

August Newsletter: Key Dates, Notes & Reminders



Grizzly Gazette

AUGUST 15, 2025



Dear GIS Families,

We are thrilled to have our students back on campus and to see the year off to such a strong start. Every year brings with it fresh opportunities to grow, connect, and make a lasting impact on our students. I know the passion, creativity, and dedication our team brings to GIS, and I am confident that together we will continue to build an inspiring and supportive environment where all students can thrive.

This year brings several exciting developments. We have added another 5th grade classroom to meet the needs of our growing student body, and increment one of our construction project is nearly complete. Four beautiful new classrooms are now open, along with updated student and staff bathrooms and a brand-new track. The grass is growing on our new field, and we anticipate it will be ready for use in November. Looking ahead, we are excited to begin construction on two new TK classrooms, which should be completed in the first half of this school year. We are also proud to share that GIS has once again been recognized as a *Capturing Kids' Hearts* National Showcase School, reflecting our ongoing commitment to centering positive relationships in all that we do.

It's going to be a fantastic year filled with learning, growth, and connection, and we are so grateful to partner with you in making it possible.

Michael Maita

Principal

Gateway International School

! Reminder: Late Arrival Procedures

Classroom instruction starts promptly at 8:30 a.m., and all students are expected to be in their classrooms by then, as attendance is taken immediately. If your child arrives after 8:30, the main gate will be closed, and you will need to enter through the front office. At the office, you must sign your child in using the Late Arrival book, pick up a Late Slip from the attendance clerk, and make sure your child brings that slip to their teacher to be marked present. This process helps keep attendance records accurate and avoids disrupting the learning environment.

We understand that some parents have expressed concern about the front gate being closed at 8:30 a.m. Please note that this is not a new policy—school has always started at 8:30 sharp. Closing the gate at 8:30 supports our goal of maintaining a consistent, focused learning environment from the very start of the day.

Please stay informed by reading the **Parent-Student Handbook**, watching the **video guide available on our school's YouTube channel**, and checking your **ParentSquare messages regularly**. These resources provide clear guidance on school routines, expectations, and policies. We rely on our communication platforms to keep everyone informed efficiently and equally.

For parents of Kindergarten through 2nd grade students, please note that young children often have difficulty completing the sign-in information themselves. To help speed up the process and avoid backups in the office, we ask that a parent come inside with their child and sign them in personally. This ensures everything is done correctly and your child can get to class quickly.

Please remember to park in a proper spot and avoid blocking the driveway or leaving your car unattended. If your child is late because of a doctor's appointment, bring the doctor's note and give it to the attendance clerk when signing in.

Thank you for helping us keep our morning routine safe, smooth, and on time!

! Early Dismissal Procedure Reminder

We'd like to take a moment to revisit and clarify our dismissal procedures. As the school year continues, it's important that all families follow the established routines to ensure a smooth, safe, and efficient process for students, staff, and parents alike.

Dismissal is a coordinated effort — teachers are helping students pack up and guiding them to the appropriate areas; bus riders are escorted to their lines; ASP paras lead students to supper; and other campus supports move to their assigned dismissal gates. To keep this process organized, we need everyone's cooperation.

Please take note of the following important reminders:

- If your child **will not be riding the bus or attending ASP** on a given day, **you must notify the front office no later than 2:30 PM.** We encourage you to call as early as possible to avoid confusion during the busy dismissal time.
- Students who are **not riding the bus or staying in ASP** will be dismissed through their **assigned dismissal gates.**
- Gate assignments are as follows:
 - **Front/Morse Gate:** Families with last names A–M
 - **Northrop Gate:** Families with last names N–Z
 - **K Gate:** Kindergarten students and their siblings

Following these procedures helps keep our dismissal process safe, timely, and orderly. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in making our school a safe and efficient place for all.

Volunteer Parent Workshop - August 28th, 8:40-9:40am

You're invited to our **Parent Volunteer Workshop** to prepare for a rewarding volunteer experience at our school. We will cover important topics such as:

- Behavior expectations during field trips
- Guidelines for supervising on buses
- Appropriate conduct in classrooms
- Safety protocols and communication tips

Please see the flyers below for detailed information on the date, time, and available volunteer opportunities. Your involvement makes a big difference—we look forward to seeing you!



gs GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW *Workshop*

Come learn how you can get involved and make a difference in our school community! This session will provide an overview of what's required to volunteer, including important guidelines and opportunities to participate in school life. Whether you're new or returning, it's a great chance to ask questions, connect with staff, and take the first step toward getting involved.

