Meeting in the Middle

by Kyley W. Cumbow, Principal

The adults at GMMS simply cannot believe that the first quarter of GMMS is coming to an end. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our 6th graders; what a great group they are. It would seem that the quarter has flown by because there is so much going on. So many student activities have resulted in positive experiences, gained leadership and skills, and the making of new friendships for our middle schoolers. Continue to encourage your child to be involved.

An article by Dr. Sharon Sevier (professional counselor and also a mom) summarized the middle school years perfectly. She states, “Here’s what happens in the middle school years: our children become more and more independent. In 6th grade, it’s the transition between elementary and middle school. There’s a bit more coddling in their academic setting, and the students have a healthy sense of unease as they enter the social world of middle school. By the end of 6th grade, they’ve pretty much got it all figured out, and their social world bursts open with wild abandon. For the next two years, they think they are standing at the mountain top and they know it all. Mood swings are rampant, popularity becomes a curse and a blessing, body image, attire, and being cool all take precedence over anything else. So how do parents navigate these years keeping their kids safe and in check, while also keeping their sanity?

Her advice includes: Staying in contact with the school, requiring a set time for homework, monitor child’s use of technology, understand that middle school friendships will vary and change, and to limit the desire to rescue your child from natural consequences.

Check out her specific advice at:
http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=11D8DA50-1360-11E4-98390050569A5318

Adolescence is a time where children are striving for independence and experience an emotional roller coaster on the way. Even as MS students act and maybe even say that they do not need their parents, this is one of the most important times in a person’s life to have the support and love of their parents. That support helps your child maneuver through this maze we call “growing up.”

We will work with all students in the goal setting process and what goals they will set for the upcoming quarters. Let’s make second quarter even better than this first one!
Greetings from the Counseling Department at Georgia Morse Middle School. Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Munson are excited about the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Munson will be working with both 8th grade teams (Nittany Lions & Spartans) as well as Team Golden Gophers in the 7th grade. Mrs. Rogers will be working with both 6th grade teams (Hawkeyes & Wildcats) as well as Team Cornhuskers in the 7th grade.

Here are a few tips to help parents as they face the new school year with their students:

- Spend some time talking with your student each day with excitement about your work and your day. Children often reflect the attitude of their parents. If your attitude about work is negative, don’t expect your child to feel any different about schoolwork.
- Provide your student with a time and place to do homework. This should be a location that is comfortable and free of distractions.
- Be proactive in helping your student with homework. Check out the team websites or the parent portal on the internet. If you would like information on where to find these two powerful tools, give us a call at the Middle School, 773-7330. All students have been trained on how to use the Student Portal to track their grades and attendance and know how to find their teachers’ lesson plans on the team websites.
- Be a good communicator with your students’ teachers. Parents, teachers, and students need to work as partners.
- Show your child that your love is unconditional regardless of her/his success in school.

We look forward to assisting students as they strive to achieve their potential. Let’s make this the best school year ever.

---

**Library**

**What’s up at the GMMS Library?**

According to our circulation statistics, the GMMS students are already working hard to meet their 25 book reading goal for the school year. We have already circulated about 3000 items in 5 weeks, which is amazing!

In addition, the GMMS Library is now offering a Breakfast Book Club, which meets 3 times per quarter, at 7:30 AM on Fridays, and reads a book that fits into the quarter’s featured genre. The first quarter’s genre is fantasy, and we are reading a graphic novel called *Dream Jumper*, by Greg Grunberg and Lucas Turnbloom. We will read realistic fiction in 2nd quarter, nonfiction in 3rd, and historical fiction in 4th quarter. Any GMMS student is welcome to join at any time.

Also, the GMMS Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is in its third year, and is open to any GMMS student at any time, although it is helpful if students can attend most of the meetings. We meet monthly at 3:05 PM to collaborate and plan outreach events that celebrate libraries, literacy and learning. Currently, this group is busy preparing for the 2nd annual Fall Family Festival, which will be held on Tuesday, October 25, from 7-9 PM, in the GMMS cafeteria and library. All GMMS students and their families are invited to attend. There will be book bingo, cookie decorating, a bean bag toss, a bottle toss, a comic strip design contest, and door prizes will be drawn throughout the event. We are accepting cash donations and prizes to help fund and supply the event, so if you can help in any way, please contact Renae Lehman at 773-7330, or at renae.lehman@k12.sd.us. We look forward to seeing many families at this FREE EVENT!

---

**Nurse**

**Backpack Safety**

Health experts say backpacks should be no more than 10 to 15 percent of your child’s body weight. That means for a child weighing around 100 pounds, the backpack should be about 10 pounds. On average backpacks weigh in the range of 16-20 pounds.

Medical experts say there are about 14,000 backpack-related injuries in school children a year. That’s almost 80 for every single school day.

Experts say how the child wears the backpack is also an important factor. In addition to the backpack’s weight, the top of the backpack shouldn’t be lower than their shoulders and the bottom shouldn’t hang lower than two inches below their waist.

---

**NA Ed. Program**

Mabel Granados, new staff member with GMMS and the Native American Education Program. Ms. Granados works with our Native American students throughout the school day and is available for parent questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to email her at Mabel.Granados@k12.sd.us or call the school at 773.7330.