

November 2019



# GMRSD Board Of Education

## Home of the Jaguars

### SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Great Meadows Regional School District Community Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Prymak, Ms. Cicerelle, Mr. O'Melia and Mr. Mailloux for their endless commitment and hours of service provided to our communities and school district over the last seven and a half years. Under my role as Superintendent of Schools, their time spent on the Board of Education enabled the district to develop several successful initiatives, programs and partnerships. More specifically, programs such as our special education continuum, return of the Inclusive Preschool program, shared services and inter local agreements and positive partnership with district staff, which includes two successive contracts with the GMRSD association. Prior to my arrival, Mr. O'Melia and Mr. Mailloux also steered the implementation of full day Kindergarten, realignment to grade based schools and change of vote to ensure a 2% budgetary increase. Without a committed support system, the aforementioned programs, along with engaging community/staff relations would not have been possible. So, on behalf of my office, I wish each of you the best of luck in all future endeavors.

Going forward, I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Hill and Mr. Stuber from Independence Township and Mrs. Wulf and Mrs. DeMarco from Liberty Township as incoming members to the board. Central office looks forward in partnering with you all while ensuring the academic and programmatic success of our students.

As we move into the 2020-2021 budget development, several district areas for revision and/or implementation are being discussed. These areas include: consolidation of transportation routes, Middle School bell schedule, LENS security installment, ELA and Math curricular resources, differentiated instruction and social/emotional learning. In addition, our current Strategic Plan expires on December 31, 2019. Therefore, the district will look to partner with New Jersey School Board Association- NJSBA in developing a new five-year Strategic Plan. My office will disseminate information to our communities as soon as we have definitively scheduled this process next year.

I would like to wish each of you and your families a happy and healthy Holiday Season and New Year.

Sincerely,

David C. Mango

Superintendent of Schools



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### CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

As December began, Central School was excited to present our annual Winter Concert and Art Show. What was formerly a show featuring the work of only grades one and two now added third grade to the mix, as well. The extended musical program was a hit and the display of students' fine art work was impressive, to say the least. The Week of December 2 was also time for our annual Holiday Shoppe. Students had the opportunity to shop for gifts right here at school, thanks to our wonderful PTO.

This month also marks the end of the first trimester. Report cards are available online as of December 10, at which time hard copies will also be sent home. The first trimester is an important time to gauge student progress and set goals for the remainder of the year. Make sure you take time to review your child's report card with him/her in order to best participate in your child's academic growth.

As 2019 comes to an end, so to do the illustrious teaching careers of two of Great Meadows' wonderful educators. Ms. Amy Broxton and Ms. Phyllis Pezzato will be retiring at the end of December. We wish them the best and hope that retirement brings them the fun, joy, and relaxation they have most certainly earned. In their place, we welcome Ms. Jennifer White and Ms. Jennifer Salazar to the Central School family. Ms. White, who will replace Ms. Broxton, comes to us with 15 years' teaching experience in Irvington, NJ. She is well versed in cooperative learning and restorative practices, while also bringing a vast knowledge of what it takes to develop young readers. Ms. Salazar, who takes over for Ms. Pezzato, has spent the last 8 years teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in Jersey City and Newark. She has trained at Teachers' College at Columbia University, at which she learned all about Readers' and Writers' Workshops.

Just like that the holiday season is upon us. We at Central School want to wish every member of the Central School family the happiest of holidays! As we look back on a 2019 that was chock full of new beginnings, we gaze ahead to a 2020 that is loaded with endless possibilities. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mr. Mai  
Principal

### MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

With the first marking period down and three months behind us, GMMS is heating up for winter.

A big THANK YOU to all our Veterans who were at The Middle School for our Veterans Day breakfast hosted by the GMMS Student Council and Student Leadership Corps. Over 20 Veterans from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines were present.

Thank you to the GMMS Social Studies Department, seventh grade teachers and all the GMMS students and families who donated over 193lbs of candy for our troops and Veterans at home and abroad.

Thank you as well to Mr. O'Hara, Mrs. Amundsen and students for the bi-annual Historical Revolutionary War Cemetery clean up in Main Street Hackettstown. Students completed a basic fall cleanup on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Great job to all who helped.

