

August 17, 2016

Dear Scots!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2016/2017 school year! I hope that you are returning to us after a fun and enjoyable summer, yet ready for the challenge of middle school! I am excited to announce that our theme for the year is "Team Gibson!" This theme asks us to remember that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves and to consider each day how our actions affect those around us. It requires each of us to deeply consider our efforts this year and the type of impact we would like to have not only on our own personal growth and success, but also on the well-being of others through acts of kindness and service. It reminds us that working together enhances our individual strengths and allows us to accomplish more than we ever could individually.

We are also excited to present two school initiatives this year. First, we will be rolling out our new school-wide rules, "Gibson's Great 8!" These are eight rules that focus on manners and respect, and all members of the Gibson family will be expected to model them on a daily basis. Students will receive lessons on each of the rules when they return to school, and we truly believe that an emphasis on Gibson's Great 8 will help us to better prepare our students for a successful academic experience. Additionally, we know that our families teach many of these expectations at home every day, such as speaking to adults in a respectful way and using good manners. At Gibson, we believe that families are an essential part of Team Gibson, and it is our responsibility to support your efforts here at school. We hope that Gibson's Great 8 will help us strengthen that family connection here on campus.

Additionally, we want to reward our students for exhibiting Gibson's Great 8 every day, so we will also be implementing a reward system for the 2016/2017 school year. Every adult at Gibson has already been sorted into one of four houses: Amizade, the House of Friendship; Ispirato, the House of Inspiration and Dreams; Sahasa, the House of Courage; and Ubuntu, the House of Selflessness and Giving. Once school gets started, all our students will be sorted into one of these houses as well. When students are observed exhibiting Gibson's Great 8 or embodying the values of their house, they will be rewarded with house points. Throughout the year, we will celebrate house leaders, and at the end of the year, we will crown a house champion! Again, our hope is to build a family environment here on campus, where every student feels safe and valued...an important member of Team Gibson!

In my twenty-four year career as an educator, I have never seen school personnel so excited to begin the new year! Our teachers and support staff can't wait to welcome our students! We believe that students at Gibson Middle School are special. We believe that you each hold unique talents and abilities, and all you have to do is believe in yourself! The staff and I will work every day to see that you meet and even exceed your personal potential!

Parents and students, I wish you a very successful school year and remind you that we care about you. You are always welcome in the Principal's Office, and I look forward to working with each of you.

Go Scots!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jaeger, Principal

Robert O. Gibson Middle School