



In The Middle

October Newsletter



GMS Principals' Update

Dear GMS Families,

It's hard to believe that our first month of school is already behind us! September has been a busy and exciting month at GMS, and we are so proud of the way our students and staff have settled into the new school year.

During September, students participated in our Fall Benchmark Assessments, including Fall MAP testing. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) provides our teachers with valuable information about each student's academic strengths, areas for growth, and progress over time. This information helps us better understand student needs and

plan instruction and support throughout the year.

Student attendance continues to be an important priority at GMS. Our overall attendance rate for the month of September was 97%. Grade 6 had the highest average attendance with 98% during the month of September. Thank you for helping your child make attending school each day a priority. Being present and on time gives students the opportunity to fully participate in learning, build relationships, and be part of our school community.

As a reminder, school begins at 7:45 a.m. Students are welcomed into the building between 7:30–7:45 a.m. Breakfast is available free of charge to all students, and lunch is also provided daily.

We also want to remind families about our morning drop-off procedures. Student drop-off and pick-up take place on the Sanderson Street side of the school. Please do not drop students off in the church parking lot or pull through behind the buses. Students moving between cars and buses creates a significant safety concern, and we want to make sure every student arrives at school safely each morning. If you arrive after 7:45 a.m., please use the main entrance, where your child can be buzzed into the building.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year at GMS, one filled with community building, academic achievement, growth, and opportunities for every student to feel welcomed, supported, and connected. Our goal is to create a school where students feel that they belong and, most importantly, where they want to be.

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and support. We truly appreciate everything you do to help make GMS a great place for our students.

In this month's newsletter, you will find:

- **October Dates to Remember:** Important dates and activities happening throughout October.
- **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**
- **October Lunch Menu**

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



October Dates-To-Remember

10/8, Meet the Superintendent at 5-6 p.m.
10/8, Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences; Early Release, 11:10am
10/8, Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences, 6-7:30pm
10/9, Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences; Early Release, 11:10am
10/16, Harvest Dance; Gr. 5 - 5:00-6pm; Grades 6 and 7 - 6:30-7:30pm
10/21, Unity Day - wear orange!



GPS Social Media

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

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Follow us on Social Media!



GMS Monthly Spotlight

News and Noteworthy Celebrations at GMS



Celebrating the GMS Peer Mentor Program

I'd like to celebrate our brand new GMS Peer Mentor Program. At the end of last year, 6th graders were given the opportunity to apply for the program, which included a set of questions and the recommendation of three staff members. These now 7th graders have gone above and beyond supporting our 5th graders during lunch and recess and leading groups and activities in advisories. They are showing GMS what it means to be a leader, and we are so lucky to have such a dedicated group of students!

Our 2026-2027 Peer Mentors are:

Taylor Adams
Nyna Chase
Lily Coffin
Lily Cohen
Lilly Hubert
Zoey Lively
Charlie Lovett
Grabriel Ortiz
Juliette Pallan Carvajal
Kiareliz Plaza Vega
Isabella Reyes Villamizar
Amy Reynolds
Brody Suhl
Hunter Wilkins
Wyatt Wilkins

Core Classes

Grade 5

The fifth graders have made a smooth transition to GMS! We have worked on adjusting to new routines and making new friends.



Students took their beginning of year assessments to show their academic abilities in Math and Reading by taking the NWEA assessments as well as reading and math screeners.

Be on the lookout for Parent/Teacher conference sign-up emails and forms. If you still would like to sign up for a conference, please reach out to your student's core teachers for available time slots.



Grade 6

We are off to a fantastic start in 6th-grade math! Our classroom routines are officially in place, and we have kicked off our academic year by mastering decimals across all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division).

In Social Studies, we will begin the first unit of the 6th grade curriculum about the history of the Earth and early human history. This unit will include several videos and charts as well as typical readings about early human history.

In Science, students are creating science journals and learning about Light and Matter with one-way mirrors. At the end of the unit, they will develop explanations for the one-way mirror phenomenon using evidence from their science journals.

Our first few weeks of ELA have been dedicated to learning classroom routines and expectations. Soon, we will begin our first unit of the Amplify curriculum, which focuses on creative and memoir writing through the lens of Roald Dahl's memoir, "Boy". Students will use Dahl's text as a model for producing their own short, descriptive writing pieces.



Grade 7

We are off to a great start in 7th Grade ELA! Our first unit will center around ***Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang**. Through this memoir, students will learn about the **Chinese Cultural Revolution** while focusing on **how characters change and develop throughout a text**.

We will explore how experiences, challenges, relationships, and important events shape characters over time. We're looking forward to a great first unit and an exciting year of learning and growing together!

In Math, we spent September getting into the routines and procedures of the year as well as starting our first unit about scale drawings. We began talking about the idea of equivalence and what it means in the world of math. It is a recurring theme throughout 7th grade, so we are laying those foundations first.

