiar with how the program works. More information about PBIS will be set home at the beginning of the school year.

**What is the tardy policy?**

Homeroom starts at 7:45. Students are considered tardy after 7:55. We ask that a parent walk in with the student to sign them in after 7:55. Please note that if a student accumulates 5 or more tardies, then he/she may be sent to in-school suspension. GSMS tends to have A LOT of car riders, so if you plan on bringing your child to school, please allow extra time in the mornings.

**Do the middle schools offer clubs and sports?**

Several clubs are offered: Beta Club, FBLA, GSMS Ambassadors, Pinterest Club, 4-H, Youth Leadership Club, Scrabble Club, Art/Mural Club, Disc Golf Club, Strategic Activities Club, FCA, Reading Bowl, Quiz Bowl and Glee Club, just to name a few. This past school year, clubs met

during school hours the last Friday of each month. Students will be given the opportunity to sign up for clubs at the beginning of the school year. Sports offered are football (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders only), baseball, girls' fast-pitch softball, basketball, golf, cheerleading, wrestling, soccer and cross country.

**Do I need to have my child's vaccines updated? YES!** Please be sure to provide the school with an updated shot record.

**The following questions were answered by 2016**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade GSMS Ambassadors.**

**What do you like best about middle school?**

- The thing I like best about middle school are all the amazing friendships that I have made. Not only are there many formats at which we can meet peers (like sports, pep rallies, and break), but the people here are very friendly.
- I like that the teachers are warm and welcoming.
- We have more freedom and choices.
- I like lunch, PE, weight lifting, and sports.
- I like break, connections, lunch, and science.
- Being able to meet new people from the other elementary schools and being able to go to sporting events.
- I like that you get to take field trips, visit the concession stand, and make new friends.
- I love field day!
- I like the good behavior celebrations, BYOD, PE, break time, lunch and sports.
- I like club days and that you get to use your phone more!
- The best thing to me about middle school is break because you get to interact with your friends without getting in trouble.
- What I like best about middle school is that you get to meet a lot of new people. Also, you get to have fun connection classes.
- What I like about middle school is how some of the teachers push you enough to where you will get it. Also, having different pep rallies for fall and winter sports.

**What are some “Words of Wisdom” you’d like to share with 5<sup>th</sup> graders about middle school?**

- Keep a positive attitude about everything. Don’t close yourself off to great opportunities.
- Create study habits, do your work now and not later, create priorities, and have some fun! Be sure to join a club or sport.
- Make every day extraordinary, because you only live that day once!
- The teachers just want you to get your work done and then you can have fun!
- Middle school is a little stricter than elementary school.
- Try your best in school!
- Middle school seems intimidating, but if you work hard it’s not that bad!
- Remember to respect your teachers and do your work. I cannot stress how much your grades matter. Just enjoy it, because it goes by way too fast!
- Follow directions and don’t ask a lot of random questions.
- Be yourself and have fun!
- STUDY! STUDY!
- Learn to manage your time. Take up a sport. Do your homework. Don’t spread rumors. Make and keep “good” friends. Don’t participate in drama. Stay in dress code.
- Always be prepared for class.
- If you are nice to the teachers, they are nice to you.
- Step up to the challenges, or you will regret that you didn’t do it.
- Always behave, treat others the way you want to be treated, and study!
- HAVE FUN!

