



April 2019

GMRSD Board Of Education

Home of the Jaguars

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Great Meadows Regional School District Community Members,

As the spring season approaches, there is much taking place between the district, our staff and community stakeholders. The district is currently embarking on a district-wide school realignment. Several district realignment scenarios have been discussed throughout my tenure as Superintendent of Schools but I truly believe that realignment was our best option for maintaining our current academic programs given the fiscal restrictions. This is a major cultural shift for our students, staff and parents alike but if we partner together it can be positive and successful change. Aside from the realignment change next year, the district will no longer operate on a 90-minute delay and will instead operate on a 2-hour delay schedule when inclement weather arrives and/or for emergency purposes.

Below you will find a list of frequently asked questions which have been discussed and shared at our public Board of Education meetings. Going forward, I ask that as community members, you partner with our district during this transition and when possible, become active participants at our public Board of Education meetings.

Great Meadows Regional School District 2019-2020 Realignment – FAQ and Answers

- What is Central School's capacity? **316**
- What is Central School's 2019-2020 projected student enrollment (PK-3)? **Without Pre-K - 257**
- What is the GMMS capacity? **480**
- What is GMMS 2019-2020 projected student projected student enrollment (grades 4-8)? **358**
- Will students K-8 be transported together? **No, busing will remain as it currently is this year with the only difference being a stop at GMMS instead of Liberty.**
- Will all students grades K-8 operate on the same bell schedule? **No, grades K-5 will operate on the same bell schedule. They will start at 8:50 am and end at 3:20 pm. GMMS, grades 6-8, will start at 7:50 am and dismiss at 2:30 pm.**
- Will homeroom age change or be altered? **No, it will remain the same.**
- Will elective programs change or be altered? **No, it will remain the same.**
- How many staff will be lost due to the mothballing of Liberty School? **Two control roster positions will be lost – one nurse, one media specialist due to mothballing Liberty School. Due to a decrease in enrollment we will also lose three control roster positions – two resource room positions and one behavioral disability position. These classes will consolidate and still be well within State regulations.**
- Will students in grades 4 and 5 eat lunch together? **Yes, they will share the last lunch period which begins at 12:35 pm.**
- When will the GMMS Tour or Open House take place? **Tuesday, August 22, 2019 with a start time of 6:00 pm.**
- Will my taxes go down due to the "mothball" of Liberty School? **No, your tax dollars support all district programs and they will remain intact.**
- Are there additional safety and security benefits? **Yes, having a one campus district offers law enforcement and rescue workers a much faster response time for emergency purposes.**
- Are there any other benefits to a one campus district? **Yes, more effective and efficient sharing of resources and staff. As well as transportation for K-5 students will be more streamlined and less time consuming.**

The next few months will move by very quickly so below is an update as to what you can expect at future Board of Education meetings which commence at 7 pm:

April 29th Great Meadows Public Board of Education Meeting - 19-20 Budget Hearing
May 21st Great Meadows Public Board of Education Meeting - Teacher of the Year recognition, Teacher Retirement Recognition
June 18th Great Meadows Public Board of Education Meeting - 2018-2019 District Goals Update
June 21st Last Day of School for all. - 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony to begin at 5:00 pm

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all community members a relaxing spring season and a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

David C. Mango

Superintendent of Schools

Hackettstown Public School and Great Meadows Regional School Districts



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CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings from Central School! The last few months have been full of excitement here for students and staff. Our last holiday (Presidents' Day) seems like years ago, but that has provided us an invaluable, uninterrupted stretch to prepare our students for what lies ahead in their academic lives. And while I will let others write about the changes soon coming to our district, I will say only that the opportunity to have our current second graders remain with us an extra year in third grade is exciting and that I look forward to seeing these students become even greater leaders in the coming year.

As we start to see the finish line to the 2018-2019 school year in the distance, there is still plenty left to accomplish. The short sprint to Spring Break will be followed by a host of activities throughout the month of May.

