



May 2016

# GMRSD Board Of Education

## Home of the Jaguars

### SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

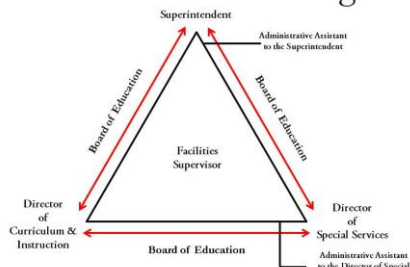
At this point in the school year, there are several things that take place in order to bring closure to our current school calendar. It is also a time to forecast and plan appropriately for the upcoming calendar year. To that end, the district continues to flourish as it remains committed to fostering and cultivating a positive and productive school environment.

The Great Meadows Regional School District will continue to partner with the Hackettstown School District in the area of shared services. The districts have entered into a shared services agreement and approved the contracts for our Director of Special Services (which commenced January 1, 2016), Assistant to the Director of Special Services and Assistant to the Superintendent. The projected savings for these three positions relative to Great Meadows is roughly \$60,000. Those savings, with all of the other shared services positions allow the district to reinvest in other areas of the budget. This embodies our Board of Education and my own commitment to streamline central office efficiency for maximizing both performance and cost effectiveness for the district and staff. Shared Services continues to benefit both districts not only fiscally but in coordinating our efforts, continued communication, transition for parents and students into the high school, professional development and vertical articulation.

For example on Friday, April 8, 2016, we witnessed our first ever combined (Great Meadows and Hackettstown) Student Council conducted a Senior Citizen Prom held at Trinity Church. Again, this is an example of how developing positive relationships between the districts and more importantly staff, students, and administrators allows for a much more collaborative forum.

The diagram below outlines the shared services paradigm.

### Shared Services Paradigm



The Great Meadows Regional School District is pleased to announce that in the fall we will be re-introducing the pre-school disabled program at Central School. This program will bring our youngest students back into Great Meadows. It affords parents the opportunity to immerse their young children in a program that will be a solid foundation for their kindergarten and elementary years at Central School and beyond. Please visit our district website for additional information on the PSD program at [www.gmrtd.com](http://www.gmrtd.com).

On Monday, April 18, 2016, at Hackettstown High School, hosted the first ever county wide reunification meeting. Educators from Warren and Morris counties, law enforcement, NJDOE officials, our county superintendent etc., were all in attendance. Reunification procedures have been discussed throughout the year as Hackettstown has offered the prosecutor's office the opportunity to use their facilities this upcoming August. There were several positive aspects and points of view discussed amongst all participants and Mr. Stephen Speirs, Director of Security for the district, conducted an excellent presentation in sharing our districts blueprint with county officials to be modeled throughout the county. In these current times of global and local security crises, we believe we are as prepared as possible should we ever need to either host another school district in their crisis or reunify to another location.

Last, due to a very calm winter.....thank you Mother Nature, the district will be giving back four inclement weather days that are built into our current school calendar. The following dates the district will be closed are Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, and Monday June 20<sup>th</sup>. These dates will also be posted on our district webpage under 2015-2016 calendar.

I would like to wish all of our community members an enjoyable Spring Season and safe and healthy summer.

### CURRICULUM CORNER

I am very excited to let you know that through the Districts Title I funding we will be offering a new program this summer. The Great Meadows Middle School will be offering an Academic Support Summer Program that will run Monday through Thursday during the month of July. This program will be offered to students who may need



May 2016

# GMRSB Board Of Education

## Home of the Jaguars

targeted academic assistance. The program will allow teachers to work with students on specific areas of instruction to improve achievement. Please look out for information from Mr. Marmolejos.

I am very pleased with the level of involvement and increase in extended day programs that we have been able to offer this year through our grant funding. I am currently working with Mr. Mai, Mrs. Macones, Mrs. Grigoletti and Mr. Marmolejos to review our offerings and plan for the upcoming school year.

We will also have new math resources for kindergarten through fifth grade in the upcoming school year. Staff will be trained this spring and have the resources to review and plan for the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

### CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

#### INNOVATE NJ

Mr. Mai proudly served as Great Meadows' representative as the district was inducted along with Hackettstown into the Innovate NJ program. Innovate NJ is New Jersey's initiative to support innovation and practice by fostering sharing and collaboration, cultivating projects, and convening practitioners and partners. Membership in this prestigious group - to which only 52 NJ schools belong to date - will open doors to new ways of teaching and learning that will greatly benefit the students and staff in Great Meadows.

Our first activity as members of Innovate NJ was the hosting of a virtual debate. Mr. Mai served as moderator for a debate between 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Liberty School and 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Frelinghuysen Twp. Elementary School. The entire debate was done over Google Hangouts, with the classes working from their own rooms, Mr. Mai in his office at Central, and the judges tuning in from all over Warren County. It was a tremendous success.

#### SPRING CONCERT AND ART SHOW

On April 27th the 2nd grade wowed the crowd at our Spring Concert. Also that night, Ms. Bienus hosted the K-2

Art Show in the GMMS cafeteria. Student art was on display and available for purchase. Overall, it was a tremendous display of our students' creativity!

#### KINDERGARTEN EVENTS AND PRE-SCHOOL INFO

A reminder that Kindergarten Orientation will be held at Central School on Thursday, May 5. There will be two sessions, split alphabetically, with each lasting about 90 minutes. Also, screening for incoming kindergarten students will take place June 7-9. Families will be informed of their scheduled time in the coming weeks.

The lottery for our new Inclusion Pre-school will be held on June 1. Information on how to enter, along with an informative glimpse into what the program has to offer is available on our district website, [www.gmrsl.com](http://www.gmrsl.com).

### LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back everyone. We are proudly "Wild about Learning" at Liberty School. Our school year is more than halfway over and it has been a tremendous success, filled with learning and enthusiasm! We are extremely proud to announce that Mr. D'Agostino has been voted our 2015-16 Governor's Teacher of the Year. Congratulations Mr. D!  
**Field Day-** Mark your calendars! Liberty Field Day will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme will be the "Olympic Games". Our students will have an opening ceremony, play various Olympic inspired events, and end with a closing ceremony. Information will be sent home when we get closer to the June event date.

**Student Council** -Liberty Student Council has been very busy over the past few months. School Spirit Day has always been a favorite among students and staff members. The themes for December through February were Hat Day, Favorite Team Jersey Day, and Pajama Day. In January, the entire school participated in the "Soup-er Bowl of Caring." Over 300 items were donated to the local food pantry at Vienna United Methodist Church. In February, the students initiated our school wide collection of "Valentines for Veterans." Over 400 valentines were created by the students and sent to the VA Hospital in Lyons, New Jersey.



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**Technology-** Mr. Ackerman's 4th grade class recently hosted a film crew from Hackettstown High School, who were creating a video for Innovate NJ's Technology Initiative. The initiative focuses on preparing students for college and career readiness through science and technology. The visitors engaged with students as they created podcasts in the classroom's Podcast Studio. The high school students also learned about computer science from our 4<sup>th</sup> graders who were creating and controlling computer characters at Code.org. As soon as the film crew left, students were already asking if they could create their own documentaries! It was a rewarding and educational experience for all.

**PAC-** If you have any ideas or concerns that you feel should be brought up at our PAC meeting, please email me at [jmacones@gmrdsd.com](mailto:jmacones@gmrdsd.com). Agendas will be created based on input received via email prior to the meeting. All parents are welcomed to join. PAC will meet will meet Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

GMMS Parents/Guardians,

Well, here we are. The 4<sup>th</sup> and final marking period is upon us. Soon, you'll be waking up to birds chirping and your children playing, enjoying the warm summer weather; but we are not there yet. The end of the school year will be very busy. Students will be preparing for their final benchmarks and getting ready for a very exciting end of the year.

5<sup>th</sup> grade students will soon be transitioning to the middle school. Please keep an eye out for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation to be held on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the middle school dining hall.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently working on building their Solar Cars in preparation for the Warren County Solar Car Races being hosted right here at Great Meadows Middle School on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Winners will advance to the Inter-County Solar Races. Best of luck to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams.

7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be visiting Philadelphia in June and preparing for our annual Revolutionary War Reenactment Great Meadows style- water balloons included. The water balloon reenactment will take place in June. Please keep a look out for the date which will be announced. Parents are invited to watch your American Revolutionary War student soldiers take on the British Army of students for this fun, water filled educational experience. What a great way to end their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year.

Finally, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be spending their last

months as middle school students and preparing to move on to high school. With their end of the year come several activities. First, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking several placement tests for high school. Students looking to take Spanish II will be taking the STAMP Assessment, Algebra I students will be taking a placement test and candidates for Social Studies Honors will also be tested at the end of the year. Students will also be preparing for the trip to D.C. from June 1<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to our give back days, our student DC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition any medication for students must be submitted to the nurse by May 20<sup>th</sup>. Have an amazing rest of the year!!!

Mr. Marmolejos

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS OFFICE

The Great Meadows Regional Board of Education is currently in the process of developing the budget for the 2016-2017 School year which reflects a commitment to providing a high quality education for all of the subends of Great Meadows while continuing to remain responsible to the largest source of funding for our district, the local taxpayer. This is reflected by our per pupil costs, which consistently are among the lowest in Warren County as well as across the state of New Jersey when compared to other K-8 Districts with similar enrollment and relative economic factors.

In developing our annual budget, the Board of Education and District Administration carefully consider our district goals and priorities, some of which change each year and others that remain constant. A few of the key items that our 2016-2017 budget reflects are:

- Maintaining our current teacher to student ratio
- Improving access to technology for all students
- Providing quality training for staff in instructional strategies
- Keeping our facilities safe and in good repair
- Bringing out of district placements back into district run programs
- Increasing district generated revenue to lessen reliance on the tax levy

The Public Hearing on the Budget is currently scheduled to be held on Monday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00PM in the Great Meadows Regional Middle School Dining Room.

We invite you to join us on for a detailed presentation as well as a forum for any additional questions regarding the 2016-2017 School Year Budget.

Great Meadows Regional School District  
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## Dates To Remember

05/04/16 – Band/Chorus Spring Concert (Gr 6-8)  
GMMS 7pm

05/11/16 – GMMS Principal Forum GMMS 7pm

05/13/16 – Early Dismissal (Teacher Professional  
Development Day)

05/16/16 – Solar Car Races GMMS

05/16/16 – Hackettstown School District Closed

05/18/16 – PTO Mtg. GMMS 7pm

05/23/16 – District Closed

05/27/16 – District Closed

05/24/16 – GATE Night (GMMS 7pm)

05/25/16 – NJ ASK Science (Gr 4 & 8)

05/30/16 – District Closed (Memorial Day)

05/31/16 – District Closed

06/01/16 – Band/Chorus Concert (Gr 4-5) GMMS 7pm

06/01/16-06/03/16 – Washington D.C. Trip 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

06/08/16 – PTO Mtg. GMMS 7pm

06/10/16 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Dance (GMMS 7-10pm)

06/16/16 – Early Dismissal (Teacher Professional  
Development Day)

06/17/16 - Early Dismissal (Teacher Professional  
Development Day)

06/17/16 – GMMS Graduation (7pm)