

In The Middle

Greenfield Middle School

October 2025

Dear GMS Families:

Happy October GMS Families! The entire first month of school flew by with lots of enthusiasm, getting back into routines and used to an early morning wake-up, and feeling settled into a new school year.



Throughout the month of September, we spent time building classroom community in our Advisories, practicing routines and procedures, and reminding ourselves of classroom and school-wide expectations.

October is filled with some exciting events such as: our Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences on the evening of **10/9 from 6-7:30pm and in the afternoon on 10/10 from 12:30-2:10** (be on the look out for an email from your child's teachers to sign up for conferences) the Harvest Dance on October 17, 2025 and our second annual Glow Ride on 10/29.

Daily attendance is imperative to a child's academic and social-emotional growth. **Students are expected to be in Advisory by 7:45 a.m. each day and remain in school until 2:10 p.m.** The administrative team at GMS sends attendance letters to students who have missed: 5, 10, 15, or 25+ days. GMS Administration has begun reaching out to schedule meetings with families and identify ways in which we can support students with daily attendance.

Thank you for your continued partnership, support and trust. Mr. Gates and myself are looking forward to another positive, productive and fun year with you all!

See you in the drop-off line,
Michelle 🍁
GMS Principal

A Message from Mr. Gates, AP

We know how much you want your child to succeed, and one of the most important factors in that success is being in school every day, on time. Consistent attendance helps children build strong routines, stay connected with friends and teachers, and keep up with learning.

We also understand that mornings can be challenging and that unexpected things come up. With that in mind, we ask for your partnership in making school attendance a top priority for your child. Arriving on time each day sets them up for success and shows them that their learning matters. Together, we can help your child build the habits that will support them throughout school and beyond. Thank you for your continued support!

October Dates to Remember

- ✦ 9/29, Late bus begins - Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 3:15pm pick-up at GMS
- ✦ 9/29, GMS Intramurals begin, Tuesdays and Thursdays
- ✦ 10/6, Fire Safety w/ Greenfield Fire Dept.
- ✦ 10/6, Student Council Mtg, GMS Library after school
- ✦ 10/9, Evening Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences, 6-7:30pm
- ✦ 10/10, Early Release, 11:10 a.m., Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:30-2:10
- ✦ 10/13, No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
- ✦ 10/17, Harvest Dance - Grade 5, 5-6pm; Grades 6 and 7, 6:30-7:30
- ✦ 10/20, PTO Meeting, 4:30pm GMS Cafeteria
- ✦ 10/22, Unity Day!
- ✦ 10/29, Glow Ride
- ✦ 10/31, End of Quarter 1; Grades close

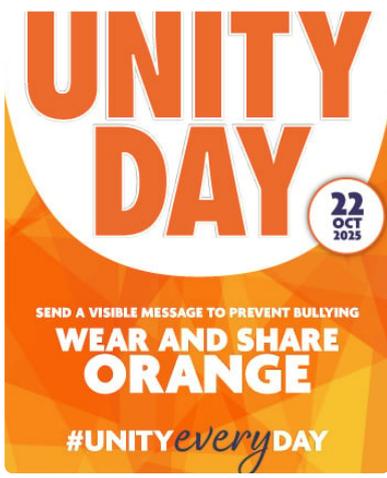
Picture Retakes

Picture Retakes are November 21, 2025

Unity Day 2025

Unity Day 2025

GMS is celebrating Unity Day on Wednesday, October 22nd. This is a day of wearing and sharing orange in effort to vibrantly bring awareness to anti-bullying and promote inclusivity. All students are encouraged to wear orange on Wednesday 10/22 to show their support of Unity Day in our community.



Glow Ride



GLOW RIDE



Wednesday, October 29th, 2025
from 5:30 to 7:00 pm



at Greenfield Middle School



- Bring your bike or scooter to decorate with glow lights!
- Practice safely riding in the street as it gets darker*

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS
IN 5TH - 7TH GRADES

*Sanderson Street will be closed to car traffic so students can safely practice riding in the early evening darkness.

MASSACHUSETTS
Safe Routes to School
MASS.GOV/SAFE-ROUTES-TO-SCHOOL

FREE!

PASEO BRILLANTE



¡Luces para tu bicicleta y equipo brillante sin costo!



Miércoles 29 de octubre de 2025
de 17:30 a 19:00

¡No olvides tu casco!

en el instituto Greenfield



ABIERTO PARA TODOS LOS ESTUDIANTES DE 5º A 7º CURSO.



- ¡Lleva tu bicicleta o patinete para adornarlo con luces brillantes!
- Practica conducir de manera segura en la calle cuando empieza a oscurecer.*

*La calle Sanderson estará cerrada al tráfico de coches para que los estudiantes puedan practicar la conducción de manera segura en la oscuridad de las primeras horas de la tarde.

October's Advisory Theme

GMS Advisories focus on a new social-emotional skill each month. October's Advisory theme is **Self-Awareness**. Throughout the month, students will participate in Advisory lessons and activities that focus on **the abilities to understand one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior across contexts**. Teams collaborate to share their understanding of the monthly theme through bulletin board displays, community-building activities, and being positive role models and members of the school community.



GMS Team Updates

5th Grade Team

The fifth graders have made a smooth transition to GMS. We have worked on adjusting to new routines and making new friends. Parent/Teacher conference forms have gone home. If you still haven't scheduled a conference, please reach out to your student's core teachers.





6th Grade Team

Can you believe it's already been a month since school started? Time is flying by! Here's a peek at what your child will be diving into during October:

In ELA, students are focusing on their writing skills, all while exploring their own stories! They'll be reading parts of Roald Dahl's *Boy: Tales of Childhood* for inspiration and as a mentor text.

In math, we're wrapping up our unit on the area of triangles and gearing up to explore the exciting world of 3D geometry! They'll get hands-on with creating nets and calculating the surface area of prisms and pyramids.

In social studies, students will start each class using an atlas to explore countries that connect to our Investigating History curriculum. After that, they'll be comparing and contrasting the Paleolithic and Neolithic Eras with the help of our materials, the internet, and more.

In science, we're making the switch from light and matter to sound waves! It's going to be a fun, auditory adventure.

And don't forget! Keep an eye out for an email and a paper form coming home soon with all the details on how to sign up for parent-teacher conferences.

Looking forward to another month of learning and growth!

7th Grade Team

7th graders have had a strong start to the 2025-2026 school year! Everyone is adjusting to classroom norms and the seventh grade schedule.

In ELA students have started reading *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang and are working on strong written responses to this fascinating book. In Math we have started our first unit on Scale Drawings. In

Science students are exploring Thermodynamics (heat transfer) on a molecular level. In Social Studies students are learning about the geography of Central and South Asia.

Paper and Email copies of the conference form have been sent home with directions on how to sign up for conferences, so reach out to any one of the 7th grade teachers if you did not receive your form, or if you have any questions.



Unified Arts

Theater: 5th grade students are learning a poem, the parts of the stage, movement exercises and starting to create improvised scenes focusing on listening and collaboration. 7th graders have read the play *Seedfolks* and are starting to stand up scenes from the play and have memorized an Emily Dickinson poem.

PE: 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. On a final note, our fall season of intramural sports has started. Info can be found [here](#).

Art: Fresh off a line art exercise, students are just finishing up a torn paper/collage assignment after looking at French artist Henri Matisse's later work for inspiration. All grades are "repeating their patterns," where kids free-draw or trace their desired images, and after some strategic cutting and photocopying, they assemble their giant patterns together creating unique, one of a kind tiled coloring pages! (similar to a giant sheet of wrapping paper)

Makerspace (Ms. C-T): Makerspace is off to a great start! Students have begun planning stop motion videos, they have built bridges, they have written computer programs AND they have done a bit of crocheting. Most importantly, they have chosen and begun long term projects. I am always looking for donations of supplies for makerspace. These are what I'm looking for: empty toilet paper rolls, sewing supplies, crafting supplies and any old and extra legos. This is an ever changing list of hopes and dreams. If you would like more information about makerspace, you can visit Ms. C-T's website at msct.crotown.com.



GMS Library News

Students have visited the library at least once to complete orientation sessions and check out their first books of the year! It has been wonderful getting to know our students and their favorite books so far. In October, we will continue to build library skills, explore spooky stories, and learn about Banned Books Week.

Please remind students to take good care of their library books and return or renew them after two weeks.

