

# July/August 2011

**Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year at Golden West Middle School!  
We are looking forward to seeing students the first day of school on  
Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 8:45 a.m..**

Our goal and desire is to make this coming school year a successful one for our students and families. To help you get off to a great start, please take time to review these important informational items. They should help you prepare for the beginning of this school year. On behalf of our entire Golden West Middle School Staff, we look forward to seeing you here at Golden West and welcome your continued support. Our offices open on August 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Mrs. Jackie Tretten, Principal                      Mr. Gerald Braxton, Assistant Principal

**If a student is NEW to Golden West,  
New Student Orientation  
will be held on**

**Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

At 11:30 a.m., we will meet in the outside quad area behind the counseling office to present general school information. We will then collect emergency cards and distribute student schedules\* both in the Multi-Purpose and the Band Room depending upon your last name. Afterwards, students and their parents will have an opportunity to walk the campus and do a "run-through" of your child's schedule. This has been a great time in past years for students and parents to see the campus, ask questions, and get comfortable in planning for the first day of school. Staff members will have on a red GW t-shirt and can help you find the classrooms. We plan to have a hot dog lunch under the Red Top in the quad available for students and parents to enjoy provided by the Golden West ASB.

**Returning 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may pick up their class schedules on  
Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Bring your emergency card!)**

\*If you are unable to attend either day, student schedules may be picked up the morning of the first day of school in the counseling office.

## **\*Required Documentation and Records in Order to Receive a Class Schedule\***

The **White Emergency Card** enclosed in this mailing must be completed and returned in order to receive a student class schedule. It is very important that the school have as much emergency and contact information as possible. Extra forms are available from the school front office and counseling office. You should plan to turn in your emergency card in as you come to pick up a student schedule. The counseling office and main office will open on August 1<sup>st</sup> if you have any questions. The phone numbers are: 707-437-8244 and 707-437-8247.

### **If you have not already done so last year.....**

**Shot Records** must be up to date and filed at the school. This is a requirement of all students. All students are required to have completed the Hepatitis B Series and the Tdap booster shot. An up to date immunization record is to be on file with our Health Care Specialist. If you have not already done so, you may bring them to the school office or bring them to the orientation meeting in order to be able to pick up a student schedule.

**Proof of residency** was collected last Spring in April and May at the elementary schools and at GW. If you have not turned in that proof, your child will not be able to pick up their schedule. Our district requires a copy of one of the following: PG&E bill, Cable TV/Direct TV, Water bill, or Garbage bill.

Failure to have all of these items turned in before August 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> will result in extra time for both you and staff to complete registration and obtain a class schedule.

**Physical Education:** Clothes will be available for purchase during the first several weeks of school. A display of clothing for sizing will be available during our orientation depending upon delivery of inventory. Students are not required to purchase PE clothes with the Golden West logo on them. Any plain red sweat pants or shorts and a plain white tee-shirt will be acceptable. These can be purchased at various retail stores. We provide PE locks, but students will be responsible for their loss or damage. Information about locks and PE clothes will be reviewed during orientation, Back to School Night and in the PE classes once school starts. Write your child's name on items brought to school, especially PE clothing. PE classes do not dress out for several weeks in the beginning of the year as locks and lockers are assigned/distributed and students bring in or purchase clothing.

## Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:15 p.m.

Please plan to come and meet in a general meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. in the outside quad area of the campus. Classrooms will be open for short 10 minute classes beginning at 6:45 p.m. with a "bell schedule" format. You will go through your child's daily schedule of classes and teachers will provide an overview of their class and their specific expectations. We will also provide the **Home2School** on line grade book information to parents during the Language Arts class time at Back to School night. This allows students and parents' access to your child's attendance and grades through the internet. We must have accurate email and telephone information in our school data system for parent to be able to access the link. Please contact Travis Information Services for technical questions at [Home2School@travisusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Home2School@travisusd.k12.ca.us) For specific questions about your child's records or to update your telephone number or email address, please contact us at 707-437-8243.

**Student Planner:** Planners will be distributed to every student on the first day of school in their first period class. Planners are an essential part of home/school communication and are important for students to use to stay organized and keep track of their assignments and projects. In addition to the daily calendar segment, our planner has important information in the front section regarding student responsibilities as well as parent information and responsibilities. The back has our school calendar that lists upcoming events and includes all the Common Planning Days. Please review the Student Planner with your son/daughter when they bring it home those first days of school. The informational segment of the Student Planner is also available for review on the school website @ [www.travisusd.k12.ca.us/gwest](http://www.travisusd.k12.ca.us/gwest)

Our ***Character Counts!*** Program continues. For families new to Golden West, this program focuses on six pillars for character building. They are: **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.** You will see our Six Pillars of Character posters throughout our school encouraging these positive traits.

### **Bus Transportation to and/or from school for the 2011-2012 School Year**

Please note that this is the fifth year of the Travis Unified School District charging households for school bus transportation. If you would like to apply for a Bus Pass, please contact the transportation office at 707-437-8232. Information and applications are available at both our school website ([www.travisusd.k12.ca.us/gwest](http://www.travisusd.k12.ca.us/gwest)) and the District website ([www.travisusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.travisusd.k12.ca.us)). Assigned bus stops will be provided to you from the transportation office when you apply and are given your pass. Students should plan to be at their assigned bus stop by 8:00 a.m. on regular school days and 10:00 a.m. on Common Planning Days.

