

Meet our newest GMU Family members inside!



THE JOURNEY

Newsletter of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District

Volume 34, Number 1

FALL 2023

Happy days are here again!



There's always something to smile about at GMU!





**Gilbertsville-Mount Upton
Central School District**

693 State Highway 51
Gilbertsville, NY 13776
Phone: 607-783-2207
Fax: 607-783-2254

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

District Clerk, Donna Dean

ddean@gmucsd.org

Board of Education

President, Jeremy Pain

jeremypain@gmucsd.org

Term: July 2022-June 2025

Vice President, Jed Barnes

jedbarnes@gmucsd.org

Term: July 2023-June 2026

Member, Sean Barrows

seanbarrows@gmucsd.org

Term: July 2021-June 2024

Member, Brenda Friedel

brendafriedel@gmucsd.org

Term: July 2022-June 2025

Member, Sarah Green

sarahgreen@gmucsd.org

Term: May 2022-June 2025

Member, Christopher Ostrander

christopherostrander@gmucsd.org

Term: July 2023-June 2026

Member, Whitney Talbot

whitneytalbot@gmucsd.org

Term: July 2021-June 2024

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
- Empowering individuals to embrace their potential

Our 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

Our Motto

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

Superintendent's Message

We're off to a great start in 2023-2024!

We started off the school year with an Open House on September 5, followed by the first day of school for students on September 7. Hopefully, many of you have had the opportunity to meet our School Resource Officer, Mr. Ray Beach. He has been a great addition to our GMU team and has provided a stronger sense of safety for all of us.

As I write this, our National Honor Society students just hosted our annual Veterans Breakfast on November 9. In addition to serving a terrific breakfast to more than 50 local veterans and their families, our NHS students also created a ceremony to honor each one. Our Leadership Club did a great job assisting the cafeteria staff to serve breakfast, and the NHS students passed out lawn signs to each veteran so that our community can spot where they live and show our appreciation to them in any way we can – including a honk of our horns as we pass by!

On November 6, we received a banner and a trophy as a 2022-2023 School of Distinction from CFES Brilliant Pathways. This marked our fifth straight school year as a CFES Brilliant Pathways School of Distinction, which recognizes the many opportunities students have to learn and grow at GMU. Some of these include our Veterans Breakfast, college and career field trips, mentoring opportunities, community clean up in the spring, and a variety of other student-based activities. I couldn't be more proud of our staff and students for their hard work and commitment to a quality journey for all at GMU!

Our faculty and staff have been busy teaching, guiding, listening, and providing much needed support to our students. They tirelessly give of themselves each day and are truly present for our students. I would like to thank all of them for their dedication to our students and the GMU School Community!

Yearly, I like to thank all our supervisors and their teams. Thank you, Mr. Alan Digsby and our custodial staff, for the incredible amount of work accomplished this summer preparing for the opening of school – and thanks to the student summer crew, too! Thank you, Mr. Harold Ives and our transportation staff, for preparing for the arrival of your children, our most precious cargo. The school bus drivers in our district are the first point of contact for students each morning, and they do a great job of being there to make each student's day start off great! Once in school, students can have a healthy breakfast prepared for them by our cafeteria staff, who provide students with delicious homemade meals – always with a smile. Thank you, Mrs. Susan Sebeck and our dedicated kitchen crew!

Speaking of school meals, once again, all GMU students are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch every school day due to approval for the Community Eligibility Program. As a CEP school, GMU families also qualify for internet discounts through the federal Affordable Connectivity Program. You can find out more about the ACP by visiting getinternet.gov online.

Please note a change to our calendar as December 8 is now a half-day for our students. That afternoon will be utilized to train teachers in effective practices in working with our students. We are always exploring different ways to connect to students and to help them be most successful here at GMU and beyond.

Don't forget that school apparel is a great gift for the holidays! Shupperd's



continued on next page

Tack Shop in Sidney is one location for you to shop in person, or you can visit its online store at <https://gmucsd2021.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>. We also have an online store with GMU items through SpiritShop that you can access at <https://www.spiritshop.com/school/new-york/gilbertsville/gilbertsville-mt-upton>. Our Board of Education will use funds raised through these school stores to award scholarships to seniors at our graduation ceremony.

A note to all GMU parents/guardians, student drivers, and community members: Please remember that we want to keep all of our students as safe as possible. So on these foggy fall mornings – and fast approaching slippery winter ones – take it slow and remember that you cannot pass a school bus that has its blinking lights on. Also, during morning drop-offs and afternoon bus loading, the front circle is closed to all traffic except our school buses. During these times, please use the parent drop-off and pick-up area outside of the cafeteria patio. It is also prohibited to pass a bus in our front circle any time of day.

I am looking forward to an amazing year of growth and opportunity in our district. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions, concerns, or feedback.

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

Board of Education Meetings

Schedule of remaining Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Board of Education meetings for the 2023-2024 school year. All BOE meetings start at 6 p.m. in the Board Room.

2023

November 15, Regular Meeting
December 13, Regular Meeting

2024

January 17, Regular Meeting
February 14, Regular Meeting
March 13, Regular Meeting
April 16, BOCES Vote
May 14, Regular Meeting and Budget Hearing
May 21, Budget Vote, 12-8 p.m.
June 12, Regular Meeting

Thank you, Board of Education!

