



The Journey

A Newsletter of the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School District

Mission Statement: The Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School District is committed to an educational environment that assures equitable opportunity for individuals to become College and Career Ready and ultimately, responsible, productive members of society. We will encourage all individuals to do their personal best, that they may gain a lifelong enthusiasm for work and learning.

November/December 2017
VOLUME 28, NUMBER 2

It's the Quality of the Journey that Counts!

SENIOR OF THE MONTH



November

Michael O'Connor is November's Senior of the Month! Michael is a wonderful young man who values academics, music, and sports here at GMU! He has been a part of many plays and musicals throughout his time at GMU and is an avid musician in Symphonic, Marching, and Jazz Band, as first chair trumpet player. He has also been a soccer and Track Captain and a member of ski club. Michael, in his *not-so-spare time*, is an active member and officer for his Class of 2018, as well as Mock Trial, NHS, SADD, and Student Council. Currently Michael is enrolled in TC3 Precalculus, Principles of Biology, and College Success Seminar, as well as College English, Computer Applications, and Economics. Most of us know Michael as a *math man* and perhaps future engineer, but he has a uniquely dry and charming sense of humor, too! Michael is sure to embody a quote from Albert Einstein, "Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value." Best of luck in the future, Michael O'Connor!



December

Congratulations to **Meredith Hammond**, December's Senior of the Month! Meredith is a hard-working, pleasant young woman with a heart of gold. She is a member of 4-H, works on two farms, and was accepted into the Cornell Junior Dairy Leaders Program of NYS, having traveled to Wisconsin in October. Meredith has attended HOBY and is a member of basketball and ski club, and has also played soccer and softball while at GMU. She has been a Student Council officer and is the treasurer for her Class of 2018, NHS, and SADD. She has been a huge part of Symphonic, Marching, and Jazz Band, playing several instruments including trombone, oboe, and flute. She has also been a part of musicals and drama productions throughout her years at GMU. She is presently enrolled in TC3 Precalculus and College Success Seminar, Physics, Economics, and Chemistry, and College English. Meredith is an outgoing, organized, and helpful young lady with a can-do attitude and a terrific laugh! She has applied for early decision to Cornell and we will surely miss her here at GMU, but wish her the best in her future! As Thomas Jefferson predicted, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." Congrats Meredith and thanks for your care and participation!

Attention Senior Citizens

The holiday season is upon us and the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School will be hosting its annual Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner. The dinner will be held on Friday, December 22, at Noon in the Cafeteria. Come celebrate the holiday season with the faculty and staff, as well as with your friends, family and fellow community members.

The District administrators, Board of Education and cafeteria staff are excited to prepare and serve this festive fare. Mark your calendars and bring your appetite!

Please RSVP to the District Office by Friday, December 15, at 783-2207, ext. 140 if you plan on attending. We looking forward to seeing you there.

Calendar Date Changes!

- *The Little Mermaid*, the musical, has been rescheduled for December 7 and 9, at 7:00 p.m. and December 10, at 2:00 p.m.
- 5-12 Choral Concert, December 14, 6:30 p.m.
- 5-12 Instrumental Concert, December 19, 6:30 p.m.
- December 22: Half Day for Students, 11:00 a.m. dismissal; No Lunch Served

Superintendent's Message



Each and every year we have a great turn-out for our PK-12 Open House, and this year was no exception. We thank parents and community members for supporting our students by attending various school events, and for coming out on October 5, to vote in support of the use of district reserves to renovate space for the establishment of a School

Based Health Center at GMU. We are hoping to have the work done in this area by the end of summer and to have it open for all to see at next year's Open House! Your attendance at athletic events, concerts, plays, and other programs adds so much to the quality of our student's journey in life. Thank you!

Due to some back-ordered items for our auditorium capital project work, we have postponed the fall 2017 musical production of *The Little Mermaid*. The new dates are December 7, 9, and 10. The students put in a tremendous amount of time between soccer practice and games to rehearse and make this a great production under the direction of Mrs. Winnie Sortman! Many staff, students, and parents have been working tirelessly in preparation for the musical. Please come out to see the show and experience the talents of our students along with updates to our sound, lighting, and various other features. It promises to be a great show!

