



GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Shelley (Petillo) Boten, Principal
Kalle Spear, Assistant Principal

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Dear Gateway Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Gateway Middle School! My name is Shelley (Petillo) Boten and I am excited and honored to be your principal. My mission over the next several years is to continue to serve the outstanding teachers, specialists, support staff, students and families in a place where each student will reach a high degree of success.

In the upcoming year, we are excited to continue Gateway's tradition as both a school of distinction and a high-achieving community of learners. At Gateway our mission is, in partnership with parents and the community, to provide a safe and collaborative learning environment that empowers lifelong learners to reach their full potential. This year, we have new and returning staff that are enthusiastic about learning. Here, we expect students to contribute positively to the climate of our school by demonstrating respect for the rights and responsibilities of others. It is our goal that children will realize their potential and capabilities to make active and valuable contributions to their families, community, and nation. At Gateway, it is our job to make sure that you graduate, *on-time*, from high school with every opportunity available to you. Because of this mission, we will work with you to help ensure that you have a world-class education that will prepare you for your future and be ready for college, career and life!

Part of my job is to help facilitate student learning; with the support of staff and families, each student can achieve great things. I am truly excited to continue in the great work here at Gateway, and am looking forward to meeting all of you in August at Orientation Activities.

The first day of school is **Wednesday, September 6th**. As the school year approaches, we want to make sure you have the information you need regarding orientation. Just like any time throughout the year, you may visit our Gateway website at <http://cms.everett.k12.wa.us/gateway> for ongoing updates and important information about our school.

Sixth Grade Orientation will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 28th

Please meet in the Commons at your assigned time.

- Last Name A-I: 1:00 PM
- Last Name J-R: 2:00 PM
- Last Name S-Z: 3:00 PM

Seventh Grade Orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 29th

Students new to Gateway ONLY: 9:00 AM in the Commons

Returning Students proceed to the gym at your assigned time:

- Last Name A-L: 9:30-10:00 AM
- Last Name M-Z: 10:00-11:00 AM

Eighth Grade Orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 29th

Students new to Gateway ONLY: 1:00 PM in the Commons

Returning Students proceed to the gym at your assigned time:

- All Alphabet, from 1:30-3:00 PM

At your orientation, you will have the opportunity to:

- Pick up class schedule
- Purchase Yearbook
- Pick up PE uniforms
- Take School Pictures (please dress appropriately)
- Purchase Gateway Planners (a personal organizer/day calendar with school policies)
- Deposit money in your child’s lunch account
- Gather information about the school, PTSA, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Picture retake day will be scheduled in October, specific date to be determined.

Below are the prices of items available for purchase at orientation:

*Student Planner	\$ 4.00		
*ASB Card, mandatory for sports and extracurricular activities participation	\$10.00	*PE shirt	\$6.00
School Pictures (prices vary per package)		*PE shorts	\$8.00
separate check		*Choir Fee (includes robe cleaning (8 th gr.) or t-shirt (7 th gr.))	\$10.00
*Yearbook/ optional	\$25.00	*UA Fee	\$5.00
PTSA <i>Guardian Wear</i> , (School spirit clothing/gear)	optional/variou s --separate check		

Debit/Credit Cards may be used at Orientation and purchases may be done at home using the “Pay Online” on our Website. If you are paying online at home, please bring your receipt with you to pick up your PE Uniform and Planner. You will not need to stand in line to pay, but may go directly to the PE Uniform/Planner table.

To pay fines and purchase * items listed above online please go to the Gateway Website and click on “pay online” under “Quicklinks.” If you have multiple students attending Gateway, you will need to make individual purchases for each student. Online payments open August 11th.

All outstanding fines will be collected at orientation.

If you are planning to write checks, please note that you will need separate checks at orientation if you are planning to purchase items:

- A check to Gateway Middle School for: ASB cards, yearbooks, PE uniforms, School Planner, and any outstanding fines.
- A separate check to Gateway Middle School for deposits to students’ cafeteria account
- A separate check to Gateway PTSA for membership and “*Guardian Wear*” available for purchase
- A separate check to *Dorian* (the photography studio) if you wish to purchase school photos

None of these are required on orientation day; however, this is a day we have items all centrally located. You can choose to pay for items later in the school year, as well.

Please return your Annual Health Form to our Health Room Station during your designated Orientations time.

Familiarizing Students with Key Policies

As a Gateway staff, we feel it is important for students and parents to become familiar with several key student policies that are meant to help promote a more optimal learning environment.

Lockers & Backpacks: We assign and expect every student to use a locker. These lockers are assigned through the block classes. Students are also expected to keep their backpacks in lockers throughout the day mainly to:

- avoid classroom, lunchroom, and hallway congestion and improve safety;
- secure personal belongings and minimize theft risk;
- free students of having to carry heavy items throughout the day;

Every middle school in our district disallows backpacks in the classroom for similar reasons. We find that using lockers efficiently *actually decreases* the likelihood of students being tardy to class. Due to increased enrollment and limited locker space, all of our 6th grade students will need to share a locker; many 7th and 8th grade students will be required to share a locker as well.

Cell phones & Electronics: Cell phones should only be used before and after school outside the building. As is the case in many secondary schools, text messaging and other communications (social media, texting, etc.) during the school day or at school events detracts from student learning and teacher instruction. ***Cell phones must be kept in lockers during the student day.*** In the event students need to contact parents, with permission from their teacher, they may use any of our classroom or office phones.

We highly recommend leaving other valuable electronic equipment at home to minimize distractions. If students choose to use i-Pods, MP3 players or tablets traveling to/from school, they must also *be securely stored in lockers* during school hours. At no time should video recording devices be used at school, inside or outside the building, without prior teacher/administrator approval. Students may elect to use e-readers at school for the purpose of reading e-books. Students who inappropriately use technology will be subject to disciplinary action following GMS procedures. Violation of the cell phone and electronics policies will result in confiscation. Cell phones and electronics will not be returned to the student. A parent or guardian must pick up the confiscated item, which will be securely kept in the office.

Gum: We prohibit gum on campus at all times, both outside and inside, primarily to:

- keep our campus clean;
- keep our classrooms more focused on learning (“professionalize” the learning environment).

Dress Code: Appropriate school attire also helps promote a productive learning environment. Upon purchase of a student planner, please review with your students the dress code policy in the student handbook.

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We will continue to communicate to our students that the spirit behind these and other rules is to free students of the distractions that often get in the way of learning. We are committed to partnering with you and appreciate parents’ support in helping reinforce these policies.

Attention Parents of Incoming 6th Graders:

Washington State requires additional immunizations before entering 6th grade:

It is important that all students are current on their immunizations. To assure that you can provide immunization documentation when you register your child for 6th grade, please take the time this summer to make sure your child receives any immunizations that are due. Vaccine documentation must include the month, day and year it was received. History for chicken pox must include the approximate date or age your child had the disease. A signature of personal, religious or medical exemption is acceptable. To attend school, the immunization must be given before the first day of school in September.

The additional 6th grade requirements are:

- 1 dose of Tdap vaccine, which is for prevention of pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, and tetanus. ***This is required*** if it has been over 5 years since your child has received DTap, DT or Td and your child is 11 years old.
- 1 dose of varicella vaccine, which is for prevention of **chicken pox**.

Talk to your child's doctor, nurse or clinic for more information on the required vaccines or visit:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools.htm>

Thank you for meeting these requirements before the first day of school.