



GMRSD Board Of Education

Home of the Jaguars

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members:

With the holiday season approaching, it is always an excellent time to be reflective in thought and express appreciation for that which we have. I am extremely honored to serve the communities of Independence, Liberty, and Hackettstown. Over the course of the last five years we have witnessed change from both a school and community perspective. During that time, several initiatives have been established, and now we are witnessing the fruits of our labor. That said, there are still major concerns that lie ahead. However, as I have always believed, we can achieve any goal or obstacle that presents itself.

Since the beginning of this school year, we have been publicly honoring our Students of the Month at our public board of education meetings. This has enhanced the school communities and set an example of the expectation levels for our students and proving to our students that hard work should be rewarded. Moreover, through our partnership with the High School Student Council, we have begun the exploration for increasing AP, elective, and language courses via survey. We believe that input from our student body should direct final course selections in order to preserve student interest and sustainability. In addition, we are witnessing how the implementation of instructional technology assists our parents, students and staff through the use of Bedtime Math, while Innovate NJ models 21st skills for global learning and awareness.

As recognizing students in the area of academic excellence, we must also recognize excellence in the athletic arena. Another area that central office and the high school administration have been working collaboratively on is Hackettstown High School's first ever, Athletic Hall of Fame. We are currently developing our mission statement, criteria, and selection process with our committee members. All of this information will be presented at our April 2017 public meeting, and our target date for

the inaugural ceremonies is October of 2017. The committee is working diligently on the nominee process, and our goal is to contact the community for the function of this process with a tentative target date of February 2017.

In addition to all of the current happenings between the districts, we are forecasting the 2017-18 budget process. This process will be cumbersome as several educational and facility initiatives are at our forefront and future. Glancing ahead, we are looking to implement a Preschool program at Willow Grove School and Central School, as well as, create the stand alone county Adult High School Program. The Adult High School Program will be presented at our February 2017 public meeting, so I encourage all to attend. This will offer students from our home districts the opportunity to obtain their high school credentials on a flexible schedule and generate revenue from incoming students from our county and surrounding counties that do not offer such a program.

In closing, my holiday wish to our communities is a simple request. As you can see there are many current and new items on the horizon that can benefit not only our students and staff, but communities at large. So my request is that you make one of your New Year's resolutions to become actively involved and attend our Hackettstown and Great Meadows public meetings. There are many wonderful initiatives taking place and so much more to achieve, so please get involved within the walls of our school communities.

As always, I thank you for partnering and supporting our school districts, students, and staff and wish you and your families a healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
David C. Mango
Superintendent of Schools
Great Meadows Regional and Hackettstown Public Schools

December 2016



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CURRICULUM CORNER

Curriculum Corner

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Nadia M. Inskeep

I would like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to the parents, teachers and administrators who attended the Title I Parent Involvement Meeting in October. The Parent Involvement meeting is an important part of the grant process and it also provides an opportunity to hear direct feedback on the programs that we are able to offer with our Federal Grant funding.

Recent changes related to New Jersey's Academic Standards are being addressed with our administration and staff. The teachers are wrapping up revisions to Language Arts Curriculum and we will be moving on to Math and Science in the next few months.

Since starting in Great Meadows three years ago, we have revived our student English Language Arts and Mathematics resources with up to date instructional materials and technology. I am currently working with principals and teachers to research new science resources and technology platforms for integrated and cross curricular programs to enhance classroom instruction.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Nadia Inskeep

CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

NEW PROGRAMS

Central School is proud to announce the opening of two new programs as of November 28, 2016. Thanks, in part, to the success of our new Inclusion Preschool program, we have opened a second Inclusion Preschool section. With that program, we welcome its teacher, Ms. Melissa Fox, who joins us after years working in Florham Park and Vernon Township schools. Seats are still available for tuition-based students wishing to register.

In addition, we have a new Behavioral Disabilities class for students both in and out of district. This class will be taught by Ms. Crystal Amey, who comes to us from GMMS, where she worked as a special education teacher for Warren County.

We are excited to watch the Central School family grow and welcome Ms. Fox and Ms. Amey as they join our staff.

REPORT CARDS

Our first trimester came to a close on December 5. Starting December 12, report cards are now available online for the first time through our RealTime parent portal. Paper copies will continue to be sent home.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Our annual Winter Concert took place on November 30 with our preschoolers kicking off the evening of songs sung also by our kindergarten and first grade students. Thank you, Ms. Revak!

