



CARMEL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 20, 2018

JOHN PISCITELLA
Principal

Dear Fifth Grade Parent/Guardians:

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the days of summer. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we would like to welcome you to George Fischer Middle School. At GFMS, we value the middle school experience and recognize the apprehension that you and/or your child might be feeling. Please know that all of our staff, and especially our fifth grade teachers, are prepared to handle each situation. To this end, we will begin the year with a special orientation for our fifth grade students on **Wednesday, August 29th**. This is a great opportunity for your children to come in and meet their teachers and acclimate themselves to the building.

Your child will be picked up at their regular bus stop two hours later than the regular pick-up time (simulating a 2-hour delay). Please make sure that you check the mail for the transportation assignment card that will be forthcoming. Orientation will run from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (see reverse side). The students will be transported home on their regular buses once all of the children are properly loaded. Please plan on picking them up from the bus stop accordingly. **Please do not drive your child to school during orientation day as it is imperative that they learn their bus run.** If you have any questions about bus pick-up time, please call the CCSD Transportation Office at 845-225-3200. They will certainly be able to help you. We look forward to meeting your child on orientation day. **The first official day of school is Tuesday, September 4th**. You are also invited to take a self-guided tour of GFMS from **9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., August 20th through August 23rd**.

Your 2018-19 schedule will be available on the CCSD Home Access Center (HAC), our online parent-teacher-student portal after **2:00 PM on August 24th**. The HAC link can be found on the Carmel Central School District homepage (www.carmelschools.org). Log-in with the username and password that was mailed to you. If you have any questions about HAC, please contact Denise Douchkoff at ddouchko@carmelschools.org or call 845-878-2094, ext. 282. (*See reverse side for a brief description of a 6-day rotation*).

Remember to have your child complete their summer reading assignment prior to the first day of school. The reading assignments may be accessed from the GFMS web page (Use this link: http://gfms.carmelschools.org/student_resources_summer_reading). All information and forms can be found here, and we are requesting these be returned to your child's ELA teacher the first week of school.

Enjoy your summer and make every effort to attend our program on **August 29th**. If your child cannot attend, we will see him/her on **September 4th** for the first day of school. The faculty and staff are here to help your child be successful, learn important skills, and enjoy their years at the middle school.

Respectfully,

John Piscitella
Principal, George Fischer Middle School



Cultivating Opportunities

Fifth Grade Orientation 2018



Wednesday, August 29th

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Welcome Back to 2018-2019 School Year!

Brief overview of the day

9:50 AM	Students arriving on the buses are greeted by Peer Leaders and Staff
9:50-10:00	Students are guided by Peer Leaders to be seated in teams in the auditorium
10:00-10:05	A general welcome assembly by building administrators and teachers
10:05-10:45	Presentation by the Special Area Teachers and what they will be doing in their classes (P.E./Health, Art, Music, Technology)
10:45-10:55	Students move with their teams to their 1 st period classes
10:55	Begin room/team orientation with Grade 5 Teachers
11:45	Students will be dismissed to the buses.
12:00 noon	Buses dismissed to the after school drop-off points.

Basics of the 6-day Rotation

- Think of this schedule in terms of "odd" (1-3-5) and "even" (2-4-6) days to assist in understanding
- Most (95%) of classes run either every day (1-6) or every *other* day (odd-even), so if there are exceptions to that, those are the only ones that will require some memorization. *(For example, a student may have Orchestra on Days 1, 2, 3, 5 and Chorus on Days 4 and 6, therefore Day 2 is the exception.)*
- In time, the 6-Day Rotation will allow us to personalize a child's schedule to meet their needs in a more precise way.
- If you have questions or apprehension about the 6-Day Cycle, please see your guidance counselor or Grade Level Administrator.