



Spring 2018

GMRSD Board Of Education

Home of the Jaguars

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Hackettstown and Great Meadows Regional Schools community members,

This past November, our communities witnessed the first joint public meeting of the Boards of Education. This meeting was conducted to explore the possibility of realigning our schools K-6 and altering the send/receive relationship between the townships in grades 7 and 8. While this was the most discussed option from the feasibility study, it was an opportunity to enhance academic achievement and standards while contending with the rising enrollment in Hackettstown and decreasing enrollment in Great Meadows. Ultimately, each of these challenges has an adverse economic effect on our facilities. After much public debate, the Boards of Education decided to move in different directions, while always having the study as a mechanism to drive our future Long Range Facility Plans (LRFP).

In Hackettstown, the Board of Education selected to alter our existing neighborhood school structure into a hybrid grade based school structure. Beginning September 1, 2019, Willow Grove School will become a PK-1 facility and Hatchery Hill School will service grades 2-4. The Hackettstown Middle School will remain a grades 5-8 building due in large part to the possible negative effect and capacity concerns of moving the 5th grade to the elementary level. This restructure will enable staff to generate more productive professional development opportunities, maximization of preparation time and alignment of student learning standards - all in which equates into positive student growth.

If you recall during one of our several special meetings last spring, Pre-School services were presented to the public as an opportunity to immerse students into our school community prior to kindergarten enhancing their social, emotional and learning skill set. Additionally, this will provide a steady stream of revenue for the school district while helping to defray the cost of daycare services to parents. We witnessed tremendous growth in student achievement and social and emotional behavior with Pre-K programs implemented in Great Meadows. If you have an opportunity, please contact Mr. Michael Mai, Central School Principal, to schedule a visit.

In Great Meadows, the Board of Education chose to operate as we have in the past and not “mothball” or “suspend” Liberty School as presented as a possible option in the feasibility study. This option was presented due to the drastic drop in population in Independence and Liberty townships. While we cannot yet determine what this means from a future sustainability perspective, we are pleased to offer all three facilities to students, staff and community members in the 2018-2019 school year.

During the month of March, Shared Services Director of Security, Stephen Speirs, and I conducted a security presentation to our communities at the Hackettstown High School. The presentation focused upon district initiatives which began in 2013. It provided historical perspective and possible future security enhancements. The presentation is posted on our district websites for review. In addition, Mr. Speirs and I have been requested to conduct similar school security presentations at New Jersey School Board Associations' Warren County meeting and the Sparta School District's Safety and Security Summit. We take the security of our students and staff very seriously and it remains a top priority for the districts.



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The next few months will move by very quickly so below is an update as to what you can expect at future Board of Education meetings which commence at 7 pm:

- April 18th Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting
- April 24th Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting
18-19 Budget Hearing
- May 2nd Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting
18-19 Budget Hearing
- May 16th Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting
Teacher of the Year recognition
- May 22nd Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting
Teacher of the Year recognition
- June 13th Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting
2016-2018 District Goals Presentation
L.R.F.P. Presentation – Ms. Woicekowski
- June 26th Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting
2016-2018 District Goals Presentation
L.R.F.P. Presentation – Mr. Havlusch

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all community members a relaxing spring season and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

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



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CURRICULUM CORNER

Curriculum Corner
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Debra Grigoletti

This year the staff has been working hard to align the Social Studies, Physical Education and Health, Technology, Business and Art curricula to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The curriculum from each area will be presented to the Board of Education this summer and will be rolled out in the classrooms by September 2018. The district is also researching new Social Studies resources to enhance student learning.

Last year the district implemented a new gifted and talented curriculum and program. The goal of the program is to identify and support the academically gifted students. During the course of this year, there has been much discussion on the differences between a gifted student and a high academic learner. Realizing we need to support both groups of students, we are working on developing an enrichment program to support the high academic learner.

As the school year is coming to a close, please keep an eye out for letters from your building elementary and middle school principals for the Academic Support Summer Programs if your child qualifies. I am currently working with the administrative team to bring back the summer academic program at all three schools.

