

Middle School Sports and Transportation

Middle School sports is **optional** for 6th graders and **mandatory for two seasons each year** in 7th and 8th grade. A theater offering, available during the winter sports season, can be substituted for one of the two required seasons.

2018-19 MS Athletic Dates (Monday-Thursday):

Thursday, September 6 MS Fall Sports begin

Thursday, October 25 MS Fall Sports end

Monday, November 5 MS Squash begins (tryouts)

Monday, November 19 MS Winter Sports begin

Thursday, February 7 MS Winter Sports end (18-19 squash season ends at the conclusion of the MASA competition, see schedule for more detail)

Monday, March 11 MS Spring Sports begin

Thursday, May 9 MS Spring Sports end

Practice Times:

Fall: 2:35-4 p.m.

Winter: 2:35-3:45 p.m.

- Squash returns to Main Campus by 4:15 p.m.
- Winter Intramural Track students can be picked up at GFS Fields at 3:45 p.m. or back on Main Campus at 4 p.m.

Spring: 2:35-4 p.m.

- Softball returns to campus by 4:15 p.m. (from Clifford Park)

Locations for Practice and Home Competitions:

Due to space demands, some sports practice in locations other than the GFS Fields. Practice locations are listed below, with the primary location listed first. In the event that a practice or competition is moved, you will receive notification from the coach or Athletics Department (more information in following sections).

- XC/Track, Soccer, Field Hockey, Baseball, Lacrosse: GFS Fields
- Tennis: **GFS Tennis Courts (at GFS Fields)**, Philadelphia University, Legacy Tennis Center
- Softball: **Clifford Park**, Blue Bell Park
- Squash: **Squash Smarts**, Germantown Cricket Club
- Wrestling: Smith Gym
- Basketball: **Field House Gym**, Scattergood Gym, Smith Gym

More information about facilities and directions is available here:

<http://www.germantownfriends.org/athletics/facilities-directions>

Athletic Landing Page of the GFS Website:

- GFS Team Schedules can be found on the Athletics page of the GFS website (<http://www.germantownfriends.org/athletics>).
- If there are weather-related changes to practice locations and/or competitions and pick-up locations, the Athletics Department will post them to Tiger Alerts on the Athletics landing page. Subscribe to Tiger Alerts (click on the bell icon on the Athletics homepage on the website) to directly receive email and/or text message alerts.
- Parents can also subscribe to RSS feeds of the team calendars and to notifications via email and/or text message to receive updates when changes to competitions occur (this does not apply to practices).

Please note: On the website schedule, competition “end times” are estimated, and “return times” are therefore also estimated. Traffic is always a variable. We ask coaches to remind students to contact parents during their return trip with an estimated return time.

Post-Practice Departure and Pick-up:

Students depart after practice by one of the following methods:

- Take public transportation. After sports ends, GFS security officers are posted at Queen Lane Station (Chestnut Hill West train line) and at the bus stops near the Main Campus at the corners of Germantown & Coulter (bus #23) and Greene and Coulter Streets (H and XH buses).
- Parent pick-up at GFS Fields (GPS address is 2807 Midvale Avenue) or Main Campus.
- Board the free shuttle bus that loops between the GFS Fields and Main Campus. *(This is a continuous shuttle loop that runs until 6:30 p.m.)*

For MS squash, please refer to email updates from the coach for practice location and pick-up information.

For MS winter track, pick-up will be from Main Campus at 4 p.m. (regardless of whether practice occurs at Fields or on Main Campus).

- On Main Campus, the options after practice are:
 - Middle School After School program, which is open until 6 p.m. daily. *(Please note: MSAS coverage is available free-of-charge for students-athletes from the end of winter sports practice at 3:45 p.m. until the Late Shuttle leaves at 4:30 p.m. Students who wish to remain in MSAS after 4:30 p.m. should enroll for After-Sports Coverage using this [link](#).)*
 - Board one of the GFS buses (which stop at just a few pre-determined locations).
 - Board a GFS private door-to-door bus *(these routes include prorated options for MS students who are participating in a GFS sport and only ride the private, door-to-door bus Monday-Thursday during the sports season).*
 - The above GFS buses depart from Main Campus at 4:30 p.m. so **there are no GFS shuttles routes to predetermined locations nor private transportation**

service after 4:30 p.m. However, the free shuttle that runs between GFS Fields and Main Campus runs until 6:30 p.m.

- By the time sports practice ends, township and Philadelphia School District buses are not available to take students home.

