



# Glen Lake Middle School Family Newsletter

Back to School Edition

AUGUST 21, 2026

## Back-to-School Open House — Come See What's NEW!

We can't wait to welcome our Laker families back to school! Join us for our **Back-to-School Open House on Wednesday, August 26, from 6:00–8:00 PM** for an evening of food, fun, familiar faces, and a first look at what's new!

 **Our building has been getting a major refresh!**

Come check out our **new hallways, fresh paint, updated flooring, and newly renovated classrooms** throughout our Secondary Building.

Our Middle School classrooms were transformed last summer, and this summer we completed our High School wings and added new flooring. **Next up: the Elementary side in summer 2027!** We're excited for you to see the transformation in person!

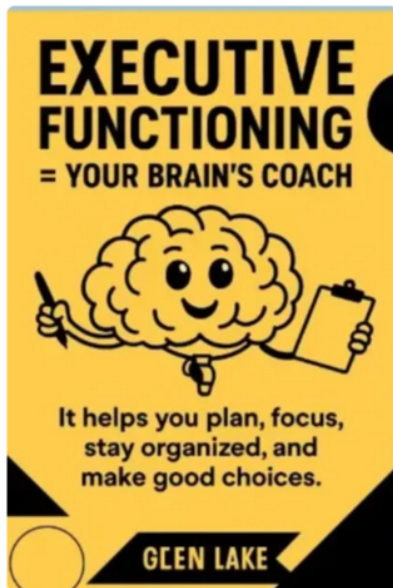
During Open House, you can:

-  **Explore classrooms** and meet your teachers
-  **Enjoy a FREE hot dog dinner**
-  **Reconnect with our amazing Laker staff**
-  **Get your locker assignment** and practice opening your locker—no locks needed!
-  **Get transportation and bus route information**
-  **Tour the locker rooms** and get comfortable with daily routines
-  **Ask questions** and make sure you're ready for day one

Whether you're brand new to Glen Lake or already know the halls by heart, this is a great opportunity to reconnect, explore, and get excited for the year ahead.

Come hungry, bring the family, explore what's new, and help us kick off another great year at Glen Lake!

We can't wait to welcome our Lakers back!



## Building Executive Function Skills in Middle School

Middle school is about much more than learning math, science, and language arts. It is also a critical time for students to develop **executive function skills**—the skills that help them plan, organize, manage their time, prioritize responsibilities, and follow through.

For adults, keeping track of a pencil, writing an assignment in a calendar, organizing notes, or remembering what to bring to class may seem simple. For middle school students, these are **skills that need to be explicitly taught, modeled, practiced, and reinforced**.

That is why Glen Lake Middle School has developed a consistent **binder and organization system** for students. We provide each student with a binder, pencil case, and locker and teach students how to use these tools effectively. Students learn how to organize materials, maintain useful notes, plan ahead, set goals, keep track of assignments, and have what they need when they need it.

Our goal isn't simply to help students stay organized today. It is to help them develop habits and strategies that will lead to greater **independence, confidence, and success** throughout middle school, high school, and beyond.

### What Students Should Bring

Because Glen Lake Middle School provides binders, pencil cases, and lockers, families only need to provide a few essentials:

-  **Backpack**
-  **Refillable water bottle** labeled with the student's name
-  **Pencils**
-  **Physical Education clothes, gym shoes, and deodorant**

Students are welcome to personalize the inside of their lockers using **magnets**. Please remember that **stickers are not permitted**.

Thank you for partnering with us as we teach students not just *what* to learn, but **how to manage themselves as learners**. These small habits today build the independent learners of tomorrow.

## Dress for a Great Day at School

We want Glen Lake Middle School to be a place where students can **express their personal style while keeping the focus on learning, belonging, and safety**. We recognize that fashion and trends change, and we respect students' individuality. Our expectation is simple: clothing should be appropriate for a safe, comfortable, and productive school environment.



### Students should wear:

- A shirt with appropriate coverage
- Pants, sweatpants, shorts, skirts, dresses, or leggings with appropriate coverage
- Shoes appropriate for the school day and specific activities
- Clothing worn in a way that keeps private body areas covered

### Please leave at home clothing or items that include:

- Violent, profane, or inappropriate language or images
- References to drugs, alcohol, illegal items, or illegal activities
- Hate speech or content that creates a hostile or intimidating environment
- Clothing that leaves underwear or the backside exposed
- Bathing suits
- Shoes with wheels

Our goal is **never to embarrass or shame a student** over clothing. If there is a concern about a student's attire, a building administrator will address it respectfully and privately with the student.

