



FAQs about Gildersleeve Middle School



<http://gildersleeve.nn.k12.va.us>

What time can I drop my child off at school in the mornings?

Students are not to be dropped off before 7:55 am. This is for the safety of our students due to no supervision before that time. Students are to wait in the designated area until released to go to class. Student Hours: **8:15 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.**

How do I contact my child's teachers?

You may contact teachers by calling the school at 591-4862 or emailing teachers directly. Email addresses can be found on the Gildersleeve Middle School website, <http://gildersleeve.nn.k12.va.us/>.

What if I have called and have gotten no response from the teacher?

You can expect a teacher to return your call or email within 2 school days. If you do not receive an answer from the teacher within that time, call the appropriate assistant principal for help in contacting that teacher.

My child says that he/she is on a "team". What does that mean and how do I know what they are working on?

A team consists of the core subject teachers (English, Math, Social Studies, and Science), and the students in their classes. Team teachers work together to make sure that the students on their team get consistent and effective instruction across all subjects.

My child is very worried about having a locker, what can I do to ease this fear? Lockers are new to rising 6th graders and it is a concern for them. Please assure them that there will be plenty of time during locker breaks. Time does become an issue if your student likes to visit among friends and not taking care of business at the locker. You can also have your child practice opening a lock at home.

What do I do if my child is absent?

Students must have a note from a parent or guardian explaining any absence or tardy. Absences and tardies cannot be excused over the phone. Absences and tardies can negatively affect a student's overall performance in school. Unexcused absences are dealt with by the school administrators and counselors but may be referred to outside agencies if excessive. Please help avoid this situation by sending in notes in a timely manner.

How do I get the homework that my child missed when he/she was absent?

If a student is absent, the student may find out what homework was missed by calling a friend, parent assistant or emailing the teacher. If a parent would like to pick up assignments and homework from the school, they can call the school office 591-4862 to make sure the items are ready to be collected. The parent must give the school 24 hours to gather the materials for pickup.

What do I do if my child must be out of school for an extended period of time?

If at all possible, a parent or guardian should send a note ahead of time to gain approval for up to 5 days of absences to be excused. The note should state the dates the student will be absent and the reason for the absence. A form for your convenience is available in the office. If the period of time of absence needs to be extended for any reason, parents should make every effort to contact the school, informing the office of the new date that the child will return.

What if my child's teacher wants to set up a parent/teacher conference but I don't feel comfortable talking to teachers?

Repeat after me: "I have the right (and the right stuff) to help my kids learn". Research shows that the support and encouragement you give at home is a more important influence on student success than whether you are rich or poor, whether you went to college or didn't finish high school. We encourage supporting your child's education.

What do I do if I feel that the parent/teacher conference was not satisfactory?

If you feel that a conference has been unsatisfactory for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher or guidance counselor again either through a note, email, or phone call, to clarify any points that may have been left unresolved. If the issue has not been settled by repeated contact, feel free to call the appropriate assistant principal for help in the matter.

My child forgot something (lunch money, agenda book, homework, project, etc.). May I bring it to her/him?

Of course! Parents should bring the item(s) to the office. The student will be called to the office to pick up the item(s).

My child is being bullied! What do I do?

Gildersleeve takes bullying issues *very* seriously. As soon as you suspect that your child is being bullied, contact the appropriate assistant principal, guidance counselor or teacher. If your child will not talk to you about the bullying or will not let you contact the school, please tell your child that we can not help him/her if we are not aware of the problem. Gildersleeve has a hotline to report bullying: **283-7873**. Bullying is NOT tolerated at any Newport News school.

What if my child is having trouble on the bus?

Any discipline issues on the bus should be reported immediately to the school. It is the bus driver's responsibility to handle any immediate situations, which will then be turned over to the school's bus coordinator who handles safety and other issues that arise on the bus. Students who are discipline problems may be suspended either from the bus or from school depending on the offense.

May my child ride another bus home with a friend?

A student may ride a bus other than his/her regular bus only if that change has been approved in advance by the school office. The student will bring a note from a parent/guardian to the main office and a bus pass is given to the student to hand to the bus driver. We do not accept phone call requests. If there is an emergency during the school day, you can contact the grade level guidance counselor to make arrangements for the student to ride home with a friend.

My child has an appointment how do I pick him/her up from school?

A note sent by a parent/guardian stating what time the student is going to be picked up is requested. The student will bring the note to the office in the morning and a dismissal pass is given to him/her with the time stated for pick-up. The student will give this pass to the teacher and will be permitted to leave class to come down to the office for check-out. Please **bring ID** with you when coming into school to sign your child out.

What if we have a family emergency and we need to pick up our child during school hours?

Come into the main office **with ID** and your child will be called down to the office for dismissal. Please do not call ahead of time, **for the safety of our students we do not take phone call requests.**

Why is 2:40pm the cut off time for calling down students to the office?

"Learning continues until the end of the school day." We have a high volume of parents coming at the end of the school day to pick up students. We try our best to keep classroom interruptions down to a minimum for teachers and student learning time. The last bell of the day rings at 2:50pm and students return to homerooms. The noise level is very high at this time and they can not hear us calling into rooms looking for students. **We encourage notes** for dismissal from parents/guardians so your student will be in the office waiting for you.

Can my child have a cell phone at school?

Yes. The NNPS guidelines for the use of cellular phones and two-way communication devices are designed to ensure that the use of these items does not interfere with teaching and learning, or with maintaining a safe and orderly environment during the school day.

* **From the start of the instruction day (which begins at the 1st warning bell) through dismissal, cell phones are turned off and not used for text messaging, taking pictures or direct connection two-way communication unless the use is directed or expressly permitted by a school official.**

* **Middle school students are permitted to use cell phones after school dismissal on school board property. Guidelines are listed on page 15 of the Parent and Student Handbook.**

What time is dismissal?

The 1st bell rings at 2:50 for students to return to their homerooms and prepare for dismissal. The dismissal bell rings at 2:55 each day.