May 2nd is our Kindergarten Orientation. We look forward to welcoming the high school Class of 2032 (yes, that is correct) and their families to Central to show them what our wonderful school has to offer.

May 2nd (2nd grade) and May 10 (Kindergarten and 1st grade) will be Field Trip days for our students. Second graders are excited to see a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs baseball game. Kindergarten will travel to Crayola Factory and first grade will head to the Turtleback Zoo. We wish them all a fun time and good weather!

On May 13th and 14th, we will administer grade 2 OLSAT tests, which measure scholastic aptitude and help us identify student strengths and weaknesses in select areas. On May 21st, 29th and June 6th, our incoming kindergarten students will have their readiness screenings to help us determine the proper placement for September.

Finally, May 30th is Field Day (rain date is May 31st). This is always a fun opportunity for students to partake in physical education activities with classmates in what we hope is the sunshine of late springtime.

Here's to a successful end to the school year for all!

Michael Mai

LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings from Liberty Elementary School! Spring is upon us, and undoubtedly we are all excited for warmer weather and fresh air. While it is absolutely necessary for young people to enjoy the outdoors and get as much physical activity as possible, it is also crucial to continue the academic rigor and momentum and finish the year strong.

Make sure to mark your calendars because there is a lot coming up in the next few months. At this point in time, third trimester is in full swing which means everyone should have received a report card and had Spring pictures taken. Prior to Spring Break, there will be a Principal Forum at Liberty School for parents of Pre-K through 5th graders at 6pm. Upon our return from Spring Break, the third graders will begin taking the NJSLA (formerly PARCC) followed by the 4th and then 5th graders. The schedule is as follows:

3rd grade 4/30-5/3

4th grade 5/7-5/10

5th grade 5/13-5/16

At the end of the grade-level testing, there will be an opportunity for any make-up tests to be administered from 5/20-5/24.

The conclusion of the NJSLA will bring us to Memorial Day, Benchmark 3, and then the Liberty 4th and 5th grade Chorus Concert at the Middle School on June 5th at 7pm.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made our 3rd grade Spring Concert/ Art Show such a success. Mrs. Long, Mrs. Levenstein and Mrs. Whittle worked tirelessly with the students to pull off an exciting night of neon, surprises and fun. We are so proud of our Liberty teachers and students!

Jessica McDonagh

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Spring is here and things are already heating up at GMMS. Our students have been enjoying the wide variety of clubs offered throughout the year. Currently, students in the Cooking Club have tested their taste buds with empanadas, Irish soda bread, sushi, fresh pasta, tacos and brookies (brownie cookies). Thank you to Mrs. Wilson for running the club and the parents that assisted. Fitness club has started and will run into the month of May. Also keep an eye out for the Drama Club which will be starting soon.

March Madness at GMMS was all about the books with 8th grade ELA creating a 2019 March Madness Book Diversity bracket in which students picked the top two books from a wide selection. Nice reading.

The GMMS Student Council and Student Leadership Corps are currently working with Hackettstown High School's and Hackettstown Middle School's Student Council to plan and organize for our annual Senior Citizen Prom which will be held on Friday, May 10th at Trinity House. We hope to see Great Meadows Senior Citizens there moving and grooving to classic hits of yesterday and today.



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Congratulations to our GMMS NJ Math League 6-8th grade overall champions - Nice job to all!

Congratulations to our GMMS Spelling Bee Champion Hadjer Djahlat- Nice Job!

Also, our Choose Love program is off and running with several Brain Blasts and Power Surges already completed. Our students are loving our revised Character Ed. Program.

In the meantime stay cool while we keep heating things up.

Finally, don't forget to follow us on Twitter
@great_meadows.

Izzy Marmolejos

CURRICULUM CORNER

Leo Tolstoy said so eloquently and accurately that "spring is the time of plans and projects." Great Meadows is in the midst of making plans and working on many projects.