We appreciate families helping us reinforce a simple message: **Be yourself, be comfortable, and come ready to learn!**



## Phones Away, Learning Underway!

At Glen Lake Middle School, we want students to be **present, connected, and engaged** throughout the school day. Students are welcome to bring cell phones and personal electronic devices to school, but from **8:10 a.m.–3:10 p.m., devices should be turned off and stored in the student's locker**.

This includes cell phones, communication-enabled smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, wireless listening devices, tablets, and similar personal electronics. Devices should not be carried in pockets, backpacks, or other personal belongings during the school day unless a staff member has approved their use for an educational, medical, or emergency need.

## Need to Connect? No Problem!

We understand that there are times when students and families need to reach one another. **There are plenty of ways to stay connected during the school day!**

Students may ask the principal for permission to use their phone when needed, every classroom has a phone available, and families can always contact the **main office to have an important message delivered to their student.**

Our goal isn't to make communication difficult—it is to give students a school day with fewer digital distractions and more opportunities to **learn, talk, participate, build relationships, and simply be present.**

Thank you for helping us create a school environment where our students can **disconnect from their devices and connect with what matters!**

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## First Day of School, August 31

Our first day of school this year is on Monday, August 31st. Students will have a half day of school, but be able to attend each class of the day. Our schedule is the same just shorter amount of time in each class. Here is a breakdown of what our daily schedule is on half days of school:

1st Hour: 8:10 - 8:36  
2nd hour: 8:40 - 9:05  
3rd Hour: 9:09 - 9:34  
4th Hour: 9:38 - 10:02  
5th Hour: 10:06 - 10:31  
6th Hour: 10:35 - 11:00  
7th Hour: 11:04 - 11:30



On half days students are able to receive breakfast, but students do not eat lunch at school. As always, we allow students to bring healthy snacks and a water bottle to school daily. We also have fresh fruit available in our hallway all day, every day!

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## Website

Please take a moment to check out our Middle School Webpage. It's the easiest place to find some of our most important documents.

- Course Syllabi (Will be updated by the 1st Day of School)
- Parent Student Handbook
- Code of Conduct

# Glen Lake Middle School Webpage

## Our Daily Planner: Building Independence One Step at a Time

For our **6th and 7th grade students and families**, we provide a daily online planner as another tool to help students build strong **organization, time-management, and self-management skills**.

| 6th Grade Daily Planner                                                                                    |              |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Thursday, September 1, 2022                                                                                |              |  |
| Classroom                                                                                                  | Things to do |  |
| Social Studies: Mr. Grana<br>Practice names<br>-color tags<br>Classroom expectations<br>Mr. Grana's rubric | Computer     |  |
| Math: Mr. Grady                                                                                            |              |  |
| English: Mrs. Brown                                                                                        |              |  |
| Science: Mrs. Engstrom                                                                                     |              |  |

Teachers update the planner each day, giving students a consistent place to check assignments, upcoming deadlines, and important reminders. It's also a great resource for families when helping students prioritize what needs to be completed each evening.

We encourage families to bookmark the planner on a phone, tablet, or **computer** so it's easy to reference throughout the year.

**Wondering about 8th grade?** There's a reason! By 8th grade, we intentionally begin removing some of these supports as students prepare for high school. Our goal throughout middle school is to **teach the skills, practice the skills, and then gradually shift the responsibility to the student.**

We want our students leaving middle school with the confidence and executive functioning skills to manage their own assignments, deadlines, materials, and responsibilities—with adults still there to support them when needed.

# 6th Grade Daily Planner

# 7th Grade Daily Planner



## Thank you, LIFT Summer Participants!

As we prepare to begin another school year, here at LIFT, we wanted to extend a thank you to everyone in the Glen Lake community who helped make this summer so special!

Rising 6th - 12th grade Lakers joined us for everything from beach days and dune hikes to movie days, coffee chats, a trip to Mackinac Island and so much more.

Whether you were a guardian who managed the family calendar, a volunteer who helped ensure programming went smoothly or a teen who said "yes" to joining us on an adventure, thank you all!

Keep an eye out for school year calendars and sign-up information in the next week or so, enjoy this final bit of summer, and we'll see you soon.



## September Important Dates

Monday, August 31: 1st Day of School, Half Day, 11:30 Dismissal

Friday, Sept. 4th: No School

Monday, Sept 7th: Labor Day, No School

Wednesday, Sept. 24th: Pop Up Farmer's Market for students



## 2026-2027 District Calendar



### Attendance Matters

If your child is absent from school you must contact the school the day of absence to let us know. Please call 231.334.3061, Ext 514 to let us know that your child is home ill, has a doctor's appointment, or other family matters. We are here to support.

### Here to Help

If you have any questions in regards to beginning the school year please don't hesitate to reach out. We are all here to support your child during the Middle School Years!

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