



GMRSD Board Of Education

Home of the Jaguars

**FALL
2013**

It's that time of year...

Parents, students, faculty, and community members of Liberty and Independence Township:

Welcome back for another exciting school year! This time of the year is special for not only the changing of seasons, but also the start of a new academic journey. I encourage you, as always, to partner with our staff as a school community. Your input is highly valued and necessary in the progress of your child's education. This year, there will be several new events that allow you to become involved. Some of these activities include Strategic Planning, an online school climate survey, and Principal Forums. Another way for you to be a part of our school community is to join parent organizations.

More importantly, we, as a school district, recognize all the parents' support and dedication to our students, and without parent involvement successes would be lost. Join us this year in assisting your child/children supersede there potential.

Sincerely,
David C. Mango
Superintendent of Schools

We Cordially Invite You...

Please join us Thursday, September 26, 2013 in the Middle School auditorium at 7:00pm for our kick-off Strategic Planning meeting. In conjunction with New Jersey School Boards Association, the Great Meadows Regional School District will look to our community in developing and implementing a district-wide school vision. At this meeting, I will conduct a brief presentation; following you will have the opportunity to discuss the current state of our district. Together we can soar to new heights!



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Principal Forums to begin this Fall

So often, our building administrators do not have ample time to convey their vision for each school. By conducting forums such as these, they will now have that chance. These meetings will also include members of the guidance office, child study team, and team leaders depending on topics being discussed at that particular time.

This is another tool for each building community to effectively and clearly communicate the happening of their school community. You will be notified through our district website and Honeywell alert system for the date and time for each forum.

State of Security

The Great Meadows Regional School District is committed to ensuring the safest school environment for all who enter. We continue to make positive strides in the area of security.

Independence Township Chief of Police, Dennis Riley, has been a tremendous resource in assisting our district to enhance state-mandated emergency drills, procedures, and future policies.

Going forward, I ask you to recognize the cause and need for change in this global society and partner with us in creating the safest possible environment for our students and staff. Chief Riley and I will be discussing these matters at our September 17, 2013, public Board of Education meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/11/13 - PTO Meeting at GMMS (6:30pm)

9/12/13 – Central School Back to School Night (7:00pm)

9/16/13 – Liberty School Back to School Night (7:00pm)

9/17/13 – GMRSD Public BOE Meeting (7:30 pm)

9/23/13 – GMMS Back to School Night (7:00pm)

9/24/13 – HHS Back to School Night (6:45pm)

9/26/13 – Strategic Planning at GMMS (7:00pm)

10/08/13 – HHS Evening College Fair (7:00pm)

10/15/13 – GMRSD Public BOE Meeting (7:30pm)

10/24/13 – HHS 8th Grade Open House (7:00pm)



NJ Achieve To Begin September 2013

Over the last several years the NJ Department of Education has embarked on changing previous evaluation tools for staff and administrators and turned to a data driven, test proven assessment for educators, referred to as NJ Achieve. Throughout the 2012-13 school year, the Great Meadows Regional School District has met these initiatives in the selection of a state approved teacher and principal evaluation model and conducted training for all.

To that end, the Board of Education approved the addition of five half days scheduled into our 2013-2014 school calendar. This time will be used to meet state requirements in professional development for staff. In addition, our staff both from an administrative and faculty stand point has and will continue to partner with the Hackettstown School District in the areas of articulation, creation of standards based report cards, grade level common assessments, quarterly benchmarks, etc....

We are working towards the betterment of the Great Meadows Regional School District by starting with the education of teachers and staff.

An Eye on Writing

As educators, we, recognize particular areas that will have an everlasting academic effect on students. Case in point is the writing process. Currently, the number one academic detriment for college students is writing. In a technology driven day and age, sometimes the art of writing is lost.

At the end of the first marking period, Great Meadows Middle School students will take the first ever, school wide, Pre- Writing assessment. This assessment will be based off of the NJ ASK and graded as such. This assessment will afford both our students and staff the unique opportunity to define areas in need of improvement and enable staff to develop assessments and rubrics to assist students in that process.

Sometime next April, the students of our Middle School will take a Post Writing assessment which will also be graded on the NJ ASK rubric. This will clearly define student growth and gain in the area of writing. In addition, we will begin to implement mandatory writing across the curriculum for all academic and elective courses.

The old philosophy that writing only takes place in a Language Arts class no longer exists. It is the job of our entire school community to ensure our students are fully equipped in the writing process when entering high school and beyond.

Great Meadows Regional School District
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Welcome New Staff

On behalf of the Great Meadows Regional School District, the Board of Education, and our school community, I would like to welcome all of you to our community and schools. The importance of educators is and always will be paramount in the development of the whole child. I wish you and your students a successful school year.

Sincerely,

David C. Mango
Superintendent of Schools

Liberty School

Kathleen Gesumaria -Principal
Elizabet Guella – Sp. Ed. Teacher
Patricia Kemper - Nurse
Lori Matuszek- Aide
Jennifer Scott - Sp. Ed. Teacher
Catherine Stuber - Instructional Aide
Jamie Swingle - Guidance Counselor

Middle School

Christine Allen – Instructional Aide
Molly Doyle - Aide
Michael Feliu -MD Teacher
Debra Grigoletti - Assistant Principal
Dawn Hull - 7th gr. Language ArtsTeacher
Jill Russo - Cafeteria Aide
Kathryn Severson - Guidance Counselor

Central School

Kathy Ascolese - School Secretary
John Ricardo - Custodian