Congratulations to our award recipients for the first marking period Student Recognition Ceremony who received recognition for Academic Achievement, Most Improved and Citizenship. Congratulations also to our three 8<sup>th</sup> grade Students of the Month: Josh, Tyler and Kiara. Great job to all!

Please remember to keep a close eye on The Middle School Sports and Clubs page on the website. Right now we have several clubs running including Archery for grades 4-8 who are looking to earn a spot in the state finals. Go Jaguars!!

We look forward to a very productive and academically challenging winter with lots of fun activities lined up. Keep an eye out for our Municipal Alliance Performing Arts Show: Beauty and the Beast showing on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. There will also be a PTO sponsored 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Winter Formal Dance on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Holidays to all!!

Israel Marmolejos  
Principal



# GMRSB Board Of Education

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### CURRICULUM CORNER

The saying about the older we get and the faster time goes is so accurate. I am not sure where the first three months of school have gone and we are now looking at the holiday season.

Though any transition will have bumps, so far the bumps we have encountered with the close of Liberty School have been minor and we are able to successfully navigate around them. The staff is continually working to align and improve instructional practices across the district. Collaborative and productive instructional conversations are happening in each building and I am so excited to be a part of those discussions.

One of the district's professional development goals for this year was to begin to train the staff in Social and Emotional Learning and how to embed it in the classroom. So far to date, the middle school has contracted with Fuel the Joy for curriculum and professional development on teaching mindfulness skills. The trainer met with the staff on October 14th and with parents on October 24th. The Middle School staff will meet with the trainer again on January 20, 2020. Central School has been focusing on Restorative Practices, which is another component of Social and Emotional Learning. The staff was trained on September 3rd and October 14th. Michael Mai also presented it to the parents on October 23rd. Mr. Mai will be attending a Mental Health workshop on December 12th.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones peace, health, happiness, and prosperity during the holiday season and the coming New Year.

Debra Grigoletti  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

### Special Services

As we move into the winter months, I would like to thank the parents, students, staff for welcoming our new Child Study Team into the district. The team has met on several occasions with staff and administration to learn more about the programs offered at the Great Meadows schools and trying to find ways to build upon those programs. In addition, the CST has been meeting with school administration to review their caseloads with regards to current and future programming needs. Discussions continue to occur between the CST of Great Meadows and Hackettstown in order to provide for an easier transition to Hackettstown High School.

On separate note, please keep your eyes open, as we will be sending out announcements for our Special Education Parent Advisory Committee meeting when we return from the holiday break. As the holiday season approaches, on behalf of the Special Education department, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday and happy new year!

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

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## Dates To Remember

11/27/2019 – Early Dismissal	01/16/2020 – GMMS Principal Forum
11/28/2019-11/29/2019 – No School (Thanksgiving Break)	01/17/2020 – GMMS Get-Together Grades 6-8 Formal
12/03/2019 – Trimester 1 ends Grades PK-5	01/20/2020 – No School (MLK Day – Staff PD Day)
12/04/2019 – Concert & Art Show Grades 1-3	01/22/2020 – GMMS District Spelling Bee
12/11/2019 – GMMS Concert Grades 6-8	01/23/2020-01/24/2020 – Municipal Alliance Art Shows
12/13/2019 – Early Dismissal (Staff PD Day)	01/24/2020 – Marking Period 2 ends Grades 6-8
12/18/2019 – GMMS Concert Grades 4-5	02/07/2020 – GMMS PTO Valentine's Day Dance
12/23/2019 – No School (revised)	02/17/2020 – No School (Presidents Weekend-revised)
12/24/2019-12/31/2019 No School (Winter Break)	02/19/2020-02/20/2020 – KDG Registration
01/01/2020 – No School (New Year's Day)	02/28/2020 – GMMS Get-Together Grades 4-5
01/02/2020 – School Reopens	03/10/2020 - Trimester 2 ends Grades PK-5
01/15/2020 – Central Principal Forum	03/13/2020 – Early Dismissal (Staff PD Day)