



In The Middle

Greenfield Middle School

December 2025

Principal's Update

Dear GMS Families:

Happy December! November came and went and here we are in the last month of 2025 preparing to welcome in 2026

Although a short month, November shaped up to be a chance for community building among our students and staff. Students continued to build a positive school community by being **Good Humans** who do **Meaningful work** and **Support** each other. I am proud of our students who contribute positively to our school community.

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. If you've received one of these letters, GMS Administration will be reaching out to schedule a meeting. Thank you for your cooperation and partnership with this.

Lastly, it is encouraged that students bring their own water bottles. By doing this, it will limit the amount of time students spend outside of the classroom and missing critical instructional time. As a reminder, water is the only beverage allowed unless at lunch in the cafeteria.

Thank you for your continued partnership, support and trust. I am looking forward to the second half of the school year with all of our students and families.

See you in the drop-off line,



A Message from Associate Principal Gates

As we move into this busy and festive season, we want to remind families how important strong school attendance is ... even in December! Every day in class gives students valuable learning time, consistency, and connection with teachers and classmates.

We know the excitement of the holidays and winter activities can make routines a little harder to keep, but showing up each day truly makes a difference. Students who attend regularly are more confident, more engaged, and better prepared heading into the new year.

Let's finish 2025 strong! Thank you for helping your child arrive on time and ready to learn each day, it's one of the best gifts you can give them this season.

December Dates to Remember

- ❄️ 12/1, Return to School; Grade-Level Welcome Back meetings
 - ❄️ 12/4, Annual Cookies and Cocoa, 5:30-7pm + Wreath pick-up, 5:00pm-6:30pm (Sanderson St.)
 - ❄️ 12/8, GMS PTO Meeting, 4:30 pm., GMS Cafeteria
 - ❄️ 12/23, Early Release, 11:10am
 - ❄️ 12/24-1/4, December Break - NO SCHOOL
 - ❄️ 1/5, Return to School
-

School Culture and Community Building

First Quarter Awards

Each Quarter, we will honor our students for both academic and social excellence in our school community. Students were honored in three categories: The Good Human Award, Meaningful Work Award, and Supporting One Another Award. Students were also recognized for exemplifying our two SEL themes so far this school year: Social Awareness and Self Awareness. Congratulations to all of our award recipients! We are proud of you!

December's Advisory Theme

GMS Advisories focus on a new social-emotional skill each month. December's Advisory theme is **Relationship Skills**. Throughout the month, students will participate in Advisory lessons and activities that focus on **kindness, empathy, and sympathy** and how to have successful and positive peer relationships. 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

Welcome to December!

We're excited to announce that our annual **STEM Gingerbread House Creation** will take place at the end of the month! This hands-on activity gives students a chance to put their creativity to work while exploring **design, measurement, and circuitry** in a fun and festive way.



6th Grade Team

December is here and it's the perfect time to wrap up the year and look forward to what's next. In ELA, our next unit turns students into detectives as they investigate the cause of yellow fever. Along the way, they'll learn how to evaluate the credibility of sources and strengthen their argumentative writing skills.

7th Grade Team

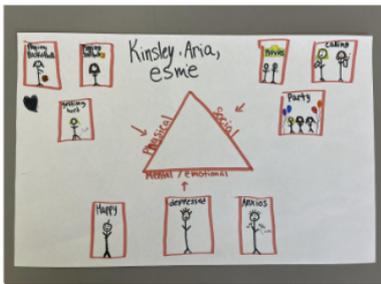
In Math, students continued their work on proportional relationships. We looked at the relationships in word problems, tables, equations, and then graphs. To become comfortable with the coordinate plane, some students worked on plotting fall themed pictures. Our next unit will be about area and circumference of circles.

In ELA, students have finished writing their first long-form essay on how the narrator of Red Scarf Girl changes over the course of her memoir. Ask your child to read their essay with you!

In History, we are starting a new unit on East Asia. This unit introduces students to the early histories of China, Korea, and Japan by exploring how geography, belief systems, and cultural



exchange shaped the development of East Asia. A major theme is cultural diffusion—how ideas such as writing, government models, and ethical philosophies spread across the region while each culture maintained its own distinct identity. Through studying interactions among these civilizations, students see how a shared East Asian cultural foundation emerged over time. In Science, we have dived into photosynthesis and will continue learning about how matter and energy are transferred through each trophic level in the ecosystem, all the way down to decomposers. From there, we will continue to explore further ecosystem dynamics, including symbiotic relationships, keystone species, and changes in populations of species.



