



TEACH



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CARE

Principal's Message

Greetings Geneseo Middle School families, welcome back for the start of the 2022-23 school year. I am very excited to meet our new 6th graders, new students to the district, and our returning 7th and 8th graders. I also want to welcome some amazing new educators to GMS: Christy Herlyn (6th ELA) and Javier Reyes (6th Spanish). As we make final preparations to return to learn, we want to thank you for partnering with us in our school district mission of Teach Learn Care. It really does take a village to raise a child, especially 600 middle school aged children. Our village includes you, parents and guardians, the teachers and support staff, and the incredible community in which we live. Every year at our opening student assembly I share this quote from Alabama Football Coach Bear Bryant, "When you make a mistake, there are only three things you should ever do about it: Admit it, Learn from it, and Don't repeat it." Our entire village, all of us, are called to model this with our young people, building the capacity needed to collaborate and succeed in our ever-changing world.

Our focus at GMS for 2022-23 is Service, Humility, Respect. Through serving others, developing true humility, and by respecting yourself and those you impact, we strive to create a positive environment that meets the challenges of 21st Century learning. We look forward to seeing you all very soon, make it a great rest of your summer, and an awesome 2022-23 school year!

Nathan O'Dell
Principal, Geneseo Middle School

See an additional important update below on "Accuracy in Grading at GMS"

Important Dates

View our online school calendar [here](#).



Monday, July 25

- ☐ 7th/8th Girls Softball Season begins

Thursday & Friday, August 11 & 12

- ☐ GMS Locker Set-up, 2-6pm

Friday, August 12

- ☐ New Student Orientation, 10am

Monday, August 15

- ☐ GMS Open House, 5-7pm

Wednesday - Friday, August 17-19

- ☐ 7th & 8th Grade Volleyball tryouts

Wednesday, August 17

- ☐ First day of Student Attendance
- ☐ 1 Hour Early Release Wed-Fri, 8/17, 8/18, and 8/19

Monday - Friday, August 22-26

- ☐ Fall MAP Assessments

Monday, September 5

- ☐ Labor Day, No School

Wednesday, September 7

- ☐ School Picture Day

Saturday & Sunday, September 24 & 25

- ☐ Harvest Music Festival

Wednesday, September 28

- ☐ ½ day Inservice, 11:40am dismissal

GMS News



2021-22 Spelling Bee Champs

GMS Student Spotlight

In this section in 2022-23 you will see highlights from sports, activities, music, volunteering, individual accomplishments, classroom learning, teamwork and collaboration, and more.



Builders Club donates to "Inspire"

See pages 3 & 4 below - "Back to School Reminders" & "GHS Football Game Spectator Guidelines"

Accuracy in Grading Update

Starting last year, GMS made some changes to the way we assess and provide feedback. This was due, in part, to the many challenges faced, and lessons learned, during the past two years of the pandemic. In order to bring more accuracy to student assessment, and provide the most effective feedback on student growth aligned with course standards, we will continue with the following Accuracy in Grading practices:

- Grading Scale - 100-90% (A), 89-80% (B), 79-70% (C), 69-60% (D), 59-0% (F), there are no + or - grades at GMS
- Letter grades are defined as: (A) Advanced, (B) Proficient, (C) Developing, (D) Beginning, (F) Insufficient Evidence
- Some courses may shift to Standards-Based grading, communication on this will come directly from teachers if applicable
- Reassessment on summative assessments will be offered, with students expected to initiate reassessment opportunities that may include reteaching, completing missing work, and/or taking an alternate assessment
- Extra Credit is no longer an option, it has been replaced by the opportunity to reassess on summative assessments

2022-23 Celebrations and Communication (bookmark these links)

[GMS Blog](#)

[GMS Website](#)

[Teacher & House/Team Websites](#)

[Speech Team. On the Same Page. GMS Library. Student Council Websites](#)

[District 228 Facebook Page](#)

Daily Announcements (read aloud and posted on [GMS Website](#))

School Nurse "Back to School" Important Information

- Schedule your student's **Sports Physical** as soon as possible. Students who plan to participate in school-sponsored sports must have a sports physical on file prior to practicing or competing in that sport. Physicals are valid for 1 year and 1 month after the exam date. Forms can be found at <https://geneseoschools.org/forms/>. As soon as your athlete's physical is completed, drop it off or mail it "Attention School Nurse" to GMS (333 East Ogden Avenue Geneseo, IL 61254).
- Any medication(s) your child may need to take at school must be brought directly to the School Nurse by a Parent or Guardian. You also must fill out a medication form. This is applicable for both prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. It is strictly prohibited for students to bring to school or carry any medications (including Tylenol or Advil).
- 6th Grade Parents and Guardians, please note the additional [Medical Requirements](#) for your student to enter 6th grade.