In Science, we have begun our Energy Transfer unit of OpenSciEd where we mainly focus on thermodynamics. We are investigating what characteristics of cups and tumblers maintain water temperature best, and after, we will explore "why" on a molecular level (what the molecules are doing). In the end, we are going to have a competition where student teams will design a device to keep a cup of hot water hot for as long as possible, and the winners in each class will receive gift cards to Adam's Donuts.

In History, students will be looking at the history, culture, and legacy of ancient Greece through the Supporting Question: How did Athens and Sparta shape the lives of their people and the history of Greece? Students will also discover how Athens became a democracy, an important foundation for 8th-grade Civics.

Reading & Math Intervention

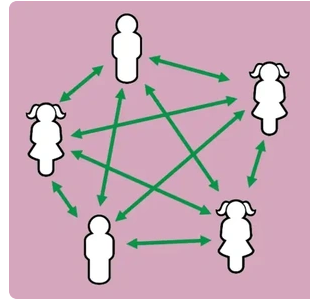
Reading Intervention

Title 1 is the largest federally funded program for K-12 education. Here at GMS, we provide pull-out and push-in support services to students in reading and math. O'Malley, our Librarian, is a great person to help you find "just the right" book.

We are finishing up our fall Benchmark assessments, which are: NWEA MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association Measuring Academic Progress), DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Early Literacy Skills), Oral Reading Fluency (ORF), and Maze. After scoring, we analyze the data and then begin our reading support for students. All students who need additional assistance in achieving academic success may receive Title I interventions. The best way to strengthen your reading skills is to... READ!

Math Intervention

At GMS, we often turn problems into fun puzzles. We encourage kids to play and experiment. When learning math is fun, the learning lasts a lifetime!



Play, Experiment, and Have Fun

Children learn best through play.

The first step toward mastering math is to approach it with a sense of play. When students don't enjoy math, they may struggle to stay motivated over time.

Consider how children learn to read: they are often introduced to whimsical picture books that help them experience the joy of reading before they begin developing specific skills.

Math instruction, on the other hand, can sometimes move quickly toward drills and worksheets, leaving less room for exploration and enjoyment. A more balanced approach may be to nurture students' curiosity and enthusiasm alongside their mathematical skills. We have to start with making math fun!

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.

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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

Welcome back to Art Class! With the class rules, procedures, and expectations out of the way, the 7th graders have been sculpting with Super Sculpey oven-bake clay and then painting their creations while the 6th graders are finishing up their Bauhaus-inspired collages.

Their collages focus on a limited color palette, simple geometric shapes, and an overall sense of design, function, and art. 5th graders are busy repeating their patterns...let the coloring begin!

Music - Mx. Hertz

Welcome to Music at GMS! The first quarter is off to a harmonious start. Our 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students have been learning the routines, procedures, and expectations of class. In class, we are learning how to read sheet music by drilling basic rhythms and letter names of notes. We are learning how to play the recorder, which involves listening, posture, playing together, making mistakes, songs, scales, and playing solos!



Theater - Ms. Stevens

5th grade Theater: We are learning the parts of the stage and stage directions, practicing creative collaboration in theater exercises involving movement and dialogue.

- **In 6th grade**, we are about to start a monologue writing project.
- **In 7th grade**, we are creating short scenes, practicing agreement, listening, and responding.

Physical Education - Ms. Morrison

In gym class, students have been alternating between game and sport weeks. During our striking and fielding games unit, students practiced proper throwing, batting, kicking, and catching techniques. Meanwhile, during our invasion games unit, students had the opportunity to work on tactics, including offensive and defensive strategies. For their first sport week, students voted for soccer. Their juggling skills definitely improved by the end of the week. 🏐

Health - Mrs. Rondeau

The new quarter in Health & Wellness is off to a wonderful start! Students have been transitioning back into the school routine smoothly, and we've been spending time getting to know one another and building a positive classroom community. We have also started our first units on mental health and nutrition, with students participating in thoughtful discussions and activities. I'm looking forward to a great quarter of learning, growing, and having fun together!

Band

The year is off to a great start in band class! Students are working on learning band classroom routines and how to be in a rehearsal environment. They are diving into new music and new concepts and doing a great job with it.

You can catch some of our 7th graders playing with the GHS band on Fridays in the stands for the football games!

Makerspace

Welcome to a new year of Makerspace. For up to date information about what we are doing, you should check out **Ms.CT's** website.



GMS Student Services

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



October is Bullying Prevention Month

Students will be participating in weekly Second Step lessons focusing on bullying prevention, recognition, and response. Students will participate in these lessons during advisory and apply these skills across school settings.

It is important that students arrive at school on time so they do not miss these important lessons and start their day with their advisory community. For more information on Second Step, view our family letter [**here**](#).

