

LEARN ALL ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY 7
BUS VOTE INSIDE!



THE JOURNEY

Newsletter of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District

Volume 33, Number 1

WINTER 2023

QUALITY YOU CAN COUNT ON!



OUR GMU FAMILY IS HAVING A GREAT YEAR! SEE MORE INSIDE!





**Gilbertsville-Mount Upton
Central School District**

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Administration

Superintendent, Annette Hammond
ahammond@gmucsd.org
Principal, Heather Wilcox
hwilcox@gmucsd.org
Assistant Principal, Kevin Walsh
kwalsh@gmucsd.org
District Treasurer, Dorothy Iannello
diannello@gmucsd.org
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jhayen@gmucsd.org

Board of Education

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Our Mission

We support everyone's journey to become the best version of themselves by fostering an equitable, inclusive and student-focused environment, providing opportunities for academic and community engagement, and empowering individuals to embrace their potential.

Our Vision

To have a nurturing school community that provides opportunities for lifelong personal growth.

Our Values

- A Growth Mindset
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Essential Skills for Career Readiness
- Social/Emotional/Behavioral Wellness
- Meaningful and Healthy Relationships
- A Safe School Environment

Our Motto

"It's the Quality of the journey that counts!"

Superintendent's Message



GMU is off to a great start, and we have you to thank!

Happy New Year!

It doesn't seem possible, but we're already halfway through the 2022-2023 school year in the blink of an eye. The rest of the year will go by in a flash, too, but keep your eyes peeled because there's plenty more to come!

We were so happy to see the bright, smiling faces of our students and staff return to campus for in-person instruction on the first day of school back in September, and we kept the fun and excitement of the new year going in October with our annual Halloween-themed Trunk-or-Treat/Junior Carnival combo.

November featured wonderful GMU Theatre Club presentations of "The Wizard of Oz," as well as a Veterans Day Breakfast in honor of local U.S. military veterans and an all-school College and Career Fair. Holiday spirit highlighted December with special annual events such as our winter concerts, the Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon, and the ever-popular Seniors vs. Staff volleyball matches.

You'll find recaps on these events and much, much more in this winter newsletter, including important information about Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration, 2022-2023 yearbooks, Otsego County's annual Plastic Film Recycling Challenge, our Capital Project Facilities Planning Committee, and our February 7 Bus Vote.

Thanks to everyone in our GMU Family—students, families, staff, community members and our Board of Education—for supporting the multiple programs and events that make our school a great place to learn and grow. We really couldn't make the Quality of the journey count here without you.

And if you happen to blink again, you can always see what's happening at GMU by visiting our website at <https://www.gmucsd.org/>, our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GMUCentral>, and our Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/GMUCentral>. You also can call us at 607-783-2207 during regular school hours any time you need help.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe new year and hope to see you all again soon!

—Annette Hammond, Superintendent
Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD
ahammond@gmucsd.org

Order your yearbook today!

The deadline to order GMU's 2022-2023 edition of the Vallerian yearbook is April 30.

Yearbooks cost \$30 for soft cover and \$36.50 for hard cover. To place an order, visit <https://www.treering.com/purchase?PassCode=1016649795722355> online and create a TreeRing account.

Those who purchase a yearbook online will be allowed to customize two pages in their yearbook at no additional cost. These two pages can include pictures and personal messages that will be part of your yearbook only. Please note that customized pages must be completed by April 20.

If you need help ordering a yearbook or have any questions, please email Tom Bishop at tbishop@gmucsd.org or Zea Beckwith at zbeckwith@gmucsd.org.

Child Find Notice

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District recognizes its responsibility to provide a free and appropriate public education to eligible students with disabilities within its geographical boundaries. The District has a "child find" process that is designed to locate, identify and evaluate children with disabilities residing within its geographical boundaries, preschool through grade 12 or through age 21 if they have not received a high school diploma.

If you know a child who lives within the boundaries of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District and attends school in the District who may be in need of special education and/or related services, please contact the District's Director of Special Education for further information regarding the referral and evaluation process. If the student is a school-age student who attends a non-public private school that is not located within the geographical boundaries of the School District, the student may need to be referred to the school district in which the non-public school is located in order to receive services during the regular school year. Please contact that school district for information regarding time deadlines for requests for services.

The District's Child Find process extends to students with physical or mental impairments that substantially limit a major life activity. Such students may be eligible for services or accommodations pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 504 is a Federal civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities and programs receiving Federal financial assistance. Please contact your child's building principal for more information regarding Section 504 eligibility and services.

Bus vote set for February 7



Please join us February 7 to vote on two propositions related to the purchase of new school buses, which will not increase the school tax levy. Voting will take place from noon-8 p.m. February 7 at the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District.

Please note that residents must present identification to vote on the following propositions:

Proposition 1: Bus Purchase

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit: RESOLVED, shall the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District, Otsego County, New York, be authorized to purchase two 66- passenger school buses and to expend therefore a maximum estimated cost not to exceed three hundred twenty five thousand, two hundred dollars (\$325,200), including incidental expenses in connection therewith, and that \$325,200 Capital Reserve Fund monies shall be used to pay the cost thereof?

Proposition 2: Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit: RESOLVED, shall the Board of Education of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated "Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Fund" in order to pay costs of the purchase of the school transportation vehicles and maintenance equipment, and, in order to accomplish the same, said Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such Reserve Fund not to exceed \$750,000, plus accrued interest and other investment earnings thereon, with a probable term of ten years and, to appropriate annually from available fund balance and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such Reserve Fund?