This time of year there is always a possibility of weather delays or school closings. In cases of a delayed opening or a closing, the district is using the School Messenger System to automatically call students' homes at the number designated on their student information sheets. We have sent many other informational messages home thus far this year, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having any issues with receiving these messages. We will attempt to get closing and/or delay information on the radio or television stations as quickly as possible after the decision has been made.

We are in the season of thanksgiving and family. Although exciting for many, it can be a stressful time for families and students. We keep careful watch of all students and try to meet their needs as much as possible, but if you have concerns about your child, or if your family is struggling in some way, please do not hesitate to contact the school. If we cannot be of direct help to you, we can certainly provide you with resources that may be helpful.

This season is also full of student activities at the school including holiday concerts and winter athletics. Boys and Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball will have a full slate of games throughout the first three weeks of December. If you decide to attend our sporting events, please remember that each of us is representing the GMU school community as a whole. We need to model good sportsmanship for our

student athletes and for all spectators. When spectators become negative in their comments and actions, this becomes stressful for the student athletes and others around them. It is imperative that comments and actions remain positive at all events and that respect is shown for all, even if we are in disagreement. Thank you for representing GMU well and for your support to our student athletes. I would like to thank the following individuals for their dedication in coaching for our Fall and Winter sports this year: Girls Varsity Soccer, Mr. Tim Deters, Girls Modified Soccer, Ms. Alicia Sebeck, Cross-Country, Mr. Mark Seigers, Boys Varsity Soccer, Mr. Mark Luetzger, and Modified Boys Soccer, Mr. Matthew Johnson. For our winter sports, Girls Varsity Basketball, Ms. Nikki Conway, Girls JV Basketball, Ms. Tonya Barnes, Girls Modified Basketball, Ms. Nikki Conway, Boys Varsity Basketball, Mr. Greg Bonczkowski, Boys JV Basketball, Mr. Travis Woods, and Modified Boys Basketball, Mr. Matthew Johnson. It takes an incredible amount of dedication and love of teenagers and the sport to coach students, and I am so grateful for such a committed group of individuals. Thank you!

Our music department will showcase the talents of our choral students on December 14 and our musicians on December 19. Student talent in grades 5-12 will be featured at these concerts, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. I am always impressed by the musical talents of our students!

On behalf of the Board of Education and the School District Staff, I would like to extend to all community members a safe, peaceful, and joyful holiday season!

— Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent

Welcome!



Hello my name is Mariah Gerty. I am a Special Education Teacher in the Elementary School. I have degrees in Early Childhood, Childhood Education, and Special Education, grades 1-6 and 5-9. I love being in a classroom teaching children and seeing them grow. When I am not teaching I like to hang out with my boyfriend and his kids, visit with friends, and just relax at home. I am really excited to be a part of the GMU team. I have a feeling this is going to be an awesome school year.

WELCOME!

Master Teacher



Did you know that our very own Mr. Seigers is a Master Teacher?! He is part of the New York State Master Teacher Program that Governor Cuomo launched, recognizing the need to strengthen our nation's K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs. The NYSMTP celebrates the work of the highest-performing STEM teachers in New York by establishing an expert community dedicated to developing expertise. Participants chosen for this program are motivated teachers that are paired with like-minded professionals and high-quality growth experiences to keep our best teachers in the classroom. Master Teachers are chosen for this program based on being strong classroom teachers with clear goals. Mr. Seigers has participated in an electron microscopy workshop recently, as well as an emerging technologies workshop where he has explored the application of technologies such as drones, spheros, raspberry pi, arduinos, and 3D printers in the classroom. He regularly attends STEM mini courses offered at various college campuses throughout New York State on topics ranging from cancer research to climate change, to evolution, and more. Currently Mr. Seigers is working on a PLT (Professional Learning Team) consisting of two other Master Teachers from nearby schools. They are focusing on the development of a book that will be provided to students, parents, and new teachers. The book will contain techniques and strategies that can be used to assist struggling learners who are taking Living Environment (Biology). Mr. Seigers and his team plan to have this book complete by the end of the year. The GMU students and community are so fortunate to have Mr. Seigers as a member of our school community!

You can find more information out about this program at <https://www.suny.edu/masterteacher/>.



