

December 2017



# GMRSD Board Of Education

## Home of the Jaguars

### SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Community Members:

As 2018 approaches, it is a time to reflect back on 2017 and the accomplishments our school district attained. Several of these accomplishments align to our district's strategic plan and beyond. Academic, athletic, and facility accomplishments/upgrades are all examples of the Board of Education, Central Office Administration, district administration and staff working in unison for the same common goals which are to create and implement programs and initiatives that support students while enhancing our school community environment.

This past November 21, 2017, the Boards of Education from Great Meadows and Hackettstown, communities and staff witnessed the first ever joint public meeting of the Boards of Education in accordance with the possibility of altering the send/receive agreement as it relates to our Middle Schools. Former NJDOE Commissioner, Mr. Hespe effectively communicated his findings and research in both a PowerPoint presentation and written report, which can be found on the district's website. As presented, both districts are in an advantageous position should they agree to this Middle School concept. Again, should this concept come to fruition, it would be reflective in our upcoming 2018-2019 budget development cycle. Should it not, each district will use alternative means and methods while creating a budget that is within limitations of the communities they serve.

The holiday season is a time to appreciate what we have and the time spent with our loved ones and families. As the proud Superintendent of Schools for Hackettstown, Independence and Liberty Township, I wish all our families a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season and New Year!

Sincerely  
David C. Mango  
Superintendent of Schools

### CURRICULUM CORNER

Curriculum Corner

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Debra Grigoletti

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.

The staff will be reviewing and revising the curriculum for Social Studies, Art, Technology, Physical Education and Health across all grade levels. The new curricula will be presented to the Board of Education in late spring/early summer for approval.

I will also begin working with the Middle School administration and staff on the electives currently offered and discussing the possibility of adding new electives. With that might come some schedule adjustments in order to provide our students with a richer and more rounded educational experience.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and to remember that the true meaning of the holiday season is not the material things that matter. It is about health and happiness, being kind and thinking of those who we hold dear.

Sincerely,  
Debra Grigoletti



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### CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

As we head toward the end of 2017, it is a good time to reflect on the first portion of the year while looking ahead at what is to come in 2018.

Students at Central have been on their learning adventure with us for four months and in that time have grown exponentially. Kindergarten students are becoming readers. First grade students are expanding their skills in all areas, and second graders are demonstrating tremendous leadership among our little learners. In addition, our Jaguar Stars initiative has been a tremendous success, with students working hard to earn their tickets.

We have much to celebrate at Central School this time of year. We gave thanks to our local law enforcement officers on November 22 at our Blue Line Bag assembly. Ms. Amey's class collected items for officers to use while on patrol and presented them as a way of saying "thank you" for the protection they provide. There was no better way to celebrate Thanksgiving than to have our students demonstrate what it means to be thankful in such a generous way.

Our Winter Concert was a tremendous success on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Watching our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students sing some holiday songs was a great way to usher in the season. Special thanks to Mr. Schepis for his hard work in preparing the students to shine on stage.

Central School students also got to do some holiday shopping at our PTO Holiday Shoppe from November 29 through December 1. Gift for all ages were available for students to purchase. Thank you, PTO!

In 2018, we will send classes on virtual (and real) field trips, utilize our 1:1 technology, and watch our students continue to become global citizens. Maker Space Jr. Club will join Crazy 8s, Mindful Mornings, and Friendship Club to provide students a variety of options for extracurricular activities.

Happy Holidays from everyone at Central School to all the families in our community. We are all Jaguar Stars!

### LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy holidays to everyone. We are thrilled to continue to continue our "**Learning Can Take You Anywhere**" message into this new approaching year. Our school year has been a huge success thus far and we are looking forward to an amazing 2018. I want to thank our PTO and all the parents that made our Harvest Day a huge success. Children were painting pumpkins, petting adorable animals, and sipping sweet cider on a beautiful October day. I truly enjoyed watching the community come together for this special event.

Special thanks to Ms. McClary and Ms. Ackerman for organizing several fun activities for Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness, and Red Ribbon Week. Liberty held a school-wide competition for acts of kindness. Mix It Up Lunch was held to help foster new friendships, and Liberty staff also joined in with their own kindness campaign. Officer Varina visited our school and spoke to our students about safety. Special thanks to the Mountain Lake Fire Company for providing equipment and fire safety education to both our staff and students.

Parent conferences took place on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. Liberty had a tremendous turn out and we would like to thank all our parents that attended.

Report Cards will be available December 11<sup>th</sup>. The Liberty Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet for the second time this school year on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues relevant to Liberty and the continued success of our students and programs. The committee will consist of parent volunteers from each grade who will meet throughout the year with the Liberty School Principal and Guidance Counselor.

