



### Good Afternoon Golden West Middle School Families,

We have some important information for you for the week of November 8, 2020, in this letter. In this letter there is information about returning Impact Aid Survey Cards that help fund our school, Materials Pick-up on Tuesday, November 10, between 11:00 A.M and 5:00 P.M., MAP English testing in periods 1, 3, and 5 only during two class periods and in the afternoon, Student Support and Missing Assignments, 10 Helpful Tips for Parents in Support of Struggling Students, Junior Honors Society Food Drive, and a note about Naviance Career Exploration. We appreciate you reading this important information!



**We are closed Wednesday, November 1, in observance of Veterans Day. We thank our military families for their service!**

### Quarter 2 Materials Pick-up Day is Extended to Tuesday, November 10, 11:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M..



**Did you miss materials pick up and your teacher told your child they have materials for Quarter 2 to pick up at the school?** Given that several families have missed their materials pick-up for Quarter 2 we have been given permission to add another day. We will have another materials pick up between 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. for materials pick up at our site. **This is only for families who have been told by their students' teachers to pick up materials that they have not received in periods 1,3,and 5 at the beginning of the school year.** Currently there are many Wood Projects and Pianos that have not been picked up yet for this quarter's elective classes. We will be following Social Distancing Guidelines-please pull up to the curb closest to the school and to the end of the parking lot to the last building where staff will bring the materials to your cars. We will be wearing masks, and ask you to remain in your cars as we will bring the materials to you.

### We need Your Impact Aid Survey Cards

We want to thank those parents who brought or completed their Impact Aid Survey Card's last week. We gained another 87 cards-thank you! Returning Impact Aid Survey Cards to us helps us gain more money for our school and district which we use to support your children! This Tuesday, November 10, between 11:00AM and 5:00 PM we will have another opportunity for you to drop off Impact Aid Survey Cards or complete one on site. We will bring it to your car following Social Distancing Guidelines. We appreciate your support!



### **MAP Testing in English Classes: Periods 1, 3, and 5 only**

Students in English classes will take MAP English tests in their classes in periods 1, 3, and 5 only. The tests will be proctored by English teachers over a two day period. Students will also be asked to continue testing with their teachers in the afternoon from 12:30-2:30 until their test is completed. WE ask parents to support our students who are testing by making sure they sleep well, eat well and log on during the testing times to test. We also ask students to take their time and not random guess on the test as we use these results to determine their needs. If you want to learn more about MAP testing click here: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/>

### **Student Support and Missing Assignments**

We have been reviewing student progress since the last quarter and found that some students are struggling and not doing as well as expected.

As such our counseling team, administration, and staff have been utilizing different strategies to address student academic achievement. Our staff is discussing the best ways to support students who are struggling beyond current practice. We will continue to revise our processes as needed as we move forward.

We also have determined that some students who are struggling academically are not submitting their work. Or they are submitting blank assignments. Submitting blank documents in Google Classroom takes away the missing assignment notification and gives the impression that the work has been submitted, when it has not. While we cannot change this part of the Google Classroom software we have determined some helpful parent tips that can resolve this issue and will help in supporting students who are struggling.

### **Ten Helpful Parent Tips for Student Support:**



- 1.) Be present when students are submitting work to make sure it is submitted every day. If you are working away from home, then tell your child that they can submit their work when you come home so that you can review the work before it is submitted to make sure it is complete.
- 2.) Celebrate your child when they submit completed work with some sort of reward at home.
- 3.) Check in with teachers once per week, at the end of the week, to see how your child is progressing.
- 4.) Make sure your child's learning space is in a place where they can be seen, but without distractions or noise so that they can focus on their classes.



- 5.) If at possible, ask your child to turn on their computer camera as 85% of communication is body language and makes it easier for teachers to determine student needs-this is not a requirement , but a helpful tip.
- 6.) Tell your child to actively participate in the lesson by answering questions with the microphone on or in the chat. Active engagement makes it easier for teachers to determine your child's needs.
- 7.) Teachers have office hours in the afternoons between 12:30-2:30 PM daily. Make appointments with your child to check in with their teacher. Being present can help when they check in with learning more about your child's needs.
- 8.) Participate in parent training sessions designed to support parents with their struggling students. We will be providing parent training sessions that are designed to support parents with children who are struggling to learn in school.
- 9.) Check your student's progress on-line. Some videos on how to access Google Classroom, Parent Portal and Aeries have already been posted on our website.
- 10.) Contact your child's teacher first when your child is struggling. Then contact your child's counselor if you need more support. Our counselors e-mail addresses are below:
  - Ashly Henry [ahenry@travisusd.org](mailto:ahenry@travisusd.org) (A-G)
  - Ron Van Sant: [rvansant@travisusd.org](mailto:rvansant@travisusd.org) (H-Z)

### **Junior Honors Society**

Junior Honors Society is planning on hosting a Fall Food Drive.

### **Food Drive**



[https://www.pincipart.com/pindetail/ibxRoJR\\_food-drive-clipart/](https://www.pincipart.com/pindetail/ibxRoJR_food-drive-clipart/)

- From November 4th to November 13th, Golden West's National Junior Honor Society will be hosting our annual fall food drive! All donations will be given to the Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank which will be used to care for the hungry. Donating will raise awareness about hunger and will inspire others to take action as well. We realize that not everyone may be able to donate, but if you can, every donation counts! If you are interested, you can contribute in two ways.
- The first option is donating the food directly. We will have barrels located at Staples at 1010 Helen Power Dr, Vacaville and at other Staples at 1250 Oliver Rd, Fairfield. Don't worry if you can't make



it by then because the barrels will stay until January 1st! Remember to be safe and wear a mask if you would like to donate in person.

- If you would like to donate virtually, there will also be a virtual food drive! Here, you can donate money which will be used to purchase the food. Even if you can't donate a lot, every donation counts! Every \$1 provides 2 meals!
- Golden West NJHS appreciates every and all donations! Thank you very much!

### **Naviance Career Exploration**

The Counseling department is helping to prepare students with their career exploration.

Eighth grade families: This week 8th grade students received an assignment from GW Counseling on Career Exploration. This assignment introduces students to best-fit careers and asks them to complete the Naviance Career Key assessment for individualized Career information. Naviance can be found on your student's Launchpad and is an excellent tool for College and Career exploration. Please take time to visit with your student.

Contact GW Counselors for more information:

- Ashly Henry [ahenry@travisusd.org](mailto:ahenry@travisusd.org) (A-G)
- Ron Van Sant: [rvansant@travisusd.org](mailto:rvansant@travisusd.org) (H-Z)

We appreciate your continued support of our students and staff!

Brian Howard, Principal  
Golden West Middle School