

WELCOME
BACK!the Newsletter
AUGUST

From the Desk of Your Principal:

Dear Gateway Middle School Students and Families,

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to officially kick off what promises to be a year filled with growth, learning, new opportunities, and "Elevated Excellence." Our staff has been hard at work preparing for your arrival, and we're already seeing great things. From smooth morning arrivals to strong transitions, respectful lunch routines, and responsible cell phone management — we are off to a great start! Thank you for helping set a positive tone for the year.



This year, we are placing a strong emphasis on building a culture of respect, responsibility, and community. Our goal is to ensure every student feels safe, supported, and inspired to do their best each day. You'll see this reflected in our daily routines, expectations, and classroom culture — especially as we continue to focus on building climate and culture in specific class periods throughout the week. We're here not only to teach academics, but also to help students grow as individuals. That means working together — staff, families, and students — to create an environment where everyone belongs and everyone succeeds.

Please stay connected with us through school updates, teacher communication, and family events. We're thrilled to be on this journey with you and look forward to all we'll accomplish together this year.

Here's to a strong start and an even stronger year ahead!

Dr. White

DaMaris A. White, Ed.D.

Principal



August 25-29 STAR Testing



September 1 NO SCHOOL



September 3 Uniform Orders Due



September 19 NO SCHOOL



September 8-12 MAP Science Practice 8th Grade

Announcements:



Christmas Stories Intake Now Open

The social worker is currently accepting intake forms for Christmas Stories. If you are interested in submitting a story, contact the social worker at 314-241-2295 or email vickie.boyd@slps.org. The deadline for submitting a completed story with documentation is September 12, 2025.

Meet your Leaders

ADMINISTRATORS



Dear Gateway MST Families,

My name is Ms. Wesley, and I am honored to serve as the 7th grade Assistant Principal of Gateway Middle School of Math, Science, and Technology. This year, we are embracing our school theme of Elevated Excellence, which reflects our commitment to helping every student grow academically, socially, and personally.

At Gateway, our work is guided by our core values: Precision, Resilience, Intentionality, Diversity, and Excellence. These values drive the way we teach, the way we learn, and the way we support one another as a school community.

As proud Jaguars, we will continue to move forward with strength and purpose, creating a learning environment where every student is seen, supported, and challenged to reach their highest potential.

I look forward to partnering with you this year as we strive for Elevated Excellence together.

With Jaguar Pride,

Ms. Wesley

Assistant Principal, Gateway MST Middle School



🎉 Welcome to Gateway Middle School! 🎉 ☀️ 2025–2026 School Year Kickoff! ☀️

Hello amazing 6th grade students and families!

I'm Dr. Todd Williams, and I'm thrilled to welcome you to the Gateway Middle School family! This year marks the beginning of an exciting journey filled with learning, laughter, and growth. This 6th grade year will be filled with energy, learning, and milestones that will help shape our students for the rest of their lives. Whether you're stepping into the Gateway Complex for the first time or returning with fresh energy, we're ready to make this year unforgettable! Let's go Jr. Jaguars!

Warmly,

Todd T. Williams, Ed.D.

6th Grade Assistant Principal



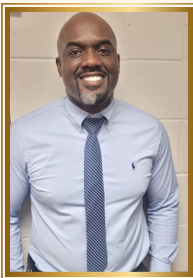
Meet your Leaders

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Ms. Billham- Teaching & Learning Methods Coach

Hello! I am Mrs. Billham, and I am excited to begin my second year at Gateway as the Teaching & Learning Methods Coach. My job is to support teachers as an academic coach to ensure our students receive everything they need to elevate their excellence through education. I was an ELA teacher for 10 years, with most of my time spent at Vashon High School. I am passionate about literacy and reading and am looking forward to continue sharing that passion with the teachers and students here at Gateway.



Dr. Coley- Dean of Students

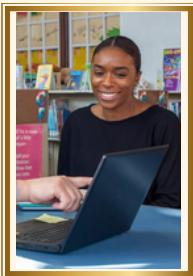
My name is Dr. Obinno W. Coley, and I am the Dean of Students for ALL STUDENTS. My number one role in the building is to make sure every student is mentally, physically, and emotionally prepared for their school day.