The PTO Holiday Shoppe, held from November 30-December 2, was also a success, with students purchasing thoughtful gifts for family and friends.

Holiday-themed learning activities will permeate the month of December, as our students and staff explore holiday traditions and customs from all over the world and connect them with our curriculum.

From all of us at Central School, Happy Holidays!



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LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a SUPER YEAR at Liberty School! Our third graders have made a great start to the school year with a smooth transition from Central School to their new Liberty School community. While forming new friendships they have been busily building their class communities based on respect and teamwork in true superhero style.

Liberty School's innovative daily news program is featuring all new equipment this year. The 5th grade crew members are excited to be using a professional-grade video camera, video mixer, sound board, lighting, and green screen technology to deliver morning announcements. Liberty students are also thrilled to work in their brand-new STEM LAB. Students have been working with a variety of new STEM-related materials weekly.

Ms. McClary and Ms. Ackerman were busy the month of October organizing school-wide activities for Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week. This year's theme for Week of Respect and School Violence Awareness week was, "Character is our Superpower" and "What's on Your Cape?". During Week of Respect and School Violence Week, students participated in a school-wide superhero cape project describing characteristics that a superhero demonstrates, as well as a school-wide incentive giving students superhero shields that showed acts of superhero character. The capes and shields were displayed on the respect bulletin board in the main hallway. The shields were also announced daily over the morning announcements for everyone to hear.

Mrs. Long's 4th and 5th Grade Band and Chorus have begun their preparations for the Winter Concert. This year's concert will be called "Jingle and Shine". So get ready to jingle those bells and shine those lights! The concert will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 start time 7:00 PM at GMMS.

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. Agendas will be created based on input received via email prior to the meeting. All parents are welcomed to join.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

GMMS Parents/Guardians,

Happy Holidays from GMMS. We are rocking as usual as we heat up for the winter. Middle school clubs are in full swing and our new NASA Build It Club is at max capacity. Students in the NASA Build It Club have finished their satellite designs and launched on November 28th. Let's see what the next project brings. A big thank you to Mrs. Miller who introduced this club to the middle school. Boys and Girls Volleyball will be starting in January so please keep an eye out for the club announcement and permission slips. Our Student Council and Student Leadership Corps has just finished initial planning with Hackettstown High School and Hackettstown Middle School for this year's events and activities which will include our culminating 8th grade transition activity at the end of the year. In addition we have been seeing outstanding attendance for our Saturday Tutoring and Step Ahead Title 1 program. Also thank you to Mrs. DeJesus, Mrs. Teixeira and Mrs. Silpoch who have been keeping our kids in shape through our Fitness and Dance Fitness Clubs.

We are currently preparing our students for the 2nd round of benchmarks which will be administered for the 2nd marking period. Please remember that any student who is showing limited progress will receive recommendations for Step Ahead and/or Saturday Tutoring.

Finally, we hope to see you at the annual GMMS winter concert on December 7th, and also hope you have time to catch the GMMS/Municipal Alliance Peter Pan Musical Production on January 19th and 20th at 7 p.m.

Thank you to all parents and staff for making the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year great for all. Once again, I wish you a very safe and Happy Holiday Season

Mr. Marmolejos

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Dates To Remember

12/05/16 – Central/Liberty End Trimester 1	01/25/17 – GMMS End MP 2
12/06/16 – Central/Liberty Start Trimester 2	01/26/17 – GMMS Start MP 3
12/09/16 – Early Dismissal (Teacher Professional Development Day)	02/08/17 – PTO Meeting
12/20/16 – BOE Meeting-GMMS Dinning Hall	02/17/17 – 02/20/17 - District Closed Presidents' Weekend
12/23/16 – Early Dismissal (Teacher Professional Development Day)	03/03/17 – Early Dismissal (Teacher Professional Development Day)
09/13/16 – Central Back To School Night (Grades 1 & 2) 7pm	03/08/17 – PTO Meeting
12/26/16 – 12/30/16 – District Closed Winter Break	03/09/17 – Central/Liberty End Trimester 2
01/02/17 – District Reopens from Winter Break	03/10/17 – Central/Liberty Start Trimester 3
01/11/17 – PTO Meeting	03/31/17 – GMMS End MP 3
01/16/17 – District Closed Martin Luther King Day	04/03/17 – GMMS Start MP 4
	04/05/17 – Central/Liberty Principal Forum (at Liberty)