In January 2018, the district received notification from the Commissioner of Education that we received our second consecutive waiver from NJQSAC for the next three years because of our high performance. We will not be up for review again until the 2022-2023 school year. What is NJQSAC? The New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) is the DOE of NJ's monitoring system for public school districts. New regulations and requirements went into effect July 1, 2018 so the staff has been spending a lot of time this year in horizontal and vertical articulation. We have our work cut out for us for the next two years.

The district administration and I will be immersed in next year's transition for the next few months. With the 4th and 5th grade going to GMMS and 3rd going to Central, we want the transition to go as smoothly as possible. With regards to curriculum and instruction, there will not be any foreseeable changes to our academic programs next year.

The staff has started district-wide professional development to further develop the instructional staff's ability to differentiate classroom instruction. It started with an initial workshop and will continue with in-classroom demonstrations, discussions and meetings throughout the remainder of this year and into next.

As the school year is coming to a close, please keep an eye out for letters from your building elementary and middle school principals for the Academic Support Summer Programs if your child qualifies. I am currently working with the administrative

team to bring back the summer academic program.

I hope everyone has a summer filled with family, relaxation and laughter. I look forward to seeing everyone next year and continuing to strive in providing our students with an excellent educational experience grounded in high student achievement.

Debra Grigoletti

BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS

From the Great Meadows Regional Business Office...

This is an extremely busy and important time for the staff of the Business Office as we prepare the budget for the 2019-20 school year. The budget year begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020. At the same time we are also beginning the process of closing the books in preparation for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) The CAFR is performed by our auditing firm in order to analyze and report on the financial status of the Great Meadows Regional School District. The financial closing date for the 2018-19 budget year ends on June 30, 2019.

Getting back to the 2019-20 Budget and its pending preliminary approval from the Warren County Department of Education, The Great Meadows Regional Board of Education, as part of its regular meeting scheduled for April 29, 2019 will be holding a Public Hearing on the 2019-20 Budget as required by Code and Statute. This meeting is scheduled to be called to order at 7:00 PM in the GMMS Media Center and the public is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Prior to the Public Hearing, the GMRBOE is required by code and statute, to post and advertise in a local newspaper the "Advertised Budget for 2019-20" as a way to make the information available to the public in advance of the Public Hearing. As of now this advertisement is planned to publish in the Warren Gazette on Friday April 19, 2019.

At the Public Hearing a presentation will be made on the proposed budget for the upcoming year. At the conclusion of the public hearing the GMRBOE will then have before it a resolution for adoption of the Final Budget for 2019-2020. This resolution will re-affirm and reflect any changes from the Tentative Budget that was adopted on March 19th, 2019.

Timothy Havlusch
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Great Meadows Regional School District

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Dates To Remember

04/19/19-04/26/19 School Closed Spring Break	05/27/19 – No School (Memorial Day)
04/29/19 – School Re-Opens	05/30/19 – GMMS Principal Forum
04/30/19-05/03/19 – NJSLA (formerly PARCC) 3 rd Grade	05/31/19 - GMMS Benchmark 3 Window Closes
05/03/19 – GMMS 5 th -8 th Grade Get Together	05/31/19 – GMMS 8 th Grade Fairwell Dance
05/07/19-05/10/19 – NJSLA (formerly PARCC) 4 th Grade	06/03/19 – GATE Night
05/07/19-05/16/19 – NJSLA (formerly PARCC) 6 th - 8 th Grades	06/05/19 – Liberty 4-5 Band & Chorus Concert
05/13/19-05/16/19 – NJSLA (formerly PARCC) 5 th Grade	06/05/19-06/07/19 – 8 th Grade Trip to DC
05/15/19 – PTO Meeting	06/13/19 – GMMS Marking Period 4 End
05/17/19 – Early Dismissal (Teacher PD Day)	06/13/19 – Liberty/Central Trimester 3 End
05/20/19 – GMMS Benchmark 3 Window Opens	06/13/19 – Central PK & K Concert/Celebration
05/20/19-05/24/19 – NJSLA Makeups Liberty Elementary	06/18/19 – GMMS 8 th Grade Picnic
	06/19/19-06/21/19 – Early Dismissal