News from the Main Office

Thank you to the parents, family members and community members who were able to attend our Open House. It was great to see teachers and parents making connections that will benefit students.

The holiday season is approaching us and winter is in full force! Please be sure your children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Your child needs to wear mittens, boots, a hat, a winter coat and snow pants, so they can go out for recess. It is important for the students to get fresh air, so unless your child has a doctor's note stating they must stay in due to illness, we will not be able to keep students in at recess time. We try to go outside every day that is above 20°F, even if it is for 15 minutes. If students do bring in notes stating they cannot participate in recess due to an injury, they will also be removed from PE during that time. Label all items with your child's name. If your child wears boots to school, remind them to also bring shoes or sneakers to put on during the school day. It is amazing how many jackets, boots, shirts glasses, etc. get lost and go unclaimed, so have your child check in the Health Office for lost items.

It is important that students listen to the radio on questionable days so they can be alerted to a delay or possible school closing. Radio stations that broadcast our school information are: WCDO, WDOS, WKXZ, WZOZ, WSKG or watch WBNG-TV Channel 12. You can also access this information on the district website www.gmucsd.org. You will also receive a School Messenger call at the phone number, which you provided to the District this year. Please make sure your phone number is up to date with the school. You can call the Main Office.

—Mrs. Wilcox, PK-12 Acting Principal

PK-3 Soaring Eagle Awards Ceremony

September Theme: Caring—Displaying kindness and concern for others, yourself and your school community. Giving of yourself without expecting an anything in return.



Kindergarten: Henry Underwood, Paris Behnke;
1st Grade: Kinlee Dunham, Mason Hill;
2nd Grade: Zackery Page, Sophia Parslow;
3rd Grade: Leelah Charles, Samantha Chase

GREAT JOB!

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

On December 7, 9, and 10 the GMU Drama Club will be presenting Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Yes, these dates are correct, so please update your school calendars. Due to some delays in the renovations of the auditorium, the administration, coaches, cast, crew, and musical directors decided to move the dates. It is with great anticipation that we present to you this timeless Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale, as a Disney extravaganza, in the newly-appointed GMU Auditorium.

Triton, king of the seas (**Mickenson Clune**) youngest daughter, Ariel (**Charlene Heisler**), disobeying her father's wishes, continues to visit the surface, a world of *barbaric humans* and becomes smitten with a seafaring prince, Eric (**Michael O'Connor**). All does not go well as Eric's mentor, Grimsby (**Gavin Bonczkowski**) is determined that Eric is to stop "this seafaring nonsense," marry, and take up the throne honoring his father's wishes. Eric becomes enamored with Ariel's beautiful singing voice and sets out to find her.

Meanwhile, Ariel, whiling away the hours on the surface with Flounder, a fish, (**Michael Pope**), and Scuttle, a sea gull, (**Tim Picozzi**) misses a concert prepared to honor King Triton by the court musician, Sebastian, a crab (**Lucas Piedmonte**). Ariels' six sisters, (**Karli Hinman, Alyssa Hotaling, Meredith Hammond, Emily Hammond, Hunter Christian** and **Scarlett Newman**) are not amused when Ariel does not show up to sing her part. A family feud ensues.

Continuing with the family tensions, King Triton's sister, Ursula, the tentacled sea witch (**Nina D'Amato**) schemes with her *pets*, eels Flotsam and Jetsam (**Shalleigh Taranto, Anika Christensen**), for Triton's demise through tricking Ariel into giving up her voice to woo Prince Eric.

Rounding out the cast are: **Maya Farwell, Kailah Davis, Teo Sauvagcon**, (our foreign exchange student from France),

Stage Manager: **Makayla Lewis**; assistant: **Sydney Swift**; wardrobe: **Elizabeth French**; crew: **Natalie Pistor, Chelsea Pope**, and more!

As with all good fairy tales, good prevails over evil and they all live happily ever after. *The Little Mermaid* the musical is resplendent with the beloved music from the children's' movie as well as some added new favorites. Please mark your calendars and join us on Dec. 7, 9, and/or 10 in the newly appointed auditorium for the GMU Drama Club's fabulous production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*.

