



August 17, 2017

Dear Glenwood Families,

Greetings from Glenwood Middle School! hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the summer with family and friends while reading, resting, staying active, and having fun! Don't panic – the first day school is still a few weeks away, but in an effort to make sure it does not sneak up on you, and so that you are well-prepared and well-informed, I am sending you all the information needed for a smooth start to the school year. Our first day of school is **Tuesday, September 5, 2017.**

First, I would like to give a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the new families who will be joining us this year. Whether you have a 6<sup>th</sup> grader or a new 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader to Glenwood, we are pleased to welcome you to our community! The faculty and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of your children as they begin their middle level experience at Glenwood.



This school year has a special significance as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Glenwood Middle School. What a great time for our current families, as well as alumni, to come together and recognize this once-in-a-lifetime historic occasion! We intend to take full advantage of the momentous juncture by having poignant events throughout the year. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee, along with the PTA, is planning several school and community events to commemorate this milestone. We are looking to call upon our entire community to assist as we celebrate our school's history. Our biggest endeavor will be work done in our two courtyards – enhancing our outdoor classroom and creating an outdoor eating area for students. Picnic tables and landscaping are but a few areas we will look for assistance. There will also be a commemorative brick campaign to pave walkways in both courtyards. If you are able to contribute in any way, please let us know. Please look for future communications regarding our celebration.

As usual, the staff has been working hard to get ready for the new school year. In addition, to bulletin boards and setting up classrooms, many have continued their own learning through classes, workshops or professional reading in an effort to maintain the very best possible learning environment for your children.

To increase communication between home and school, all students will receive a Glenwood Middle School planner. The planner is good for the entire school year and serves as a link between home and school. Teachers will provide instruction on the use of the student planner on the first day of school and throughout the school year. In addition to the planner, we ask that all families log on and make sure your email address is current in the school system's database. Reminders and important information will be sent out using emails on file. Furthermore, our bi-weekly publication, Cobra Connection, will serve as another means to provide you information related to

Glenwood Middle School. This publication is sent only via email. Therefore, it is imperative that your information be up-to-date.

It is always exciting to begin a new school year. The faculty and I have high hopes and great expectations for the year that lies ahead. Every grade level is a milestone in your child's life and we look forward to helping him/her reach those milestones and grow by leaps and bounds! Not a day goes by when we are not reflecting on how we can improve as a school. Our theme remains to BE REMARKABLE and DISTINGUISHED. I am honored to be the Principal of Glenwood Middle School and look forward to working together with you to provide a quality educational experience for your child in a safe, supportive, and caring environment.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you in a couple of weeks!

Warmly,



Robert A. Motley  
Principal

#### **TO DO LIST FOR PARENTS:**

- **Update Your Family File Information Before School Begins!**
  - HCPSS uses Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the Family File tab and then clicking on Family File.
  - Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or update the following information:
    - Student information
    - Parent/guardian contact
    - Emergency contacts
    - Medical information
    - Arrival/dismissal procedures
    - Media release (photo approval)
    - Data confidentiality
    - PTA/PTSA directory
- Join our PTA! Please help support the school by joining our PTA. I am excited to be working with our new President, Tracey Heller. The PTA affords us the opportunity to offer many activities, field trips, and school events through your participation. We are seeking 100% participation! The attachment contains the PTA packet. Please complete and return to school.
- PE Uniforms – Our PTSA will be selling PE uniforms this year. The purchase of a PE uniform is not mandatory; however, students must dress appropriately for PE class. *More information will be shared in each PE class on proper attire.* Order forms for uniforms will be available during 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, distributed during PE classes and a link on the Glenwood PTSA website. Cost will be around \$15.00 for a set (shirt and shorts).

We have had a busy summer. We expect around 515 students at the start of the school year. The administrative team promises to build on Glenwood's long-standing commitment to excellence, so that EVERY student is academically challenged, experiences success, and feels valued and cared for by our staff members. Additionally, you will find information in the following places:

Glenwood Middle School Website: [www.gms.hcpss.org](http://www.gms.hcpss.org)

Twitter: @hcpss\_gms

PTSA Website: [www.glenwoodptsa.org](http://www.glenwoodptsa.org)

PTSA Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/GlenwoodMiddlePTSA/](http://www.facebook.com/GlenwoodMiddlePTSA/)

***The following important information will make our opening a smooth one:***

### **Updating Schedules**

Students will receive their schedules on the first day of school. Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will receive schedules during orientation on 8/31. If there is a problem, please contact your child's guidance counselor at 410-313-5525.

