

NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Dr. Hector P. Garcia Middle School
14900 Kyle Seale Parkway ◇ San Antonio, TX 78255
Phone (210) 397-8400 ◇ Fax (210) 695-3830

Tracy Wernli, Principal
 Veronica Poblano, Academic Dean

Sherry Mireles, Vice Principal
 Theresa Diaz, Asst. Principal

August 2017

Hello Gladiator Community:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! The staff at Garcia has been hard at work preparing the campus for our students. We are excited and looking forward to the start of another school year.

A new addition to our facilities will be a rain garden to capture stormwater runoff that will be constructed by the San Antonio River Authority. Isaac Esquivel, science teacher, was awarded a \$22,000 grant to make this addition possible. We're anxious to see the finished product!

Soccer is coming to middle school! Soccer will be available to 7th and 8th grade students in April 2018. Students will play five games with an additional tournament at the end of the season. Our coaches will provide more information as the season nears.

A new event we've added this school year for our parents is a two part series titled *Navigating Middle School*. These sessions will provide parents an opportunity to learn more about how to support your middle school student. Each session will offer a variety of tools and allow for parents to choose the one that meets their needs. Mark your calendar for **September 18 and November 13**. Both sessions will be from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and will start in the school cafeteria. More information will be provided as it gets closer to the event.

I look forward to meeting our new families and catching up with our veterans! I welcome feedback and suggestions throughout the school year. My goal is to provide clear and consistent communication with you about all the great things happening on our campus! I will send out a weekly newsletter via Remind, Twitter, and Facebook. Be sure to sign up so you can stay connected. Outlined below are some key dates and information to help prepare you for the 2017-2018 school year.

MARKET DAY, AUGUST 16:

Market Day is an opportunity to purchase key items and receive valuable information. This is a come and go event in the **cafeteria from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.** Each item must be purchased separately, so please bring cash or multiple checks. (PTA will accept debit/credit cards.)

• PE uniforms (\$16)	• Get connected with HGMS
• Student agendas (\$10)	• Speak to transportation
• Spirit shirts (\$25)	• Attendance information
• Yearbooks (\$45)	• Complete background check to volunteer
• Join PTA (\$10)	• Purchase HGMS spirit gear *NEW*
• Put funds in cafeteria account	• Get lockers and student schedule *NEW*

6th GRADE OPEN HOUSE, AUGUST 25:

2:00-3:30 PM (A-L), 4:30-6:00 PM (M-Z)

Meet the teachers and tour the school! Students and parents will report to their first period class which is located on the mailing label attached to the **outside of the provided envelope**. Schedules will be distributed during first period; students and parents will follow the given schedule. Bell schedule provided below.

Bell Schedule for Open House August 25, 2017	
2:00-3:30 (A-L)	4:30-6:00 (M-Z)
1st period: 2:00-2:12 (12 minutes)	1st period: 4:30-4:42 (12 minutes)
2nd period: 2:16-2:28 (12 minutes)	2nd period: 4:46-4:58 (12 minutes)
3rd period: 2:32-2:40 (8 minutes)	3rd period: 5:02-5:10 (8 minutes)
4th period: 2:44-2:52 (8 minutes)	4th period: 5:14-5:22 (8 minutes)
5th period: 2:56-3:00 (8 minutes)	5th period: 5:26- 5:34 (8 minutes)
6th period: 3:04-3:12 (8 minutes)	6th period: 5:38-5:46 (8 minutes)
7th period: 3:16-3:24 (8 minutes)	7th period: 5:50-5:58 (8 minutes)
8th period: 3:28-3:36 (8 minutes)	8th period: 6:02-6:10 (8 minutes)
There will be a 4 minute passing period between each class	

7th GRADE OPEN HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 7:

5:30 PM-7:00 PM

Meet the teachers and tour the school! This will be a come and go event for parents to meet their child's teacher and receive information about the course. Parents will need to have their child's schedule so they know which rooms to visit. This open house is specifically for parents.

8th GRADE OPEN HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 6:

5:30 PM-7:00 PM

Meet the teachers and tour the school! This will be a come and go event for parents to meet their child's teacher and receive information about the course. Parents will need to have their child's schedule so they know which rooms to visit. This open house is specifically for parents.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Our school supply list is available on our campus website. (www.nisd.net/Garcia) Copies are also located in our front office. Students may bring school supplies to place in their locker on Market Day.

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION:

Our campus nurse, Merry Garcia, will be available during Market Day and 6th grade open house to answer any questions regarding required immunizations, as well as, collect up-to-date immunization records. Northside ISD and Garcia Middle School adheres to a strict *No Shots, No School* policy which means we will not distribute a schedule to any student who does not have a current immunization record. For questions, you may contact our campus nurse at (210)397-8409 or NISD Health Services at 397-3551.

MORNING PROCEDURES:

Students FIRST day of school is Monday, August 28, 2017

The doors of the campus will open at 7:30 a.m. and our cafeteria will begin serving breakfast at 7:45 a.m. If students arrive to school before 7:50 a.m., they should be dropped off at the flagpole and report to the cafeteria. (They enter through the doors closest to the cafeteria.) At 7:50 a.m., all students will be dismissed to their grade level hallway. Students will remain in their designated areas until the first bell rings at 8:27 a.m. On the first day, we will have lists posted in the hallway and on the windows in the front office with student's first period room number in case they were not able to attend orientation or receive their schedule at Market Day. Schedules will be available for pick-up only if all immunizations are current and on file with the nurse.

