



August 2016

# GMRSD Board Of Education

## Home of the Jaguars

### SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Great Meadows Regional School District Community Members,

Welcome to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Our district will continue forward with its commitment of its success of all students, preparing for an array of positive educational experiences for this coming year.

As our summer season comes to an end, our school district looks forward to opening our doors for your children, families, and members of our community. The summer season is always a time for catching up with family and glancing ahead to the future. Central Office, along with the Board of Education and district administration, have been working towards the completion of current and future projects throughout the summer season.

This past summer our district has had the pleasure of welcoming back our PSD program located in Central School. We have also continued to maximize our state funding capitalizing on our ESY program at the Middle School. Our ESY program affords students and staff a multitude of opportunities for summer learning and growth. While our PSD program affords parents the opportunities for their children to stay within district and begin the assimilation process into our Central School. Central office and the BOE continue to look forward to the future with the possibility of beautification projects, maximizing space district-wide and developing a long range facility plan.

The district has created new two year goals per building. This coming year, you will be informed at Back to School Night and updated at principal forums as to what these goals are and progress made at achieving these goals. As always, we look to partner with parents in sharing information. Please check the district and school websites for the times and locations for informative and personal principal forums.

Lastly, beginning at our October public Board of Education meeting, the district will observe the first ever Student of The Month ceremonies. Throughout the summer months, inter-district administrators are developing criteria for this achievement and honor. Students at the highest grade level per building will have an opportunity to be

recognized at our monthly Board of Education meetings. We are excited for this process to commence! I do look forward to partnering with all constituents of our school communities in achieving district goals while embarking on our upcoming journey which will be the 2016-2017 school year.

Sincerely,  
David C. Mango  
Superintendent of Schools  
Great Meadows Regional School District  
Hackettstown School District

### CURRICULUM CORNER

Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Nadia Inskeep

Hello,

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer! I am very excited to tell you that the Great Meadows teachers have begun the revision process for Language Arts, Music and World Language curricula. This work will continue into the fall of 2016. In the spring of 2016, the State adopted the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and our principals and teachers are working hard to ensure that our revisions will provide our teachers with meaningful curriculum that is a source of guidance and a framework for instruction.

The Middle School hosted a summer academic support program, run by Mrs. Grigoletti. The program was successful and we hope to see it expand to provide services for students in the future.

I would also like to take this time to announce the date of the Title I Parent Involvement Meeting. It will be held on Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> at GMMS. This year the meeting will cover all three of our schools. The extended school day programs, Saturday School and the Summer Academic Support Program are all made possible with our Title I grant funding. As part of our program development, it is crucial that we have your input as parents on the district's parent involvement policy and how we communicate with you regarding your child or children's progress. Please consider taking the time to join us on October 12<sup>th</sup>.



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### CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

#### PRESCHOOL INCLUSION AND KINDERGARTEN

Central School is excited for the first year of our Preschool Inclusion Program. General and special education students between the ages of 3-5 will receive a well-rounded experience of learning, playing, and socializing under the tutelage of Ms. Ciniewicz. We welcome our new students as they begin their educational journey with us.

In addition to our preschoolers, we welcome our new kindergarteners to the Central School family. The start of the school year is always stressful for families, particularly those for whom this is a first experience with school. I encourage you to become a visible part of our school community, get involved with our wonderful PTO, and stay informed of all the great learning being done at Central School.

#### TWITTER AND REMIND

Central School's goal is to "provide students an educational foundation necessary for future success through innovative and collaborative practices." To this end, we will be utilizing two resources that will foster the home-school connection using technology.

Starting in the 2016-17 school year, you can follow the latest and greatest happenings at Central School by following us on Twitter @GMcentralJags #proud2bcentralschool #gmjaguars. These hashtags will be specific to our school and district, respectively.

For those that do not "Tweet," we will also be utilizing the Remind application to inform families of important upcoming events right on their phones or computers. Information can be found at [www.gmrdsd.com](http://www.gmrdsd.com) and in the first-day of school packet.

