



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. McPherson

As our new school year begins, I am reminded of how awesome our students are. It was such a neat experience seeing all their smiling faces the first day back from summer. Our teachers and support staff are dedicated to making this the best year ever at GKMS. As we start to focus our students on learning again, here are a few important reminders for parents:

- Parents can monitor grades through PowerSchool. Students will bring home log-in information on August 25th. Please see this sheet, or go to the parents tab on our website for details.
- Parents can monitor daily assignments on the daily bulletin portion of powerschool. Again, please reference the informational sheet or check the parents tab of the website.
- For news on upcoming events, please follow GKMS on Twitter. This is a free social networking system that will allow parents and students to get daily updates from GKMS. Please see the Parents Tab of our website for more details.
- As always, please encourage your students to come to school as often as possible and to do their very best when they are here. This is a great school for kids who have a good attitude!

We look forward to working with all of our parents to once again make this a great school year for kids! Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 815-784-5222, ext. 13.

Mr. McPherson

GKMS OPEN HOUSE

GKMS Open House Curriculum Night will be on September 20th from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. Please come and join us.

SCHOOL PICTURES—September 7, 2011

Picture Day is September 7th. Flyers have been sent home explaining the many choices of packages. Pictures will be taken during your student's PE class. Students will also be getting their new id that day. Any student wanting a yearbook must purchase a package. **Yearbooks will NOT be for sale at the end of the year.**

Book Fair

September 19th—20th

Book Fair will also be open during our open house

Mealtime

Mealtime for payment of lunches. Here are a few reminders about Mealtime here at GKMS:

- Students must have either their id# (provided on the first day) or their ID cards in the lunch line.
 - Any balance from last year was carried over to this school year.
 - GKMS is a cash free lunch line. No cash can be accepted in the cafeteria.
 - Students may submit cash or check payments in the morning in the gym or in the office by the end of 2nd hour at 9:22 am.
 - Parents may also submit payments on-line.
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Breakfast Program

GKMS will offer breakfast for the 2011-2012 school year. For students who are on free lunch, breakfast is also free. For students who are on reduced lunch, breakfast is \$.30. For all other students, breakfast is \$1.50. Please contact Mr. McPherson at 815-784-5222 with any questions.

IMPORTANT POWERSCHOOL INFORMATION

Did you know?

- * Parents can view their students' daily classroom activities, as well as things they should be working on?
- * Parents can view their students' grades?
- * Parents can view their students' attendance?
- * Parents can see announcements about school activities daily?

All of this can be done through accessing Powerschool. Each student has an access ID. All students will receive this information during the first few weeks of school. If misplaced, parents may request the information in writing from the GKMS office.

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11TH

Upcoming 9-11 Activities

GKMS has always remembered 9-11 and the 10th year anniversary is no exception. The students will be learning about its importance and historical significance in all their classes throughout that week. We will hold an outside flag ceremony and pledge on Friday 9/9 at the start of the day that we welcome anyone to attend. On Sunday eve, 9/11, we invite you to gather with us around our painted flag on the front lawn at 7:30 PM for some quiet remembrance. We are asking for donations of tall taper candles that will be lit and placed around the flag. Please have your student drop off a candle if able to Mrs. Hencken at GKMS prior to 9/9.

Thank you.

Drama Save the Date! One Fabulous Evening, a night of live poetry, skits, and so much more will take place Thursday, October 13 at 6:30pm. More information will follow! Any questions – ask Mrs. Laben

6TH GRADE NEWS

Social Studies

Sixth graders have started the year out by learning that geography is the study of Earth. Regions, human interactions, movements, locations and places will be discussed through out the year. We will start the year out learning to read and identify different kinds of maps, as well as using longitude and latitude to locate different places. Sometime in September we will start early cultures and the differences in BCE and CE dates.

Math

EnVisions- The students are starting the year by identifying different numbers and operations. We will cover everything from place values, comparing and ordering numbers and decimals to multiplying and dividing with powers of 10 and exponents. Students will be asked to read and write numbers correctly in multiple forms making communicating in math more effective.

Reading/Language Arts

We are off to a great start in reading and Language Arts classes. The students seem to be adjusting quickly. In Language Arts, the classes will be reviewing basic grammar including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, proofreading marks, and basic capitalization rules. 6-Traits is a very important part of our writing program, we will share and develop ideas, discuss and practice conventions, and know what we need to have in a final writing piece (presentation). By the end of September, we will generate narrative pieces using descriptive language, by utilizing more specific nouns and vivid verbs. In addition, we will discuss and apply sensory images in our writing. In reading, students will identify characters, setting, plot, theme, conflict, resolution, and author's purpose in our stories. We will also make text-to-self connections, use the context of a sentence to figure out unfamiliar words, identify genres, and work on our speaking and listening skills.

6TH GRADE NEWS continued....

Lorado Taft – 6th Grade Field Trip

All 6th grade students have received their information packets about Lorado Taft. Both groups will be attending this field trip in September. The first group will leave September 12, 2011 and return on September 13, 2011. The second group will leave on September 13, 2011 and return on September 14, 2011. The field trip is part of the 6th grade curriculum which puts an emphasis on learning outside the classroom. Classes and activities are designed to expand each student's awareness of the environment and the importance of how living species relate and depend upon each for their existence. Even though the trip has been shortened to one night and two days, the program will still continue to be an effective experience for each student. We need parent chaperones to volunteer for this trip in order to make this a truly rewarding experience for our students.

Science

This year the focus on Science will be on Earth and Space. We will begin the year learning about the different areas of Science, the Scientific Method, measurement, graphing, and a few other components that will help the students understand the planet that we live on. After our field trip the plan is to study water, atmosphere, and the weather. This should be an exciting year for the sixth grade class. All activities are designed to expand the knowledge of the students and to get them excited about learning more on their own.

7TH GRADE NEWS

Reading/Language Arts

Reading will be starting the Making Meaning Curriculum by focusing on students' reading life and building a positive reading community. Strategies we will be working on include turn to your partner and think pair share. We will also be reviewing predicting, text structure, text features, and text organization/story elements. To support the Making Meaning strategies of each week, students will be independently reading an additional story each week with a culminating activity for the story every Friday. All students should be reading at least 30 minutes a night.

Language Arts curriculum will be focusing on the 6 +1 Traits of Writing. The students will be writing in a writer's workshop format. This month we will be reviewing all of the 6 traits: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. Each quarter we will be focusing on a different type of writing; first quarter we will be writing an expository essay. Students will also be working with the prefixes and suffixes anti-, astro-, calor-, and -cide.

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7TH GRADE NEWS continued....

Science

In 7th Grade Life Science we start off the year with measurement and data analysis. Our first week includes a hands-on investigation. Is there a relationship between human “wingspan” and height? We will also be reviewing the Scientific Method and comparing graphs. Next up will be an introduction to living systems and how we classify organisms. Ask your student about a meniscus and SI!

Social Studies – Mr. McCune

Welcome back to a great year at GKMS! Seventh grade social studies is World Geography. To start we will be learning about how geographers categorize the world into different regions, meridians, parallels and time zones to make understanding our large planet and its people easier. Later this year, we will consider each region: U.S. & Canada, Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Math

As seventh graders our students are beginning a new math series titled College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM). In 7th grade we are teaching the “Foundations for Algebra” section of the program. This math series sets the bar very high for each student. They are expected to work well in a group setting while maintaining their own personal knowledge. Students are also expected to become problem solvers and rely less on the teacher and more on their peers. So far, we are seeing lots of success and are happy with the results in the classrooms. Students are impressive with their ability to collaborate with others in a small group environment. During the month of September, 7th grade math students will learn about integers and operations and begin a unit on solving equations.

We have fielded several questions from parents asking how they can help their students at home. CPM provides parents several resources on their website. There is a parent guide available online that explains concepts and objectives from each chapter. There are also “Skill Builders” available which are series of problems from each unit that you may use with your student(s) to review topics from class.

Parent Guide: www.cpm.org/parents/resources

8TH GRADE NEWS

Reading/Language Arts

Welcome to a new year of reading and language arts. In reading, students have created personality posters for parents and family to see during open house. We have been reviewing kinds of literature and elements of literature in preparation for beginning our Making Meaning reading program.

In language arts, students are getting used to doing word study/vocabulary each week. They are learning that by memorizing the meanings of word parts, they are able to decode unfamiliar words. Students were introduced to writing by drawing monsters and then writing detailed descriptions. Those descriptions were then randomly passed to classmates, who drew the monsters from the descriptions. This lesson emphasizes the importance of using specific words in writing. We will be using on the Six+One Writing Traits method for writing this year. We teachers are excited for this new school year. Feel free to email or call if you have questions.

Science

I would like to welcome to all students and parents to 8th Grade Science for the 2011 – 2012 school year. All 8th grade students will be studying Physical Science (basic Physics and Chemistry concepts) taught by Mr. Harrington or Miss Roberson. We are looking forward to making physical science challenging but fun.

Our current Physical Science textbook, Glencoe Physical Science ã 2002, has been used for eighth grade science for many years. However, this text still has a very useful feature; it can be accessed on the Internet at no cost. This is very handy when students forget to bring home their book or when a student is absent and wants to get started on the make-up work. In either case, your student can log on to www.science.glencoe.com and view all pages of the student text, as well as practice quizzes, and resource information. Just select “Online Student Edition - Full Version”, and type in the user name: PHYSICAL and the Password: qarefu9ube where they are required and you should gain access. We are beginning this year with the topic of the Scientific Method which is the basis for solving problems. We will be working together in small groups to complete projects and activities in class. We will also review metric measurement and learn how to graph data in a clear and effective way. I hope your student finds that this is a fun and interesting way to begin the year.

8TH GRADE NEWS continued....

Math

8th grade math has started off well at Genoa-Kingston Middle School. The middle school is in its second full year implementing College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM) as its math curriculum. This is the third year for the Algebra program and the second for the Foundations for Algebra programs. The CPM program is designed so students can work in strategic study teams to discover and develop their own methods and procedures to solving real-life math problems. As teachers, our purpose is to facilitate lessons and verify appropriate development of Algebraic problem solving skills. For more information please visit www.cpm.org.

The majority of chapter one in Foundations for Algebra II will be spent assessing students' abilities and reintroducing math into their daily schedule after summer break. Some of the concepts that were reviewed were Guess & Check models, solving integer operations, and measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode, and range). Foundations for Algebra II students will finish first quarter up with graphing linear equations and probability.

As for the Algebra classes, Chapter 1 will deal with refreshing Guess & Check Models from last year and introducing concepts such as Diamond Problems and Linear Tile Patterns. Diamond problems will morph into the ever challenging factoring and solving equations with polynomials, while linear tile patterns will eventually lead into graphing and working with all types of linear equations. We will start Chapter 2 shortly into September, and it deals with the building blocks of solving algebraic equations using algebra tile manipulatives. Eventually we will begin to work away from the tiles and solve equations on paper.

All the math classes are well on their way to a good start to the school year!

Social Studies

As we head into the second half of the first quarter, we are getting ready to turn our attention to the era of European exploration and colonization. We started off the year by reviewing basic United States Geography and examining how the very first humans were likely to have migrated to the Western Hemisphere. We also started to take a close look at one of the themes we will be examining all year: how humans have adapted to their environment by using available natural resources. Early on we examined how Native Americans used natural resources to adapt to harsh natural environments. Later, we'll examine how natural environments and natural resources will influence the settlement patterns of European immigration and how that, in turn, will influence regional economies. Students have been practicing and getting used to a variety of ways in which to collect information, organize information and analyze information. While helping your student to prepare for a test or project, ask to see their social studies binders. It's in their binders that you will find their note packets, map packets, vocabulary charts, graphic organizers and graded/corrected homework assignments and quizzes. These are all resources needed to review for tests and prepare for other types of assessments.

VISUAL ARTS—Mrs. Sorensen

The GKMS Visual Arts daily curriculum is packed full of activity and diversity. Each grade level: 6th, 7th and 8th incorporates cross-curricular information as well with new ideas and exposure to various mediums, information and methods.

Sixth grade visual art students will hear math terms: angles, shapes, orientation, fractions, etc. during any given art project. A sixth grade art student will often be exposed to science terms as well while creating their products. Terms and concepts like symmetry, friction, radiation, prismatic, atmospheric, etc. are incorporated. In social studies, connection to visual arts learning is an apparent one, especially in sixth grade when we discuss artist masters and the periods in which they worked. Even Language Arts plays a role as we learn to discuss, critique, and describe our work as we create it and view it. Physical education meets the sixth graders as well with several lessons that incorporate kinesthetic learning during shape, and perspective units.

In Seventh grade, cross-curricular effects come largely from historical background given about each lesson. Students in seventh grade visual arts will also hear much historical information about the variety of mediums explored at this level. From ancient Hebrew and Celtic manuscripts to American folk portraiture to multi-cultural mask-making, social studies connections abound in seventh grade visual arts here at GKMS. Math terms seventh grade art students will hear regard balance and repetition and time which compliments science terms and concepts like movement and proportion, for example. When working on incorporating words to enhance design meaning, the seventh grade is reminded of adjectives, adverbs and metaphor while creating a visual piece.

In Eighth grade, students balance their previous two years of GKMS Art study with new concept information and advanced terminology. From their research and incorporation of American artists in their quilt drawing to their exposure to a variety of sculpture media, eighth grade visual arts students understand the social, historical nature of art. Constructing sculptures provides science and engineering experience for eighth graders. Terms like: support structure, cantilever, are, architectural integrity and viability are all within these lessons at this level of art training. Tessellation is a design method founded in mathematics. The eighth grade creates tessellations that examine interlocking repetition and parts-to-whole pattern building. Many eighth graders also enjoy providing a written articulation of what they have drawn for their weekly journal sketchbooks. This good practice affords them a way to put word meaning to images and to clarify the intended message of a visual image to their audience.

I love teaching visual art because it brings all subjects into play as new visual expressions are created.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS - Mrs. Sorensen

Environmental Protection Ideas: RAIN BARRELS

This time of year can be very dry and our plants can show signs of drought if we do not take precautions. Hose watering is good, but why not save water from one rain's runoff to water plants and trees with natural moisture!

Four great reasons for utilizing a rain barrel:

1. Rain barrels help lower water costs. One rain barrel can save approximately 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months.
2. Storing rainwater for garden and lawn use helps recharge groundwater naturally.
3. Rain barrels reduce water pollution by reducing storm water runoff. Runoff can contain pollutants like sediment, oil, grease, bacteria, and fertilizer nutrients.
4. Rain barrels are inexpensive and easy to build and install.

Many environmentalists believe that every home should contain a system for rain water collection. This is one thing that nearly everyone can afford to do. Mrs. Sorensen's home has two rain barrels, one home-made and one commercial, made of recycled materials.

Here are a few websites where you can find simple directions for making or purchasing a rain barrel or creating a rain garden of your own:

actionteams@southernriverfederation.org

www.arlingtonecho.net

www.dnr.state.md.us/smartgrowth/greenbuilding/rainbarrel.html

Make it a family project and have fun making your house go "green" with a planet-healthy rain barrel!

Dear Teachers, Parents & Families,

The PTO would like to welcome you to the 2011-2012 school year.

The PTO's sole purpose is to provide the 3 elementary schools and the middle school with funds for educational supplies or field trips that are not in their budgets. Last year we raised \$20,000 which was used to purchase/fund:

- ELMO projection systems for the teachers to use in their classrooms
- CD players for each classroom for a listening center
- Cordless microphone systems for the teachers to use with in their classroom
- Books
- Hands-on materials for indoor recess
- Play ground balls
- Scooters for P.E. classes
- Assistance for field trips

A Quarterly Report, starting in September, of what has been purchased with PTO funds can now be found on the PTO blog at

gkschoolspto.blogspot.com

This year we are asking for help from each family for just **2 hours or 120 minutes**. We have two new fundraising ideas we are going to try this year but will need the support of the teachers/families/parents to be successful. **First** is a family BINGO/ Bake sale night at Davenport Elementary. Potential dates are Early November or February. All students and families are invited to this event. **Second**, will be a Spring Fun Fair for all 4 of the schools. We will need lots of help to pull this off. It will be a Saturday event-date to be determined. We will also be looking for some 7th, 8th and high school age students to help run games and activities. Please help the PTO have a successful year by donating just **2 hours or 120 minutes** of your time this year. There are many ways that you can help. Please fill out the reverse side of this form and let us know what activities you would like to help with.

Immediate assistance is needed at the open house book fairs. Dates are September 8th at DES 6:30 – 8:00, September 15th at KES 6:30 -8:00, September 20th at GKMS at 6:30 -8:00 and September 22nd at GES 6:30 – 8:00. Any questions please feel free to contact Jean Reiss, PTO president at jreiss2@charter.net. Also please remember to save and send in your Box Tops, Campbell's Labels for Education, Coke Rewards Points, Kemps Milk Tops and Sunny D labels.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to meeting you all at our next meeting on September 29th at the GKMS library.



A Volunteer Pledge Program
FROM PTOtoday

2 Hour Power Pledge Sheet

Contact Information

Please fill out one pledge form for each parent/guardian in your family.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME		RELATIONSHIP	
ADDRESS			
PHONE NUMBER		EMAIL	
CHILD'S NAME	CLASS / GRADE	CHILD'S NAME	CLASS / GRADE
CHILD'S NAME	CLASS / GRADE	CHILD'S NAME	CLASS / GRADE

2 Hour Power Pledge

Yes! I pledge to give 2 hours to our school this year.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS PLEDGE SHEET AND SEND TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD.

Volunteer Interests & Availability

1. Looking to the possibility of a Family fun fair for 2011-2012 school year, at the Middle School gyms.

Spring Fun Fair set up Helper ___ Games helper ___ Food Helper ___ Ticket Collector ___
 Fun fair take down helper ___ Raffle helper ___ Anywhere floater ___

2. Do You Have a Unique Talent or Skill that you'd like to share or access to a unique resource that might be a great fit for the school (like company matching gift program or a pickup truck perfect for deliveries)?

3. I'd Be Interested In Helping With the following activities and/or committees already scheduled for the current school year. (Please check all that apply).

Fall book Fair Market Day Box tops Spring Book Fair
 Art Awareness (spring) Staff Appreciation Campbell's soup labels Chair a Fundraiser

4. The Days, Times and Types of Activities Best For Me Are: (Please check all that apply)

The School Day At School Weekday Evenings
 After School From Home Weekends

Have Questions?

Please call or email if we can be of any help or if you have any of your own ideas for getting involved. Contact: Jean Reiss at her e-mail jreiss2@charter.net

Come one come all!!!!

The Genoa Food Pantry needs your help!!! On October 23rd, there will be a 5k race at the high school at 9:00 am. Grab a friend and come show your support.

Race Details:

The course will follow Brett's run route. All those who participate in the 5k race will receive a finisher's medal upon completion of the race. There are also age level awards when the race is completed. Attached is the entry form, you may fill it or register online.

Hope to see you there!!!!

Tiffany Gawrysh

Genoa-Kingston Middle School



<p>Race Course This course is great for the first time 5k runner and for anyone who is looking to get their personal best time! The course starts at Genoa-Kingston High School and will run through a nearby neighborhood. You will feel like a star as you finish on the track.</p> <p>Chip Timing No matter where you start at the line, this race will get your accurate time, with great technology provided by It's Race Time.</p>	<p>Awards Overall male and female will be eliminated from their respective age group 3 awards per age per gender Complimentary medal for all 5k finishers</p> <p>Age groups: 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60+</p>
<p>Proceeds Money raised will benefit the Genoa Food Pantry. Within the last few years the food pantry has been servicing around 100 families. Within the last year the number has grown to over 400.</p>	<p>Complimentaries Each registered participant will receive the following.... Short sleeve T-shirt Goodie bag and awards</p>

<p>How to Enter</p> <p>Mail thru 10/15 via registration from brochure</p> <p>Online thru 10/19 at It's Race Time, Inc.</p> <p>http://register.itsracetime.com/Register/?event=5084</p> <p>On Race Day on 10/23, 7:30-8:30 a.m</p>	<p>Make Checks Payable to:</p> <p>"Strides for Hunger"</p> <p>941 W. Main Street 5K runners: \$25</p> <p>Genoa, IL 60135 3K walkers: \$15</p>
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Last Name	First Name	MI	
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
		Shirt Size: Circle	
Age on Race Day	S M L XL XXL		
Signature Participant (Guardian if under 18)		<p><small>I know by walking/running the road race could be a potentially hazardous activity. I know that I should not enter a run/walk unless I am medically able or properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the race. I assume all responsibility of the risks while participating in the event even with police protection provided; I also assume the risks of running in traffic. Having read this waiver, I understand that I, for myself will not be refunded the entry fee if forgo participating in the race. I, myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf wave and release the Strides for Hunger and all committees of the race from all claims and liabilities arise out of my participation in this race. I also grant permission forgoing the use any photographs, recording or any other record for legitimate purpose.</small></p>	

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1 VB 7th Home, 8th @ N. Boone
FB 7th/8th @ Rockford Boylan
- 6 Fundraiser Ends
VB 7th @ Harvard, 8th Home
- 7 Picture Day
VB 7th Home, 8th @ Stillman
- 8 FB 7th & 8th grades Home
- 10 VB—Oregon Tournament
- 12 LORADO TAFT
VB 7th Home, 8th @ Harvard
- 13 LORADO TAFT
VB 7th @ N. Boone, 8th Home
- 14 LORADO TAFT
Progress reports go home
- 15 Market Day
VB 7th Home, 8th @ Prairie Grove
FB 7th/8th @ Creekside
- 19 Book Fair
- 20 OPEN HOUSE 6:30—7:45
VB 7th @ N. Boone, 8th Home
Book Fair
- 22 VB 7th/8th Home
FT 7th/8th Home
- 26 End of Encore I
- 27 VB 7th Home, 8th @ Marengo
- 29 FB 7th/8th @ Rockton

Genoa Community Women's Club presents-

WOMEN HELPING

WOMEN EVENT

Proceeds go to

SAFE PASSAGE

Sunday, September 18th

1:30 p.m. @

Genoa-Kingston High School

Featured Speaker: *Laurie Guest*

With a Special Hat Presentation by Nancie Richardson

and a dessert buffet

Tickets: in advance-\$10.00; at the door-\$12.00

AVAILABLE AT

Crumpets, Victoria's Crossing, Reflections Hair Salon. Genoa

Sweet Earth Jewelry - Sycamore,

The Lincoln Inn Family Restaurant - DeKalb

or from Genoa Community Women's Club members