STUDENT DROP-OFF & PICK-UP INFORMATION:

Traffic on the first few days of school is much more congested, so please allow extra time for drop-off and pick-up. Parents dropping off and picking up students may only use the loop in the front of the campus. We also ask that you pull your vehicle up as far as you can in the drop-off lane to allow for a faster and safer drop-off and pick-up. Finally, we ask that you do not drop-off or pick-up in the parking lot unless you park your vehicle in a designated parking spot. Traffic direction by our campus officer will not be provided on a consistent basis, so the parking lot can get congested. Plan accordingly.

BUS RIDERS:

Students riding the bus to and from school will be dropped off and picked up behind the cafeteria in the bus loop. Special needs busses are dropped off and picked up outside the Vice Principal's office on the side of the building. First round of PM busses are dismissed at 3:50 p.m. on a daily basis. Bus information can be found at www.nisd.net. Scroll down to Boundaries and Buses. Please ensure that your child knows their bus number prior to the first day of school.

GET CONNECTED TO HGMS:

We encourage you to get connected with HGMS through the following venues:

Facebook: HGMSPTA

Twitter- @NISDGarcia

Remind- text @hgms1 to 81010 OR (281)-823-9732

Instagram- NISDGarcia ***NEW***

PTA- hgmspta.com

Campus information- www.nisd.net/Garcia

CHANGES TO PARENT CONNECTION:

Northside will be moving to a new gradebook at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year and along with this comes a new parent/guardian access point called the Home Access Center or HAC.

To be able to access student's grades and attendance, **new accounts will need to be**

created in HAC once the new school year begins. In order to verify parent/guardian identities during this process, NISD is currently collecting parent/guardian emails into our Student Information System.

To enter your email- please go to nisd.net and click on the headline shaded in gray that reads: "Northside transitioning to new portal system for grades and attendance." You will be asked to enter your child's student ID# and their 4X4 (the first four letters of their last name and last four numbers of their social security.)

Please take a few moments to complete this process that will ensure you have easy access to the new HAC portal for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

I look forward to an incredible school year and want to remind you that I am always available to address your concerns or suggestions. You can contact me at (210) 397-8405 or through email:

Tracy.Wernli@nisd.net

It's a **GREAT** day to be a Gladiator!

Tracy Wernli
Principal

Market Day-Aug 16th!

\$5 Bag

\$40 Stadium Seats

Socks \$12

Hats \$20

Gladiator GEAR IS HERE!

Good To Know

Attendance Procedures:

Following any absence, students should bring a dated note signed by the parent explaining the reason for the absence. If a doctor saw the student, a note should be obtained from doctor explaining the absence. All doctors' notes should be sent to the school to substantiate absences. All notes must be turned in within **3 days** of the student's absence. Failure to bring a note to the office following an absence will result in an "unexcused" absence. Only **four** parent notes per semester will be accepted to excuse a student's absence. Students should bring all notes to the attendance office between 7:50 and 8:20 a.m. In the event that a student reports to school following an absence without a note, he/she must report to the Attendance Office.

Medical excuses (dental/doctor/counseling, etc.) should contain the following information (if applicable):

1. Student's name and school ID number
2. Date(s) of absences
3. Date(s) they were under doctor care, (if they received doctor care)
4. Date the student will be able to return to school
5. Reason for absences, and nature of illness or injury
6. Signature of parent/guardian, or doctor
7. Phone number where a parent can be reached

Bus Procedures:

In the event that a student wants a friend to ride home with them on the bus, **a note must be provided to the Vice Principal's Office at the start of the school day.** The note must include a phone number where the parent can be reached. The student riding the bus must qualify for bus services in order to ride with a friend. The note can be picked up at the end of the school day and presented to the bus driver.

Delivery of Items:

In an effort to minimize interruptions and maximize instructional time, we do not deliver items directly to students. However, we also recognize that students will sometimes forget an item at home. We will deliver glasses and house keys. For all other items, the student is expected to come by the office BETWEEN classes to retrieve their belongings. This procedure helps the school to maintain an academic environment and is effective in helping students practice personal responsibility. Flowers, balloons, birthday presents etc., will be held in the office until the end of the day when students can pick them up to be taken home.

Lunch Delivery: Food items may be dropped off by parents **for their child (only)** to eat in the cafeteria during lunch. Food items may not be shared with others. We will have "black out" dates where food delivery will not be permitted due to campus activities.

Parent Pick-up Guidelines:

We understand that sometimes parents need to pick students up before dismissal time. However, for safety reasons and possible loss of instructional time, we will not send for a student, or allow a student to wait in the office and/or foyer area, until the parent arrives and we have checked identification. Due to high volume activity in the Main Office, we ask that parents try to refrain from checking students out the last 20 minutes before dismissal.

Staff Numbers:

Main Number- (210) 397-8400

Academic Dean- (210) 397-8406

Assistant Principal- (210) 397-8424

Counseling Office- (210) 397-8432

Nurse (210) 397-8409

Police Officer (210) 397-8445

Principal- (210) 397-8405

Special Ed. Office (210) 397- 8451