



# GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Linda Butler, Interim Principal  
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August 2018

Dear Gateway Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Gateway Middle School! My name is Linda Butler and I will be serving as your principal for the 2018-2019 school year. I previously spent seven years as the principal of Gateway Middle School in its earlier years and feel privileged to return for this school year. I also had the opportunity to meet many of this year's 8th graders in my previous work as assistant principal in the spring of 2017. My mission this year is to continue to serve the outstanding teachers, specialists, support staff, students and families in a place where each student is able to thrive while they achieve a high degree of success.

In the upcoming year, we are excited to continue Gateway's tradition as 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 who are enthusiastic about their learning community. At Gateway 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 students will realize their potential and capability to make active and valuable contributions to their families and community as involved and engaged citizens. At Gateway it is our job to make sure that your student graduates from high school on time and with every opportunity available to them. Because of this mission, we will work with students to help ensure that their education will effectively prepare them for their future.

A big part of my job is to help facilitate student learning with the support of staff and families so that each student can achieve great things. I am truly excited to continue the great work here at Gateway and am looking forward to meeting you during the August Orientation Activities.

The first day of school is traditionally the Wednesday following the Labor Day weekend. The tentative start date for our school year is set for Wednesday, September 5. As the school year approaches, we want to make sure you have the information you need regarding orientation. Important information is included in this mailing. In addition, you can visit our Gateway website at <http://cms.everett.k12.wa.us/gateway> throughout the year for ongoing updates and important information about our school. Curriculum night is scheduled for September 24 from 6:00-8:15. Enjoy this last little bit of summer, and I look forward to working with you and your students throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

**Sixth Grade Orientation will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 27th**

***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 28th**

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

**Eighth Grade Orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 28th**

- All Alphabet, from 1:00-3:00 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 Oct 17<sup>th</sup> .**

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
		PE shorts	\$8.00
School Pictures <b>separate check</b>	(prices vary per package)	Choir Fee (includes robe cleaning (8 <sup>th</sup> gr.) or t-shirt (7 <sup>th</sup> gr.))	\$10.00
Yearbook/ <b>optional</b>	\$25.00	UA Fee	\$5.00
PTSA <i>Guardian Wear</i> , (School spirit clothing/gear)	<b>optional/variou s --separate check</b>	Band fees: SmartMusic subscription	\$12.00
		t-shirt – new students only	\$8.00
		or you need a different size	

**All previous fines will be collected at orientation. You may pay online by going to the Gateway Website and clicking on “pay online” under “Quicklinks”**

**Debit/Credit Cards may be used at Orientation and purchases may be done at home using the “Pay Online” on our Website starting August 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are paying online at home, please bring your receipt with you to pick up your PE Uniform and Planner.**

**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.*

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Please return your Annual Health Form (yellow) 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.

**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 detracts from student learning and teacher instruction. ***Cell phones must be kept in lockers.*** 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.