- Crossing Guard
- Recess/Lunchtime
- Field Trips
- School Events
- and more...
- Morning Drop-off Duty
- Teacher Assistant
- Cafeteria
- Playground Assistant

School Policies
We'll review the essential guidelines all volunteers must follow, including safety protocols, confidentiality rules, and behavior expectations while on campus.

Ways to Volunteer
Discover the variety of volunteer opportunities available, from assisting in classrooms and organizing events to helping in the library or on field trips - there's something for everyone!

Thursday, August 28th * 8:40-9:40AM

INQUIRY CENTER

Contact Us * 916-286-1985 * gis@gisccharter.org



FUEL THE FUTURE - VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL!

- RECESS TIME**
Helps monitor play areas to ensure fun, inclusive, and safe interactions among students.
- SCHOOL EVENTS**
Brings school spirit to life by helping organize and run fun, memorable events for students and families.
- CROSSING GUARD**
Provides a safe environment for students as they arrive and leave school.
- MORNING DROP-OFF**
Keeps drop-off zones safe and efficient so students start their day smoothly.
- TEACHER ASSISTANT**
Supports learning by assisting students, preparing materials, and freeing up teacher time.
- FIELD TRIPS**
Ensures student safety and supervision off-campus while enriching learning experiences.
- SCHOOL CAFETERIA**
Supports a positive lunch environment through the serving and clean-up help.

NEED HELP? CALL OR TEXT 916-225-7095

Stay Connected: Watch Our GIS School Life Tutorials!



We are excited to invite you to follow our school's [YouTube channel](#) and explore the playlist **"Welcome to The GIS Connection: Navigating School Life Together!"**

This tutorial series covers important topics like arrival and dismissal procedures, gate safety, and more—designed to keep you informed, supported, and ready to thrive at GIS.

Let's navigate school life together—please subscribe and watch the videos at your convenience!

Celebrating National Multicultural Heritage Month August 15 – September 15

At our school, we are proud to be a multicultural community where diverse traditions, cultures, and backgrounds are celebrated and valued. In recognition of **National Multicultural Heritage Month**, we invite all of our families to join us in honoring the rich cultural heritage that makes our school so special.

Here's how you can participate:

We will be highlighting different traditions and cultural quotes throughout the month.

We welcome you to share:

- **Your favorite traditional dishes or family recipes**
- **Photos of your children or family in traditional clothing**
- **Short explanations (1–2 sentences)** about your family's cultural traditions or special celebrations

Please send your contributions to **Ms. Svitlana by email**

(svitlana.vlasova@gcccharters.org) by **August 31**. All submissions will be featured on our **Multicultural Bulletin Boards** in the MPR for the whole community to enjoy.

Let's come together to celebrate the diversity that makes our school unique!

School Lunch Menu App



We previously shared that school lunch menus are typically accessible online through the WebMenu app. However, some families have reported issues with accessing the menu.

Our lunches are provided by Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD), whose schools are scheduled to start next week. As a result, the lunch menus may not yet be fully updated or available in the app.

We've reached out to TRUSD to address the issue and are currently awaiting their response.

In the meantime, a printed copy of the lunch menu is posted on the front office window, and we've also attached an image of the menu here for your convenience.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Heart & Sole Registration Now Open!



We're excited to announce that registration for **Heart & Sole** is now open for **6th–8th grade girls**! This program is a wonderful opportunity for students to build confidence, strengthen friendships, and stay active in a fun, supportive environment.

- **Practice Schedule:** Mondays & Wednesdays | 3:30–4:30 PM
- **Season Dates:** September 15 – November 12
- **Coaches:** Ms. Rhodes and Ms. Martin

Encourage your student to join the team and be part of something empowering! For more information or to register, please contact the front office or reach out to one of the coaches directly.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Contact us

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gis@gcccharters.org



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916-286-1985



*Wishing you a day full of curiosity,
kindness, and courage — the IB way*