In The Middle

November Newsletter



GMS Principals' Update

Dear GMS Families:

As we welcome November, we want to take a moment to reflect on some of the wonderful things happening across GMS! October was filled with opportunities to celebrate our school community, connect with families, and showcase the many talents of our students.

A special thank-you to our **GMS PTO for their generous support of our annual Harvest Dance!** This is always such a fun tradition for our students, and we are grateful for the time, energy, and resources our PTO contributes to making these events possible.

We also want to thank all of our families and staff for making our **Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences** a success. These conversations are an important part of building strong partnerships between home and school, ensuring that we are working together to support each student's growth, progress, and overall success.

Another exciting highlight was our **first musical showcase of the year, featuring Mx. Hertz and all of our General Music classes in grades 5–7!** It was wonderful to see our students share their musical talents, creativity, and hard work. We are so proud of our students and grateful to Mx. Hertz for creating these opportunities for our students to shine!

As we look ahead, we will close out our first quarter on **Friday, November 6**. This is an important milestone in the school year and a great opportunity for students to reflect on their progress, celebrate their accomplishments, and set goals for continued growth in the months ahead.

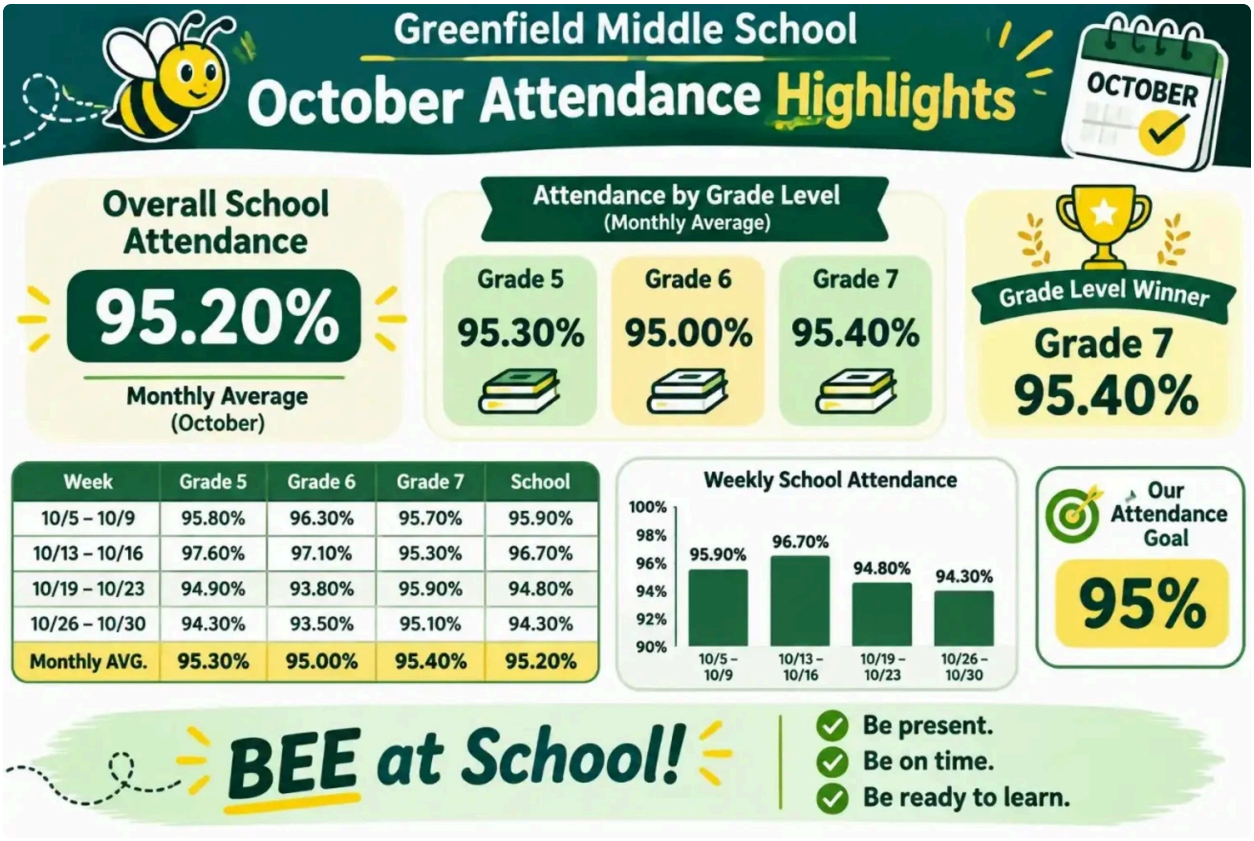
Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our GMS community. We are grateful to work alongside such dedicated families and staff and look forward to all that

November will bring!

