

**George Washington Middle School Parent Teacher Association
(GWMS PTA)
Info for New Parents**

1. General Contact Information for GWMS

- a. 1005 Mt Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301
- b. (703) 706-4500
- c. <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/domain/10>
- d. Email school staff: georgewashington@acps.k12.va.us

2. GWMS Leadership

- a. Dr. Jesse Mazur - Principal - jesse.mazur@acps.k12.va.us
- b. Academic Grade Level Principals
 - i. Mr. Lance Harrell - 6th Grade - lance.harrell@acps.k12.va.us
 - ii. Ms. Jeanette Vinson - 7th Grade - jeanette.vinson@acps.k12.va.us
 - iii. Ms. Aisha Ortiz - 8th Grade - aisha.ortiz@acps.k12.va.us
- c. Mr. Gregory Forbes - Director of Counseling - gregory.forbes@acps.k12.va.us
- d. Nurse Mertsock - shannon.mertsock@acps.k12.va.us

3. Social Media & Website Platforms Dedicated to GWMS Parents

- a. GWMS PTA
 - i. Web: Get information from the PTA Town Crier now!
<https://gwmspta.digitalpto.com/> - Weekly Town Crier also posted on FB page; sign up for emails.
 - ii. Email: gwmspta@gmail.com
 - iii. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: @GWMSPTA
Meetings are conducted on Zoom and live streamed/recorded.
- b. GWMS Music Boosters
 - i. Band Boosters
<https://www.facebook.com/George-Washington-Middle-School-Band-Boosters>
Email: gwbandoosters@gmail.com
 - ii. Friends of GWMS Orchestra: <https://www.facebook.com/GWFOTO>
 - iii. GWMS Choral Boosters: <https://www.facebook.com/gwmschorus>
- c. Facebook Group: "Parents and community of George Washington Middle School - ACPS": <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1016645478367573>



- d. GWMS Official
 - i. Facebook: @GWMSAlexandria
 - ii. Instagram and Twitter: @GWMSPrexies

4. Join the PTA! What does the PTA do?

- a. Student Support
 - Emergency Family Fund
 - Positive Behavior and Support (PBIS) Fund
 - Awards for Competitions (Reflections, Spelling Bee, National History Day, etc)
 - Grade Socials / End of Year Parties / 8th Grade Promotion
- b. Teacher / Staff Appreciation
 - Teacher Mini-Grants
 - Welcome Back Breakfast in August
 - Monthly Staff Coffee and Breakfast
 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- c. Parent Support and Appreciation
 - Monthly Special Topic Speakers (see below)
 - PTA rep coordination with ACPS Parent Liaisons
 - Honor Roll of Donors
 - Honor Roll of Volunteers
 - Example presentations from membership meetings:
 - Sept: Counseling Team and Principal presentations on re-opening, new block schedule, health & safety, and SEAL time
 - Oct: School Safety Committee Report: COVID Mitigation and Safe Routes to School
 - Nov: Representatives from Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) and Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria
 - Dec: Coordinator of the Special Education Parent Resource Center (PRC)

and Jessica Salvador, Dean of Students - PBIS

Jan: Principal's Q&A on school policies regarding COVID surge

Feb: Minnie Howard Academic Advising SY 2022-23 and Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

Mar: BeSMART Presentation - All ACPS parents invited to attend.

5. Quick Links for Parents

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| Helpdesk for ACPS Families | Helpdesk for ACPS Families |
| Open House Presentation | Open House Recording Open House PowerPoint -this is a copy of the presentation |
| Staff Contact Information | Staff Contact Information -all staff members Staff Contact By Team -elective teachers not included |
| ACPS Student Handbook | ACPS Student Handbook |
| GW Counseling Directory GW All SST Directory (Counselors, Psychologist, Nurse, SW) GWMS SST Canvas page | GW Counseling Directory GW SST Directory SST Canvas Page link |
| **NEW**Student Block Schedule | Student Block Schedule |
| ACPS Academic Calendar | ACPS Academic Calendar SY 2021-2022 |
| Internet Access | Request for Internet Access |
| Powerschool Parent Access (access to academic record, and parent CANVAS account) | Powerschool Parent Access |
| Power School & Canvas FAQ's | Power School and Canvas FAQ's |
| ACPS COVID-19 School Health and Related Guidelines | ACPS COVID-19 School Health and Related Guidelines |
| How to Complete Back to School Forms in PowerSchool | How to Complete Back to School Forms in PowerSchool |
| PowerSchool Parent Help Form | PowerSchool Parent Help Form |
| Guidance to Families of Students in Quarantine | Guidance to Families of Students in Quarantine |

GWMS at a glance (2021-2022):

School Facts and Structure

- 1,424 student attend G.W.
- Student Body Diversity
 - ? 38% White
 - ? 37% Hispanic
 - ? 18% African American
 - ? 7% other
- Complete State Accreditation in SOL tested areas
- Each grade level occupies its own space- 6th grade is on the 3rd floor
- Elective Wing (2nd floor) and Electives are 6th and 7th periods
- 6th graders eat lunch together
- GW is on a modified block schedule (A and B day) and Anchor period and Electives meets daily.
- Organized by 4 randomly assigned teams (6-1, 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4)
 - ? 1 Academic Principal per grade (travel)
 - ? 2 School Counselors (travel)