

April 17, 2020

Dear G-AMS Families:

On behalf of the Galesburg-Augusta Middle School staff, I wanted to let you know how much we miss our students and think about them daily. Just because we are away from the school building doesn't mean that learning can't continue. As your family settles into its new "normal", we ask that you partner with us in making learning a priority in your daily routine. Distance learning is new for all of us, but together we can rise to the occasion and provide the very best for our kids. As a staff, we are here to provide educational and emotional support for your student and family.

Our distance learning plan will begin implementation on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. The district has developed a blended plan which offers opportunities online and via hard copy. Online lessons will be provided through Google Classroom for grades 5, 6, and 7 and through a combination of Google Classroom and ClassDojo for grade 4. These can be accessed through the district homepage at www.g-aschools.org. Each teacher will have a "classroom" from which students will work. Each Monday, teachers will post lessons and assignments, premised on state standards.

For students who do not have online access, a hard copy (packet) of lessons / assignments will be provided. The first of these packets can be picked up from the middle school starting on Monday, April 20 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and again on Tuesday, April 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Remember, a hard copy packet is provided to those who have indicated they do not have online access. Families who require these packets should make every attempt to pick up the packets from the middle school. Future packet pick-up dates:

- Monday, May 4, 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 5, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 18, 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 19, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 1, 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 2, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please practice social distancing as you approach the building, and consider wearing protective masks and gloves.

Note: 4th grade Math Module 5 and *Wonders* workbooks will be available for pick up by ALL 4th grade student families on Monday, April 20, from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, April 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please note that lessons will be provided in each of your student's core academic areas, including: math, ELA, science, and social studies. Additionally, a weekly lesson / activity from each "special" (physical education, art, technology, music or band) will be linked to grade-level Google Classrooms. With several subject areas to consider, time management may be difficult. Here are some examples of daily schedules that might assist in providing structure to your student's "at-home school day."

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULES FOR LEARNING TIME AT HOME:

GRADES 4 AND 5 Independent reading expectations and enrichment options are allowed beyond the 30 minutes of instruction.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15-30 min. ELA 15-30 min. Math 15 min. Social Studies	15-30 min. ELA 15-30 min. Math 15 min. Science 15 min. Special (PE, Tech, Music, Art)	15-30 min. ELA 15-30 min. Math 15 min. Social Studies 15 min. Specials (PE, Tech, Music, Art)	15-30 min. ELA 15-30 min. Math 15 min. Science 15 min. Specials (PE, Tech, Music, Art)	15-30 min. ELA 15-30 min. Math 15 min. Specials (PE, Tech, Music, Art.)

GRADES 6 AND 7 Independent reading expectations and enrichment options are allowed beyond the 30 minutes of instruction.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 min Math 30 min ELA 30 min Social St. 20 min Specials (Art, Band, PE)	30 min Math 30 min ELA 30 min Science 20 min Specials (Art, Band, PE)	30 min Math 30 min ELA 30 min Social St. 20 min Specials (Art, Band, PE)	30 min Math 30 min ELA 30 min Science 20 min Specials (Art, Band, PE)	30 min Math 30 min ELA 25 min Science 25 min Social St.

In addition to weekly lessons and activities, teachers will conduct Community Circles (via Zoom, online) every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. This is a great opportunity for students to stay connected with each other and with staff. Please encourage your student to participate.

Teachers will also be available for “office hours” on a daily basis from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and from 1:25 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday (via Zoom and telephone messaging). This will begin the week of April 27. These hours provide an opportunity for students and/or parents to ask questions, seek clarification, or merely touch base with the teacher. If you were provided a teacher’s cell phone number, please respect his / her personal time and make contact with him/her during the designated office hours.

Though motivating students and holding them accountable might prove challenging throughout this process, I am confident that we can meet this challenge and prevail. The lessons provided are not intended to be stressors for students or their families. Please consider them as opportunities...opportunities for student growth....opportunities for some daily structure....opportunities for human connection.. Though teachers will not be providing traditional “letter grades”, they will provide narrative feedback and corrections to guide your student’s learning. As we venture forth with a new way of teaching and learning, let’s work together to provide a great experience for our kids.

If you have questions or concerns throughout this process, please reach out via email or telephone. The teachers, counselor, and administrators are eager to be of assistance.

From the G-AMS Family to yours, take care and be safe.

Shana M. Wiese
Principal

Note: Once the Governor’s Stay At Home Order is lifted, a schedule will be provided to all G-AMS families for a “locker clean out.” Because we exited school so abruptly, there were student items left behind in lockers and classrooms. These items will remain in place and will be available for pick up at a later date. If your student has an **essential** item that needs to be retrieved immediately from the middle school (locker or classroom), please contact me at (269) 484-2155 or shana.wiese@garams.org to make an appointment for pick up.