#### WHAT'S NEW

Keep on the lookout for more information on our *Go Math!* program, the RealTime student information system, and other great new initiatives in the 2016-17 school year.

### LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) & Community Members:

I hope all of you are enjoying a wonderful summer by finding time to relax with your families and take advantage of the beautiful weather. I am absolutely thrilled about the upcoming school year! Last year Liberty Elementary was "Wild About Learning", as we embarked on our first ever themed school year. As we approach year two, our 2016-2017 theme will be...drum roll please...At Liberty School, "Learning is Our Super Power!" Yes, you guessed it - we are excited to announce a SUPER HERO themed school year.

I am happy to share with you some of the *physical* improvements that have taken place at Liberty since June. Our summer custodial staff has been working extremely hard. Many third and fourth grade classrooms have been freshly painted, including our basketball backboards and the school's welcome sign. Liberty School looks amazing and our staff is thrilled to meet our incoming third graders! We are also eager to welcome back our returning fourth and fifth graders.

Liberty Elementary's 2016-2017 building goal is focused on technology. It is our aim to implement technology in all aspects of our 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. With that goal in mind, we are happy to announce the development of our very own S.T.E.M. Lab that will be housed within our media center.

The upcoming school year will continue to include our Title I academic programs focused on reading, language arts, and math. We will continue our archery after school club and in addition to Girls on the Run, we are pleased to introduce to you an after school program called Let Me Run, which is a similar after school club created for boys. Parents of Liberty students please mark your calendars and join me for our first PAC meeting on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

With Liberty Pride,

Jennifer Macones, Principal



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### MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

GMMS Parents/Guardians,

I hope your summer is going well and that students are enjoying their free time while still challenging and engaging their minds. Please remember to have your child complete the summer reading and IXL assignments so as to start the 2016-17 school year ready and ahead of the curve.

Please keep a lookout for the following items being sent home: Your child's bus assignment, including pick up/drop off time and location, homeroom teacher, locker number and combination. In addition, we will be sending home a welcome back letter. The welcome back letter will also contain information about our new student information system and parent portal where you will receive communications, be able to access your child's schedule and other general information. As this is a new system, we are still in the process of setting this up and will provide you access during the month of August.

We are very pleased to announce that we are able to continue our Academic Student Support Services and will be running Step Ahead starting in October and Saturday Tutoring twice a month, also starting in October.

Finally, we would like to welcome the following staff members: Ms. Snyder who will be working in Special Education and Mrs. Tagliareni & Ms. Matthijssen who will be working as instructional aides in grades 6-8.

I wish you a safe and fantastic rest of the summer and hope that you are excited to start the 2016-17 school year.

Mr. Marmolejos

### 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.

Great Meadows Regional School District  
P. O. Box 74\* 281 Route 46  
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

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**Postal Patron Local**

## Dates To Remember

09/06/16 – School Opens Early Dismissal  
(Teacher Professional Development Day)

09/07/16 – Early Dismissal (Teacher  
Professional Development Day)

09/08/16 – Preschool and Kindergarten Back To  
School Night 7pm

09/12/16 – Picture Day (Liberty and Middle  
Schools)

09/13/16 – Central Back To School Night  
(Grades 1 & 2) 7pm

09/20/16 – Picture Day (Central Elementary)

09/20/16 – Liberty Back To School Night 7pm

09/22/16 – Middle School Back To School Night  
6:30pm

09/27/16 – HHS College Fair

09/29/16 – HHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House

10/10/16 – Closed Columbus Day (Staff Professional  
Development Day)

10/20/16 – GMMS Principal Forum 6pm

10/21/16 – GMMS Get-Together Grades 6-8 6:30-  
8:30pm

10/26/16 – Principal Forums (Central & Liberty Schools)  
7pm

11/08/16 – GMMS Marking Period 1 Ends

11/09/16 – GMMS Marking Period 2 Begins

11/10/16-11/11/16 – Closed NJ Teacher Convention

11/16/16-11/18/16 – Early Dismissal : Parent Teacher  
Conferences

11/23/16 – Early Dismissal : Thanksgiving