

Geneseo Middle School

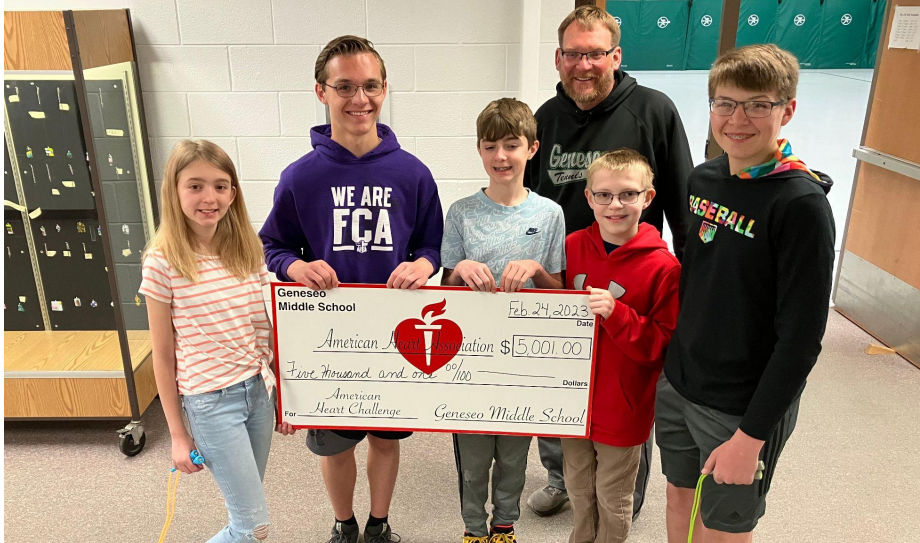


[GMS Website](#)

TEACH

LEARN

CARE



Principal's Message

Can you believe it is almost that time already? It was 2 months ago that school released for summer break, with all the fun of swimming pools, reading books, playing video games, and plenty of sibling arguments. But just like that, a new school year is just around the corner, with the awesome opportunity to welcome the classes of 2028, 2029, and 2030 to the newly remodeled halls of GMS. 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 takes a dedicated and encouraging village to raise a child, especially 600 middle school aged children, and that partnership is essential to your child's success. At our opening assembly this year I will share a little about our GMS L.E.A.F. skills and expectations, along with this quote from William Penn, "Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it." The challenge, as adults, is to model these common sense L.E.A.F. skills of leadership, effort, accountability, and focus, and to help our 11-14 year olds see the value of doing what's right, even when it may not be popular to do so.

I truly hope you have had a wonderful break, and can enjoy a couple more weeks of warm August sun. Make it a great rest of your summer, and an awesome 2023-24 school year!

Nathan O'Dell
Principal, Geneseo Middle School

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Page 3 - Back to School Dates and Info, including Cell Phone policy update
Page 4 - GHS Football Game Guidelines

Important Dates

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



GMS Office Team

Monday, July 24

- ☐ 7th/8th Girls Softball Season begins

Wednesday, August 9

- ☐ Student Schedules available for viewing beginning at 4pm (only visible if registration is complete)

Thursday & Friday, August 10 & 11

- ☐ GMS Locker Set-up, 2-6pm

Friday, August 11

- ☐ New Student Orientation, 10am

Monday, August 14

- ☐ GMS Open House, 5-7pm

Wednesday - Friday, August 16-18

- ☐ 7th & 8th Grade Volleyball tryouts

Wednesday, August 16

- ☐ First day of Student Attendance
- ☐ 1 Hour Early Release
- ☐ 2:10pm dismissal 8/16, 8/17, 8/18

Monday - Friday, August 21-25

- ☐ Fall MAP Assessments

Monday, September 4

- ☐ Labor Day, No School

Wednesday, September 6

- ☐ School Picture Day

Saturday & Sunday, September 23 & 24

- ☐ Harvest Music Festival

Wednesday, September 27

- ☐ ½ day Inservice, 11:40am dismissal

GMS News



IESA 2023 8th Boys Track 4th Place

GMS Student Spotlight

In this section in 2023-24 you will see student-centered highlights from sports, activities, music, volunteering, individual accomplishments, classroom learning, teamwork, collaboration, and more.



Rotary Club US Constitution Essay Winners

Grading Accuracy and Accountability Update

GMS is working hard to build clarity and accuracy in the way we report student grades. This is due, in part, to the many challenges faced, lessons learned, and sometimes poor habits formed during the pandemic. In order to provide more effective feedback on your student's growth, aligned with course standards, we will be using the following accuracy in grading practices in 2023-24:

- Grading Scale - 100-90% (A), 89-80% (B), 79-70% (C), 69-60% (D), 59-0% (F).
- Letter grades are defined as: (A) Advanced, (B) Proficient, (C) Developing, (D) Beginning, (F) Not Enough Evidence.
- Some of your child's courses may use Standards-Based Reporting, with grades aligned to course standards and defined as: (4) Advanced, (3) Proficient, (2) Developing, (1) Beginning, and (0) Not Enough Evidence. Details on Standards-Based Reporting will be communicated by your child's teacher in the first week of school.
- Reassessment on summative assessments is available for students to improve their grade. Reassessment opportunities may require students to attend reteaching sessions, complete missing work, and/or take an alternate assessment.
- The consequence for not completing expected learning (i.e. missing work), is to complete expected learning. Any student who does not complete practice or assessments by the due dates assigned may be required to attend our 8th period Student Workshop, receive an Academic Lunch Detention, or be ineligible for their sport or activity.

2023-24 Celebrations and Communication (bookmark these links)

[GMS Website](#)

[GMS Library, On the Same Page, Student Council](#)

[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 our [School Health](#) link. 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](#)

GMS Back-to-School Reminders

- New for 2023-24 - All cell phone and electronic devices must be kept “Powered off and in Lockers” during the regular school day, consequences may include confiscation of the device for the school day, detention, and parent pickup of the device. The only exceptions to this policy are: a staff member grants permission for educational use, a student needs to contact a parent or guardian and gains permission to do so, or the device is used as part of a medical care plan.
- 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 9th 4:00 pm student schedules will be available on Skyward Family Access (visible only if registration is complete)
- August 10th and 11th are GMS Locker Set-up days, 2:00-6:00 pm, with students able to log into Skyward Family Access, get their schedule, locker number, and combo, and stop by GMS to find, practice, and set up their hallway locker
- August 11th 10:00 am GMS New Student Orientation (for new students to the district, meet in the Cafeteria)
- August 14th 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 10th or 11th, 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 for students, \$20 for adults
 - 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 16th 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 16th, 17th and 18th 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 21st:
 - 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-based Student Workshop, 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
 - Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic devices to read during SSR
 - 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 only be allowed to leave at the end of each quarter, or half time, to go to the concession stand or restroom. Students are required to stay in the GMS Student Section 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.

