



BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION 2021/2022

First Days of School

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Students will attend Convocation, review the GDS Honor Code, receive Family Handbook updates, and hear from the student body president. We will not have Student Orientation on campus this year.

OnCampus

OnCampus will continue as our student learning management system again this year. Please review the attached FAQs handout for details on logging in to your account, completing necessary forms, and opt-in to receive notifications. If you have any questions about OnCampus, please contact John Nussbaumer at jnussbaumer@gastonday.org.

Schedule Changes

Upper School students may request schedule changes with Kristy Smith through **Tuesday, August 31**. Requests may be made via email at ksmith@gastonday.org. Because class space is limited, not all requests can be accommodated.

Family Handbook

An updated copy of the Family Handbook is now available on OnCampus under "Resources." Several policies have been modified to help promote health and safety on campus this year. Policy changes are highlighted and will remain highlighted for your review until September 15. I encourage you to review this information at your convenience. Significant policy changes will also be reviewed with students on our first day of school.

Dress Code

Enclosed is information on the Upper School student dress code. It is also available in the dress code section of the Family Handbook available on OnCampus under "Resources."

Virtual School Store

Are you looking for new Gaston Day School attire to wear to school? The virtual school stores will open on August 16 and [can be accessed here](#).

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program

All students entering 9th through 12th grades are required to provide their own devices to use at school daily. Please see the attached document for information on device requirements.

Summer Reading

The summer reading list is available on OnCampus under "Resources" then "Student Resources," and it is also available under "Groups" then "Parents Grade ____." If you have questions about your student's summer reading, please contact Erin Lekavich, English Department Chair, at elekavich@gastonday.org.

Attendance

If your child misses school for any reason, please complete the [online student attendance form](#). This form should be used to notify the school about your student's absence. This link is also available on OnCampus under "Resources" then "Student Resources," and it is also available under "Groups" then "Parents Grade ____."

Parking Lot Procedures

All Upper School students must be dropped off and picked up in the PKW parking lot. The morning and afternoon pick-up lines are double. For parents using the pick-up line, Ms. Oden will signal you to pull around when it's safe;

please wait to make eye contact and exchange thumbs up with her before progressing forward. An administrator will be at the entrance of the parking lot to direct you. Students that plan to drive to campus must complete a permission form on OnCampus and park in their assigned parking spot.

New Student/Parent Orientation

All new students/parents are invited to come to campus on **Friday, August 13 at 9:00 am** to meet their teachers, get a campus tour, and ask any questions about GDS. Students/parents should plan to meet in the lobby of the PKW and break into groups from there. The event will last approximately 90 minutes.

Upper School Parent Night

Upper School Parent Night will be on **Wednesday, August 25, at 6:30 pm**. This event will provide parents with the opportunity to meet their student's teachers and learn about the courses their students will take this year. Additional information about Upper School Parent Night will be sent out later this month.

Messages From Home

During the school day, a teacher's primary responsibility is academic instruction and student safety. Teachers periodically check their email and voice mailbox and are expected to return messages within 48 hours, or in the case of weekends or holidays, by the end of the next two business days. Faculty, staff, and administration are not expected to check or respond to emails outside of regular work hours. In case of an emergency that requires immediate attention, please contact the Main Office to get a message to your student's teacher or division head.