Geneseo School District Prevention of Bullying and Harassment

[Board Policy 7:180](#)



Back-to-School Reminders

- [School Supply lists](#) are available at all major store outlets in the area, or you can find them here: [GMS School Supply List](#)
- Registration for new and returning students is located here: [Online Student Registration](#)
- August 10th 4:00 pm Student schedules will be available on Skyward Family Access (visible only if registration is complete)
- August 11th and 12th are GMS Locker Set-up days from 2:00-6:00 pm, with students able to log into Skyward, get their schedule, locker number, and combo, and stop by GMS to find, practice, and set up their hallway locker for 2022-23
- August 12th 10:00 am GMS New Student Orientation (for new students to the district, meet in the Cafeteria)
- August 15th 5:00-7:00 pm is GMS Open House/Backpack Night
 - Walk through student schedules and meet your teachers
 - Although hallway locker set-up will be available at Open House, we encourage you to take advantage of the locker set-up times on August 11th or 12th, 2:00-6:00 pm, for our hallways get very crowded at Open House
 - Students & Parents/Guardians should report to their child's 1st period classroom for sign-in, copies of schedules, and an orientation welcome (1st period rooms are listed on each student's schedule in Skyward Family Access, lists will also be posted at the west end of each grade level hallway)
 - Some things that may be for sale at Open House:
 - GMS Student Activity Passes, \$10 each (2 types)
 - Book Socks/Covers
 - GHS Football T-Shirts & GMS T-Shirts (sponsored by Student Council)
 - GMS Yearbook orders/information
 - Middle School/High School PTA will have parent sign-ups, they will also be looking for volunteers to help with Football game concessions, Picture Day, Teacher Appreciation and more - [Join MS/HS PTA!](#)
- August 17th school begins - students report to their 1st period class by 8:10 am for planners, schedules, and to discuss academic and behavior expectations at GMS
- August 17th, 18th, and 19th are one-hour early release days
- GMS regular school day is 8:10 am – 3:10 pm, 1-hour early out is 8:10 am – 2:10 pm, ½ day dismissal is 8:10 am – 11:40 am, and 2-hour delayed start is 10:10 am – 3:10 pm
- Academic Student Assistance Period (ASAP), starts August 22nd:
 - Students will report to ASAP daily, during 8th period, where they will engage in research-based learning programs, including: Silent Sustained Reading (SSR), Language Arts or Math Learning Centers, Peer Tutoring Workshop, Genius Hour, Special Education Learning Centers, or Social Emotional Learning Groups
 - Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) Expectations:
 - Students will bring a book for enjoyment every day, and will be reading quietly for 30 minutes
 - Readers may use a Kindle, iPad or other personal electronic reading device **ONLY** to read a book during SSR (*students are not permitted to read using cell phones), consequences of abuse will follow the GMS Electronic Device violation procedures in the Student/Parent Handbook
 - Motivational Math will take place one day a week during ASAP instead of reading, with students practicing math concepts and skills for 30 minutes independently using an online program called MAP Accelerator
- Participating in a fall sport or activity?
 - Make sure you have your Sports Physical form turned in to the main office **before** your sport or activity begins (the [Medical Authorization](#) form is also a requirement, it is submitted online when you register your student)
 - There is a [one-time Participation Fee](#) each school year for any student participating in a sport or activity. If you have a student that will be participating in one or more sports or activities (i.e. football, track, band, choir, student council, speech), this annual one-time fee is required. Fees can be paid online with a credit card through Family Access or by cash or check at the middle school office. Make checks payable to Geneseo CUSD #228.
- Be aware of the District 228 Food Allergy Management Plan, which establishes District-wide guidelines to help our administrators, teachers, students and parents protect those with food allergies from serious harm or injury. The Safe Snack list portion of the plan can be found here: [Safe Snack List](#)

If you should have any questions, please call the GMS Main Office at 309-945-0599.

Geneseo Community School District 228 Football Game Guidelines

In an effort to continue to make Geneseo High School football games enjoyable and safe for all spectators, the following guidelines for students in attendance are used at all home football games.

**Elementary and Middle School students must be accompanied to the game by a parent/guardian or responsible adult.*

Middle School students attending home GHS football games have two options for watching the game:

1. Students may sit with their parent/guardian or other responsible adult.
2. Students may sit with friends in the GMS student section, located in the South Endzone of the football field. If sitting in the GMS student section the following guidelines apply:
 - a. GMS students will enter and exit the GMS Student Section by the stairway on the South End of the Compound, going directly from the field gate to the bleachers only.
 - b. All GMS students seated in the GMS student section will be allowed to leave at the end of each quarter or half time to go to the concession stand or restroom, but are required to stay in the seating area until released.
 - c. Students outside the GMS student section must be heading to or from the concession stands or restrooms; loitering will result in disciplinary action.

Guidelines for All Spectators:

Regardless of grade level, all students are expected to follow simple rules of proper sporting event attendance.

1. No fans will be allowed on or inside the track (exception, GMS student section).
2. No loitering around areas of the stadium unless in your proper designated area.
3. Spectators are not allowed to bring into the stadium skateboards, bikes, rollerblades, and/or balls into the stadium. Other items are subject to the approval of administration.
4. It is important that all fans comply with the rules and any requests made by District Staff. Failure to do so may result in removal from the stadium.
5. The PTA will provide the concessions for your benefit. No open containers backpacks or coolers will be allowed at Bob Reade Field.

