



Home of the Pilots

The Navigator

Kevin Ikeda – Principal
Maryn Feliciano – Assistant Principal



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August /Sept 2011



We are happy to welcome our new principal this year, Mr. Ikeda. He comes to us from Meeker Middle School in Northeast Tacoma, where he was principal for the past four years. See what he has to say in the **Principally Speaking...** article inside.

CLASS SCHEDULES

Information pertaining to student class schedules for the 2011-12 school year will be forthcoming.

Look or listen for updated class schedule information in late August.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL MAILINGS

This year, our Central Administration Office will be mailing home the School Calendar and the Rules, Rights and Responsibilities (RRR) Booklet to all Tacoma School District families in late August.



Our Transportation Office **will not** be mailing bus schedules again this year. Bus Route Schedules will be available online after August 27. To view your student's bus route and schedule, go to:

www.tacomaschools.org/distinfo/transportation

If you have any questions about transportation, please call our District Transportation Office at 571-1853.



IMPORTANT DATES

- Aug 24 – 6th Grade & New Student Orientation – 5-7 p.m.
- Sept 1 -- First Day of School
- Sept 5 – Labor Day Holiday – no school
- Sept 12 -- 1st Session of Intramurals Begins
- Sept 14 – Picture Day
- Sept 15 – Back-to-School Night – 6 p.m.
- Oct 19 – Picture Retakes

BREAKFAST/LUNCH INFORMATION

Breakfast

Breakfast is served free before school each day to all students who qualify for free or reduced breakfast/lunch. All other students can purchase breakfast and lunch at the prices listed below.

Student, Full Price \$1.50
Adult \$2.25

Lunch

Student, Full Price \$2.75
Reduced Price \$.40
Adult (without milk) \$3.75
Milk \$.50

All students will be on the same status for the lunch program as at the end of the last school year. If you are new to our school district, your lunch price will be \$2.75 until your Free/Reduced Lunch Application is processed through the Food Services Office. Applications are processed promptly upon receipt, but approval may take up to 10 days. All students can charge up to 2 lunches. It is important to pay back charges promptly as report cards can be held until payment has been received. Emergency lunches are available to students and include peanut butter or cheese sandwiches. If you have questions or concerns about your student's status, please feel free to contact our district Nutrition Services Office at 571-3370.



All households who had applied for Free and Reduced Priced Meals with the Tacoma School District last school year are being mailed an Application for Free and Reduced Priced Meals to their home address in mid-August. These applications are pre-printed with the student

information already filled out. The instructions for completing the application are on the back page of the application. Instructions direct the applicant to update the pre-printed information, list current household income and social security number, sign the application and return it to the school or Nutrition Services Office. If you have any questions pertaining to the breakfast/lunch program, please call the Nutrition Services Office at 571-3370.



Tacoma Public Schools offers parents a secure, online system to manage student meal accounts. **Lunch Money Now** is a convenient, easy to use system that allows parents to pre-pay for meals, access meal card balances and check recent meal purchases. Parents are able to check account balances 24-hours a day and receive e-mail notification when the account falls below a specified balance. Visa and MasterCard transactions through **Lunch Money Now** are charged a \$1.50 convenience fee. For more information, please contact Nutrition Services at 253.571.3370.

Here's the link to **Lunch Money Now**

<https://www.lunchmoneynow.com/lmntac/Main.htm>

It includes a great flash demo.

Here is the link for Free & Reduced-price Meals:

<http://www.tacoma.k12.wa.us/information/departments/nutrition/Documents/Free%20and%20Reduced%20Info.pdf>. It will be updated with 2011-12 info in August.

Here is the link for School Meal menu and nutrition information:

<http://www.tacoma.k12.wa.us/information/departments/nutrition/Pages/default.aspx>. The September menu will be posted in August also.

DRESS CODE UPDATE

Our Uniform Dress Code has been updated. A copy of the current, updated Dress Code is included in this newsletter. Please be sure to go over these with your student(s) and feel free to call if you have any questions or need clarification of any kind.