Winter Choral News

This year the Choral Winter Concert will be on Thursday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School auditorium. The groups performing at this concert are the Ladies Ensemble, Elementary, Middle, and High School Choirs.

The Elementary Chorus consists of students from grades 5-6. The students have been working very hard on their choral music, and it should be a fantastic performance. Among the pieces the elementary chorus will be performing is a composition called, *Jingle Bells Rock!* arranged by Sally Albrecht. This piece has definitely been one of their favorites to sing and perform!

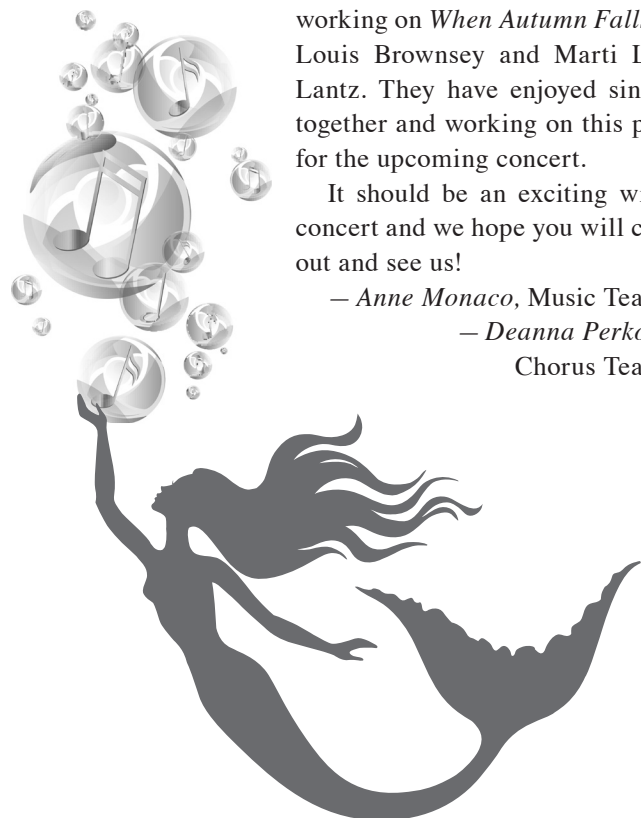
The Middle School Chorus consists of students in grades 7-8. These students have been doing an amazing job working on such pieces as *Windy Nights*, by Cynthia Gray. This piece reflects the words from one of Robert Louis Stevenson's poetry collection called, *A Child's Garden of Verses*. We cannot wait until you get to see our fantastic performance!

The High School Chorus consists of students in grades 8-12. The students have enjoyed working on *How Like a Winter*, words by William Shakespeare and music by Ruth Morris Gray. This piece is a wonderful composition that really shows their musicality. They are looking forward in performing it at the concert!

And finally, the Ladies Ensemble consists of students in grades 9-12. These students have been doing a great job working on *When Autumn Falls*, by Louis Brownsey and Marti Lunn Lantz. They have enjoyed singing together and working on this piece for the upcoming concert.

It should be an exciting winter concert and we hope you will come out and see us!

— Anne Monaco, Music Teacher
— Deanna Perkosky,
Chorus Teacher



Memo from the Health Office

Summer is well behind us and we are already planning for winter events, activities, and everyday living. As per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, here are some helpful tips:

- Get vaccinated against the flu each year. October through December is the best time. However, getting vaccinated later in the flu season still provides protection.
- Check or replace carbon monoxide batteries twice a year when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. Also, for smoke alarms that use regular alkaline batteries, replace the batteries at least annually.
- Follow food preparation and cooking guidelines to help you prepare safe holiday meals that everyone will enjoy.
- National Family History Day is observed on Thanksgiving Day. Talk with your family about health conditions that run in your family.
- Make sure your car and home are prepared for severe weather or other possible emergencies.
- Don't drink and drive.
- Handwashing is a simple thing, and it's the best way to help prevent infection and illness.
- Get 30 minutes of moderate physical activity most days of the week. Raking leaves, planting a fall garden, taking nature walks, and other outdoor activities are a good way to stay active. Dress appropriately.
- Drive safely. Use seat belts, and properly restrain all children ages 12 or younger in the back seat.