Unified Arts

Theater: In Theater, 7th graders will read and discuss plays about the middle school experience and the effects of the internet and social media; 5th graders are learning exercises to practice creative collaboration and problem solving and will create short 'ads' for natural elements.

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. For their first sport week, students voted for soccer. Their juggling skills definitely improved by the end of the week. 🌍 Finally, congrats to our intramural dodgeball champions - Stinky Cheese - who took home the trophy after defeating Rise of Tim Cheese in the finals.

Health: As we welcome a new group of students into health class, we establish a positive, supportive environment where everyone feels valued. As students engage in lessons, they make steady progress in understanding the importance of health and wellness through the concept of the **Health Triangle** - physical, mental/emotional, and social health. By exploring how these three parts work together, students learn how balanced habits support overall well-being and how their daily choices impact each side of the triangle. This foundation prepares them to make healthier decisions both in and out of school.



Library News

The library has been busy with classes browsing, reading, and learning! Students in all grades have had a chance to try out some of our new digital resources, which give them the tools they need for

research and reading. We are especially excited to have Sora, an online eBook and audiobook library. This powerful tool is accessible wherever you connect to the internet, and there's even a mobile app to read/listen on the go!

Please remind your students to return or renew their library books every two weeks. Overdue notices will be printed out and delivered to students who owe books ahead of the holiday break



Student Services Team

The holidays bring joy, togetherness, and if we're being honest, some chaos! This next month will have many transitions for your child as they navigate time off school, potential travel, and changes to their daily routine. This is also a great time of year to practice gratitude. During a season of spending and holiday pressure, it is easy to forget the little things that make the season so special. In the counseling department we are grateful for the positive contributions your student(s) make to our school community.

GMS PTO December Update

Thank you everyone who sold Wreaths for our fall Fundraiser.

Wreath pickup will be **December 4, 2025 from 5:30-7pm** at the Sanderson St. driveway/entrance

We continue to work on some exciting things coming up this year. Our next PTO meeting is **December 8th at 4:30pm in the GMS Cafeteria**.



Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season! If you ever have questions or ideas for the PTO, please email Andrea Michael at gfieldmiddlepto@gmail.com

December Lunch Menu

DECEMBER 2025 MENU - MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 Fiesta Kickin' Vegetarian Chili Cornbread assorted vegetables orange slices	2 RODEO BURGER Ranchero beans, onion rings assorted fruit and vegetables	3 Chicken pot pie topped with biscuit assorted fruit and vegetables	4 Burrito Bowl with chicken, black beans, rice. Salsa, sour cream, street corn salad, pineapple	5 Pizza garden salad, assorted fruit
8 Mozzarella sticks veggie chicken nuggets smiley fries, fruit	9 CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA CURRY naan bread Basmati rice fruit, assorted veg	10 Ham and Cheese Melt on Croissant local carrots, fruit	11 Shepherd's Pie with beef, mashed potato, corn, roll, mixed vegetables	12 PIZZA salad, assorted fruit
15 French Toast egg omelet, vegetarian sausage hash browns strawberries, local carrots	16 Chicken Parm cauliflower, kiwi Try-it Tuesday: Field Pea Fritter & tzatziki sauce	17 PASTA WITH MEAT SAUCE assorted fruits and vegetables	18 Enchiladas with butternut squash & black beans	19 PIZZA assorted vegetables, fruit
22 Mac n Cheese broccoli, fruit	23 Deli Sandwich Carrots, Apple Grins Fun chips	24 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	25 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	26 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION

Free Breakfast & Lunch available to all students, every day!

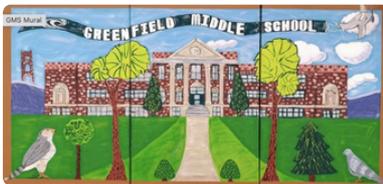
Available every day:
 Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich
 Cheese sandwich
Daily Alternates
 Monday: Pizza
 Tues: Meatball Sub
 Wed: Nachos
 Thurs: Cook's choice
 Friday: Chicken Patty
Meals served with assorted fruit, vegetables, milk
 -A milk with no meal: \$0.60

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

Harvest of the Month



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Michelle is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters