

December 2015



GMRSD Board Of Education

Home of the Jaguars

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Parents, Faculty, Staff and Community Members:

This time of year is an excellent time to be reflective in thought and appreciative for what we have. As life moves by us so quickly, it is easy to forget what we truly are thankful for. As Fall becomes Winter, one can go back in time and old holiday feelings reemerge from our childhood, such as sleigh riding, building snowmen, shoveling grandma's driveway, etc...Although as adults we sometimes view this time of year through a different lens, it is so very important to always remember those holiday feelings, as well as those special people in our lives who helped guide us along life's journey. Whether it be members of our immediate family, extended family or a family friend, without their love and support, choices and decisions made would be more difficult to bear. That is why this time of year should be one of family tradition and building upon memories that transcend from past to present. As superintendent of schools, I can tell you that I look forward to serving our school districts and communities while establishing goals and standards that carry us through 2016 and beyond.

In closing, I wish everyone a happy and healthy Holiday and New Year!

Sincerely,

David C. Mango

Superintendent of Schools

Hackettstown and Great Meadows Regional School District

CURRICULUM CORNER

Curriculum Corner

Nadia Inskeep

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Hello,

It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the school year! It has certainly been a busy time. The principals are currently working on planning for the upcoming year. We will be purchasing new math resources for grades K through 5 to align with the teachers at the middle school. The series is Go Math! It also matches what our neighbors in Hackettstown are using to further bring our curriculum alignment together.

I am also very pleased about the new program offerings we have for Academic Support including the Saturday tutoring at the middle school. These programs are made possible through grant funding. I will be sending out a Title I parent involvement survey after the new year. I hope that you will take a few minutes to provide your feedback and input on our Academic Support Programs. There is the potential to offer a summer support program if we have enough interest!

I hope you have a wonderful holiday!



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CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

TITLE I

Central School's Title I Clubs are in full swing. Three Skill Builders Clubs – in reading, math, and technology – along with the Think Tank Homework Club have provided a number of students the opportunity to receive assistance and support in core subject areas. Using Title I funds, we have been able to provide this extended day program using the exciting new books and online instructional tools.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

October was a busy month at Central School. Harvest Day featured an array of activities for students, including opportunities to interact with farm animals and create class scarecrows. Halloween, as always, was also a fun time for the K-2 community. Creative costumes, cars, and candy were featured at the PTO's annual Trunk or Treat event, and the Halloween parade and class parties were fun for everyone at Central School.

CHARACTER BUILDING

Central's 2015-16 character education initiative continues to gain momentum. Students were educated on and rewarded for showing honesty throughout September and October. Nine students were rewarded for their positive behavior with Student of the Month awards. The theme for November is gratitude. Those that demonstrate this kindness characteristic will earn tickets and a chance to be November's Students of the Month. To top it all off, if the students earn at least 200 combined tickets, Mr. Mai will show his gratitude by kissing a chicken at the next Student of the Month assembly.

JUST RIGHT READING

Central students continue to work their way to becoming superior readers, earning medals for time spent reading on-level books of their choosing. In October, over 150 medals were handed out to students that logged a minimum of 500 minutes of reading. These medals have been proudly worn by many students proud of their work.

LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy holidays to everyone. We are proudly "Wild about Learning" at Liberty School. Our school year has been a huge success thus far and we are looking forward to an amazing 2016 school year. I want to thank all the parents that made our Harvest Day a huge success. I truly enjoyed watching the community come together for this special day. Liberty held its first door decorating contest on October 9th. Every homeroom did a spectacular job decorating their doors. Taking home the prize this year was Ms. Broxton's 3rd grade homeroom. Congratulations to all the students at Liberty where their beautiful door artwork will be on display all year for everyone to enjoy, and a special thanks to our judges Mr. Mailloux and Mr. Mango. Ms. McClary and Ms. Potosnak did an amazing job organizing several fun activities for Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness, and Red Ribbon Week. On Friday, 10/30, Liberty School participated in the **World's Largest K-5 Concert!** 50 states, 8 Canadian provinces/territories, and 17 other countries all registered, and **what a time we had!** There was an estimated **24,000-30,000 students** participating together! Special thanks to our PTO for providing our school with a spectacular laser light assembly. Our students truly enjoyed the performance. Parent conferences took place on November 18th, 19th, and 20th. Liberty proudly had a tremendous turn out and we would like to thank all our parents that attended. Some important dates to remember: Liberty will have a half day on 12/11/15, and grades 4 & 5 Band and Chorus concert will take place on December 16th at 7:00PM. The next Principal Forum at Liberty School will be held on 1/27 at 6 PM in the Liberty multi-purpose room. The purpose of this forum will be focused on internet safety. The Liberty Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet for the first time this school year to discuss issues relevant to Liberty and the continued success of our students and programs. The committee will consist of parent volunteers from each grade who will meet throughout the year with the Liberty School Principal and Guidance Counselor. If you have any ideas or concerns that you feel should be brought up at our PAC meeting, please email me jmacones@gmrdsd.com. Agendas will be created based on input received via email prior to the meeting. All parents are welcomed to join. PAC will meet will meet Monday, December 21st at 9:30 AM.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