Remaining Board of Education Meetings

All Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Board of Education meetings start at 6 p.m.

2023

February 13, Special Meeting	May 9, Budget Hearing
March 15, Regular Meeting	May 16, Budget Vote
April 19, Regular Meeting	May 17, Regular Meeting
April 24, BOCES Vote	June 14, Regular Meeting

Registration open for PK-K students!

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District is accepting Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten student registrations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration

District residents with children who will be age 4 before December 1, 2023, can register/apply for our full-day Pre-Kindergarten program. Those who are interested should call Registrar Kristy Carey at 607-783-2207, ext. 103. Mrs. Carey will provide information for obtaining an application. All Pre-Kindergarten applications must be returned to the Main Office by noon March 31, 2023.

Kindergarten Registration

District residents with children who will be age 5 before December 1, 2023, are eligible to register for Kindergarten. Please call Registrar Kristy Carey at 607-783-2207, ext. 103, to arrange an appointment. The following items are required at the time of registration:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Social Security Card
- Three proofs of residency

Note: Students who are already attending our Pre-K program during the current school year do not need to register for Kindergarten.

If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Carey at 607-783-2207, ext. 103.

Committee to assist in Capital Project proposal

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton's Capital Project Facilities Planning Committee held its first meeting December 12 on campus, starting the process of exploring options to keep our facilities in top condition. The 15-member committee will provide insight and feedback to assist in the final Capital Project recommendation to our Board of Education.

Thirteen committee members attended the first meeting, which focused on potential scope items and financial aspects associated with a proposed Capital Project. After the committee selects and prioritizes potential scope items that our community could support, it will present a proposal to our Board of Education for a possible referendum to be voted on by district residents.

We would like to thank the following students, staff members, Board members and community members who have volunteered to be a part of this committee: Brock Hoag, Ray Beach, Larry Smith, Melissa Rowe, Deb Ostrander, Amy Favinger, Alyssa Soroichinsky, Bianca Plows, Jeremy Pain, Sarah Green, Brenda Friedel, Heather Wilcox, Alan Digsby, Dorothy Iannello and Brianne Simonds. Each has been asked to solicit feedback/input and to report back to the committee, which will meet twice this month.

We will share more Capital Project information and updates with the GMU Community through our newsletter, website and social-media pages (Facebook and Twitter). Community members are encouraged to contact any member of our Capital Project Facilities Planning Committee or the school directly with questions or concerns. All input is welcome!

FERPA Notification

This Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is intended to advise you of your rights with respect to the school records relating to your student pursuant to the Federal "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974."

Parents of a student under 18, or a student 18 or older, have a right to inspect and review any and all official records, files, and data directly related to their children or themselves, including all material that is incorporated into each student's cumulative record folder, and intended for school use or to be available to parties outside the school or school system, and specifically including, but not necessarily limited to, identifying data, academic work completed, level of achievement (grades, standardized achievement test scores), attendance data, scores on standardized intelligence, aptitude, and psychological tests, interest inventory results, health data, family background information, teacher or counselor ratings and observations, and verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns.

A parent of a student under age 18 or a student age 18 or older shall make a request for access to that student's school records, in writing, to the Superintendent of Schools, Guidance Counselor or Principal. Upon receipt of such request, arrangements shall be made to provide access to such records within a reasonable period of time, but in any case, not more than forty-five (45) days after the request has been received.

Parents and students are also entitled to an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of such records, to insure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of students, and to provide an opportunity for the correction or deletion of any such inaccurate misleading, or inappropriate data contained therein. Any questions concerning the procedure to be followed in requesting such a hearing should be directed to the Superintendent.

Student records and any material contained therein that is personally identifiable are confidential and may not be released or made available to persons other than parents or students without the written consent of such parents or student. There are a number of exceptions to this rule, such as other school employees and officials, and certain state and federal officials, who have a legitimate educational need for access to such records in the course of their employment.

Students with disabilities shall have the option of deciding whether to disclose the existence of their disability on their high school transcripts.

Website Accessibility Statement

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District is committed to ensuring the accessibility of our web content to people with disabilities. We are actively taking steps to ensure our online content conforms to ADA Compliance standards.

This policy applies to all new, updated and existing web content on www.gmucsd.org and related social-media pages. Links may be provided to outside resources that are not ADA compliant. We cannot control the accessibility of the content within these outside links.

Concerns/complaints should be submitted in writing and mailed to 693 State Highway 51, Gilbertsville, NY 13776. Please include the following information:

- Date of Concern/Complaint
- Your Name
- Your Address
- Your Email Address
- Your Phone Number
- Internet Address/Location of Accessibility Problem
- Description of Problem Encountered
- Solution Desired
- Your Signature

Accessibility issues also may be reported to the Superintendent via email at ahammond@gmucsd.org.

We may contact you for further information. The investigation process is typically completed within 15 working days from the date the concern/complaint is received.

Use of student images explained

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District features photographs, videos and/or the work of our students in district and community publications on a regular basis. Names sometimes accompany these images, especially for those students who earn special recognition (awards, certificates, honors, etc.) from the district and/or outside entities.

These images may appear in printed district publications (such as brochures, calendars, newsletters, pamphlets, yearbooks, etc.); on the district's website (www.gmucsd.org); on the district's social media pages (Facebook and Twitter); etc.

If you object to your child's image, name or work appearing in these formats, you must submit that objection in writing to the district Superintendent.

Off to a great start!



January 9 marked the first day of student-teaching at GMU for five SUNY Oneonta Education majors!

Please join Principal Heather Wilcox (left) in welcoming Kayla Rende, Rachel Cronin, Liberty Sager, Chiara Tarricone and Ashley Elbogen to campus.

All five will be part of our #GMUFamily for the next several weeks as they look to gain valuable classroom experience on their roads to becoming full-fledged teachers.

We're thrilled to have you at GMU this winter! Good luck and remember ... "It's the Quality of the journey that counts!"

N-I-C-E... J-O-B... I-A-D-I-E-S!



Congratulations to our GMU Spelling Bee champions—**Bree Peetz** (left) and **Kristin Gee**—who posed with Assistant Principal Kevin Walsh after competing in The Daily Star Regional Spelling Bee on January 14 at SUNY Oneonta. Both represented the Raiders well with impressive performances!

Welcome to GMU!



Please join us in welcoming nine new teachers to the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District for the 2022-2023 school year!

Pictured from left to right are (front row) Zea Beckwith, LTA H/S Special Education; Rebecca Fuller, Pre-Kindergarten; Abbey Beaver, School Counselor; Cameron Race, MS/HS Physical Education; Jeffrey Rhone, Spanish; Amy Favinger, Grade 4; (back row) Tracy Kokell, MS/HS Math; Susan Phillippe, Special Education; and Tom Bishop, MS/HS English.

We're excited to have you join our GMU Family!

Adult Education/HS Equivalency Opportunity

Are you interested in earning a high school equivalency diploma, or improving your reading, writing and math skills? There are free, self-paced classes available through Afton Central School's Adult and Continuing Education program.

- Two classes per week (total of six hours) are available at the following sites:
- Afton Central School: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-7 p.m.
- CDO Workforce Center, Norwich: Mondays, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- CDO Workforce Center, Oneonta (youths only): Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sidney Civic Center: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon
- Walton Elementary School: Mondays and Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

For those unable to attend a class, there is program offered through the mail called GRASP (Give Ready Adults a Study Program). This program is designed for motivated people age 21 or older who work well on their own and possess good reading skills.

For more information about classes or GRASP, call June White, Director, at 607-639-2811 or 1-800-792-2145.

Thank you, Board members!

Supporting Success for ALL Students



THANK YOU SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS!

School Board Recognition Week

October 17-21, 2022



The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District joined the New York State School Boards Association and public schools across the state in celebrating School Board Recognition Week from October 17-21.

Thanks to BOE President Jeremy Pain and members Jed Barnes, Sean Barrows, Brenda Friedel, Sarah Green, Christopher Ostrander and Whitney Talbot for their countless hours of volunteer work in support of our mission, vision and values.

Thank you for helping us make the Quality of the journey count for our students, staff, families and community.

Winter clothing drive underway!



GMU's Leadership Club is accepting donations for its Winter Clothing Drive, which will benefit students in need of warm clothing during the winter months.

Our Leadership Club will collect new or gently used winter coats, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. in the School Counseling Office through February 28.

If you have questions or need more information, please email GMU School Counselor Abbey Beaver at abeaver@gmucsd.org.

FIRST DAY REWIND!



GILBERTSVILLE- MOUNT UPTON
CLASS OF 2023



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Senior
MacKenzie Cherry



ACTIVITIES

- National Honor Society
- Vice President of the Class of 2023
- Work Study in Fourth Grade

MEMORIES and THANK YOU TO...

- My favorite memory is getting to pie Mr. Walsh in the face at Junior Carnival. I want to thank Mrs. Cabrinety for always being someone to talk to and being my "school mom." I also want to thank Mrs. McMullen for being my mentor and helping me adapt to what school is like in fourth grade.

FUTURE PLANS

- I plan to attend college with a major in education to pursue a career as an elementary teacher.

GILBERTSVILLE- MOUNT UPTON
CLASS OF 2023



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Senior
Kross Lund



ACTIVITIES

- Hunting
- Working on my truck
- Working on the farm

MEMORIES and THANK YOU TO...

- My favorite memory was getting to ride the BOCES bus with Manny. I want to thank Mrs. Cabrinety for putting up with me and Mrs. Carey for always keeping me in line.

FUTURE PLANS

- I am planning to earn my CDL after graduation and join the workforce.

GILBERTSVILLE- MOUNT UPTON
CLASS OF 2023



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Senior
Teeghan Lent



ACTIVITIES

- Volunteering at my Grandma's Church
- Varsity Soccer
- Chorus

MEMORIES and THANK YOU TO...

- My favorite memory is all of my time spent getting to play soccer. I want to thank my friends and family for always supporting me.

FUTURE PLANS

- I am planning to attend college with a major in Zoology, and then travel the world studying and helping animals.

GILBERTSVILLE- MOUNT UPTON
CLASS OF 2023



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Senior
Aubree Palmer



ACTIVITIES

- Varsity Soccer
- Yearbook Club
- GMU Quiz Bowl Team

MEMORIES and THANK YOU TO...

- My favorite memory is getting to joke around with my friends every day. I want to thank my friends and family for always supporting me.

FUTURE PLANS

- I am planning to attend college with a major in education to pursue a career as a teacher.

GILBERTSVILLE - MOUNT UPTON
CLASS OF 2023



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Senior

Erin Hitt



ACTIVITIES

- Varsity Soccer
- Yearbook Club
- High School Student Council

MEMORIES and THANK YOU TO...

- My favorite memory was gossiping about anything with my friends, and being accepted for who I am. I want to thank my parents for moving here so I can have a fresh start and Troy for being my best friend.

FUTURE PLANS

- I am planning to attend college with a major in Criminal Justice.

GILBERTSVILLE - MOUNT UPTON
CLASS OF 2023



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Senior

Kenyon Pickens



ACTIVITIES

- Wrestling
- Football

MEMORIES and THANK YOU TO...

- My best memory is getting to return to GMU. I want to thank Mrs. Carey for helping me get through school.

FUTURE PLANS

- I am planning to enlist in the United States Army after graduation.

Way to go, Raiders!

Congratulations to the following GMU students for earning high honor roll and honor roll accolades for the first-quarter marking period of the 2022-2023 school year!

High Honor Roll

Grade 5: Paris Behnke, Tyler Crisell, Jonathan Favinger, Lily Hauptfleisch, Maeleigh Lum, Kaidyn Rowe, Henry Underwood.

Grade 6: Kristin Gee, Elias Lytle, Katie Quiter.

Grade 7: Gabriella Barnes, Carrie Doyle, Jacob Favinger, Chance Kilmer, Mason Kiser, Robert Lindroth, Sophia Parslow, Koda Stockdale.

Grade 9: Alice Dibble, Andrea Favinger, Cecile Lytle, Mackenzi Marron, Kira Nolan, Lillian Perrine, Dannaka Rasmussen, Adam Yasser.

Grade 10: Emma Peck, Alyssa Sorochinsky.

Grade 11: Mackenzie Barnes, Leah Cotten, Natalie Livelsberger, Andrew Stone.

Grade 12: Hannah Bonczkowski, Mackenzie Cherry, Carly Davis, Corbin Demmon, Kendra Hammond, Fiona Held, Corbin Page, Aubree Palmer, Megan Perrine, Kenyon Pickens, Brian Wilson.

Honor Roll

Grade 5: Victoria Card, Dylan Ostrander, Kaylee Stewart, Jacob Vaccaro, Jagger Young.

Grade 6: Emma Ambrose, Amelia Beckwith, Austin Cuzzo, Cooper Gundlach, Kayden Peck, Emma Schmitt.

Grade 7: Dakota Eichler, Joslynn Irons, Carter Simonds, Gavin Underwood, Jackson Valdez.

Grade 8: Payton Behnke, Alexis Davis, Breanna Gregory, Desirae Irons, Brandon Kendall, Mia Mantellassi, Raymond Nober, Peyton Norton, Peyton Townsend.

Grade 9: Ryan Davis, Bailey Howard, Alivia Plows, Kelsey Quiter, Kaylin Williams.

Grade 10: Ariana Cornell, Avriel Correll, Quinn Covington, Kaleigh Gee, Lindsay Turnbull.

Grade 11: Thomas Breslau, Devon Hartwell, Cody Wheeler.

Grade 12: Brennan Finch, Erin Hitt, Ethan Joslyn, Connor Lenhardt, Kross Lund, Bianca Plows, Ella Stockdale, Kali Wilcox.

Congratulations!

SBHC open during school days and closures



Bassett Healthcare's School-Based Health Center at GMU is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday when school is in session.

New this school year, the SBHC at GMU also will have extended hours—from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.—the first Thursday of every month.

Appointments for students enrolled in the SBHC at GMU are available for annual physicals, acute/sick visits, immunizations and more. To make an appointment or to enroll your child, call 607-783-2250. Appointments for enrolled students are also available at other SBHC sites when the SBHC at GMU is closed. Call 844-255-7242 for more information.

School-Based Health Centers also can provide healthcare on weekdays when school is closed (emergency days/snow days). You can make a telehealth or phone appointment for your child with an SBHC Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant during weekday school closures by calling 844-255-7242 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Please note that the SBHC does not have to be the child's primary healthcare provider as parents/guardians of enrolled students can keep their current provider and use the SBHC as needed. Students must be enrolled with the SBHC to receive healthcare from the SBHC. If school is closed and your child needs emergency treatment, please call 911.

Special Thanks!

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton thanks the Morris Rotary Club and Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 for their October 25 donations of books titled "The World Needs More Purple People" to our first-graders.

The next morning, Sharon Harris of the Elks Lodge dropped off donations to support our Backpack Program, with Superintendent Annette Hammond, Principal Heather Wilcox and Librarian/Backpack Program Coordinator Raquel Norton assisting.

Thanks for helping us improve the Quality of the journey at GMU!

Thanks for the kind words!



Gilbertsville-Mount Upton thanks the Butternut Valley Grange for donating and personally delivering dozens of Scholastic's "Pocket Dictionary of Synonyms, Antonyms and Homonyms" to our district on December 22.

Pictured from left to right are GMU Superintendent Annette Hammond, reading teacher Lauren Weidman, Butternut Valley Grange Community Service Chairperson Anna Ritchey, and second-grade teacher Darin Trass.

Thank you for supporting our students with your generous gifts!

Thanks ... again!



Sharon Harris of Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 stopped by in December and guess what? Yep—she had a whole bunch of stuff with her for our Backpack Program.

If you're wondering how many packages of brand-new school supplies we received, let's just say Sharon had to fold down the back seats of her SUV to get everything here in one trip. Sharon and our Librarian/Backpack Program Coordinator, Raquel Norton, posed for this pic right after unloading all of the notebooks, planners, folders, binders, pens, pencils, crayons, backpacks, and other supplies.

The Raiders (again!) thank Sharon and Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 for their continued contributions to our Backpack Program and others nearby.

Recycling champs collecting plastic film

Want to help our Recyclin' Raiders win their fourth straight title in the Otsego County Conservation Association's Plastic Film Recycling Challenge?

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton, which won OCCA Challenge crowns in 2019, 2021 and 2022, is again competing against other Otsego County schools to collect the most plastic film per capita. Our students are going head-to-head during an in-school competition, too, as prizes will be awarded to the top elementary and middle/high school grades.

Students can bring recyclable plastic film to their teachers (ES) or class advisors (MS/HS) any day school is in session, from today through April 12. Staff and community members also can bring recyclable plastic film to campus.

Please note that, for health and safety reasons, all plastic film must be clean and dry prior to collection. The following plastic-film items, which can only be recycled through take-back programs offered by New York state grocery stores and retailers, are eligible for collection:

- Bread bags
- Bubble wrap
- Case overwrap
- Cereal bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Grocery bags
- Ice bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Plastic casings/shrink wraps
- Produce bags
- Salt bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Ziploc & other re-closeable bags

Please do not submit any other items as collections with non-recyclable plastic film cannot be accepted. If you have any questions, please email Ashley Hughes at ahughes@gmucsd.org.

Acceptable Items (if clean!):



Grocery Bags



Ziploc/resealable Baggies



Bread Bags



Wood Pellet Bags



Plastic Casing/Shrink Wrap



Produce Bags



Dry Cleaner Bags



Bubble Wrap



Newspaper Sleeves



Salt Bags



Ice Bags



Cereal Bags

Summer Reading Rewards!



Congratulations to our K-6 students who successfully completed GMU's 2022 Summer Reading Challenge!

The following students read for at least 20 minutes a day in July and August:

Kindergarten: *Emily Brower, Bryce Delmar, Evie Hauptfleisch, Henry Weidman.*

First Grade: *Guy Barnes, Madelyn Barnes, Dominic Engel, Lincoln Hoag, Finley Rhone.*

Second Grade: *Rose Brower.*

Third Grade: *Wilbur Barnes, Alaina Beckwith, Aria Delmar, Danny Favinger, Ella Hauptfleisch, Mila Rhone.*

Fourth Grade: *Gigi Barnes, Alex Delmar, Bryce Gundlach.*

Fifth Grade: *Johnny Favinger, Lily Hauptfleisch.*

Sixth Grade: *Amelia Beckwith, Kristen Gee, Cooper Gundlach.*

We are so proud of their commitment to their education and their dedication to becoming lifelong readers!

GMU joins First in Math initiative

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District has joined the First in Math program for students in grades K-5 during the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

The New York State Education Department has purchased the First in Math program for all New York students and families, who have access to this resource designed to increase math fluency and support STEM readiness every day through June 2025. This program is free for all NY students, families and school districts.

First in Math gives students an opportunity to build their math skills through practices presented as online games. Every NY school received log-in credentials for all K-5 teachers and students, who work together in classroom teams. Each student also received First in Math accounts so they can practice on their own at any time.

For more information on the First in Math program, visit <https://explore.firstinmath.com/nysed> online.

LIVE ON STAGE: A TWIST OF THE TONGUE



Fundraiser covers all school supplies

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District will provide school supplies for all of its students during the 2022-2023 school year thanks to its partnership with SchoolStore.com.

Proceeds from last year's SchoolStore.com fundraiser covered the cost of this year's school supplies for all GMU students. We thank all of the GMU families and friends who earned "free money" for the district through SchoolStore.com purchases.

Although pens, pencils and notebooks will be provided for students in grades 7-12, those who prefer to purchase their own organizational and school supplies are welcome to do so.

If you have questions or need more information, please call our Main Office at 607-783-2207.

Honor society donates first prize!

Please join us in applauding GMU's National Honor Society students for winning the top prize in the Community Foundation of Otsego County's first "Student Voices, Student Choices" competition November 21 at SUNY Oneonta.

Created to promote philanthropy and community leadership among local students, "SVSC" challenged four Otsego County NY school districts to identify the greatest needs in their communities, research organizations that address those needs, and then present their causes to a panel of local leaders and educators.

GMU's presentation earned the top award of \$5,000, which will be donated to the Otsego County Backpack Program. The runner-up won \$3,000, and the other two teams each received \$1,000. Cherry Valley-Springfield, Edmeston and Richfield Springs also participated.

Congratulations, Raiders!



Front Row: Leah Cotton, MacKenzie Cherry, Fiona Held, Natalie Livelsberger, Hannah Bonczkowski, Carly Davis.

Back Row: Raquel Norton (co-advisor), Jennifer McDowall (co-advisor), Devon Hartwell, Kendra Hammond, Kali Wilcox, Megan Perrine, Jeff Katz (CFOC Executive Director).

GMU celebrates success!

Congratulations to GMU's monthly winners for our Soaring Eagle and Essential Skill awards! Each of the students listed below received award certificates during Rockin' Raiders programs in September, October and November of the 2022-2023 school year.

September 2022

Soaring Eagle Awards—Caring

(Displaying kindness and concern for others, yourself and your school community.)

Allison Boyce, Suttyn Burchill, Coraline Carney, Layla Covington, Lilliana Crawford, Maverick Davis, Landon Grabo, Roczen Hamilton, Andrew Kendeigh, Kaden Mills, Abbi-Lynn Page, Trevor Pope, Trevin Rowe, Emily Schermerhorn, Lawton VanCleaf, Shaelyn Webb.

Essential Skill Awards—Goal Setting

(Identifying what you want and how you can achieve it.)

Coltin Banta, Hannah Carbone, Evelyn Covington, Alex Delmar, Bryce Delmar, Ridley Esposito, Daniel Favinger, Lily Hauptfleisch, Kenna Larsen, Martin Lytle, Cian McDonough, Rece Nolan, Killian Viele, John Williams, Jaxson Zaczek

October 2022

Soaring Eagle Awards—Determination

(Doing something without giving up, even when it gets tough. Having courage, especially when it comes to standing up for others. Setting goals and working toward them.)

Raegan Beach, Hadleigh Burchill, Victoria Craver, Alexis DeGroat, Lincoln Hoag, Serenity Jones, Logan Kato, Maeleigh Lum, Damien Miller, Owen Pearson, Emersyn Rowe, Laura Schidzick, Aaliyah Seneck, Lyric Webb

Essential Skill Awards—Teamwork

(Collaborating with others to reach a common goal.)

Wilbur Barnes, Claire Beach, Paris Behnke, Raegan Fuller, Felicity Hamilton, Alice Hanahan, Haylee Larrabee, Landon Liberatore, Moira McDonough, Owen Pitcher, Katie Quiter, Finley Rhone, Garrett Stanton, Henry Weidman, Presley Young

November 2022

Soaring Eagle Awards—Resourceful

(Uses time wisely and appropriately. Makes good choices by thinking things through beforehand.)

Temperance Ambrose, Alaina Beckwith, Coraline Carney, Emilee Crisell, Johnathan Favinger, Montana Fuller, Shaw Green, Bryce Gundlach, Elias Lytle, Stephanie Nober, Olivia Perkosky, Mila Rhone, Grace Rosenkrance, Landyn Rowe

Essential Skill Awards—Leadership

(Taking charge of your future and helping your peers do the same.)

Kara Banta, Gianna Barnes, Madelyn Barnes, Raegan Beach, Rose Brower, Austin Cuzzo, Paisley Harris, Remi Harris, Paislee Johnson, Zachary McWeeney, Kaidyn Rowe, Arianna Schultes, Nicholas Schultes, Ellie Wilcox

Way to go, Connor!



Congratulations to GMU senior Connor Lenhardt on his induction into the National Technical Honor Society on November 17!

Connor was one of 29 students honored during the induction ceremony, which drew dozens of family members, friends and educators, at DCMO BOCES' Harrold Campus. Great job, Connor!

Quilts are epic artwork!

Ashley Hughes' Fiber Arts students made beautiful patchwork quilts from start to finish, creating their own designs and learning how to use a sewing machine earlier this school year.

Patchwork quilting involves sewing scraps or "patches" of fabric together to make an image, then stitching that layer together with a back and middle batting.

In this unit, students learned about patchwork quilting by creating Freedom Quilts, which were used on the Underground Railroad to covertly convey messages through quilt block patterns. These quilts would be displayed outside of homes or in windows to help enslaved people escape from the South to the North and Canada.

Special thanks to Mrs. Cotton and Mrs. Clapp for all of their expertise, guidance, support and encouragement during this unit!



Lindsay Turnbull



Erin Hitt



Teeghan Lent



Natalie Livelsberger

Another School of Distinction honor for GMU!



Gilbertsville-Mount Upton is a CFES Brilliant Pathways School of Distinction once again!

CFES Vice President Tara Smith emailed a letter regarding our fourth straight CFES award to Principal Heather Wilcox earlier this year. Her letter, in part, reads:

"It is my pleasure to inform you that Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School has been selected as a CFES Brilliant Pathways School of Distinction, based on its performance during the 2021-2022 school year.

"Achievement of School of Distinction status is testimony that Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School not only developed and executed an exemplary plan for its CFES Scholars, but also involved the entire school in our 10 Point College & Career Readiness Plan. This is an impressive achievement, especially given the disruptions of a global pandemic that you have faced in recent months."

As a School of Distinction, GMU received an award and a banner. The Raiders also were recognized at the national CFES conference November 7, 2022.

School districts partner with CFES (College For Every Student) to help high school students graduate and find college opportunities, regardless of income. For more information, visit the website <https://brilliantpathways.org/> or call GMU's main office at 607-783-2207.

Hooray for us!

Celebrating Our Seniors | Girls Soccer



Families and friends from the GMU Community joined in the celebration of our varsity girls soccer seniors before September's non-league game against Davenport at the Douglas A. Exley Track and Field Complex!

Thanks to the following senior student-athletes for their contributions and commitment to excellence on and off the soccer field: **#4 Erin Hitt, #5 Hannah Bonczkowski, #7 Teeghan Lent, #9 Bianca Plows, #14 Ivy Stensland, #15 Ella Stockdale, #24 Kendra Hammond, #25 Fiona Held, and #26 Aubree Palmer.**

Raiders honor local hero



Gilbertsville-Mount Upton was proud to participate in the October 25 unveiling ceremony for the SP4 Richard F. Walton Jr. Memorial Highway at Copes Corners Park.

The ceremony featuring our award-winning band honored former Gilbertsville High School student and Town of Butternuts native Richard Walton Jr., a member of the 326th Medical Battalion, 101 Airborne, American Division, who lost his life in a helicopter crash during the Vietnam War on February 6, 1970.

After completing basic training and medical training in 1968, Walton Jr. volunteered for a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam. Walton Jr. finished his tour as a medic, then volunteered again to return to his work in South Vietnam.

The dedication of the SP4 Richard F. Walton Jr. Memorial Highway—now part of the state highway system constituting State Route 51 within the town of Butternuts—honors Walton Jr.'s life, bravery, dedication and the ultimate sacrifice he made for our country.

Assemblyman Joe Angelino and NYS Senator Peter Oberacker, who sponsored legislation for the memorial highway and signed it into law last October, attended the event.

Assistant Commissioner of the NYS Dept. of Transportation Thomas McIntyre, Town Supervisor of Butternuts Bruce Giuda, Village of Gilbertsville Mayor Nate Talbot, and GMU Principal Heather Wilcox also attended, along with family and friends of Walton.

William Gilcrest and his GMU Band performed the Star-Spangled Banner and the Army Song during the ceremony, which also recognized the contributions of:

- Gilbertsville American Legion Post 1339 Commander Stephen Foster and members
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1339 Gilbertsville President Anne Sebeck and members
- The Gilbertsville Fire Department
- Troop 44's Color Guard
- Gilbertsville Girl Scout Troops 708 and 61041
- Roberta Halbert for the idea of the legislation
- Michele Farwell for submitting the resolution on behalf of the Otsego County Board
- NYS Department of Transportation Public Information Specialist Scott Cook and staff
- And Scoutmaster Steve Gayle

Two top 10s for GMU runners!

Congratulations to freshman **Andrea Favinger** and sophomore **Noah Pain** on their top-10 finishes November 3 during the Section 4 Class D Cross Country Championships at Chenango Valley State Park!

Andrea covered the 5,000-meter course in 22 minutes, 26.60 seconds to place ninth among 53 Class D girls. She was the lone Gilbertsville-Mount Upton/Unadilla Valley representative in the Class D girls race.

Noah took 10th out of 89 Class D boys, finishing the same distance in 18:41.30. Senior teammate **Brennan Finch** crossed 2 seconds later to place 11th. Classmates **Brian Wilson** (48th) and **Kristian Stachura** (67th) also competed, as did GMU/UV teammates **Alex Kemnah** (59th), **Ben Kemnah** (62nd) and **Lucas Donato** (83rd).

Delaware Academy swept the boys and girls Class D team titles. Members of the winning teams advanced to the Section 4 State Qualifiers, along with the top five runners from other teams.

Two runners crack top five!



Congratulations to GMU's **Noah Pain** and **Andrea Favinger** on their top-five finishes during October's Mid-state Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at Unadilla Valley.

A total of 10 Unadilla Valley and GMU varsity student-athletes represented our combined cross-country program at the MAC Championships. Noah took fifth in the boys 5-kilometer race in 18 minutes, 22 seconds. Andrea completed the girls 5K in 22:06.

GMU's Brennan Finch (9, 19:01), Kristian Stachura (14, 20:24), Brian Wilson (19, 21:13), and Adam Yasser (32, 25:26) also competed in the boys 5K, as did UV's Alex Kemnah (16, 20:36), Ben Kemnah (27, 23:28), Dominic Berthel (31, 24:59), and Lucas Donato (33, 26:16).

Jacob Favinger contributed a fifth in the modified boys 2.5K race (9:22).

GMU also celebrated the dedication of Brennan, Kristian and Brian on Senior Appreciation Day. Thank you for your commitment to our program!

Meet Our Area All-State Musicians!



Congratulations to Avriel Correll, Hannah Boneczkowski and Ariana Cornell for participating in the NYSSMA Zone 8 Area All-State Music Festival at Walton Central School on November 19!

Great job, Raiders!

Order your GMU gear today!



Check out Gilbertsville-Mount Upton's Spirit Shop, an online store with thousands of possibilities for customizable, in-stock apparel and accessories! You can order T-shirts, hats, jackets, polo shirts, shorts, pants and more from GMU's Spirit Shop 24/7, and you can pick the item colors, styles and brands you want, too!

Visit <https://www.spiritshop.com/school/new-york/gilbertsville/gilbertsville-mt-upton> online to see what the GMU Spirit Shop has in store for you. For a limited time, EVERYTHING in the GMU Spirit Shop is 20-percent off!

You also can order official GMU apparel and accessories from Shupperd's Tack Shop in Bainbridge by visiting our online store at <https://gmucsd2021.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>. Shupperd's adds new items throughout the school year, so check it out to see what's available today.

The best part? Our district receives a portion of every sale to support programs that benefit our students, so you'll be contributing to "The Quality of the journey" at GMU every time you buy something from our Spirit Shop or Shupperd's!

GMU GAME FACES!

Our annual Seniors vs. Staff volleyball games brought out the best in everyone just before the holiday break! Check out some of the action (and priceless expressions) from this friendly battle for campus supremacy.



Get your wings at GMU!



Our K-6 artists created this amazing, interactive eagle wings mural for all students and staff at GMU to show off their Raider Pride!

Each elementary art student made one feather for this collaborative project, inspired by the mesmerizing murals of contemporary artist Kelsey Montague. For Montague's murals to be complete, the viewer is required to be part of her artwork.

Similarly, GMU is only complete when students and staff actively participate in our vision to maintain a nurturing school community that provides opportunities for lifelong personal growth. Our eagle wings mural is just one way we can do that together, so stop by and snap a pic in the main hallway today!

A taste of the world

Third-graders learned about different cultures through an around-the-world feast the day before holiday break, right here at GMU!

Students sampled the Norwegian Christmas fruit bread Julekake; Russian pierogis and tea cakes; German pretzels, spice cookies and hot cider; French macarons; Romanian meat pie; and other special treats in our conference room.

Special thanks to Principal Heather Wilcox, School Counselor Lisa Ruland, teachers Kimberly Hromada, Mackenzie Talbot and Jaelyn Turnbull, aide Shari Bennett, Five Kids Bakehouse, and third-grade parents for making this world-class buffet possible!



THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT(S) AT GMU



EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY!