Your children's health is of the utmost importance both at home, as well as here at school. As written in the Bassett Healthcare newsletter, Chris Kjolhede, MD, Pediatrician, most healthcare professionals agree that adults who are obese are at increased risk for heart disease. But now researchers are finding that this same risk holds true for children who are obese. And because obesity among children has been rising steadily in recent years, there is great cause for concern.

Here are some tips for parents to keep kids on a healthy track: Parents and other caregivers can help their children maintain a healthy weight and perhaps avoid future heart disease. Here's how:

- LIMIT TV, video games and computer time to less than two hours per day.
- ENCOURAGE daily physical activity.
- DON'T REWARD children with food.
- EAT dinner together.
- TEACH children healthy eating habits by ensuring that the adults who care for them have healthy diets.

"Children do learn from their parents, including healthy or unhealthy eating habits." Dr. Kjolhede says, "Studies show that kids need to be offered a food five times on average before they readily eat it. So keep offering the fruits and veggies."

I hope you find all of this information interesting and helpful.

— Carol Angelone, RN, School Nurse

Health Requirements

The State of New York mandates that health related screenings be completed in our schools each year. The requirements are as follows:

For new entrants:

- **Vision:** Distance Acuity, Near Vision, Color Perception, Hearing Health Appraisal (Physical)
- **Vision Screening:** Distance Acuity in kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 10
- **Hearing Screening:** Completed in Kindergarten and Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 10
- **Scoliosis:** Completed in grades 5-9
- **Health Appraisals:** Physicals are also required for Pre-K, new kindergartners and grades 2, 4, 7, 10

If there are any unusual findings, or cause for concern I will contact you. In the event that additional evaluation is needed, a referral form will be sent home for you to take to your private healthcare provider.

Children need to "learn to be healthy" and need to be "healthy to learn!"

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 783-2207, ext. 108.

We will also begin sport physicals in the middle of January 2018. A physical must be on file in the Health Office before a student can participate in sports. They are good for one year prior to the start of the practice for that particular sport. Students may check with me to find out the date of their last physical. Information will be sent home to parents of 6th-12th graders in December along with a Health History Form to be completed by the parent.

— Carol Angelone, RN, School Nurse

GMU Marching Band

Quarter Auction Fundraiser Date Change

The quarter auction originally scheduled for December 9 has been rescheduled for November 11, in the middle/high school cafeteria. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. with the auction beginning at 6:30 p.m. Donations are welcome and can be dropped off to Mr. Oram by November 9. Please contact Sue Sebeck (783-2207, ext. 122) or Mr. Oram (783-2207, ext. 113) with any questions. We look forward to seeing you all on November 11!



Counselor's Corner

Hello GMU students and families! Now that we are well into the first few months of school I wanted to let you know what we have going on! As always, in the Fall I begin my Banana Splits groups. This group is for kids in grades 2-6 and is for students whose families might be changing. These changes might be due to a divorce, separation or any other reason. These groups are for children who want to participate and who might benefit from extra support. It is a fun way to know that other kids are feeling the same way!

Lunch bunch has been up and running for the past month. This group is provided to all students in grades K-1. Our main focus is to build their personal and social development. In doing so, students are learning about manners, making and keeping friends, solving social problems and personal space.

Finally, our Character Education traits for the months of November and December are Resourceful and Respect. A student that is resourceful shows that they are using their time wisely and appropriately while also making good choices by thinking things through before-hand. Respect means using good manners and being considerate of the feelings of others and also having a positive attitude when it comes to school. I encourage you to discuss these character traits with your child.

Again, as always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or email me anything.

— Tina Hall, Elementary School Counselor

Flu Prevention

I have received this information from the New York State Education Department. The intent is to reduce the spread and severity of illness in the education community:

General Recommendations for the Prevention of getting or spreading the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water or use a hand sanitizer.
- Avoid people who are ill and stay home if you are sick.
- Use tissues when you cough, sneeze, or cough and sneeze into your elbow/upper sleeve.
- Dispose of the tissues in a no-touch trash receptacle.
- Keep hands away from your face. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Clean shared space more often such as phone receivers, keyboards, steering wheels and office equipment.