Contact Information

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

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School Counselor

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GMS School Library

Mrs. O'Malley, GMS Librarian



The library has been bustling with welcome-back and orientation visits for all students! And we're so excited to introduce our new GMS library mascot, Dewey the Goose. Dewey is symbolic of the year's theme in the library, "This Year Will Go Swimmingly." Stay tuned for more punny fun as the year progresses.

As we move into Autumn, students will visit the library to explore literary genres, especially the spooky ones, and dig into some digital literacy lessons.

As a reminder, students are allowed to check out up to **2 books at a time** at GMS, and they have **2 weeks** with them. Please support your students in taking good care of library books and returning or renewing them on time - due dates are always stamped in the back of the book.

Fall is the perfect time to encourage more independent reading at home! Check out this recent article from *Time*: "**The Surprising Health Benefits of Reading a Book.**"

Nurse Notes

Nurse Mari

October Health Reminders

September Health & Wellness Reminders

Welcome Back!

Welcome to a new school year! As we begin the year, I would like to share a few important health reminders to help keep our students healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

Health Reminders

- Please encourage your child to get plenty of **sleep**, eat a healthy breakfast, and drink plenty of water throughout the school day.
- Remind students about the importance of **frequent handwashing** and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Students should stay home when they are sick and follow school guidelines for returning to school.
- Please make sure the school has **current emergency contact information** and is notified of any significant changes in your child's health.

Immunizations & Physicals

As we begin the new school year, please make sure your child's **immunizations and physical examination records are up to date.**

Immunizations Due:

If your child is due for any required immunizations, please schedule an appointment with your child's healthcare provider. Please send updated immunization records to the school nurse after your child receives any vaccines.

Physicals are due for 5th and 7th grade, sports are annual. Students should have a current physical examination on file with the school. If your child's physical is due or has recently been completed, please provide a copy of the updated physical to the school nurse.

Keeping health records current helps the school nurse ensure that your child meets school health requirements and that we have the most accurate information to support your child's health and safety at school. If you have questions about your child's health records, immunizations, or physical examination requirements, please contact the school nurse.

Medication at School

If your child needs medication during the school day, please contact the school nurse regarding the required **medication orders and parent/guardian authorization**.

All medications must be brought to the health office according to school policy. Please do not send medication to school with your child unless the school has approved arrangements for self-administration. It is also important to provide the nurse with updated medication orders and supplies when needed.

Seasonal Health Information

As we move into fall, students may experience **seasonal allergies, colds, and other respiratory illnesses**.

A few simple ways to stay healthy:

- Wash hands regularly.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay hydrated.
- Get adequate rest.
- Consider speaking with your healthcare provider about seasonal allergies if symptoms are interfering with school.

As the weather becomes cooler, please make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for changing temperatures.

A Healthy School Year

The school nurse is here to support students' health and well-being so they can be successful in school. Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns regarding your child's health needs at school.

GMS PTO and Family Engagement

GMS events are in full swing this October!

October 17th: Harvest Dance - GMS cafeteria

- 5th grade: 5pm-6pm
- 6th & 7th grade: 6:30pm-7:30pm

October 29th: Glow Ride - GMS Blacktop

- 5:30pm-7pm

Flyers will be distributed to students during advisory two-weeks prior to these events!

October Lunch Menu

October 2026 Menu – GPS Middle School



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 Oven roasted chicken, local roasted butternut squash, mashed potatoes, garlic knot	2 Pizza Salad
5 Flatbread pizza with pesto, sliced tomato, mozzarella, salad	6 Hot dog, baked beans, potato salad	7 Fish and chips (baked fries), apple slaw , whole grain roll	8 Early release bag lunch-Deli sandwich, fruit, carrots and dip	9 Early release bag lunch-Deli sandwich, celery & dip, local apple
12 No School- Indigenous People's Day	13 "Wings bar" (variety of flavored chicken tenders), garlic bread, Asian-style cabbage slaw	14 Hamburger, optional cheese. Broccoli and dip	15 Popcorn chicken, sweet potato waffle fries applesauce	16 Pizza, salad 
19 Eggplant parm over pasta. Chickpea salad. Broccoli	20 Ramen noodle bowl with chicken, veggies. edamame	21 Steak grinder with onions, bell peppers. Carrots	22 Chicken burrito Mexican street corn	23 Pizza, salad 
26 Breakfast for lunch- Egg round with cheese, french toast stick, hash brown rounds, oranges	27 Mini chicken corn dogs sweet potato fries	28 Chicken Cesar wrap cauliflower	29 Pasta bar choose your sauce marinara, alfredo. Choose your protein-meatballs, chicken or chickpeas.	30 Pizza, salad

Free Breakfast & Lunch, available for all students, every 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- **Apples**.



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

ALL STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE MEALS UNDER THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

Contact Us

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