



August 2019

GMRSD Board Of Education

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SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Great Meadows Regional School District Community Members:

On behalf of the Board of Education and my office, I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2019-2020 school year. As most are aware, there has been much change with regard to our facilities and operations for the upcoming school year. All district personnel and students will now be housed on the Independence Campus. The year will be both academically challenging and engaging as our staff works tirelessly to educate the students of Great Meadows and Liberty townships.

As the new school year begins, you will see some new faces in our Central Office and Child Study Team. Mr. Kevin O'Leary was named the Shared Services Director of Special Education this past June and has spent the summer hiring a new in-house Child Study Team. He will be hosting a Meet and Greet with the new CST staff for parents in August.

Our Business Administrator, Tim Havlusch, has resigned and we wish him well as he becomes the new Business Administrator in Hackettstown. He will continue to work collaboratively with Great Meadows and ensure that both Business Offices have a seamless transition. The District has hired Mrs. Angela Moyer as the Interim Business Administrator beginning August 1, 2019. She comes to us with a plethora of experience, and the District will benefit from her knowledge and skill set.

The District's 5-year Strategic Plan is coming to end in December 2019. The Plan was originated in 2014 and was an excellent steering mechanism and the District was able to accomplish the goals established by our community. As a collaborative effort to involve all stakeholders in the process of providing an excellent education to our community children, please make sure to attend Back to School Nights in September and Principal Forums in October. It really does take a village to raise a child.

Sincerely,

David C. Mango
Superintendent of Schools



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CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! Central School opened in 1919, so we are thrilled to begin our 100th year as a part of the Great Meadows community, and our first as a preschool through 3rd grade building. The summer was a time of big changes, as we moved the third grade team in and arranged our school to continue accommodating the needs of all of our nearly 300 learners in the best way possible.

A big reason for what promises to be a smooth transition is the hard work of our custodial and maintenance staff. We would like to give a giant "THANK YOU!" to everyone who coordinated and assisted with this process prior to and throughout the summer. Our school is fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

Now that September is upon us, we open our doors to the HS Class of 2032. To be able to witness our kindergartners' first steps on their educational journey is a privilege we do not take lightly. We take pride in getting to know our students in order to provide them what they need educationally and emotionally. All of our students are in the best hands at Central School thanks to our tremendous staff.

Speaking of staff, we have some new faces and some familiar faces in new places this year. We welcome the 3rd grade team of Ms. Broxton, Ms. Castner, Ms. Pezzato, Ms. Schantzenbach and Ms. Buechle, along with aides Ms. Matuszek and Ms. Stuber. Additionally, Ms. McGeary will be our new preschool teacher, replacing the recently retired Ms. Ciniewicz. Ms. McConnell will move to our LLD room for K and 1 and Ms. McMahon will serve as the LLD teacher for grades 2 and 3. Ms. Salzano, our former cafeteria aide, joins our team of instructional aides, and Ms. Ackerman will be our full-time guidance counselor. With these changes, our top notch staff just got even stronger.

So here we go! Central School is ready for a fantastic year. We invite you to join us in this time of new beginnings!

Mr. Mai
Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

I hope you are enjoying your summer and, for the students, getting rejuvenated and preparing for the 2019-2020 school year. We are excited to have our 4th and 5th grade students joining us at the middle school for the 2019-2020 school year. There will be an open house held on Thursday, August 22nd at 6 p.m. for all 4th and 5th grade parents and students. We hope to see you there. In addition, we will be holding a locker practice session for 4th through 6th grade students on Wednesday, August 21st. The fourth grade session will be from 11:30-12:30, fifth grade from 12:30-1:30 and sixth grade from 1:30-2:30. This is a great opportunity for students to receive guided practice on using the locks.

Summer ELA and Math assignments for grades six through eight are posted on our website along with the school supply list for grades four through eight. For your convenience, supply lists are also available at Wal-Mart, Target and Staples.