GRADE LEVEL TEAM LEADERS



Ms. Reynolds- 8th Grade

I am someone who values family and finds great joy in teaching middle school, where I get to share my love of learning and growth with students every day. Outside of the classroom, I'm passionate about travel, sports especially football, basketball and golf and I enjoy cooking and entertaining, particularly in warm weather. I also have a creative side with an interest in home décor, and I love celebrating Christmas in warm destinations. Constantly learning, staying active, and creating meaningful connections are at the heart of who I am.



Ms. Neal- 7th Grade

I am very excited to continue to work with the Saint Louis Public School District as Gateway's 7th grade Pre-Algebra teacher and grade level lead.

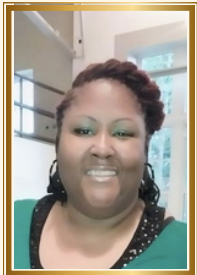
I am a St. Louis native with a background in digital marketing. I plan to incorporate themes of economics, role-playing, and friendly competition to promote academic advancement as well as social-emotional growth.



Ms. Thornton- 6th Grade

Hi! I'm Ms. Thornton, and I'm thrilled to be your 6th grade science teacher this year. We'll be exploring the wonders of science through exciting topics like weather, the environment, and hands-on experiments that bring learning to life. My goal is to make science fun, meaningful, and something you'll look forward to every day. I'm also excited to be teaching an 8th grade honors science class this year! No matter the grade, I'm here to support you, challenge you, and help you discover just how fascinating the world around us can be. Let's get ready for an amazing year of discovery and learning!

CONTENT TEAM LEADERS



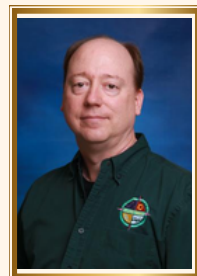
Ms. Williams- ELA

Hi! My name is Felisha Williams, and I'm proud to serve as both the 6th grade Language Arts teacher and the ELA Department Chair. This year marks my 25th in education, and I'm just as excited today as I was when I first started. I absolutely love reading—*The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake is one of my favorites—and I believe in creating a classroom full of laughter, learning, and meaningful growth. I'm passionate about helping students discover their voices and explore new ideas through reading and writing.



Ms. Grass- Math

Hi families! I'm Ms. Grass, and I teach 8th Grade Algebra and Algebra 150. I also serve as our school's Math Team Lead. I love helping students grow in their confidence and skills in math, and I'm excited for all the problem-solving, learning, and success we'll share this year! Be on the lookout for some exciting STEAM events coming up throughout the school year—I can't wait to see our students shine!



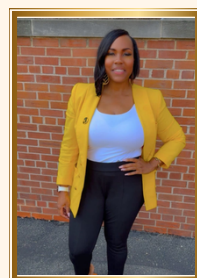
Mr. Herron- Related Arts

I am in my twentieth year as Choir Director at Gateway Middle School. I taught for the previous ten years at Pruitt Military Academy (next door to Gateway). I earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education at Illinois Wesleyan University and a Master's degree in Music Education at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. In the fall of 2017, I received Level 1 Certification in Choral Music Education from the Institute for Choral Teacher Education. I was honored in "Who's Who Among American Teachers" in 2005 & 2006. I have also served as rehearsal assistant, music reading instructor, and accompanist with The St. Louis Children's Choirs.



Ms. Jarvis- Science

I'm an outspoken introvert who somehow found my voice teaching 7th grade science. I juggle two kids, three dogs, and a classroom full of curious minds—so yes, chaos is basically my natural habitat. I bring humor into my lessons (because science is wild enough already) and believe learning works best when you can laugh your way through it



Ms. Sellers- Social Studies

Hello! I am in my second year here at Gateway. I will be teaching 8th Grade American History as well as serving as the Student Leadership Council Chair and Social Studies Team Lead.



