

4010 King Springs Road  
Smyrna, GA 30082

July 6, 2018  
Volume 2, Issue 1

Griffin Middle School

# Wildcat Weekly



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Wednesday  
August 1, 2018

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GILLIHAN

Hello Griffin Wildcats,

As I sit here in Arkansas visiting with my mom and sister, my thoughts go back to you. My hope is that you too are having a great summer filled with fun and relaxation. We had a tremendous three weeks of summer camps, and it was wonderful seeing students in the halls. We also had an amazing rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp that had students going all over campus finding new places as they worked together.

We have some cute videos of some of the groups singing in the fine arts hall so they could get their next clue on the scavenger hunt. Our teachers have been busy all summer getting ready for next year with several already having their rooms ready. Mr. and Mrs. Quintana have also created an inspiring place for you all to read in our new Teen Reading Room. You will love it! Our custodial staff has been very busy moving teachers' rooms while making sure our school is clean and ready for August 1.

We have a campus clean up scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> so if you and your family are free to come out and help we could use all hands on deck. As the weeks dwindle into days, I am so excited to hear about all you have done this summer and most of all just to have you back at school. Yes. It is lonely when you all are gone. I hope you all had a wonderful July 4<sup>th</sup> and may the rest of your summer break be more spectacular than planned.

See you all soon.

Mr. G.

## What's Happening

July 11-**New Student Registration\*\***

July 15-Campus Clean-up

July 25-Teachers Return

July 26-Class Schedules available on Parent/StudentVue

July 28-**New Student & Parent School Tour\*\***

July 31-Meet & Greet

August 9-Sixth Grade Music Info Night

August 14-Open House TBD

August 14-Coffee Talk with Principal Gillihan

August 16-Open House TBD

**\*\*Students new to Griffin Middle School Attendance Zone\*\***



*We hope our Griffin Community had a wonderful 4th of July holiday!*



## NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Students new to the Griffin Middle School Attendance Zone are invited to register for school on **Wednesday, July 11, 2018 from 8:30-4:30 PM.**

Families may register at Griffin Middle School at the Student Support Registration Desk located at the

back of the school in the circle drive. Please park in the adjacent lot and follow the sidewalk signs.

Our registration clerks will be on staff to assist you with registration.

Registration Information:  
<http://www.cobbk12.org/aboutccsd/enrollment/>

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***“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”***  
***– Marian Wright Edelman***

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## CAMPUS CLEAN-UP DAY

A promotional poster for the Griffin Middle School Campus Clean-Up Day. The poster features a green background with white text and a blue border. The text reads: "Griffin Middle School", "Campus Clean-Up", "Sunday", "July 15, 2018", "3-6 PM", and "Parents, Students, Teachers &amp; Community Welcome". There are logos for Griffin Middle School and PTSA. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of people cleaning. To the right of the poster is an aerial photograph of the school campus, showing buildings, parking lots, and surrounding greenery.

**Join us on Sunday, July 15th, from 3-6 PM for the Griffin Middle School PTSA Campus Clean-up Day!**

Bring your gloves, rakes, shovels, and green thumbs as we beautify the Griffin Middle School Campus before we return back to school.

We will be pulling weeds, planting flowers, painting sidewalks, installing mulch, and more.

Parents, students, teachers, and the Griffin Community are welcome. The more the merrier as we work together to create a welcoming learning environment.

We appreciate your support!



# TEEN READING ROOM

New! Over the summer, we have been working on adding new books and furniture for the Teen Reading Room. Students participating in summer camps were able to sit and read in this new space. They loved it! We look forward to students using the space to do a lot of reading this school year!



## LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS



**Summer Camp students build, paint, and hang butterfly houses along the Griffin Nature Trail.**





# GRIFFIN GARDENS



This summer Dr. Gilbert, 8th Grade Science Teacher, has been working on the Griffin Gardens.

This is the current status of the gardens. There is squash, tomatoes, and soy beans growing!

If you get a chance, stop to take a look at the Griffin Gardens, and our initiative for creating beautiful vegetable beds for our community.

## 8th Grade Savannah Trip 2018



### Griffin Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Trip Savannah & Tybee Educational Fall Tour 2018

*(All Tours are Educational and enforce the Georgia National Performance Standards)*

#### Trip Dates:

October 14-16, 2018  
(Sunday-Tuesday)

#### Easy Online Payment Plan

\$79.00 due before June 15  
\$80.00 due before July 15  
\$80.00 due before Aug 15  
\$90.00 due before Sept 15

**\*\*IMPORTANT INFO:**  
During registration, you have the option to purchase the Class Act Tours "Cancellation Plan" Please read carefully all the terms.