GMMS Parents/Guardians,

We are warming up for winter at GMMS. The winter months will bring lots of activities and clubs to keep our students engaged. We currently have Rock Club on Tuesdays until May, Weightlifting club for 8th graders ending in January, and Latin Dance Fitness Tuesdays and Thursdays until February. Coming soon will be the Cardio Club starting in February, girls Volleyball, and Girls on Track starting in March.

As part of the district strategic plan, we have committed to expanding the use of technology for staff and students. We now have three Blended Learning Rooms, one in each grade level, and had the pleasure of partnering with Google for a state of the art virtual reality Google Expedition for students in grades 6-8. Certainly an exciting time to be a student and an educator.

We would like to thank Mrs. Doty and Chief Riley for organizing the Cram the Cruiser event to help local families in need. This fundraiser benefits the Vienna United Methodist Church Food Bank, and as always, we were able to pack the equivalent of two police SUV cruisers full of food items for families in need, especially during the holiday season. Thank you to students, staff and administration from Central School and the Middle School. We received over 1,700 food items to help those in need.

The rest of the year will be moving very quickly. A few items to keep watch for are the next Middle School Principal Forum to be held February 10th and an 8th grade Pro Wrestling fundraiser on February 26th.

Also, Saturday Tutoring for Title 1 students is going very well and will continue for the remainder of the year. If you have a struggling student and are interested in signing up for Saturday Tutoring, please contact Mr. Marmolejos for more information.

Please be sure to catch our annual Municipal Alliance Show scheduled for Thursday and Friday evening on January 21st and 22nd at 7 p.m.

Have a great rest of the year.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

GMRSD STRATEGIC PLAN VISION 2019

GOAL 1

Provide students with adequate support and experiences to promote growth in all areas.

GOAL 2

Intensify the district's commitment to move toward an environment that provides students with 21st Century skills and prepares them for success on a global level by incorporating technology into all settings.

GOAL 3

Creating a social and academic environment that is safe and enhances students ability to become forward thinking risk takers, and globally conscious.

GOAL 4

Create a top-notch school environment by opening communication paths and engaging parents in the student's academic life. Collaborating with community to access resources.

DISTRICT GOALS

2014-2016 GMRSD DISTRICT GOALS

In accordance with the Great Meadows Regional School District Strategic Plan, listed below are three district goals. These goals focus on concentrated areas for improvement within the Strategic Plan

DISTRICT GOAL 1

Design and implement curricular alignment grades K-8 with a focus on transition into Hackettstown High School

DISTRICT GOAL 2

Increase blended learning opportunities for students and staff by providing and implement high quality professional development for staff that supports instruction in a blended learning environment.

DISTRICT GOAL 3

Utilize new curricular resources to provide parents with educational opportunities in being active participants in their children's learning as measured by a parental survey.

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Dates To Remember

12/11/15 - Early Dismissal Students (Teacher Professional Development Day)

12/16/15 – Liberty Concert Grades 4-5 (7pm GMMS)

12/22/15 - BOE Meeting (GMMS Dining Room)

12/23/15 – Early Dismissal: Holiday Break

12/24/15 – 12/31/15 – Closed: Holiday Break

01/01/15 – Closed: New Year's Day

01/08/15 – PTO Winter Get Together Grades 6-8

01/13/15 – District Spelling Bee (GMMS 7pm)

01/18/15 - Closed for Students (Teacher PD Day)

01/20/15 – Central Elementary Principal Forum (6pm)

01/21/15-01/22/15 – Municipal Alliance Art Show (7pm GMMS)

01/27/15 – Liberty Elementary Principal Forum (6pm)

02/05/15 – K-5 Valentine's Day Family Dance

02/10/15 – GMMS Principal Forum (7pm)

02/12/15 – 02/15/15 – Closed: Presidents' Weekend

03/15/15 – Liberty Elementary Spring Picture Day

03/23/15 – Liberty 3rd Grade Spring Concert (7pm)

03/24/15 – Early Dismissal Spring Break

03/25/15 – 04/01/15 – Closed: Spring Break

04/04/15 – 04/29/15 – PARCC Testing

04/13/15 – Battle of the Books(No. Warren HS Grd7-8)

04/15/15 - Early Dismissal Students (Teacher Professional Development Day)