Ms. Zinck- Special Education

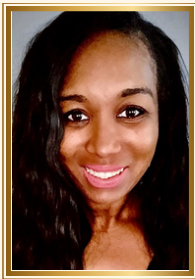
Welcome to another great year at Gateway Middle School! I am so excited to get to work with each and every one of you. I am sure we will have a great year as we learn, try new things, and grow together. I am thrilled to work with you and your families as we work to prepare you for high school and beyond. Please know that we are all in this together. I am available to help in whatever way I can. Feel free to reach out to me if you ever need help or assistance!

STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF



Ms. Washington- PBIS Specialist

Hi! My name is D. Washington, and I'm excited to serve as the Behavior Interventionist for the 2025–2026 school year. I'm passionate about building relationships, supporting students' social, emotional, and behavioral growth, and I look forward to working closely with staff, students, and families to create a positive and inclusive learning environment for all.



Dr. Florence Fields-School Counselor

Hey! This is year 7 for me here at "Greatway." I'm excited to be spending another school year you, doing what we do to help our scholars grow. As counselor, I am privileged to have the opportunity everyday to walk with our scholars during their middle school journey, being a safe place for them as they explore learning about themselves, interacting positively with others, and setting goals for success. I engage students in educational experiences centered on interpersonal, intrapersonal, academic, and career development and I am the point person for initiating assessment for special education services. I enjoy laughing and smiling and seeing student joy. Let's make this year a great one!



Ms. Haddox- Social Worker

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome our students back to school. We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and success together. As the school Social Worker, I am here to assist students and families with needs, questions, and resources that will help you in and outside of this educational setting. Do not hesitate to contact me via phone at 314-241-2295 or email Vickie.boyd@slps.org. As always, take care and be safe.

Helplines-

Suicide and Crisis Helpline-Dial 988

National Parent Helpline-1-855-985-5990 www.nationaparenthelpline.org

Behavior Health Response 24/7 helpline 314-819-8802 <http://bhrstl.org>

IT'S OKAY
to ASK
for HELP



Ms. Jones- Family Support Specialist

I am excited to be a part of the Gateway MST Middle School staff, as the Family Support Specialist (FSS). For over 20 years I served as an Instructional Care Aide (ICA) in Special Education. I am looking forward to another positive and productive year of adventure here at Gateway MST Middle School with our staff, students, and families. As the FSS, I am responsible for family and community engagement that helps to build effective partnerships to improve student achievement and school performance.

My responsibilities also consist of helping families provide a home environment that helps support our students' needs, ensuring that students are achieving and encouraging parents to become involved in students' learning, by providing support and collaboration amongst students, families and communities.

We are stronger together as a team, so let's build relationships amongst our parents, students, and the community. I can be reached during school hours from 8:00 a.m. until 3:02 p.m. You may call (314) 241-2295 ext. 22506 or email angela.jones@slps.org.

ELEVATED EXCELLENCE

GATEWAY MST MIDDLE UNIFORM ORDER FORM



Gateway MST Middle School Uniform Policy:

To promote a focused and respectful learning environment, all students at Gateway Math, Science, and Technology Middle School are required to adhere to the uniform policy. This policy helps to minimize distractions and foster a sense of school pride and unity. We appreciate the cooperation of students, parents, and staff in maintaining these standards.

Students are required to wear a polo shirt, crew-neck shirt, or Gateway branded shirt to school. Shirts must be one solid color:

6th Grade: White or Black

7th Grade: Green or Black

8th Grade: Gold or Black

We will provide your student with two shirts; one short sleeved and one long sleeved.

To order, choose one of the following options:

SCAN THE QR CODE



TYPE THIS INTO YOUR BROWSER

<http://forms.office.com/r/MX6HidQjGx>

CLICK THE LINK BELOW

[CLICK HERE](http://forms.office.com/r/MX6HidQjGx)

OR

FILL OUT THE DETAILS BELOW AND PRINT OUT:

HAVE YOUR STUDENT TURN THIS IN TO THEIR HOMEROOM TEACHER BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Student First and Last Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Size:

- ☐ Small
- ☐ Medium
- ☐ Large
- ☐ X-Large
- ☐ XX-Large
- ☐ Other _____