A \$25.00 late fee is added to your trip if payments are not paid on or before due dates above. Please mark due dates on your calendar, as reminders are not sent out.

#### Questions?

Contact Teacher  
**Rochelle Wilson**  
Rochelle.Wilson@Cobbk12.org

**\$329.00pp**

First Come Basis!  
October 14-16, 2018  
(Sunday-Tuesday)

Space is Limited!  
Register TODAY!

#### Tour Highlights:

- \*Fort Pulaski
- \*Okefenokee Swamp Visit and Boat Ride
- \*Tybee Island Beach Exploration with Marine Biologist
- \*SCAD Museum of Art Tour
- \*First African Baptist Church
- \*Historical Savannah River Street & Waving Girl Statue
- \* Ghost Tour of Savannah Squares
- \* Savannah History Museum
- \* Forsyth Park Picnic
- And Much More!

#### REGISTER TODAY!!

Go to [WWW.ClassActTours.com](http://WWW.ClassActTours.com)  
Click top page Blue Bar-- Register for Tour  
Username: **GM2018**  
Password: **GM2018**

#### Tour Includes:

- \*Roundtrip Motor Coach Travel Griffin Middle School
- \*Transportation via deluxe air conditioned motor coach
- \* Excellent Hotel Accommodations with interior hallways
- \* All meals--
- \*Educational Tour Coordinator with Group 24/7
- \*Dedicated Group security at the hotel during the evening
- \*Workbook to enhance the learning experience
- \*Jelly bracelets with emergency number embossed
- \*Educational programs throughout the trip
- \*All Taxes and Fees
- \*All Admissions

### 8th Grade Wildcats!

If you have not already done so, please take the time to register for the 8th Grade Savannah Trip.

The trip takes place earlier this year to align with social studies curriculum.


Students will visit Savannah October 14-16, 2018. Payment plan is available.

Questions? Contact [Rochelle Wilson](mailto:Rochelle.Wilson@Cobbk12.org), 8th Grade SS Teacher

# GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Be Here. Be Ready. Be Respectful.

## 2018-2019 COBB COUNTY SCHOOLS CALENDAR



**COBB COUNTY**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

514 Glover Street, Marietta, GA 30060  
(770) 426-3300 • [www.cobbk12.org](http://www.cobbk12.org)

**2018-2019 School Year Calendar**

**July 2018**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

*July 4 - Independence Day*

**August 2018**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

*Sept. 3 - Labor Day*

**September 2018**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

*Sept. 3 - Labor Day*

**October 2018**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Nov. 6 - Election Day*  
*Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day*

**November 2018**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

*Nov. 6 - Election Day*  
*Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day*

**December 2018**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

*Dec. 25 - Christmas Day*

**January 2019**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*Jan. 1 - New Year's Day*  
*Jan. 21 - MLK Day*

**February 2019**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

*Feb. 18 - Presidents' Day*

**March 2019**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**April 2019**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

*Apr. 1 - 5 - Spring Holidays*

**May 2019**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

*May 27 - Memorial Day*

**June 2019**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**CALENDAR LEGEND**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> First and Last Days of School</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Holiday - School Closed</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffff00; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Student Holiday/Staff Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Elementary/Middle School Conference Week (Early release for elementary and middle schools only)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Early Release Day - All levels (Refer to the District's online calendar for details)</li> </ul>
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Approved: 10/26/17  
Updated: 4/9/18

## NEW STUDENT & PARENT SCHOOL TOUR

Students and parents new to the Griffin Middle School attendance zone are invited to take a school tour on **Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 2-3 PM**. Join Principal Gillihan as he walks you through the halls and shares our wonderful learning environment.

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# GRIFFIN LITERACY TEAM

The Griffin Literacy Team, consisting of 15 teachers, met through the month of June to create a literacy program for our students. Thank you to Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Kaur, Mrs. Aaron, Ms. Barlow, Mrs. Quintana, , Mr. Quintana, Dr. Gilbert, Mr. Prism, Ms. Brownlee, Ms. Sample, Ms. Beasley, Mr. Langston, Ms. Howell, Ms. Hicks, Mr. Joiner, & Ms. Gordon. Special thank you to Mr. Gillihan & Mrs. Phipps for their support.

It is our goal to create a reading culture at Griffin by supporting students through the explicit teaching of literacy strategies & practicing sustained silent reading. Please help support our initiative by having your student read at home every day.



*“Without extensive reading, students’ stamina as readers will be inadequate for the tasks of community, college, & careers in the 21st century. Stamina refers to the ability to stay on task during silent reading.”-Elfrieda H. Hiebert*

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Griffin Wildcats! Have you logged into your Biblionasium account to record your 1500 minutes of summer reading? You have until July 31st to record your minutes. Visit [biblionasium.com](http://biblionasium.com) and log in

through Destiny with your student number & computer password. Build a bookshelf, share book reviews with friends, and update your avatar! Prize for top reader in each grade-level!



### WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 schooldays, and Student C will have read for 3.

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**



[www.cobbcatt.org](http://www.cobbcatt.org)

Wildcats! Use your Griffin student number at any Cobb County Public Library to check-out books!

Visit your local Cobb County Public Library for details and how to access digital and audiobooks on their website, as well as databases and apps for free!

## RISING 6TH GRADE CAMP



We were so excited to welcome our Rising 6th Graders to Griffin Camp in July! Students participated in a scavenger hunt that helped them tour and discover the hallways, music department, library learning commons, cafeteria, and more! Thank you to the student volunteers who mentored & facilitated activities. We are proud of our new and former Griffin students.

Be Great Be Griffin!



*Welcome!*



Ms. Howell's Smart Start Summer Camp students work on poetry during the second week of camp.

Administration Carpool Karaoke?? Maybe next time!  
 Until then, meet our 2018-2019 Admin Team!  
 F-B: Mr. Gillihan, Ms. Efaw, Mr. Short, Mrs. Phipps,  
 Mr. Gray, Ms. Willis, and Ms. Seibert!

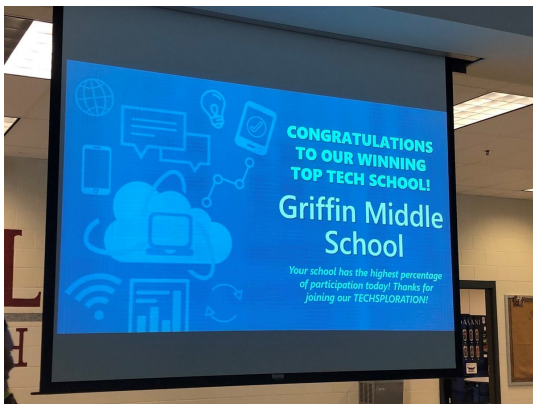






## Staff Summers = Professional Learning

*Committed to being the best for our students all year long*





## FOLLOW US! ON SOCIAL MEDIA



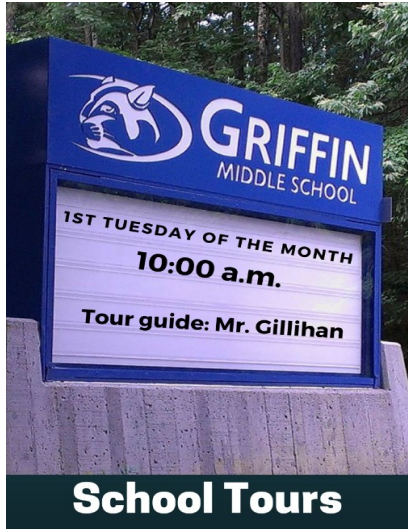
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[https://www.instagram.com/gms\\_wildcats/](https://www.instagram.com/gms_wildcats/)



<https://twitter.com/>



Click here for  
ParentVUE



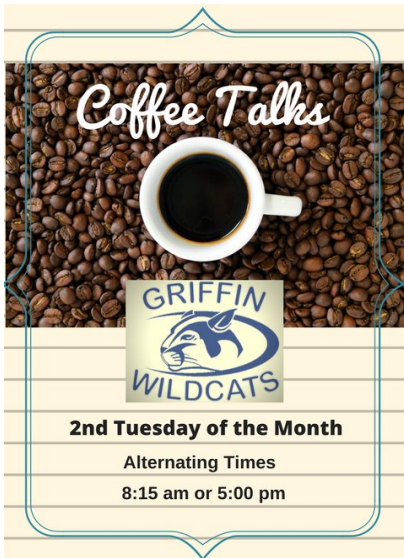
### Did you Know?

You can access your student's grades  
& attendance through ParentVUE?  
To get an activation code, contact:

[Kacie.phipps@cobbk12.org](mailto:Kacie.phipps@cobbk12.org)



Make a payment towards any student  
fees, library fines, or to enroll in activities  
using an e-check, credit card, or debit  
card at [www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com).



### 2018-2019 Student Class Schedules

for returning students and rising 6th graders will be  
available in Parent/StudentVue on **July 26, 2018**.



**July 26, 2018**

**NOTE:** Parents needing access to ParentVue, may come to the Student Support Office (back of the school building in the circle drive) between **9 AM-12 PM on July 26** to complete the necessary paperwork to gain access.

# Partners in Education

Please support our Partners in Education

If you would like your business to be a Griffin MS partner in education,  
please contact [sarah.martinez@cobbk12.org](mailto:sarah.martinez@cobbk12.org).



*Thank You for Supporting Griffin*