



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas

Veteran's Day

Occasionally, parents will ask me why we attend school on Veteran's day. Simply put, we respect the day to a greater magnitude by attending than we would taking it off. Each GKMS student will learn about Veteran's Day and what it means in their classes throughout the day. This year, we are also honored by a respected guest.

Keeping Kids Safe On line

Here is a link to an excellent article on keeping kids safe on line @ Parenting.com:
<http://www.parenting.com/gallery/social-media-monitoring-kids?page=0>

Though I am listing a few key points below, first and foremost is that parents must know that monitoring their kids' on line behaviors, contacts, and relationships is imperative to keeping them safe. It is not spying or stalking – it is parenting.

Create ground rules. If your kids are old enough to be using the computer on their own, they are old enough to understand that there are rules they need to abide by. Breaking them should not have a lesser consequence than if they broke a rule in the offline world. The best way for families to agree on ground rules is to create a contract that all parties must sign.

Keep computers in a central location. Limit cell phone use, and collect phones overnight. Chargers can be kept in an adult's room and powered off machines will allow everyone a full night sleep.

Check that your privacy settings for the internet are set to the strictest levels. Depending on which browser you are using, you can adjust the settings directly from the options tab and adjust levels around cookies, third party sites and more. Use filtering websites. There are software suites you can purchase to monitor your child's Internet usage; many even enable you to view the exact keys that were typed, time spent online and all computer activity in general.

Be a "friend." If you do allow your child to be on Facebook, insist they friend you. Follow them on twitter and any other social media platform you both agree they can use. If it is allowed in your family ground rules, you need to follow them.

Most importantly, talk with your kids about internet safety. Repeated discussions about not sharing their personal information online, *can help kids make better decisions.*

Holiday Season

Wishing a great Thanksgiving and holiday season to all our GKMS families!

News From the Assistant Principal-Mr. Butcher

The students are doing a tremendous job of following our school-wide expectations—Being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. We finished quarter one with 95% of students having 0 or 1 detentions or referrals. Referrals are down 51% this year from the same time period. Awesome job GKMS students! Students are issued referrals when they can no longer remain in the classroom and have to be referred to the office. A referral is issued only as a last resort and keeping students in class if at all possible is a priority. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of 80% of students receiving 0 or 1 detentions or referrals. If we meet our goal the students will earn a school-wide incentive at the end of the school year. G-K students ROCK!

Reminder: Students staying after school for extracurricular activities, sports, or clubs must remain at school at the end of the school day. Students may not leave school grounds and then return to participate or watch any sporting activities, clubs, or other extracurricular activities. If a student does not wish to wait after school to watch a home sporting event they may only leave school and return as long as they are accompanied into the school by a parent or guardian. The parent or guardian does not need to stay with them, but must walk them into the school. Please contact me with any questions at 815-784-5222.

PBIS Tier I

This year our theme for the school year is “You Can Get There From Here”. And boy, students are doing a great job of showing us that.

Cool tools for expected behaviors have been done weekly in Study Hall classes and reinforced the following week in classes. Students have really been doing a nice job with these, and our growth as a school shows!

Students of the Week continue to be chosen and weekly and our first Students of the Quarter were picked a couple of weeks ago. Congratulations to those students—you should be proud of your accomplishments.

We are also opening up the opportunity for students to volunteer to join the PBIS Tier I team. Applications are in the office and are due November 7th. Students would need to be able to get to school one time a month at 7:15 and these students will help the teacher team to help boost PBIS in our school with their innovative ideas. We are looking forward to the growth this will bring!

Lorado Taft

It was an excellent trip with wonderful weather. We really enjoyed our time learning about forest ecology, orienteering, and nature writing. During the night hike we heard a lot of nature sounds, saw a few stars, and even a few sparks (ask your student)! We practiced some instincts we would need to survive in nature and experienced the engineering process by designing and marketing a tinkertoy car . Of course the food was fabulous! Our thanks to the Lorado Taft staff and to all who chaperoned and helped make this trip a success.

Drama

One Dramatic Evening was a great performance. We had many students involved in this fall production. There were lots of laughs and a few serious topics covered in this mix of presentations. Preparations for the spring play will begin in February with the spring performance April 6-7, 2018.

Art Club

Art Club is still meeting on Thursdays from 3-4:00PM. We have enjoyed a variety of activities along with choice. As this is a year long activity, we understand joining us as your schedule allows in conjunction with other clubs or activities. Students must have a signed permission slip before they are able to participate.