Finally, get ready for fall clubs and sports. Please check our website: www.gmrtd.com, for regular updates on middle school sports and clubs. It is currently being updated and should be complete by September 1st. Here you will find permission slips, event dates and announcements for all middle school athletics and clubs. Cross Country will start the week of September 9th so please be sure to have your sports physical (required for Cross Country and Volleyball). Sports Physicals for Cross Country are due August 15th. Please remember that Sports Physicals are valid for one year from the date issued.

Once again, I wish you an outstanding rest of summer and look forward to working with you and your students for the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Marmolejos
Principal



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CURRICULUM CORNER

I would like to welcome everyone back! I am excited and looking forward to starting the new school year. Though we have consolidated buildings, the academic program will continue to put student achievement and success at the forefront.

The district will continue to align our curriculum and instruction with the new NJQSAC requirements so we are prepared for monitoring in the 21-22 school year. NJ Department of Education has imposed new curricular requirements for the 19-20 school year that state the Middle School must add Financial Literacy and sexual consent instruction for grades 6-8. We are working diligently to imbed these requirements into our content area courses. The State has provided guidance that in the 20-21 school year, we must teach the students about the social, political and economic contributions of LGBT individuals and about people with disabilities. We will work on this throughout this coming school year.

I am happy to report that we were awarded the ESSA grant again this year that will allow all our Title programs to continue. Our Title I programs are extremely beneficial to our students who need additional resources to achieve academic success. Parents, please be on the lookout from your school principal for an invitation to our parent meeting if you child is identified as a Title I student. The meeting usually occurs in late September/early October.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. Debra L. Grigoletti
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Special Services

Before I give an update on the Special Services department, let me take a moment and introduce myself, my name is Kevin O'Leary and I was appointed the Director of Special Services for the Hackettstown and Great Meadows School Districts. For the past five years, I was one of the Assistant Principals for Hackettstown High School, where I supervised the Special Education department and worked very closely with the high school Child Study Team. Prior to Hackettstown, I was a Special Education teacher and administrator for eleven years for the Becton Regional School District.

This summer has been very exciting. As the Extended School Year is coming to a close on August 5, I would like to thank all those who were involved in ESY programs especially the teachers, aides, students, parents and building staff. In addition, I would also like to introduce the newly hired Great Meadows Child Study Team:

Dorothy Buel, School Social Worker;

Nancy Padula, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant;

Marlene Saraiva, School Psychologist

Introduction letters from the case managers will be sent as soon as all caseloads are assigned along with an invitation to all parents and guardians for a Meet and Greet on August 22nd.

Mr. Kevin J. O'Leary
Director of Special Education

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Dates To Remember

08/26/19-08/27/19 – New Teacher Orientation

08/28/2019 – Staff PD Day

09/02/2019 – No School (Labor Day)

09/03/2019 – Staff PD Day

09/04/2019 – First Day Students
(Early Dismissal-Staff PD Day)

09/05/2019 – Early Dismissal (Staff PD Day)

09/06/2019 – First Full Day Students

09/11/2019 – Back To School Night Central

09/12/2019 – Back To School Night GMMS

10/14/2019 – No School For Students
(Columbus Day)

10/14/2019 – Staff PD Day

11/04/2019-11/06/2019 – Early Dismissal
(Parent Conferences)

11/07/2019-11/08/2019 – No School (NJEA Conv)

11/27/2019 – Early Dismissal

11/28/2019-11/29/2019 – No School (Thanksgiving Break)

12/13/2019 – Early Dismissal (Staff PD Day)

12/23/2019 – Early Dismissal

12/24/2019-12/31/2019 – No School (Winter Break)

01/01/2019 – No School (New Year's Day)

01/02/2019 – School Reopens

01/20/2019 – No School (MLK Day – Staff PD Day)

02/14/2019 & 02/17/2019 – No School (Presidents
Weekend)

03/13/2019 – Early Dismissal (Staff PD Day)

04/09/2019 – Early Dismissal