

July 1, 2018

Dear North Gwinnett High School Parents,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer. For most, August 6<sup>th</sup> is the unofficial end of summer as it is the first day of school and it is quickly approaching. Please take a few minutes to read this letter because it contains important information that will help facilitate a great orientation and opening of the school year for your child.

As the 2018-2019 school year approaches, we are pleased to announce that NGHS's orientation will continue being supported through MyPaymentsPlus. MyPaymentsPlus is your avenue for viewing/printing documents required for the first day of school, making payments for various fees/activities and also placing funds into your student's meal account. We have automated the orientation process and placed it online in hopes of bringing back the true focus of Open House – **less paperwork for our parents and more interaction with your student's teachers.** All parents are asked to visit [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com) to make sure their child is registered and ready for the first day of school. We consistently strive to find new and better ways to serve our students and our families, and we thank you for partnering with us in this effort. This process will go live on **Saturday, July 21.** Everyone attending North Gwinnett High School will participate in the on-line process. If it is not completed before you reach North on orientation day, it will have to be completed when you arrive on campus in our Collaborative Learning Center.

Enclosed in this packet is our Orientation Guide and explains how and when the orientation process will operate this year. Located on the top portion of the paper is our schedule for **Orientation Day, Thursday, August 2, 2018.** Please make every effort to adhere to the times as scheduled and do your best to send a parent with the student to ensure that all important updates are complete before school begins. A list of other tasks you can complete that day is included as well as important information about parking and pick up. **Our goal is to eliminate long lines so your time is spent more appropriately with our teachers and staff.**

As more and more students have access to electronic devices, we strongly encourage that students bring a device to school to help facilitate their learning in their classes. We encourage students to bring devices such as Chomebooks, laptops, tablets, or phones that they can use appropriately and integrate those devices into their daily activities and learning. As our technology infrastructure continues to improve and grow, we are excited to be able to support students' personal devices.

Summer assignments are suggested as a way to prepare a student for an upcoming class. These assignments are a valuable and important option for students to develop a better foundation before beginning a course. Summer assignments can be found on the school's website.

Before orientation day, please follow the directions in the enclosed flyer to update emergency contact information through the Parent Portal. This is the information we use to update our records on any medical conditions as well as approved emergency contacts. The emergency contacts are used for student check out and if parents cannot be reached, so it is critical to complete this update.

If you have not registered for Parent Portal you will be able to do so at orientation or during the first semester of school. A station will be set up in the commons during orientation for anyone that does not yet have access to Parent Portal. After school begins, parents that need to register for Parent Portal can do so at the front reception desk at NGHS. You will need to have a picture ID with you to complete the Parent Portal registration.

Just in case you lose or misplace any of this information it can all be found on our website and we will also send it through eNews. We look forward to seeing you soon and to a great 2018-2019 school year.

Sincerely,

*Nathan Ballantine*

Principal