



My Dearest Middle School Students and your wonderful Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy, rested and well. What a few interesting months it has been! Between our school building closing so quickly, worries over Covid-19, lock-downs, heartbreak over so much civil unrest and injustice, and new world of virtual learning, I wish I can fast forward and tell you everything will be perfectly ok. Unfortunately, my crystal ball is being serviced and I cannot do that at this time. But read on, and I'm sure you'll feel better!

Not being able to see you since March has been difficult in so many ways for me and the staff at school. YOU are what makes our school amazing. YOU are the reason our school is known as an amazing place to be. YOU are the sunshine that fills our classrooms and our hearts with pride and joy. That is the joy that has kept me going during these long stressful months since March. I miss your laughs. I miss making you my famous "hot" tea, I miss you asking for snacks and chocolate kisses. I miss you bringing me your graded "100" papers and me rewarding you with stickers. I miss seeing you in my office every five minutes. I miss telling you we need sunshine in our building. I actually even miss hearing the 4,383 excuses as to why you are late for school or out of uniform. ☺

Despite the unknown, the frustration, the anxiety, the sadness and the missed opportunities, I am ready for a new chapter with you! New beginnings are so exciting, don't you agree? This year will be like no other, but I promise you that we have been working hard all summer to put things into place that will keep you safe, healthy and thriving! In the meantime, this thing called "remote learning" will continue, but with several amazing changes. I need you all to make a promise to yourself, your family and to me that you will DO your best and BE your best beginning from Day 1.

- Set your alarm every morning. Paul Valery, a French poet once said "The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up." Wake up and make your dreams come true.
- Establish a routine. Get out of your pajamas. I am planning on having PJ Day often, so save your cutest pjs for that day. Wash that beautiful face of yours and get moving.
- Log on to On Course ON TIME, every day. We love to have you with us.
- Participate, Participate, Participate in your classes. If you don't, you will surely miss out. Your teachers have planned amazing lessons for you, so take advantage and ask tons of questions.
- Be mindful of proper virtual behavior. You know what we expect from you. Your grades and your teacher's sanity depend on it.
- Do all of your work. We are being flexible with due dates. I know you will not take advantage. All of the high schools will require ALL of your grades and ALL of your attendance records from grades 6-8. I can't wait to show you and your smarts off!!!! Keep Shining brightly!

- Your Specials classes will continue. Please know that we are fortunate enough to have the Arts in our school. The Arts make the world a beautiful place. Health and Physical Education keep your body healthy and strong. Many schools do not have the same opportunities that we do. Before you ask... Yes, they will be giving work and yes, you must do it all 😊
- Google Classroom is your portal for all you need to be successful. Get used to successfully submitting assignments. If you need help, ask!
- On our website, I have included a brand new feature called the “Help Desk.” Please take a moment to review it! You can fill it out 24 hours a day with questions or concerns. You and your family are not alone. We are in this together! Ask for help, and I promise you will get it!
- We will be celebrating you in many ways this year. One particular way is on the “Sunshine Corner” of our website. Check it out!
- We are establishing a student “TRANSITION DELEGATION.” Please consider joining us. We will be meeting virtually twice a month to discuss ways to make all these changes better for you! If you are interested, send me an email today! I will put your name on our list.
- We have added an information “HUB” to our website. We know you have tons of questions and may be overwhelmed with everything that you see and hear in the media. The HUB will have accurate, easy to understand information for you to read.
- Ms. Lopez Google classroom: I want to connect with you on a regular basis. Please visit my Google classroom at least once a day. I will be giving you important information and sending sunshine regularly. My class code is: z5curtu. Don’t forget to log in and hear Mr. Stiles share the Pledge of Allegiance and any announcements for the day.
- Lunch with Lopez: If you want to schedule a virtual lunch with me, please email me. I miss your face and our lunch conversations!
- Remember: Sunshine follows you wherever you are. Your words and actions determine how much of that sunshine you allow in.
- Our school is a beautiful mix of colors and flavors. Take that feeling wherever you are. Be anti-racist. Every day, all day, 100% of the time.
- Surround yourself with people who will make you better.

You are a part of HISTORY and HERSTORY! Let’s make this year better, smarter and kinder!

When you read this, you need to email me at [flopez@goldendoorschool.org](mailto:flopez@goldendoorschool.org) to let me know you received it and let me know what you think. I know I will hear from each and every one of you. Sending you lots of virtual hugs. I can’t wait to see you on September 8<sup>th</sup> 😊

Love and Sunshine Always,  
Mrs. Lopez