**Food Service:** Each student is set up with a meal account based on their eligibility for free, reduced or paid meals. Deposits to accounts can be made in advance in the Counseling Office. Payments made prior to 10:00 a.m. will be available for use that day. Payment by check is the best method. Students will have their own code (Pin Number) to use to access their own account. Your child's Pin Number is the Student Number listed on their schedule. On line Mealtime access is also available. More information will come home in the first day packet.

Prices this year at Golden West are:

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Milk</u>
Paid:	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$.60
Reduced:	\$.30	\$.40	

Please make sure that you have a positive balance on your meal account BEFORE school starts. Cash will not be accepted during lunch time for hot lunch. We have sandwich and healthy snack carts located outside near the Shop and in the cafeteria there are a variety of hot/cold items available for lunch and breakfast. The only venue that accepts cash at lunch is the snack cart.

## ***Character Counts!***

Six Pillars of Character

**Trustworthiness** *Respect* **Responsibility** *Fairness* **Caring** *Citizenship*

**General Student Supplies:** To start the first days of school we recommend bringing:

- A bag lunch or money for lunch (*lines are very long the first few days.*)
- A backpack or rolling backpack (we do **not** have student lockers—only PE/Band lockers.)
- A blue/black ink pen and a folder with some notebook paper in it.

Please keep in mind that each school department and class has various specific items that students will be asked to bring. During the first few days of school, teachers will distribute and review their specific program needs. If there is a need for some assistance in getting school materials, please contact Mrs. Tretten at 437-8247.

**School Attendance:** Students are expected to attend school on a regular basis as well as arrive to school and classes on time each day. Absences from school require a parent/guardian note or phone call to the attendance office within two days to be considered for designation as a legal absence.

**Our school attendance 24 hour message line is: 707-437-8243**

**Parent Teacher Student Association:** We hope you plan to support our PTSA. The middle school years are where your students need you more than ever. Please get involved in any way possible. PTSA membership will continue to be \$6.00 for the year. Our PTSA members have done remarkable things for our students and school in past years. This year we are making the call for new and returning parents to take leadership positions to continue the efforts of our site PTSA. Even if you can't volunteer time, please support your child by joining the PTSA. Contact the school office @ 707-437-8247 for more information regarding being part of this year's PTSA leadership team.

**Home2School Grade Book link, Golden West and Teacher Websites and District Websites:** All of these sites are available around the clock and can be very helpful references for grades, school and district programs, activities, schedules, planner information and general questions. We are working hard to keep our school website up to date and providing important and interesting information for student and parents. Some teachers have added their own website that can be accessed through the directory on our school website.

The District website is [www.travisusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.travisusd.k12.ca.us) and Golden West's website is [www.travisusd.k12.ca.us/gwest](http://www.travisusd.k12.ca.us/gwest).

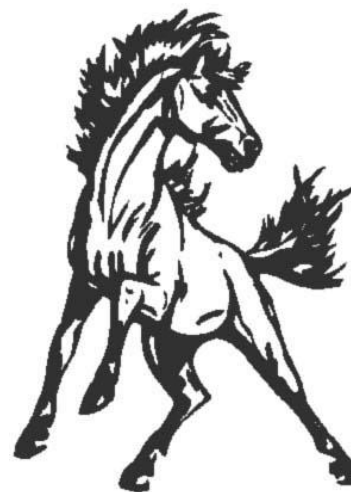
### **Ten Common Things Parents Tell Us They Wanted To Know:**

1. Common Planning days are usually the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month—Students start school at 10:30 a.m. on these days and need to be at the bus stop by 10:00 a.m. A school calendar will be in the first day packet, it is also on the back of their planner and on our website to use as reference.
2. Parent Conferences are twice a year, both in the morning and in the evening, in November and March—these are not individually scheduled appointments. Individual parent teacher conferences may be scheduled through your child's counselor.
3. Students earn A-F Grades on a quarter/semester basis with progress reports midway each quarter. The **Home2School** link gives you more up to date information your child's academic progress.
4. Progress reports/report cards/newsletters are sent home/hand carried with students—not mailed.
5. Physical Education classes meet everyday and students are expected to dress out according to guidelines. You do not have to purchase the clothes at school, but you may do so. Clothes will be on sale during the first weeks of school. Doctor's notes are required to excuse participation for an extended period of time.
6. Expect daily homework. Homework is included as a percentage of a student's grade.
7. Communication with staff by e-mail is common and useful especially with up to 6 different teachers. Some teachers will post homework and other class information on their website. Also check the **Home2School** link for grade book information. If you don't receive a reply from a teacher, please call us. Your email may have been caught in our "sticky" spam filter.
8. Students are expected to use their Student Planner daily. It is a resource for parents as well as students. Start the very first day and keep at it. Using rewards and consequences may be helpful to get student to buy-in to this useful organizational tool.
9. Regular daily attendance is a recipe to academic success and is the #1 funding source for our District. We use our automated system daily to call home with any absences. Make sure we have a good contact number for you.
10. Our school breakfast/lunch system is like the elementary program with some expanded menu offerings. We use the same pre-pay system and students are issued their own personal pin number. Lunch money needs to be turned in at the counseling office drop box by 10:00 a.m. if students want to access those funds that day for lunch.

**FOCUS ON ACADEMICS**

As always, our main focus is to develop, teach, and support the **Academic Progress of Students**. As we review the STAR scores and check grades, we will place students in support classes in areas of academic need. These interventions are in place to help students who may be candidates for retention in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or in danger of not meeting the standards for high school graduation and the state of California's High School Exit Exam.

We appreciate your support and involvement!



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