➤ **VERY IMPORTANT!**

FALL SPORTS

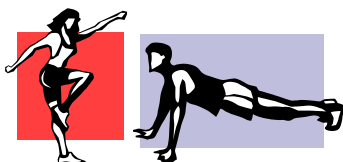


Our first session of intramurals, which includes boys' basketball and girls' soccer, begins September 12. Be sure to get your sports physical done prior to that date so you'll be able to start on time. Sports physicals are good for 13 months, so be sure to check the date of your last one. We must have a current physical on file before you can begin practicing. Also, be sure to purchase your ASB sticker (\$15 for all year) prior to the first game. Students can practice without an ASB, but cannot participate in games without one. If you have any questions, please call Mr. McPartlon or Mr. Webster, our Intramural Advisors.

P.E. Suiting Requirements!

P.E. uniforms must be worn by all P.E. students. P.E. suiting policy for Gray Middle School requires students wear only the Gray Middle School logo P.E. uniform. This clothing is high quality, 50% cotton/50% polyester, and is reasonably priced. Prices are listed below. It is **not** necessary to purchase all of the items, just one top and one bottom.

	<u>S-XL</u>	<u>XXL</u>
T-shirts	\$ 6.50	\$ 8.50
Shorts	\$ 7.00	\$ 8.50
Sweatpants	\$11.50	\$12.50
Sweatshirts	\$11.50	\$13.00



PTA NEWS

Gray Middle School PTA welcomes all students, families and teachers to the 2011-12 school year.

We are hoping to get many additional members and volunteers this year. We are looking forward to a wonderful year, full of new faces and exciting ideas. We hope to meet lots of you at our 6th Grade/New Student Orientation at 5 p.m. on August 24th. When you stop by the Parent Involvement table that night and join your PTA, you will automatically be entered into a drawing for a Gray Middle School backpack. The membership fee for the entire year is only \$10 per person.



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Our ASB Executive Board for the 2011-12 school year were elected by the students in May. Below are the students who were chosen to lead our student body for this upcoming year.

Roman Deyoe - 7th
Nayeli Hernandez - 7th
Anita Wambui - 7th
Natalya Valle - 7th
Kristen Brooks - 7th
Aylin Milan - 8th
Evelyn Mendoza - 8th

These students will have the opportunity to attend a Leadership Camp in mid-August, where they will meet Student Council Officers, representatives and Advisors from other schools in our area/state and learn what it takes to be a middle school ASB leader.

GRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL 2011-12 DRESS CODE

Item	Color	Type
Shirts/Polos	<i>Solid White or Navy Blue</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-approved (peace, GMS logo) clothing is allowed • Long or short sleeved 3 to 4 button polos with collars • Polos must have at least ¾ sleeve • School Sports/Club tops on designated days only • No logos or colored trim • No pinning or tying shirts • No shirts or sweaters allowed over a polo
Sweatshirts	<i>Solid White or Nave Blue</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crewneck sweatshirts • Dress code Polo/T-shirt must be worn underneath • No pinning or tying sweatshirts • No permanent alterations allowed (rips, writing, etc)
Hoodies	<i>Gray, Maroon, or Black</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-approved (peace, GMS logo) HOODIES ONLY • Dress code Polos/T-shirt must be worn underneath • School Sports/Club hoodies on designated days only • Only first or last names may be printed, NO nicknames • No hoods on while in the building • No pinning or tying hoodies • No permanent alterations allowed (rips, writing, etc)
Undershirts	<i>Solid White</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirts worn under the polo must be solid white and the same sleeve length as the top shirt • No undergarments will be visible
Dress Slacks Dress Shorts Dress Capris Skirts	<i>Solid Navy or Black</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slacks (like Dockers or Dickies), corduroy, cotton/twill blends • Straight-leg slacks • Shorts/Skirts at the knee while standing • Hems must be neatly and securely stitched • Slacks must be worn at the waist, loose fitted but no larger than one size up • No cargo pants or painter pants • No sagging or dragging on the ground • No DENIM or DENIM like fabrics, sweats, fleece, nylon or spandex fabric • No double stitching • <u>No skinny pants</u> • No leggings worn alone • No yoga pants • No jumpers allowed
Footwear		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All shoes must have heel straps or backs • No flip-flops, sport sandals, slippers or moccasins
Jewelry, Accessories, Hats and Outerwear		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belts must be worn through the loops and not hang down • Accessories must be safe, non-suggestive, and not disruptive to the learning environment • No spikes, dog collars, chains, bandanas, doo-rags, gloves, leather collars or wrist/sweat bands allowed • No rubber bands will be worn at the bottom of pants • No scarves • No lanyards hanging out of pockets • No sillybands • Absolutely no hats are to be worn in the building • Coats and other outerwear must be stored in lockers