**Last Name A-L:**

**Mrs. Kelli Brandt ([Kelli\\_Brandt@hcpss.org](mailto:Kelli_Brandt@hcpss.org))**

**Last Name M-Z:**

**Mrs. Liz O'Connor ([Liz\\_O'Connor@hcpss.org](mailto:Liz_O'Connor@hcpss.org))**

### **First Day Requirements**

School begins for students on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:25 A.M. ***Please do not come to school with ALL of your school supplies on the first day.*** Lockers will be distributed during the day and teachers will let students know what materials they will need for the remainder of the week.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Orientation – Thursday, August 31 – 12:30 P.M. in Glenwood MS Cafeteria**

Glenwood staff members will host an orientation session for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on Thursday, August 31 at 12:30 P.M. Students should report to their homeroom (**see attached homeroom list**) at the start of the orientation. Any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who is new to Glenwood can meet with his/her guidance counselor. They will receive basic information about Glenwood Middle School. Students will receive a tour, learn about the school, and follow their schedules.

### **Bus Transportation**

Bus schedules can be found at [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org) and click on School & Bus Locator. In addition, bus schedules will be printed in local newspapers the week prior to school start-up. It is desirable that students arrive at their designated bus stop ten minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.

### **Start and End Times**

Students will be able to enter Glenwood Middle School at 7:25 A.M. Homeroom will begin at 7:40 A.M. We will start dismissal of school at 2:25 P.M.

**Back-To-School Night--Thursday, September 15, 6:30 P.M. Mark your calendars now.**

### **Howard County Public School System Policies for 2017-2018**

There are several policies that have been revised for the upcoming school year. I urge all parents with Internet access at home and/or at work to log on to [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org) and review each policy in its entirety.

***The information that follows is important. You may want to keep this in an easily accessible location in order to refer to it from time to time.***

### **Important Dates to Remember**

August 31	12:30 P.M.	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation NEW 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Student Orientation
September 4	Labor Day	School Closed
<b>September 5</b>	<b>7:25 A.M.</b>	<b>School begins</b>
September 14	6:30 P.M.	Back to School Night
September 21		School Closed
September 22		School Closed
October 12		School Pictures for all students
October 17 -19		6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education



# Glenwood Middle School 6th Grade Orientation

## Orientation Day

Homerooms (Students) and Cafeteria (Parents)

**Thursday, August 31, 2017 12:30pm**

Dear New Cobra Students,

Welcome to Glenwood! Your first day of middle school is just around the corner. Our entire staff is working hard to make sure you have a fantastic experience as a Glenwood Cobra! To get started on the right path, please accept this invitation to our 6th Grade Orientation. This day will be both informative and useful as you make transition to middle school.

On this day you will:

- *meet your teachers*
- *become familiar with the building*
- *practice opening your locker*
- *establish relationships*

*There is no need to bring anything with you on this day. We are so excited about embarking on this journey with you! See you soon!*



# 2017-2018 Glenwood Middle School PTSA Membership Form

Why should our family join the PTSA? What does the PTSA do for me and my children? Well..., below are just a few examples of what the Glenwood PTSA has provided to students, staff and families.

- Dances/Family Fun activities for students in fall and spring
- Memory Books for students in need
- Cultural Arts Programs
- Classroom supply reimbursements for staff members
- Luncheons/breakfasts for staff appreciation at various times throughout the year
- Birthday cards for all students becoming teenagers
- Cobra Kudos T-shirts
- Pizza and ice cream served on Math Night
- Contributions to all end-of-year celebrations for 6-th, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grades
- School store and Spirit wear

## **PTSA MEMBERSHIP DUES**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Membership Fee (cash/check made payable to GMS PTSA). This includes up to 2 parents/guardians and/or student(s) membership. Thank you for your commitment to our PTSA. You won't regret it!

If you would like to receive membership cards please include information for one or two members. **Please print clearly and include both first and last name.**

Member 1:	Adult/Student	Grade	Homeroom Teacher
_____		6 7 8	_____

Phone Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member 2:	Adult/Student	Grade	Homeroom Teacher
_____		6 7 8	_____

Phone Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_