The following is a request from the Attendance Office:

When you call the school to report an absence or send in an absence note, please be specific regarding the reason, this helps us track illnesses here at GMU.

— Carol Angelone, RN, School Nurse

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

BOE Dinner

The GMU Board of Education will be hosting a dinner prior to *The Little Mermaid* musical held on Saturday, December 9. The dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The menu for the evening is as follows: Almond Encrusted Fish or Chicken, Baked Potato, and Vegetable. For dessert they will be serving Homemade Mermaid Ice Cream topped with a Sand Dollar Cookie.

Dinner and Show Tickets are \$20. There will be reserved seating for the show to anyone who attends the dinner.

Proceeds will benefit the GMU Board of Education Scholarship Fund.

Please call Amber Birdsall in the District Office by December 1, at 783-2207, ext. 140 to reserve tickets. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.



We will be serving a New York themed meal once a month . . .

The means that items will be locally sourced or produced in the GREAT STATE OF NEW YORK!

GMU NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Disney/Pixar
Cars 3

Friday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.
GMU Auditorium



DESPICABLE ME 3

Saturday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.
GMU Auditorium

Free Admission • Snacks available
Sponsored by the Raiders Safety Patrol
Washington DC / Philadelphia Trip — May 2018

Thank You from the Class of 2017!

The Elementary Student Council would like to thank the Class of 2017 for their generous donation. With this donation, we will be able to bring our vision of an orchard at GMU to fruition! We cannot wait to plant our first apple trees and blueberry bushes this fall. Thank you!

—The Elementary Student Council

THANK YOU!

Join Our Garden Team!

We are always looking for ways to involve more community members in the garden. If you are interested we want to know! Please complete and return this form to Mrs. Cummings so that we can add you to our garden group. Maybe you have seeds, tools, or supplies to donate. Maybe you want to join an existing team or create a new one. Our GMU garden is an excellent opportunity for volunteering, learning and sharing knowledge. See you in the garden!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

How I Can Help?: _____



Board of Education Highlights

September 20 Meeting

Positive Highlights:

- We had a great start to the new school year. We incorporated our FISH Philosophy into Opening Day with teacher/staff as well as with our students.
- We have had some changes with our master schedule, which we believe will now benefit students who want to participate in band.
- Our Alumni Board in the front lobby was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who sent in their information.
- The district is planning a college or career visit for every student in each grade level this year. Currently we have two presenters, Luke Hall and Brian Zaczek, lined up to speak to students at GMU.
- Board members Jeremy Pain and Mark Muller attended a School Boards Institute that was very beneficial and informational.

Information for Members:

- Meet and Greet with New Teachers.
- The District will be having a Board Retreat for members on September 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the board room.

Public Comment:

- Early Dismissal on Fridays.

Reports:

- C&S Companies, Natalie Niles updated the Board and Administration that the current capital project should be complete within the next two and a half weeks.
- Linda Gover, Gilbertsville Summer Recreation Program Director, provided the board with detailed information and financial reports on how the program is run in town.

Board Discussion:

- Superintendent, Annette Hammond, provided the board with our current Non-Resident Student Policy as well as a draft policy of what it would look like if the District decided not to accept any non-resident students in the future. The board requested more information for the next meeting to be discussed.
- Superintendent, Annette Hammond informed the board that the Federal Government is now requiring school districts to have a Meal Charge Policy in place. A draft policy was provided to members.

Action Items:

- Approved minutes from the 16 August 2017 regular meeting and the 24 August 2017 special meeting.
- Adopted the proposed 20 September 2017 Regular Consent Agenda.
- Approved CSE/CPSE Consent Agenda.
- Approved the Financial Consent Agenda.
- Accepted the revised monthly treasurer's report for July 2017.