In this month's newsletter, you will find:

- **November Dates to Remember:** Important dates and activities happening throughout November.
- **October Attendance Highlights:** Grade-level monthly attendance winner and other monthly attendance stats to celebrate!
- **GMS Monthly Spotlight:** Exciting news and highlights from our students and staff.
- **Core Classes:** Information by grade level from the core classes.
- **Reading & Math Intervention Information:** Updates and information
- **Unified Arts:** Projects and updates
- **GMS Student Services:** Monthly news and contact information
- **GMS School Library News**
- **Nurse Notes**
- **GMS PTO & Family Engagement**
- **November Lunch Menu**

See you at drop-off,
Michelle, GMS Principal
Alan, GMS Associate Principal





November Dates-To-Remember

11/3, No School - Election Day
11/6, Quarter 1 Ends; Grade close
11/6, Quarter 1 Awards - details to follow
11/9, Quarter 2 Begins
11/12, No School - Veterans Day
11/20, Picture Retakes
11/25, GMS Turkey Trot
11/26-27, No School - Thanksgiving Recess
11/30, Return to School

GPS Social Media

Join our Facebook and Instagram community where we share even more stories from across Greenfield Public Schools.
Facebook | **Instagram**

Follow us on Social Media!

GMS Monthly Spotlight

News and Noteworthy Celebrations at GMS



September's "Bee A Good Human!" Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our September *Bee A Good Human* raffle winners! Throughout the month, students were recognized for "bee-ing a good human" by helping a friend, being a positive member of our school community, and making sure everyone feels included and welcome. We are so proud of our students for spreading kindness and helping make GMS a place where everyone belongs. Keep bee-ing amazing, GMS! 🧡🐝

L to R: Abigail T., Carter S., Taylor A.

Core Classes

Grade 5



The Grade 5 Team has been so happy to see that new routines are up and running with our 5th graders! We have been working with teaching academic curriculums and have regular services being provided to students.

This month, students will reflect and share ways in which they are thankful in different aspects of their lives

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Grade 6

The 6th grade is planning an exciting trip to the Connecticut Science Center. The **Connecticut Science Center** is a nine-story, 154,000-square-foot interactive science museum located in Hartford, Connecticut. The trip is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th and will take place during the school day, 8am - 2:00pm.

In ELA, students will be reading excerpts from Roald Dahl's memoir "Boy, Tales of Childhood." During these readings, we will focus on reading comprehension skills and literary analysis as we study the moments Dahl described from his childhood. This study will lead to an argumentative essay in which students defend a claim using textual evidence.

In Science, students are learning about Earth and Space with sky pattern phenomena. Our class is learning about Manhattanhenge, and each student will also pick out a phenomenon that interests them to develop a model and explanation for during the unit.

In Math, students are exploring **Area** and **Surface Area** using tangrams, nets, and graph paper.



Grade 7

In 7th Grade ELA, we are wrapping up our study of *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang. Students will finish the unit by writing an essay that analyzes how Ji-li changes throughout the text and uses evidence from the memoir to support their ideas.

In our upcoming ELA unit, **Poetry and Poe**, students will explore works by Emily Dickinson and Edgar Allan Poe, including *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Raven*. We will focus on mood, tone, figurative language, and the unreliable narrator. Students will consider whether or not a narrator can be trusted and use clues from the text to support their thinking. Throughout the unit, students will continue building their close-reading and evidence-based writing skills.

In **Social Studies,** we will be learning about important conflicts, such as the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars, and the conquests of Alexander the Great. Students will also discover Greek gods, goddesses, and heroes while exploring how Greek mythology influences words and expressions we still use today. Finally, we will examine the lasting achievements of the ancient Greeks in mathematics, science, philosophy, architecture, writing, and art, and how these contributions continue to shape our world.

Reminder: Everyone has **ELA and Math homework each week**. Please encourage your child to stay on top of weekly assignments and reach out if they need support.

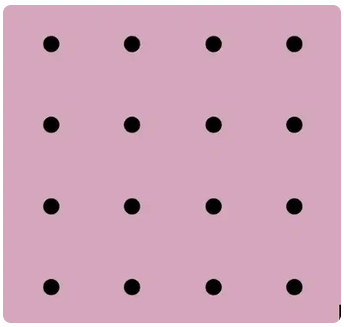
Reading & Math Intervention

Reading Intervention

Reading is a vital anchor during the middle school years, helping students build critical thinking, expand their vocabulary, and navigate complex emotions and social changes. As screens and daily distractions pull for their attention, a steady reading habit lowers stress, sharpens focus, and builds the empathy and self-esteem kids need to grow with confidence. Supporting a book or digital story at home does more than boost academic achievement—it gives your middle schooler a safe space to unwind, explore new perspectives, and better understand the world around them.
https://blog.elacontenthub.com/

Math Intervention

At GMS, we empower students to be curious not only about math but about their own judgments, too. We use questions to help students get unstuck, turning them into confident math thinkers.



