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## Welcome Back, Middle School Families

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August 12, 2025

Dear Middle School Families,

The excitement for the 2025-2026 school year is palpable at Green Hedges. We have several new initiatives this school year, including a new social-emotional learning curriculum called the *Positivity Project* that will have our students examining a new character trait each week. To put those character traits into action, we will increase our community engagement to include schoolwide programming on food insecurity and social action. Additionally, we are implementing a new standardized assessment, NWEA-MAP, that is adaptable, so we can get a more complete understanding of our students' strengths and areas of growth. Combining these fresh initiatives with the many wonderful traditions that Green Hedges cherishes, we know this will be an incredible school year!

I suspect that some of you are content to bask in the last glorious weeks of summer, but others of you are already preparing for the hustle and bustle of the new school year. For all of you planners, you will find important information concerning your child's upcoming Middle School year.

- **The Middle School Ice Cream Social** will be held on **Thursday, August 21, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.** at **Bruster's Real Ice Cream (237 Maple Ave E)**. This event is an opportunity for new students, returning students, and families to meet and connect with each other in an enjoyable, relaxing way. The school will provide one scoop of ice cream per Middle School student served in either a cup or a cone. I plan to attend and look forward to meeting many of you that day.
- **Welcome Back Conferences** will take place on **Tuesday, September 2**, and **Wednesday, September 3**, with your child's advisor. Advisory assignments are [here](#), and the directions to sign-up can be found [here](#). Please follow the sign-up link for a conference [here](#).
- **Orientation for all Middle School students** will take place on **Tuesday, September 2**. Your child's supplies and class schedule will be distributed during orientation. All students are expected to wear their school uniforms for the Orientation Day. **Grade 6 and New Student Orientation** will take place from **8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Orientation for **all other Middle School students** is from **9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**
- **Middle School Overnight Retreat**, a GHS tradition, will take place beginning on the first day of school, **Thursday, September 4**, and **continue through Friday, September 5**. This year, the students will travel to the **Sandy Hill Camp & Retreat Center**. Students will participate in group activities and challenges that build teamwork, interpersonal skills, responsibility, communication, leadership, and outdoor-living skills. Participation in this overnight program is a required component of the curriculum. **Please complete your student's [Permission Slip](#) and the [Sandy Hill Consent Agreement](#) and email to Registrar Wanda Green at [wgreen@greenhedges.org](mailto:wgreen@greenhedges.org). You can find a [Packing List](#) [here](#) and [Schedule](#) [here](#).**
- **The First Day of School** for Middle School students will be on **Monday, September 8**, after the Middle School Overnight Retreat. The Middle School day begins at 8:15 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. You may drop off your child as early as 7:45 a.m. and pick up by 3:45 p.m.
- **Peter A. Barrett's Installation Ceremony** will take place on **Monday, September 15, at 8:15 a.m.** in the Green Hedges M.P.R. We encourage you to join as we install our Interim Head of School for the 2025-2026 school year.
- **The GHS Spring Break Trip** is scheduled for March 30-April 3, 2026, to Costa Rica. Mark your calendars for an Information Session on Friday, September 19. More information to follow!

- **Middle School Back-to-School Night** for parents and guardians is scheduled for **Thursday, September 18, from 6:00-8:30 p.m.** This is an adult-only event, so please secure your sitters early!
- **Back-to-School Happy Hour** for parents and guardians is scheduled for **Thursday, September 25, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Join us for a brew and a chance to connect as a community at Caboose Commons in Mosaic. This is an adult-only event, so please secure your sitters early!
- Music and band teacher **Phill Harris** will be conducting **Middle School Band** classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. GHS Jazz Band, also led by Mr. Harris, is available as an “elective” to interested students. For students who are interested, there will be a meeting in the M.P.R. on **Tuesday, September 9, at 7:45 a.m.** Participation in all concerts is required and included in final grades.
- **Interscholastic sports** remain an important part of the Middle School experience. All Middle School students are required to participate in fall athletics, as practices will be held during the school day in lieu of PE classes. This year, we're excited to have Grade 5 joining our Middle School athletics. Students will choose between soccer and cross-country in the fall. Signups will take place at Middle School Orientation. Please reach out to PE teacher and Athletic Coordinator **Rendell Williams** with further questions. Coach Williams will provide more information at the beginning of the school year.
- **Two important Middle School social events** to look forward to this year are the **Fall Fest on Friday, October 3**, after school, and the **Winter Dance on Friday, February 21**, in the evening.
- **The Annual Grade 7 Secondary School Meeting** is scheduled for the morning of **Friday, December 5**. This session launches the formal process of selecting the appropriate secondary schools for Grade 8 students upon their graduation from GHS in June 2027. All Grade 7 students and parents and guardians must attend this important meeting. Please mark your calendar.

### Extended Day 2025 - 2026

Extended Day is our after-school program that operates from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for students in Montessori 3 & 4 Full Day up to Grade 8. This program is responsive to the varying tempo of the afternoon, and thus offers a broad range of activities including a supervised study hall, indoor/outdoor play, and the opportunity to join clubs for an additional price. You may sign up for anywhere from 1-5 days per week.

**For the 2025-2026 school year, Extended Day will begin on:**

- Friday, September 5, for Montessori Kindergarten - Grade 8 students

The pricing for the school year is as follows:

**3 days or less: \$3,666**

**4-5 days: \$5,434**

**Drop-In rate: \$65 per day**

For those families who would like to enroll their child(ren) in our Extended Day program this fall, we ask that you please complete the form below, which will serve as your contract for the Extended Day program. Please complete a separate form below for each child in your household. Parents are asked to email Extended Day Director Ashlea Howard at [ahoward@greenhedges.org](mailto:ahoward@greenhedges.org), with any questions or requests.

Clearly, there is plenty to look forward to this year! But first, please enjoy the remainder of the summer as the school year promises to be a busy one! Don't forget to complete the **Middle School summer enrichment work** requirements prior to the first day of school. See you soon!

Warmest regards,



Aaron Cahn  
Interim Assistant Head of School, Middle School Head & Middle School Learning Specialist

***Mission***

***We inspire young people of talent and promise to develop clear values, a desire for wisdom, and an appreciation for all endeavors that broaden the mind and enlighten the spirit.***

***Read more about our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives [here](#).***

Green Hedges School | 415 Windover Ave. NW | Vienna, VA 22180 US

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