Student Council

Starting in November, SC will be collecting new or nicely used items to donate to our local food pantry for families in need of some extra help. We keep these local to help our families. New ones in any size or color is fine or used if in excellent condition will work. We will also take gift cards for holiday dinners or store coupons to pass to families here at the GK Middle School. Any questions, please email Carol Hencken at Chencken@gkschools.org. We will collect through the end of the semester, December 22.

Hat, Scarf, Sock Drive

From the 6th Grade Team

Reading and Language Arts

The students have been focusing on word choice, in particular strong verbs, in their generated writing pieces. In addition, using the appropriate tone in their writing, depending on the purpose of the writing activity and the expected audience. Correct capitalization and punctuation is a daily expectation. Please continue to encourage the importance of complete sentences which are grammatically correct in all subject areas. We have just finished our Greek Root Unit with great success. The next unit's focus will be pronouns, intensive, and shifts in number and case.

In reading, we are analyzing character, setting, and plot of narrative fiction stories. Through this analysis we will determine how character and setting are connected and help move the plot towards resolution of the conflict. We will also be determining the theme or central idea of fiction stories. As students ask questions while reading, they will be supporting their answers with text evidence. We will also take time to determine the meaning of words using context clues, connotation, and denotation. This month's book report will be non-fiction.

Science

After writing science fiction stories that described the adventures and perils of traveling to other planets in the solar system, we have moved further out to the study of stars, galaxies, and the universe. We will also be looking at the technology that has allowed us to discover these wonders.

From the 7th Grade Team

Reading

7th grade reading classes will finish the novel The Outsiders. Throughout the course of reading this wonderful novel, students identified and described notice and note signpost moments. They were able to find multiple examples of contrast and contradictions, aha moments, tough questions, words of the wiser moments, again and again moments, and memory moments. These signpost moments helped the students comprehend the novel at a deeper level. They also focused on summarizing, making valid predictions, inferring the meanings of unknown vocabulary terms based on context, elements of plot, and characterization. They will also compare and contrast the book vs. the movie. (If you have not already signed and returned the movie permission slip, please do so as soon as possible.) The first second quarter book report is due November 10.

Language Arts

Students will write a constructed response on how one of the characters in The Outsiders, was a dynamic character. Textual evidence will be incorporated throughout this piece of analytical writing. We will continue to focus deeply on each of the six traits of writing. Students will apply what they have learned about the six traits of writing while composing a persuasive essay on a topic of choice. They will go through each stage of the writing process from brainstorming, to outlining, drafting, revising, editing, peer-reviewing, and publishing. Students will also continue to practice analytical writing based on stories they read during reading class in the form of constructed responses. As always, 3 ROK cards and a vocabulary bookmark are due each Wednesday. Classroom spelling bees will take place during the month of November during language arts classes. The 7th grade grade-level spelling bee will take place in December.

Cells, cells, and more cells! We began diving into the microscopic world of cells in October. Students have been learning about cell theory, the different types of cells, and the structures (organelles) that are inside a cell. This year we will be focusing on one of the main organelles at a time and really examine its structure, function, and how it is vital to cell survival. We have already learned about the cell membrane (ask your kids about the “egg lab”) and nucleus. As we move into November we will spend time exploring mitochondria and chloroplasts through readings, models, and activities.

Our mealworm colonies are continuing to grow and develop. After almost 2 months of watching them change from mealworms to pupa and eventually beetles, we are ready to do some more investigations. In the beginning of November, we will be brainstorming different variables we would like to test with our beetles. Student groups will then create an experiment to test their ideas, collect data, and analyze the data to see how the beetles respond to different stimuli.

Science

Social Studies

Students are doing a great job revisiting the beginnings of our nation. This month we will be reviewing the many causes leading up to the major historical event, the Revolutionary War. We will also focus on note-taking strategies utilizing *Reading Nonfiction: Notice & Note Stances, Signposts, and Strategies by Beers and Probst*.

A couple of reminders about grades:

1. We have an 80/20 procedure in the Middle School. Assessments are worth 80% and everyday practice is worth 20%.
2. Students earning below 70% on an assessment must attend a reteach conference and then retake the test.
3. Retakes are available for all students
4. No Zero Procedure - homework is important and is expected to be done.

From the 8th Grade Team

Math

For more information on our curriculum and access to textbook sample problems, parent guides, and homework help please visit <https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do>

Students in the Course 3 classes have gotten a good understanding of what the expectations are in 8th grade math classes. We are continuing to work with the formative parts of algebra; solving equations, graphing “straight” lines, and integer operations. We are looking forward to working with other aspects of algebra including multi-step equation solving in Systems of Equations. This topic will really push students to not only be comfortable with solving equations, but also force them to think critically to solve real-world systems questions.

As for the Algebra classes, the long haul has begun in terms of solving algebraic equations, translating algebraic sentences from word problems, and solving linear equations. We have begun the basics of understanding slope-intercept form and how it is used in graphs and we will continue to develop those skills through the later end of November. Solving equations will begin to take on more complex looks as we apply graphing in all its forms (slope-intercept, point-slope, and function tables).

Geometry has had its introduction to proofs and will continue to develop skills that “justify why the math works”. We will spend most of November learning how to prove congruent and similar figures. Eventually we will find our way into basic Trigonometry problems with our good friend SOH-CAH-TOA.

Do not forget that daily math help is available to all students during Study Hall in Mr. Uili’s room.

All the math classes had a great 1st quarter, let’s keep it up for the last three quarters!

Language Arts

In language arts, we will continue to refine our writing using the 6+1 Traits, focusing specifically on sentence fluency and word choice. Students have written argumentative essays about the controversy surrounding NFL players protesting during the National Anthem and a closing statement (with textual evidence) determining whether the narrator in "The Tell-Tale Heart" is legally insane. We will continue to strengthen vocabulary using differentiated Membean practice at the beginning of class each day, and gain background information about grammar using No Red Ink.

Please ask your student about the No Excuses list!

8th Grade Continued.....

Reading

Well, we are well into our way in 2nd Quarter-the year is flying by! With Halloween here, we will be looking at the famous author, Edgar Allen Poe. His story, "The Tell-Tale Heart", is a classic where we will be focusing on how the author uses language to help you infer about character traits. We will also be working with sensory language in literature. Also, students will be delving into some poems that will allow them to work with figurative language. All of this will lead us into our big nonfiction December *Fever 13 project*. *Book projects will be completed in class the last week before Christmas break.*

21st Century Skills

Students will be assessed in their ability to meet the keyboarding standard as described in Common Core to: "demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting." All current students of my classes have an account in Typing Club to practice their keyboarding which can be accessed at <https://gkschools.typingclub.com>. Students who are not able to meet the standard will be given daily and weekly practice in class. But all students are encouraged to practice on their own time as well.

In addition to keyboarding, 6th grade students will be learning how to be good citizens in the digital age. Topics include: internet safety, privacy and security, relationships and communications, cyberbullying, digital footprint and reputation, information literacy, and creative credit and copyright.

In 7th grade students will be learning the importance of the field of engineering to our society. They are determining how to accurately show 3D objects on paper. Then they are learning how to make those objects using a 3D modeling program on the computer.

In 8th grade students will be applying the engineering skills we learned last year to the design of an object that solves a problem. They will be using the Engineering Design Process to guide them through their decision making. And at the end of our 6 weeks together we will begin to make geared machines that will form the basis of our robots we will be making during 2nd semester.

8th Grade Boys Basketball Schedule

10/28/2017	Sat	@ Creekside Tournament (A only)	A	10:00 AM	Creekside MS	-
10/30/2017	Mon	vs. Marengo	H	4:15 PM	GKMS Main Gym	-
11/01/2017	Wed	@ Harvard	A	4:15 PM	Harvard MS	-
11/04/2017	Sat	@ Oregon B-team Reserve Round Robin	A	9:00 AM	Oregon Blackhawk Center	-
11/06/2017	Mon	@ Riley	A	4:15 PM	Riley MS	-
11/07/2017	Tue	vs. North Boone	H	4:15 PM	GKMS Main Gym	-
11/09/2017	Thu	@ Fox River Grove (A only)	A	5:15 PM	Fox River Grove MS	-
11/10/2017	Fri	@ Oregon Tournament (A only)	A	4:00 PM	Oregon Blackhawk Center	-
11/11/2017	Sat	@ Oregon Tournament (A only)	A	9:00 AM	Oregon Blackhawk Center	-
11/14/2017	Tue	vs. Prairie Grove	H	4:15 PM	GKMS Main Gym	-
11/16/2017	Thu	@ Marengo	A	4:15 PM	Marengo MS	-
11/20/2017	Mon	vs. Hiawatha	H	4:15 PM	GKHS Main Gym	-
11/21/2017	Tue	vs. Harvard	H	4:15 PM	GKMS Main Gym	-
11/28/2017	Tue	@ North Boone	A	4:15 PM	North Boone MS	-
11/30/2017	Thu	@ Harrison (A only)	A	5:15 PM	Harrison MS	-
12/04/2017	Mon	@ MNC Conference Tournament	A	TBA	North Boone MS	-
12/05/2017	Tue	@ MNC Conference Tournament	A	TBA	North Boone MS	-

Important Dates:

11/13: PTO fundraiser Pick up @ Middle School

11/14: School Board Meeting

11/22: No School

11/23: Thanksgiving-No School

11/24: No School