Be Curious, Not Judgmental
Curiosity is the gateway to lifelong learning.
Math practice can require correct answers and no one likes the feeling of getting wrong answers. This is where judgment kicks in, and many people fall into the trap of thinking they are "not a math person." Instead of negative self-judgment for not understanding, students can embrace curiosity. By asking questions, seeking different perspectives, and exploring varied problem-solving methods a new positive mindset emerges.

In addition, with the mindset of play, students can tackle hard problems with the freedom to experiment and make mistakes. This mindset leads to more joy and engagement and better results.

Try This:

- Imagine a party of 5 where each guest shakes hands with every other guest exactly once.
- If there are 15 people at the party, how many handshakes are there?

Approach:

- Don't take this challenge too seriously. Simply start playing! Act it out with a few people and count each handshake. Once it starts to make sense, draw pictures, make organized lists, and be creative!

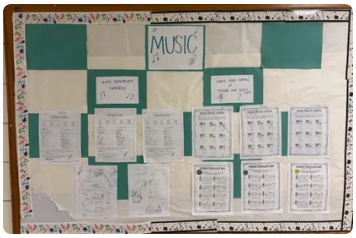
Unified Arts



Art - Mr. Shapiro

Hello from the Art room! 5th graders have finished up their "warm or cool" color paintings and have brought their "repeat the pattern" assignments home (be on the lookout!). 6th graders were introduced to value and contrast in art. Students learned about grayscale and practiced mixing only black and white paint together to get various shades of lights and darks to make their grayscale paintings. 7th graders just finished up their "cardboard relief sculpture" project and learned what a relief sculpture is (through a bit of trivia) and incorporated a fore, middle, and background element to their art pieces.

Music - Mx. Hertz



In music, all classes are continuing to expand their musical skills. After an incredible recorder performance by all grades, we started learning the Trombone. Students learned how to assemble, hold, and play notes on the Trombone. In order to play the trombone, students also learn how to read bass clef. Through practice, quizzes, and more practice, we've produced some excellent work. They are also learning about instrument families within the orchestra and what those instruments sound like. This reinforces careful listening and spelling skills.

Theater - Ms. Stevens

In 5th grade, theater students created scenes with props and sets; in 6th grade, students wrote and performed Object monologues; in 7th grade, students memorized and performed a comedy and drama scene from a script.

Physical Education - Ms. Morrison

Students recently wrapped up a badminton unit in PE class. Shout out to Ben Keeler and Brody Suhl for setting a new GMS badminton rally record - 700 hits (yes, that's 700 hits without stopping!). All PE students will finish the quarter with volleyball and dodgeball units. Sixth and seventh graders will also get to be PE teachers for a day during our design challenge unit, while fifth graders will practice their communication and social skills during our cooperative/lawn games unit.



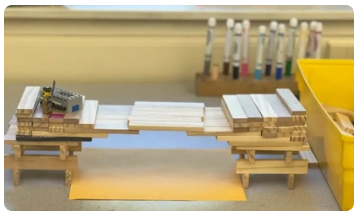
Health - Mrs. Rondeau

Health class has been going wonderfully! All grades have officially completed their first full unit and are now working on projects to showcase their learning and skills. Grade 5 students are exploring personal health and wellness and ways to care for themselves, while grades 6 and 7 are learning about substance use and abuse, including understanding risks and making safe, healthy, and informed decisions.

Band

GMS Wind Ensemble took a trip this month to UMass to watch the Multibands concert and we had a great time! Overall, we have been working hard on our concert music for this season. 7th grade has been learning new music and many of them joined the GHS band playing in the stands at the football games. 5th and 6th grade have been building their skills and working on new music. They are making great progress!

Makerspace



Can you build a bridge out of Keva Planks using counterweight? Students in Makerspace can! The quarter is winding down and students are working hard in Makerspace on their independent projects. As always, you can find out a lot more information at Ms. CT's website, **msct.crotown.com**.

GMS Student Services

Ms. P, Ms. Shona, and Ms. Greland



November's Character Theme

November's **CASEL** character theme is self-management. Self-management is the ability to manage one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations and to achieve goals and aspirations.

This month, students will learn about mindsets and goals in Second Step. These skills are important as students learn what it actually means to be a student and what their responsibilities are when they come to school each day. As a reminder, it is important that students arrive at school on time so that they do not miss this important instruction during advisory.

Contact Information

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the counseling department should you have any questions or need support.