- Accepted financial reports for August 2017.
 - Rescind external audit approval.
 - Approved the external audit year ending 30 June 2017.
 - Approved the Personnel Consent Agenda.
 - Approved election officials for the use of our capital reserve funds vote held on 05 October 2017.
 - Appointed a cleaner and an extra choral advisor.
 - Appointed mentors for the 2017-18 school year.
 - Appointed a substitute bus driver, substitute teachers and substitute aides for the 2017-18 school year.
 - Accepted a resignation.
 - Rescinded the appointment of a long-term substitute and appointed a Special Education Teacher.
 - Appointed a .5 Secondary English Teacher.
 - Rescinded the appointment of a Mock Trial Advisor.
 - Approved a non-certified substitute for the 2017-18 school year.
 - Approved the New Items Consent Agenda.
 - Approved a standard form of agreement between owner and contractor.
 - Approved the 2017-18 LINKS Plan.
 - Approved a contract for consulting services and a non-resident student.
 - Approved a transportation contract with Bainbridge-Guilford CSD.
 - Approved a change order and the surplus of items.
- The board convened in executive session to discuss Superintendent's Contract.
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

October 18 Meeting

Positive Highlights:

- September 30 we had a homecoming dance and games. Thank you to the Booster Club for all of their amazing preparations, Upstate Construction for the lights and fireworks, and to John Morris for allowing the fireworks to be let off on his property. It was a great turnout by community members and families.
- Our new literacy program that the district is implementing is going well.
- Open House was well attended.
- GMU Science Teacher, Mark Seigers was approved to receive a drone through the Masters Teacher program that he is a part of.
- Fire Prevention Week went well.
- Thank you to the Morris Rotary Club for hosting a remarkable New Teacher's Dinner.
- The refinancing of serial bonds for the district has closed. This was a cost savings of \$109,000 to the school district.

- District staff participated in a dress down day on Friday. Anyone who dressed down had to donate \$5.00 that would be put toward a Backpack Program. \$280 was raised. This program will provide weekend meals to families in need in our school district. A big thank you to Raquel Norton for getting this program up and running.
- Thank you to all of the community members who came out and voted on October 5th.
- October 23rd is School Board Appreciation Week. Thank you to our GMU School Board for their dedication and commitment to our staff and students.

Information for Members:

- The board received information on the following: Board Emails, Board Policies, Legislative Breakfast-Save the Date, School Board Operating Procedures Manual.

Reports:

- C&S Companies, Natalie Niles updated the Board and Administration that the current capital project is over 95% complete. Exterior door hardware will be completed over Christmas Recess in December.
- GMU student, Sydney Swift, presented on a Gay Straight Alliance Club proposal for students in grades 9-12. The board was in consent with approving this club proposal.

Executive Session:

- The board convened in executive session to discuss Technology Personnel.

Board Discussion:

- Superintendent, Annette Hammond, provided the board with our current Non-Resident Student Policy, draft policy of what it would look like if the District decided not to accept any non-resident students in the future, and financial information on non-resident tuition rates.
- Superintendent, Annette Hammond, provided district goals/focuses for the 2017-18 school year.
- The District Clerk discussed options for a board activity calendar. The board would like a calendar put into place to keep track of trainings, board meeting dates, workshops, and budget workshops. A calendar will be implemented through Outlook for this.
- The board discussed the pros and cons of hosting the summer recreation program at the district. The board has decided not to hold it at the school due to the summers being so busy with trying to get the building, classrooms, and grounds cleaned and maintained for the upcoming school year.
- The board reviewed information that was provided by Transportation Supervisor, Joseph Zaczek, containing data that specified the number of buses we have along with how many students ride the buses in the morning as well as students who ride the buses home in the afternoon.

Action Items:

- Approved minutes from the 20 September 2017 regular meeting.
- Adopted the proposed 18 October 2017 amended Regular Consent Agenda.
- Approved the CSE/CPSE Consent Agenda.
- Approved the Financial Consent Agenda.
- Accepted financial reports for September 2017.
- Approved the Standard Workday Form for Employees and the Standard Workday Reporting Form for Elected and Appointed Officials.
- Approved the Personnel Consent Agenda.
- Accepted a resignation.
- Appointed a girls modified basketball coach, two aides, a substitute teacher, a drama club advisor and a mock trial advisor.
- Approved the New Items Consent Agenda.
- Approved two change orders and a Meal Charge Policy.
- Approved the results of the School Based Health Center Capital Reserve Vote.
- Approved GMU’s Professional Development Plan and Safety Plan Updates for the 2017-18 school year.
- A proposed update to our Non-Resident Policy was denied.