Our cafeteria was buzzing the day before the holiday break as GMU's Board of Education, administration and staff served dozens of delicious dishes to community members during our annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon.

Thanks to Cafeteria Manager Susan Sebeck and her crew for preparing holiday meals with all the trimmings for our special guests. We hope everyone enjoyed this pleasant afternoon together and look forward to seeing you all again next year.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Our National Honor Society and Leadership Club honored local veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces during a special Veterans Day presentation and breakfast November 10 on campus.

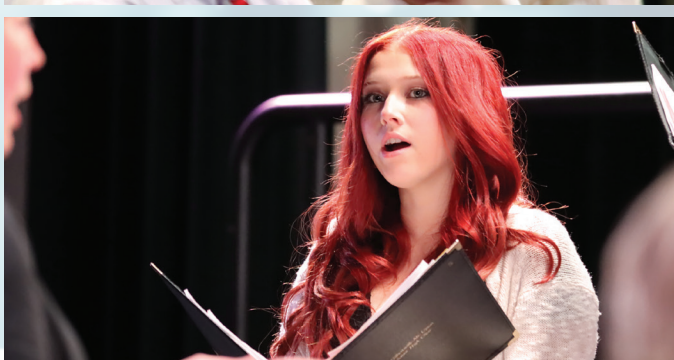
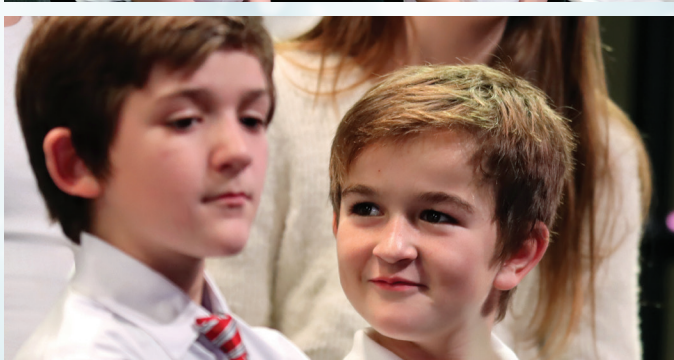
We recognized each of the following 35 veterans during an all-school assembly in the auditorium, then treated them to a free breakfast from Cafeteria Manager Susan Sebeck and her crew in the high school cafeteria.

Roll call: Clarence Barrows, Army; Chris Beckwith, Army; Jonathan Beckwith, Air Force; Dennis Beckwith, Air Force; Steve Brown, Navy; Floyd Butler, Army; Russell Card, Air Force; Roger Crisell, Marine Corps; Alan Digsby, Navy; Norm Eastwood, Navy; Charles Emerson, Army; Glen Foster; Ray Fuller, Air Force; Donald Gage, Navy; Andrew Grabo, Army; Karin Gross, Marine Corps; Brian Hall, Marine Corps; Carl Hernandez, Navy; Chad Jones, Army; Arnie Jump, Army; Timothy Kleinschmidt, Army; Phil Kraft, Marine Corps; Julie Lanfair, Navy; Jim LeBourveau, Army; Martin Meyers, Army; Thomas Norton, Army; Frank Preston, Navy; Drew Sebeck, Army; Gabe Sherman, Army National Guard 827th; Jessica Schoeck, Navy; Ashley Stewart, Air Force; Ryan Stewart, Air Force; Michael Stoutenberg, Navy; Mike Tiffany, Army; and Scott Wilson, Army.

If you know a local veteran who is not on this list, please let us know by emailing drussin@gmucsd.org or by calling our District Office at 607-783-2207.



WINTER CHORAL CONCERT



DID YOU SEE THE WIZARD?



If you missed the GMU Theatre Club's presentation of "The Wizard of Oz" in November, you missed a terrific show! But don't worry—we've got some pics for you right here, and you can always visit our Facebook page to see a lot more!

The cast list was as follows:

- **Dorothy:** Hannah Bonczkowski
- **Aunt Em/Glinda:** Teeghan Lent
- **Uncle Henry/Emerald City Guard:** Lindsay Turnbull
- **Zeke/Cowardly Lion:** Ariana Cornell
- **Hickory/Tinman:** Brian Wilson
- **Hunk/Scarecrow:** Emma Peck
- **Miss Almira Gultch/The Wicked Witch of the West:** Kaleigh Gee
- **Professor Chester Marvel/The Wizard of Oz:** Avriel Correll
- **Mayor/Ensemble:** Sammy Beach
- **Coroner/Winkie General/Ensemble:** Ryan Davis
- **Barrister/Ensemble:** Alice Dibble
- **City Father/Ensemble:** Erin Hitt
- **City Father/Ensemble:** Alyssa Sorochinsky
- **Ensemble:** Peyton Townsend, Alex Irons, Joslyn Irons, Chance Kilmer, Kristin Gee
- **Lollipop Guild:** Landon Grabo, Mason Turnbull, Owen Perkosky
- **Lullaby League:** Ellie Wilcox, Olivia Perkosky, Troy Hitt



**GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON
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Mission, Vision, Values

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School

MISSION

We support everyone's journey to become the best version of themselves by:

- Fostering an equitable, inclusive and student-focused environment
- Providing opportunities for academic and  community engagement
- Empowering individuals to embrace their potential

VISION

To have a nurturing school community that provides opportunities for lifelong personal growth.

WE VALUE

- A Growth Mindset
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Essential Skills for Career Readiness
- Social/Emotional/Behavioral Wellness
- Meaningful and Healthy Relationships
- A Safe School Environment

"It's the Quality of the journey that counts!"