Post-Competition Departure and Pick-up:

Students depart after competitions by one of the following methods:

- Parents may pick students up from an AWAY competition, assuming the following:
 - A parent or guardian must be present to pick up. A coach must acknowledge the pick up before departing with your student. *No student may be left behind to wait for a parent that is running late.*
 - **Permission in the form of an email or signed note must be given by the student's parent or guardian in advance**, before the student can travel from an away competition with someone else (carpool, babysitter, neighbor, teammate's parent, etc.).

Parents may write a detailed, season-long permission plan and submit it to the coach with copy to mboorse@germantownfriends.org.

- For fall and spring sports, students return to GFS Fields in the competition bus, accompanied by the coach, and are picked up there (except for girls softball which come back to Main Campus). Winter sports return to GFS Main Campus. *GFS Security is present until the last student is picked up.*
- If your child arrives at GFS Fields as early as 5 p.m., he or she can take the free shuttle back to the Main Campus and drop in at the Middle School After School program until 6 p.m.

Parking at GFS Fields:

GFS is in a densely populated, urban setting and parking at GFS Fields can be challenging. We appreciate your patience and attention to safety at all times.

- Parent parking is not permitted in the GFS Fields parking lot (2807 Midvale Avenue)
- Parents can park on Midvale Avenue outside the GFS Fields but should never double park. If you do park on Midvale, in the interest of safety, we ask that you park on the GFS Fields side of Midvale Avenue. **Students who cross Midvale Avenue to be picked up must cross at the traffic light.** Oak Road and School House Lane are also safe and convenient options for parking.

Please do not block neighbors' driveways and be aware of Philadelphia parking signs. We have had situations when they have called tow trucks.

Safety Note:

If you are only coming to pick up your child and plan to remain in your vehicle, in the interest of student safety we ask that you park on the GFS Fields side of Midvale Avenue. There may be a line of cars. Please do not block the driveway.

Many parents choose to park farther away and walk up to meet students and help them cross Midvale Avenue.

Any students who cross Midvale Avenue must walk down to the Wissahickon Avenue and Midvale Avenue intersection and cross at the traffic light. Keep in mind that southbound traffic on Wissahickon Avenue can turn right on red.

Rainy Weather and Sports Practices/Competitions:

There are many factors that go into our practice and competition schedule. Sometimes when it rains, we may move indoors to Main Campus for practices. We do not cancel sports practices. There are situations when some teams practice on Main Campus and some are at GFS Fields. We will post any changes to the normal afternoon schedule to the Tiger Alerts section on the Athletics landing page of our website.

In the case that practice is on Main Campus:

- Students still dismiss at 4 p.m. (Fall and Spring)
- Private GFS buses and shuttle buses will depart from the Main Campus, Coulter Street, as usual.
- The free shuttle bus is available after practice to take students to the Queen Lane Station.
- Parents planning to pick up their children should pick them up from Main Campus.

The decision to cancel or postpone competitions and move practices indoors depends on a lot of factors. Our goal is to make decisions by 1 p.m. Unexpected conditions could create a situation where we change plans at practice time. This might disrupt the pick-up communication flow. The first place we will post updates is on Tiger Alerts on the Athletics landing page of our website. Coaches will also be prompted to allow students time during practice to contact parents. Please check the Athletics website for updates.

Contacts: Front Desk: 215-951-2300
Middle School Office: 215-951-2316
Athletic Office: 215-951-2331

Intersession:

This is a period of roughly two to three weeks, which occurs between seasons. There are no sports during Intersession. Middle School is dismissed at 3:10 p.m. Intersession dates are on the school calendar. We will remind you about them via **Parent Press**. After school plans must be one of the following:

- Students are picked up at 3:10 p.m.
- Students go to the Middle School After School (MSAS) program. *To register for Intersession Coverage, please click [here](#).*
- Students may work on publications, attend a play rehearsal, etc. in an adult-supervised activity.

Please note that Middle School students may not remain on campus without adult supervision. If they are not in an adult-supervised activity, such as play rehearsals etc., or in the Middle School After School program, they must leave for home after the 3:10 p.m. dismissal, otherwise they will be enrolled as a drop-in in (MSAS).

Advice from the Parents Association:

- Be flexible as schedules may change. The weather does not always cooperate!
- Students on different teams follow different game schedules. Please keep this in mind when arranging car pools.
- Students should take their backpacks to games if they have a ride home directly following the event, and thus avoid a trip back to field.
- Take a snack.
- Kids arrive home ravenous.
- Carpooling is a great way to connect with other families while reducing the burden on parents and caregivers. If you are having trouble finding a family to carpool with, try getting in touch with the coach, requesting a team list and using the school directory by zip code to find people in your area who might want to share the driving.