Executive Session:

- The board convened in executive session to discuss Superintendent’s Contract.
 - The board was in consent with an amendment to the Superintendent’s Contract.
- The board adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



U.S. Fire Administration Winter Fires

Safety Tips for the Home

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of woodburning stoves and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and manmade logs.

All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

Kerosene Heaters

- ✗ Be sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.
- ✗ Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- ✗ Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene, or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- ✗ Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.
- ✗ Use ONLY the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. NEVER introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.
- ✗ Never fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling.
- ✗ Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors). Keep young children away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

Furnace Heating

- ✗ It is important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- ✗ Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- ✗ Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- ✗ Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported and free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- ✗ Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- ✗ Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

Finally...

- ✗ Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- ✗ Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- ✗ Contact your local fire department for advice if you have a question on home fire safety.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

To use them safely:

- ✗ Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- ✗ Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- ✗ Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- ✗ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- ✗ The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- ✗ Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- ✗ Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- ✗ Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- ✗ Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.

Other Fire Safety Tips

- ✗ Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- ✗ Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- ✗ If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry an amp load. TIP: Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.
- ✗ Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- ✗ Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a laboratory tested device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
- ✗ If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.
- ✗ If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.



For more information or copies of this publication, please contact:
Department of Homeland Security • U.S. Fire Administration
16825 South Seton Avenue • Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
800-561-3356 • www.usfa.dhs.gov
FA-249F/March 2008



VETERANS' BREAKFAST

**Wednesday, November 8th
at 8:30 a.m.**

Auditorium/High School Cafeteria

Student speakers: Savana Conrade & Lucas Piedmonte

Keynote speaker: Christopher McGinnis, U.S. Army

Menu: Breakfast casserole, sausage, juice, coffee



You have served this country, honorably . . .
. . . Now let us serve you!

RSVP: Cierra Stafford by 11/3/17
783-2207 or
cstafford@gmucsd.org

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Important Meetings and Events

November

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>3 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
Dismissal at 2:15 p.m.</p> <p>4 All-County Auditions, Grades 7-12</p> <p>8 Veteran's Breakfast</p> <p>9 No School—Parent/Teacher Conferences</p> <p>10 End of 1st Quarter
No School—Veterans Day Observed,
Offices Closed
Movie Night, <i>Cars 3</i>, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>11 Quarter Auction
Veterans Day</p> <p>15 Board of Education Meeting, D131, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>17 Area All-State, SUNY Oneonta
Dismissal at 2:15 p.m.</p> <p>18 Area All-State, SUNY Oneonta</p> <p>22 No School—Thanksgiving Recess</p> <p>23 No School—Thanksgiving Day, Offices Closed</p> <p>24 No School—Thanksgiving Recess, Offices Closed</p> <p>29 Quarterly Award Ceremonies:
Grades 9-12, 8:15 a.m.
Grades 7-8, 9:15 a.m.
Grades 4-6, 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>30 NYSSMA Conference
All-State Festival</p> | <p>2 NYSSMA Conference
All-State Festival</p> <p>3 NYSSMA Conference
All-State Festival</p> <p>7 Senior Citizen Dessert Preview, 6:30 p.m.
Please note DATE CHANGE</p> <p>8 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
Dismissal at 2:15 p.m.</p> <p>9 <i>The Little Mermaid</i> Musical Production, 7:00 p.m.
Please note DATE CHANGE</p> <p>10 <i>The Little Mermaid</i> Musical Production, 2:00 p.m.
Please note DATE CHANGE</p> <p>13 Board of Education Meeting, D131, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>14 5-12 Choral Concert, 6:30 p.m.
(snow date: 12/21)
Please note DATE CHANGE</p> <p>15 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
Dismissal at 2:15 p.m.</p> <p>16 Movie Night, <i>Despicable Me 3</i>, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>19 5-12 Instrumental Concert, 6:30 p.m.
(snow date: 12/21)
Please note DATE CHANGE</p> <p>22 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
PK-3 Soaring Eagle Awards for December, 8:25 a.m.
½ Day for Students, Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.;
No Lunch Served</p> |
|--|--|

December

- 1 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
PK-3 Soaring Eagle Awards for November, 8:25 a.m.
NYSSMA Conference
All-State Festival
Dismissal at 2:15 p.m.

- 25-29 No School—Christmas Recess**
25-27 No School—Offices Closed