GMS Pupil Services

Special Education Services are up and running at GMS, with students receiving both push-in and pull-out support. We continue to work on transitioning toward more inclusive practice, including implementation of more tools and strategies to improve access in the General Education setting for all students. If you have questions about your child's IEP, please contact the appropriate grade-level liaison:

5th Grade: Julie Erickson, juleri1@gpsk12.org

6th Grade: Lisa LeDuc-Creamer, lised1@gpsk12.org

7th Grade: Missy Ippolito, misipp1@gpsk12.org

Asst. Director Pupil Services Sarah Crawford is also available for Special Education questions: sarcra1@gpsk12.org.



Title I 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. We are finishing up our fall Benchmark assessments, analyzing the data and then will begin our support. This is going to be a great year!



October's Counselors Corner

Shona McMorrow (aka Ms. Shona)- I am thrilled to join the counseling team in a full-time capacity this year! After spending time at GMS as an intern and part-time adjustment counselor I am entering this year as the school/guidance counselor. I'll be your primary point of contact for any concerns or information you'd like to share with Student Services. In this role, I'll also be leading school-wide initiatives, implementing targeted interventions, and facilitating short-term small groups focused on social-emotional development, academics, and career readiness. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I can be reached by phone at 413-772-1360 ext 2142 or email shomcm1@gpsk12.org



I'm excited to share our first school-wide initiative: "Bee" a Good Human. Our expectations for students are simple but carry real importance: to actively contribute to a positive, supportive learning community. When students are "caught" exceeding our expectations in class, the hallways, recess/lunch, etc. they earn a ticket and are entered into a raffle to win privileges and prizes.

Jana Purington (aka Ms. P): I am a School Adjustment Counselor. Last year, I was the counselor for the 5th grade and had a slightly different role. This year, I see students who have counseling services on their IEP's or 504's. I may also support students with chronic needs. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I can be reached by phone at 413-772-1360 ext 2142 or email janpur1@gpsk12.org.

GMS PTO October Update

The school year is off to a great start! We welcomed back with water bottles and pencil cases, and we gifter teachers with Staples gift cards to help them start the year with supplies personalized for each classroom. The PTO is already busy planning events and activities for the months ahead.

Families should mark their calendars for the Harvest Dance in early October. We'll be sending out opportunities for parents to donate and volunteer soon. If you'd like to get involved, please email us at gfieldmiddlepto@gmail.com to be added to our volunteer mailing list.

The Elementary PTOs are collecting used halloween costumes this year for a costume swap. If you have any outgrown costumes lying around, please consider sending them in with your student. We have a collection box at school.



Some highlights for this year's plans include:

- Annual Christmas wreath sale
- The return of our popular Penny Wars fundraiser
- The Scholastic Book Fair in November
- GMS t-shirts to boost school spirit

We're looking forward to a fun and meaningful year together—thank you for supporting our school community!

Please join our mailing list by emailing us at gfieldmiddlepto@gmail.com. We will also post reminders and try to broadcast information on the Families of GMS facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1GYdKscHc6/>

October's Nurse Notes

🌿 Seasonal Health Reminders

- Cold & Flu Season is beginning!

Encourage students to:

- Wash hands regularly 🧼
- Cover coughs and sneezes 🤧
- Stay home if they are sick 🤒
- Bring a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated 💧

💊 Medication Reminders

- All medications must be stored in the nurse's office with a signed doctor's note and permission form.
- If your child needs to take medication during the school day, please contact the school nurse to update health forms.

🛏️ Healthy Habits for Fall

- Encourage 8–10 hours of sleep per night 🛏️
- Pack nutritious lunches and snacks – limit high-sugar, low-energy foods
- Maintain a regular homework and screen-time routine to reduce burnout

🧥 Dress for the Weather

- As temperatures drop, please send students with layers or jackets for recess and dismissal time.
- Label outerwear with names to reduce lost items.

🏃 Physical Activity

- Daily P.E. classes and recess are an important part of students' health – make sure your child wears comfortable clothing and sneakers on gym days.



🗉 Hygiene Tips

- Review basic hygiene habits with your child, including:
 - Daily showering
 - Brushing teeth twice a day
 - Changing clothes regularly (especially after sports)

October Lunch Menu

Greenfield Public Library News



Greenfield Middle School

Email: micfen1@gpsk12.org

Website: gpsk12.org

Location: 195 Federal St

Phone: [413-772-1360](tel:413-772-1360)



Michelle Fenimore

Michelle is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters