Admin Notes
9/8/23

Dear families,

For a short week, this one sure has been busy! We held our first fire drill of the year on Friday morning. This went off smoothly and is a critical way that we help students and staff develop the muscle memory for what to do in an emergency. We will hold more drills throughout the year, but if Friday's drill is an indication, we will be in great shape going forward.

Next week we will conduct iReady testing in reading and math. Students will need to bring earbuds for this assessment. iReady is a standards aligned assessment that we use to determine where students are in their literacy and math progress. We use the data to make decisions about which students require additional support over the course of the school year during our Mastery intervention block, as well as who requires more intensive instruction with one of our literacy or math specialists. Without this data, it is challenging to drill into the skill areas our students need support with. So, while we take time at the start of the year to assess, the information the assessments yield is incredibly valuable to us as we tailor instruction to each student's needs.

Also next week, our 7th graders will experience a GMS rite of passage at Cow Island! We are so excited to be resuming overnight trips with our students finally, after having day trips for the last two years. Team Katahdin will go camping Monday and Tuesday, and Osprey will follow on Wednesday and Thursday. You should expect to see tired, dirty, and happy middle schoolers when they return home after their trips.

Also next week, Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday. Our teachers and staff avoid big events, projects, and major assignments during the holiday so that our observant students may participate fully in their holiday celebration.

Finally, as the new school year gets underway, there are many upcoming high school sporting events that middle schoolers enjoy attending. Please know that there is not middle school specific supervision for students at these events. We ask that families remind their students to stay at the game as fans and not go to other areas of campus. During the games, students should not be on the middle school playground, in the track area, at MIW, or under the bleachers. Thank you for your help in setting these expectations with your middle schoolers.

Best regards,
Mar-E Trebilcock

Last Minute Ripplefect Information for Team Katahdin

Hello, We are excited to be finishing our final details for Rippleffect. You should have received the Attention to details notice earlier this week with gear list included. In case you didn't, here it is again. Your child was also given a hard copy of this.

Given there is wet weather predicted next week. Rippleffect has two final suggestions for us.

1. Students will be strongly encouraged to WEAR their rain gear on Monday/Wednesday morning as they load up the bus to go to Ripple. Students should keep their rain gear with them (rather than packing it), and your child will have time to put it on before we load the busses if it is raining. An actual rain jacket, preferably rain pants too if possible.

2. When packing---put clothing in a plastic garbage bag and then put into their pack/bag AND
Put sleeping bag into a plastic bag THEN put it into the pack/stuff sack/bag---if the sleeping bag doesn't have a stuff sack, still put it in a garbage bag and then with a piece of duct tape, tag the bag with the students name on it. **Labels are our friends!!!!**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p9fktT8OqGhHqYz3bPLQDoZpZtlYJt6eZPbzgBYtuzw/edithttps://docs.google.com/document/d/1TojTnAZ-cCpQQBlDRSFoyCtRCDOuY_O6jMITwr5Rmr8/edit

P.E. News

Students who have PE 1st trimester received a Course Syllabus last week with information about the class, including dress code and grading information. There is a digital copy of the syllabus on their Google Classroom P.E. page for reference. Also, please help remind your students to bring in a change of clothes and sneakers on their PE days as well as a stick of deodorant. Thank you!

Program for After School Support (PASS)

P.A.S.S. will be up and running, starting Monday, September 11!
If your child needs a quiet space to read and/or get their homework done before sports practice or before they take the late bus home, P.A.S.S. is a great place to be!
P.A.S.S. is our after-school homework lab where students in grades 6 - 8 have the benefit of a teacher and several ed techs to help with their content classwork and/or homework.
P.A.S.S. will be offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday when the late bus runs. Students may also get picked up by parents or guardians before the late bus arrives so they do not **have** to stay until 4:15.
Students should report to room 127 (Mr. Phillips's classroom) by 2:35.
Students can self-refer, or come because of a parent or teacher request.

While we aim to make P.A.S.S. a comfortable working environment, it is **not** a place for socializing or just hanging out; it is a quiet room to work on assignments or read silently.

8th Math
Grade Level News

Dear Families,
During the next unit, we will be learning about translations, reflections, and rotations and their effects on two dimensional figures. In this module, we will also be learning new Math vocabulary. Along the way, ask about these concepts. When students explain or show how to solve a problem, it helps them make sense of the mathematics and deepens their understanding.

News from Modern Language

"*Bonjour*" and "*hola*" from the Modern Language teachers at GMS!

As our school year gets underway, hopefully many of you have had an opportunity to check-in with your student about how their French or Spanish class is going, or what they're learning in class.

For many of you who have had students go through the language program at GMS before, these accounts may be familiar. However, if things sound different from how you learned language, that's because GMS language teachers use Comprehensible Input (CI) methods, with the goal of having the students acquire the language. Acquisition means automaticity, using the language without even thinking about it, and getting to the point where it sounds right.

We have taken a CI approach to our instruction for many years now and we continue to observe our students' relative ease with acquiring French and Spanish, using a variety of literacy skills that benefit all content areas. In fact, according to an article in the Scientific American by Ann Griswold, "...learning a second or third language hones critical thinking and executive function — a set of skills that includes attention, self-control and mental flexibility. It also gives [children] an edge in reading and writing."

We look forward to meeting you and sharing more with you about our language classes on our Parent Information Night on September 21!

Library Media Center News

The library is looking for parent volunteers! We hope you will please consider helping out. We need consistent, weekly help as well as assistance with special projects that happen less often. Volunteers must be approved by the District first, then complete our GMS Parent Volunteer application. Thanks for considering!

There are still quite a few overdue/missing library books that we hope to see returned soon. We would appreciate help in rounding up the items at home & encouraging your student to bring them back to school. We don't charge fines for overdue items but ask for replacement copies or, as a last resort, the cost of the book, if something is lost/damaged. Thanks!