8th Grade Supply List

- Pencils – mechanical or wooden – several
- Colored pencils – 16-color set minimum
- Highlighter – yellow
- Single-subject spiral notebooks – 6
- 3-ring binder with dividers
- Basic function calculator (spend less than \$10)
- Notebook filler paper – college rule
- Ballpoint pens, black, blue and red (2 each)
- Composition book (Stitched, 9 ¾" x 7 ½ ") for Science – 3

NOTE: Sharpie pens and permanent markers are not allowed and will be confiscated.

7th Grade Supply List

- 3-ring binder with dividers
- Notebook filler paper – college rule
- Colored pencils – 16-color set minimum
- Composition book (Stitched, 9 ¾" x 7 ½ ") for Science - 3
- Graph paper
- Pencils – mechanical or wooden - several
- Large pencil erasers – 2
- Hand/pocket dictionary
- Ruler
- Student scissors
- Ballpoint pens, black, blue and red (2 each)
- Single-subject spiral notebooks – 6
- 3-ring pencil pouch
- Marking/correcting pens – various colors – 3
- Backpack – small enough to fit in locker (these are not allowed in classrooms)

NOTE: Sharpie pens and permanent markers are not allowed and will be confiscated.



6th Grade Supply List

- #2 Pencils
- Loose-leaf notebook paper – most classes require loose-leaf paper, college or wide-rule
- Graph paper
- 1 Ream of copy/printer paper
- One 3-ring binder – plain, no pockets or zippers
- Dividers – approximately 15 needed
- Two 70-pg spiral notebooks
- Blue or black pens – No Gel Pens
- Colored pencils – set of 8 is fine
- Four 100-page small composition notebooks (9 3/4" by 7 1/2")
- Erasers
- Pen/Pencil pouch
- Small pencil sharpener
- Dictionary *to keep at home
- 4 Highlighters - 1 each blue, green, pink, and yellow
- Backpacks must be small enough to fit in locker, these are **NOT** allowed in the classroom

NOTE: Sharpie pens and permanent markers are not allowed and will be confiscated.



Other classes (your student may/may not have the following needs):

- Choir – Binder, spiral notebook
- Reading – Colored pencils, small pair of scissors, highlighters (at least two different colors), 1 or 2 70-page spiral notebooks
- Band/Orchestra – 1/2 inch binder *Other supplies specific to instrument

Other recommended ideas:

****These items are usually available to share in the classroom****

- Colored pencils
- Pocket size tissue packages
- Small pair of scissors
- Ruler
- Graph Paper
- Glue stick

Additional supplies will be determined by individual teachers. Some elective and exploratory classes may require a fee. Students will be given a list from each teacher.



**Gray Middle School
6th Grade & New Student Orientation
August 24, 2011, 5-7 p.m.**

Meet our Administrators and lots of other staff. Many of our teachers will be here to “meet and greet” you, as well as counselors, office staff, PTA officers and representatives from various community organizations. We plan to provide you with lots of information, answer questions, and even put on a ***Dress Code Fashion Show***.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase Gray Middle School logo clothing once the informational session has concluded. We will have a supply of t-shirts, polos and hoodies that can be worn as part of our dress code available for you to purchase. All of our logo clothing are adult sizes, and we accept cash or check for payment – no credit or debit cards. We also keep a supply of logo clothing and lanyards (\$2 each) on hand throughout the school year so that you can purchase when needed.

LOGO CLOTHING PRICES

Hoodies	S-XL	-	\$30
	XX & XXX	-	\$35
Polos	S-XL	-	\$12
	XX & XXX	-	\$15

T-shirts	S-XL	-	\$10
	XX & XXX	-	\$15
Commemorative T-shirts	S-XL	-	\$15

We will end our evening with ice cream sundaes for everyone.