I hope everyone has a summer filled with family, relaxation and laughter. I look forward to seeing everyone next year and continuing to strive to provide our students with an excellent educational experience grounded in high student achievement.

CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

Believe it or not, the home stretch has begun. We are now into the third trimester and, hopefully by the time this is published, spring-like weather. After a winter of cold and snow that extended well into March, it is exciting to see what blossoms as we move into April. At Central School, children that began winter as kindergartners, first graders and second graders are welcoming spring as students ready for the next grade.

To that end, Central School is excited to announce information for our Preschool and Kindergarten Graduation event. On Thursday, June 14, we invite you to join us for a celebration of our youngest learners at 6 p.m. in the Central School gymnasium. Our concert and ceremony will be a fantastic end to a year of tremendous growth and learning for our students.

Over the next three months, Central School will host a number of exciting events during and after the school day which we hope many students and their families can enjoy.

On April 11, Central will host the 3rd joint Principals' Forum with Liberty School. The topic of this event will be our CAP (Child Assault Prevention) program, in which students in grades one, three, and five will participate later in April.

Tuesday, May 1 will be our annual Kindergarten Orientation for parents and children that begin kindergarten in September. We will provide parents a glimpse into our kindergarten program, and students will experience a taste of some fun kindergarten activities (including a bus ride). Then, on June 5-7, we invite these students back for Kindergarten Screenings. Parents will be provided a time and day for their child's individual screening.

Finally, we must take a moment to honor three of our outstanding teachers who will be retiring this year. To Ms. Coppola, Ms. Redus, and Ms. Washburn: Thank you for all you have given to the children and staff of Central School over the years. Your contributions will be long lasting and your presence missed. Congratulations to you all!



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LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Spring everyone! Liberty is excited to continue its theme, "Learning Can Take you Anywhere". The snow is in the past and Liberty students are excited to get back outside and play in the fresh air.

Early March we celebrated "Read Across America". It was filled with loads of Seussastic fun! 128 new books have arrived to our library and they are ready for students to enjoy! Mrs. Macones met Olympian and author Elena Delle Donne and had several children's books autographed and donated to the library for our students to enjoy. During technology this marking period students recently worked through digital citizenship units and several STEM challenges.

PARCC is on its way and our testing window will open up on May 1st. Please visit our website for details.

Aarf! Aarf! 3rd Grade's paw-some performance was on Wednesday, March 28! The Secret Life Of Liberty's Pets was held at 7:00pm at Liberty School. Students performed fun pet-themed songs and treated guests to some original stories and artwork from our very own third graders. Meowzers - it was a doggone good time!

Liberty's 4th and 5th grade Archery program is off to a strong start. Students have participated in over four tournaments this year!

The end of January marked "No Name-Calling Week" in which all students participated in lessons with Mrs. Ackerman and Ms. McClary to promote kindness in how we treat each other, words we say to each other and a message of anti-bullying. The 5th grade enjoyed a visualization activity, discussed ways to be safe online and how careful we should be with our words from behind an electronic device! Students participated school-wide in "Mix-it-Up at Lunch" where they were randomly divided to lunch tables in hopes to meet someone new, get to know a classmate better and enjoy a new seat for a day! All students also helped create an Olympic-themed bulletin board to recognize how to be a good friend.

As always, as parents/guardians, if you believe your child would benefit from speaking with a School Counselor, please do not hesitate to contact 637-4790 ext. 283 or lackerman@gmrtd.com.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Is it spring yet? I know we all hope so and with the transition to warmer weather, please remember to protect your children from ticks and mosquitoes as they begin to spend more time outdoors. Meanwhile, indoors at GMMS, students and staff are preparing for the 2018 PARCC. This year, PARCC will be administered the first two weeks of May. We are currently running an infrastructure trial to ensure smooth testing for our students. Once we return from Spring Recess and complete the infrastructure trial, you will receive specific dates for testing in May.

8th grade students will also be participating in the new science assessment pilot in May as well. Those dates will also be announced in April.