Shona McMorrow
School Counselor
x2141
shomcm1@gpsk12.org

Hayley Greland
School Adjustment Counselor
x2140
haygre1@gpsk12.org

Jana Purington
School Adjustment Counselor
x2142
janpur1@gpsk12.org

GMS School Library

Mrs. O'Malley, GMS Librarian



In October, students practiced searching the library catalog and using their library accounts to manage their checkouts and holds. They also flexed their creative writing muscles with a spooky story activity. Next month, we will dive into topics like Native American Heritage Month, Picture Book Month, and an exploration of nonfiction.

Speaking of picture books, did you know tweens and teens still benefit from reading aloud at home? Whether it's picture books, chapter books, or nonfiction, reading aloud as a family can help boost literacy skills, increase connection, and can be a useful way to tackle topics children are curious about. Take a look at **this article** for more information and suggestions.

Nurse Notes

Nurse Mari

November Health Reminders

🩺 **November School Nurse Newsletter**
GMS Middle School

Happy November!
As the weather gets colder and we head into the winter months, here are a few health reminders to help keep our students healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

💊 Medication Reminder

A reminder that **prescription medications that students need during the school day must be kept in the Nursing Office**, including **prescription inhalers**, unless the student has been specifically authorized to self-carry and self-administer the medication.
Please remember:

- Prescription medications must be provided to the nurse in the **original pharmacy-labeled container**.
- Required medication orders and parent/guardian permissions must be on file.
- Medications should **not be sent to school with students**.
- This includes prescription medications such as ADHD medications, antibiotics that need to be given during school hours, and **prescription inhalers**.
- Students who are authorized to carry and self-administer an inhaler must have the appropriate documentation and approval on file with the nurse.

If your child has a medication that needs to be available during the school day, please contact the Nursing Office so we can make sure all necessary paperwork is completed.

🤧 Cold & Flu Season

November is a good time to remind students about ways to prevent the spread of illness:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.
- Avoid sharing drinks, food, or utensils.
- Get plenty of sleep and drink plenty of water.
- Please keep students home when they are sick and follow school guidelines for returning to school.

🧥 Dress for the Weather

Temperatures can change quickly in November. Please make sure students come to school prepared for colder weather with a **coat, sweatshirt, or other appropriate layers**.

⛹️ **Stay Active & Stay Safe**
Encourage students to stay active while remembering to use appropriate safety equipment and follow directions during PE, sports, and other physical activities.

❤️ **Take Care of Your Mental Health**
Middle school can be busy and stressful. Encourage your child to get enough sleep, take breaks, talk with a trusted adult, and ask for help when needed. The Nursing Office is always available as a resource for students.

📞 **Questions or Concerns?**
If you have questions about your child's health, medications, medical needs, or school accommodations, please contact the Nursing Office.

Have a healthy and safe November!
Nurse Mari

GMS PTO and Family Engagement

The GMS PTO meets on the second Monday of each month is our cafeteria from 4:30-5:30pm. Our November meeting is 11/9.

November Lunch Menu

November 2026 Menu – Greenfield Middle School

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Rebellyous nuggets dippin sauce roll Snap peas	3 Election Day No School	4 Chicken empanada ranchero beans	5 Orange Chicken brown rice, steamed broccoli	6 Pizza crunchers carrots
9 Cheese quesadilla salsa seasoned black beans	10 Meatball sub dark greens & craisins salad	11 Veteran's Day No School	12 Chicken pesto pasta Tomatoes	13 French bread pizza carrots
16 Burrito Bowl- Fiesta meatless crumbles, seasoned black beans, rice	17 Crispy chicken sandwich sweet potato waffle fries	18 Ham and cheese croissant Peas	19 Turkey dinner: Stuffing, gravy mashed potato, local butternut squash,cranberry sauce, roll	20 Wild Mike's pizza salad
23 Crispy & spicy Tofu bowl with brown rice, fresh cut veggies	24 Rodeo Burger on whole grain bun: with cheddar, onion ring & BBQ sauce. Oven baked fries	25 Early release Bag lunch- Deli sandwich, apple, carrots, fun chips	26 No School	27 No school
30 Grilled cheese or grilled cheese &turkey sandwich, tomato soup				

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER. MENUS MAY CONTAIN ALLERGENS. MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

ALL STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE MEALS UNDER THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

Every student may have 1 free lunch & 1 free breakfast each day

Alternative Meals available every day:
Sunbutter & Jelly sandwich,
Cheese sandwich,
Deli sandwich,
Pizza kit
Salad meal

Daily alternates
Monday: Mozzarella Sticks

Tues: Pizza

Wed: Nachos

Thurs: Cook's Choice

Friday: Chicken patty sandwich

All meals served with assorted fruit, vegetables, milk

-A milk with no meal: $0.60

Project Bread Food Resource hotline: 1-800-645-8333

Harvest of the Month: Butternut Squash

Contact Us

Contact Information

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413-772-1360

Alan Gates, Associate Principal
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