Get ready for Liberty School's Chorus and Band Winter Celebration on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00! If you thought you loved snow before.....wait until you hear us play. We are a blizzard of musical genius! Our 4th Graders will be graduating to Amazing Band Status, entertaining you with the smash hit singles you love, like "Hot Cross Buns" and "Merrily We Roll Along". Our 5th Grade Band will rock out to your favorite winter tunes, including "Winter Wonderland" and "Let it Snow", while our Chorus explodes with some Big Band favorites like, "Mister Frosty Winter". No need to bring your snow gear, we're so hot - you won't get cold!

**Save the Date: Liberty & Central Principals Forum @ Liberty 6pm - January 24th**



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### MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

GMMS Parents/Guardians,

First and foremost, I would like to take this time to wish you and your family a very blessed and safe holiday season. Although it may be cold outside, things continue to heat up at Great Meadows Middle School. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, students joined other schools across the United States in our annual Hour of Code activity. With students in technology education already coding as part of our regular program, they are well on their way to becoming functional members of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

With the new year quickly approaching, new clubs and activities will be starting. We look forward to running a boys and girls volleyball team, a cooking club and continuing with the clubs already in session.

Congratulations to Mr. Nutt and the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Battle of the Minds teams. Two of the top three teams in the county came from GMMS - the only school to have that many in the top three. In addition, our 7th grade team finished third out of 16 teams - the highest of any 7th grade team in the tournament. Even more impressive was the performance by our 8th grade team, which ended up in second place in Warren County. Mr. Nutt and our students worked hard to prepare, and it showed in the results.

We are very pleased right now to say that we have no confirmed HIB's at Great Meadows Middle School. Several new initiatives that have been put in place may be contributing to this encouraging start. Our new Incentive Plan is in full swing, and students are cashing in their "Jaguar Bucks" for rewards as well as bigger raffle prizes each marking period. In addition, our Point System revisions from previous years have made consequences more stringent for unwarranted behavior. We are hoping with all of this in place, in addition to Ms. Kilbourn's Character Education lessons in the classroom, student behavior and interaction will continue to be encouraging and favorable.

Please keep a look out for announcements from teachers as we approach our 2<sup>nd</sup> benchmark for academic courses. The next benchmark window opens January 8<sup>th</sup> and closes January 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Have a great rest of the year and an even better 2018. Happy Holidays!!*

### STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

#### GMRSD STRATEGIC PLAN VISION 2019

##### GOAL 1

Provide students with adequate support and experiences to promote growth in all areas.

##### GOAL 2

Intensify the district's commitment to move toward an environment that provides students with 21st Century skills and prepares them for success on a global level by incorporating technology into all settings.

##### GOAL 3

Creating a social and academic environment that is safe and enhances students ability to become forward thinking risk takers, and globally conscious.

##### GOAL 4

Create a top-notch school environment by opening communication paths and engaging parents in the student's academic life. Collaborating with community to access resources.

### DISTRICT GOALS

#### District Goal – Central Elementary

Goal Statement: Provide students an educational foundation necessary for future success through innovative and collaborative practices.

#### District Goal –Liberty Elementary

Goal Statement: Liberty Elementary 2016-2017 building goal is focused on technology. It is our aim to drive technology in all aspects of learning. Our goal is to intensify the district's commitment to move forward in an environment that provides students with 21st Century skills and prepares them for success on a global level by incorporating technology into all settings.

#### District Goal – Great Meadows Middle School

Goal Statement: Expand and enhance student support services (i.e.- Step Ahead, Saturday Tutoring, Summer School, Focused SMART Groups) in order to raise academic achievement for struggling learners and close the achievement gap at Great Meadows Middle School.

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**Postal Patron Local**

## Dates To Remember

12/13/17 – Liberty Winter Chorus 7pm GMMS	01/24/18 – Liberty/Central Principal Forum – 6pm at Liberty
12/19/17 – GMRSD BOE Meeting	01/24/18 – GMMS MP 2 Ends
12/22/17 – Early Dismissal	01/25/18 – GMMS MP 3 Begins
12/25/17 – 01/01/18 – School Closed (Holiday Break)	01/26/18 – 6-8 Grade Get Together
01/02/18 – District Re-Opens	02/02/18 – GMMS Report Cards Sent Home
01/08/18 – GMMS Benchmark 2 Window Begins	02/07/18 – PTO Meeting
01/10/18 – PTO Meeting	02/08/18 – GMMS Principal Forum
01/15/18 - School Closed for Students (Professional Development Staff)	02/16/18 – 02/19/18 – School Closed (President’s Day)
01/18/18 – GMMS Performing Art Show 7pm	02/21/18 – 02/22/18 – Central Kdg. Registration 10 am – 12:30 pm
01/19/18 – GMMS Performing Art Show 7pm	03/08/18 – GMMS Spring Pictures
01/19/18 – GMMS Benchmark 2 Window Ends	