Please join us!

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Gray!

Principally Speaking Getting ready for a GREAT year!

Summer is in full swing and I hope you are enjoying family time and reading a book a month. Before I go any further, I want to thank former Principal, Yvonne Bullock, for her 9 years of service at Gray. She took us through a new school opening and a restructuring process that will benefit our students and community. As the new Principal, my goal is to follow through with our restructuring plan and continue with a focus on academic excellence. I am having many conversations with staff, and on July 14th met with 40 families at the **Meet the Principal C.A.K.E. Night**. **C.A.K.E.** is an acronym that stands for **Caring About Kids' Education**. In our conversation that evening, we came up with three goals.

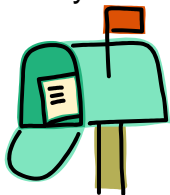
- 1) Communication – use multiple modes to communicate with parents.
- 2) Teachers, parents and students need to work together.
- 3) Stay focused on educational goals/programs and curriculum

This was a great conversational experience and we will continue this throughout the year. The next opportunity to talk is on August 24th at our **6th Grade & New Student Orientation** which begins at 5 p.m. I also want to invite everyone in advance to our **Back-to-School Night** on September 15th at 6 p.m. Along with meeting your son's/daughter's teachers, I will share with you my history and philosophy. See you soon.

Go Pilots,
Kevin Ikeda
Principal

Information Updates

In our effort to communicate effectively and accurately with our students and their families, we mail newsletters such as this, post upcoming events on our campus readerboard and our school website. We also send out periodic telephone messages and reminders of important dates and events. That is why it is so important that you inform us of any changes of address, telephone number, etc. You can send in the new information with your student to our Guidance Office, or call Mrs. Hefley, our Guidance Secretary, directly with the updated information, at 253-571-5218.



graypilots.org




CAMBODIAN	LAOTIAN	SPANISH
<p>ផ្ញើក្រាមមកជាមួយនេះគឺជាឯកសារដ៏សំខាន់មកពីសាលារៀនរបស់កូនអ្នក ។ សូមចេញការកេរដូចបកប្រែឯកសារនេះឲ្យអ្នក ។ សូមអរគុណ ។</p>	<p>ຂັດຕິດມາພ້ອມນີ້ແມ່ນເອກະສານສຳຄັນ ຈາກໂຮງຮຽນຂອງລູກທ່ານ. ກະລຸນາຮັບເອົາເອກະສານຊຶ່ງພວກເຮົາໄດ້ແປໃຫ້ທ່ານແລ້ວນີ້ໄວ້ດ້ວຍ. ຂອບໃຈ.</p>	<p>Adjunto encontrará un documento importante de la escuela de su hijo/a. Si corresponde, sírvase pedir que se lo traduzcan. Muchas gracias.</p>
KOREAN	RUSSIAN	VIETNAMESE
<p>귀책 자녀의 학교에서 보내 드리는 본 서류는 중요합니다. 자녀에게 서류에 있는 내용을 설명해 달라고 하십시오. 감사합니다.</p>	<p>В приложении Вы найдете важный документ из школы, где учится Ваш ребенок. Пожалуйста, попросите, чтобы Вам его перевели. Спасибо!</p>	<p>Kèm theo đây là giấy tờ quan trọng của nhà trường con em quý vị. Xin hãy nhờ người giải thích những giấy tờ này cho quý vị. Cảm ơn.</p>
<p>Attached is an important document from your child's school. Please have this document translated for you. Thank you.</p>		

Tacoma Public Schools
P.O. Box 1357
Tacoma, WA 98401

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Gray Middle School

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TACOMA, WA
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Parents

Stay informed about Tacoma Public Schools!

- Go online to www.tacomaschools.org for news and updates.
- Read the weekly district newsletter, *Webucator* online under "Calendar & News" on the home page (posted every Friday during school year).
- Tune to TPS-TV channels 26 (Comcast) or 87 (Click!) 4:30-5:30 Mon-Fri for announcements.
- Add your e-mail address to your child's student record and receive e-mail notifications for the weekly district newsletter and emergency announcements.