Keep an eye out for our Golf Club which will be starting very soon this spring while the following clubs continue to run: Homework Club, Step Ahead, Cooking Club, Nasa Build It, Coding Club, Art Club, Student Council, SLC, TV Broadcast Club and Chess Club. Most of these clubs have open seats. If your child is interested in participating, please contact the main office or submit a permission slip which can be found on our website under Sports and Clubs.

Our Student Council and Student Leadership Corp are, once again, partnering with Hackettstown Middle School and Hackettstown High School to organize the Annual Senior Citizen Prom - open to Senior Citizens in our community. The Senior Citizen Prom will be held from 5-7 p.m. on April 13th at Trinity House (Back of Trinity Church) in Hackettstown. If you would like more information or have folks who would like to attend, please contact Mrs. Pach, Mrs. Teixeira or Mrs. Wilson at Great Meadows Middle School ext. 200.

It has been a great year at Great Meadows Middle School and we wish you and your child much success in this last third of the year. Happy Spring- we hope.



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BUSINESS OFFICE

This is an extremely busy and important time for the staff of the Business Office as we prepare the budget for the 2018-19 school year. The budget year begins July 1, 2018 and ends June 30, 2019. At the same time we are also beginning the process of closing the books in preparation for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) The CAFR is performed by our auditing firm in order to analyze and report on the financial status of the Great Meadows Regional School District. The financial closing date for the 2017-18 budget year ends on June 30, 2018.

Getting back to the 2018-19 Budget and its pending preliminary approval from the Warren County Department of Education, The Great Meadows Regional Board of Education, as part of its regular meeting scheduled for April 24, 2018 will be holding a Public Hearing on the 2018-19 Budget as required by Code and Statute. This meeting is scheduled to be called to order at 7:00 PM in the GMMS Media Center and the public is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Prior to the Public Hearing, the GMRBOE is required by code and statute, to post and advertise in a local newspaper the "Advertised Budget for 2018-19" as a way to make the information available to the public in advance of the Public Hearing. As of now this advertisement is planned to publish in the Warren Gazette on Friday April 20, 2017.

At the Public Hearing a presentation will be made on the proposed budget for the upcoming year. At the conclusion of the public hearing the GMRBOE will then have before it a resolution for adoption of the Final Budget for 2018-2019. This resolution will re-affirm and reflect any changes from the Tentative Budget that was adopted on March 20th, 2018. Hope to see you on the 24th.

Timothy Havlusch
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Great Meadows Regional School District

GMRSD Mission Statement

The GMRSD will provide quality educational opportunities that ensure the individual success of all students within a safe and supportive environment and to build life-long learners who will meet society's challenges into and beyond the 21st century. To that end, it is anticipated that all students will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) at all grade levels.

GMRSD Strategic Plan Vision

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.

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Dates To Remember

04/02/18-04/06/18 – School Closed (Spring Recess)

04/11/18 – Liberty/Central Principal Forum

04/11/18 – PTO Meeting

04/12/18 – GMMS 3rd MP Ends

04/13/18 – GMMS 4th MP Begins

04/16/18 – GMMS PARCC Testing Opens

04/20/18 – GMMS Report Cards Sent Home

04/24/18 – BOE Meeting

04/27/18 – 5-8 Grade Get Together

05/01/18-04/04/18 – Liberty PARRC 3rd Grade

05/08/18-05/11/18 – Liberty PARCC 4th Grade

05/09/18 – PTO Meeting

05/15/18-05/18/18 – Liberty PARCC 5th Grade

05/17/18 – GMMS Principal Forum

05/18/18 – Early Dismissal Students (Staff PD Day)

05/21/18-05/25/18 – Liberty PARCC Makeup Days

05/21/18 – GMMS Benchmark 4 Window Begins

05/22/18 – BOE Meeting

05/23/18 – GMMS Spring Concert

05/28/18 – School Closed (Memorial Day)

05/30/18-06/01/18 – 8th Grade DC Trip

06/01/18 – GMMS Benchmark 4 Window Ends

06/06/18 – Liberty Grade 4-5 Band & Chorus Concert