Please join us in recognizing the dedicated community members who serve on our Board of Education to improve the quality of the journey for all GMU students.

We celebrated School Board Recognition Week in mid-October and want to again thank BOE President Jeremy Pain, Vice President Jed Barnes, and members Sean Barrows, Brenda Friedel, Sarah Green, Christopher Ostrander, and Whitney Talbot!

Save the dates!

November 2023

- 15 Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Rockin' Raiders, 9:00 a.m.
- 17-18 Area All-State Music Festival at Walton CSD
- 22 **Thanksgiving Recess (No School)**
- 23-24 **Thanksgiving Recess (No School/Offices Closed)**
- 30 NYSSMA Conference All-State Festival

December 2023

- 1-3 NYSSMA Conference All-State Festival
- 5 School Picture Retakes
- 8 **Half Day for Students, 11 a.m. Dismissal**
- 9 Quarter Auction, 6:00 p.m.
- 13 Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Grades 5-12 Winter Instrumental Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Rockin' Raiders, 9:00 a.m.
- 22 **Half Day for Students, 11 a.m. Dismissal**
- 25-27 **Christmas Recess (No School/Offices Closed)**
- 28-29 **Christmas Recess (No School)**

January 2024

- 1 **New Year's Day (No School/Offices Closed)**
- 15 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School/Offices Closed)**
- 17 Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 Junior Musical, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Junior Musical, 2:00 p.m.
- 23-26 Regents Exams
- 26 Rockin' Raiders, 9:00 a.m.
- 26 **Half Day for Students, Noon Dismissal**

February 2024

- 6 School Bus Vote, Noon-8:00 p.m.
- 9 GMU's Got Talent Showcase, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Rockin' Raiders, 9:00 a.m.
- 16-17 Susquehanna University Honors Band
- 19 **Presidents' Day (No School/Offices Closed)**
- 20-23 **February Recess (No School)**

Welcome back to school, Raiders!

We're happy to be back at GMU! See more First Day pics on Facebook!



Summer Reading Rewards!

Congratulations again to GMU students in grades K-6 who completed our 2023 Summer Reading Challenge!

Kindergarten: Ridley Esposito, Emilee Crisell, Serenity Jones, Justin Dickey Jr.

Grade 1: Ellie Wilcox, Garrett Larsen, Emily Brower

Grade 2: Finley Rhone, Aubrey Doyle, Guy Barnes, Chase Macumber

Grade 3: Kenna Larsen, Layton Esposito, Martin Lytle, Elliot Bankus

Grade 4: Camden Wilcox, Mila Rhone, Claire Beach, Danny Favinger, Alaina Beckwith

Grade 5: Gigi Barnes

Grade 6: Tyler Crisell



We celebrated their accomplishments with a field trip to the Sidney Memorial Library and Keith Clark Park with Mrs. Weidman and Ms. Lisa. A special thank you to Ms. Monica for the wonderful read-aloud, the fun scarecrow craft, and the scavenger hunt.

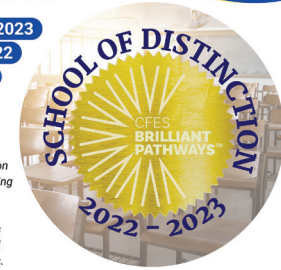
Students also had the opportunity to select new books to check out, and to sign up for a library card. Mrs. Weidman is excited to share that 10 students signed up for their first library card during the trip!

Be sure to keep reading throughout the rest of the school year. We look forward to next summer's reading challenge!

CFES BRILLIANT PATHWAYS
**SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION
AWARD**

2022-2023
2021-2022
2020-2021
2019-2020
2018-2019

GMUCSD has earned its fifth straight CFES School of Distinction Award for developing and executing exemplary plans for their CFES Scholars and involving the entire school in the CFES core practices of mentoring, essential skills, and pathways to colleges and careers.



www.gmucsd.org



Five straight School of Distinction awards!

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton is a five-time winner of the CFES Brilliant Pathways School of Distinction Award!

“Achievement as a School of Distinction is testimony that Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School developed and executed an exemplary plan for its CFES Scholars and also involved the entire school in our 10-Point College & Career Readiness Plan,” CFES Vice President Tara Smith said in an email to Superintendent Annette Hammond in August. “I congratulate you and your entire school community for attaining this honor and thank you for all you do to provide opportunities for your students and their families.”

The CFES recognized 37 school districts across the U.S. and Ireland for their efforts to help students become college and career ready during the 2022-2023 school year. GMU, which has earned the award every school year since

2018-2019, is one of seven Central New York districts honored for 2022-2023. The other 2022-2023 award-winners from Central New York are Delaware Academy, Milford, Otsego Area Occupational Center, Owen D. Young, Richfield Springs, and Worcester.

“The innovative and comprehensive plans implemented by these schools are proven models for success that schools across the country can emulate,” said Rick Dalton, CFES Brilliant Pathways President and CEO. “They have created a culture of college and career readiness that is a foundation for economic development in their regions.”

GMU received a 2022-2023 CFES School of Distinction trophy and banner and was recognized during the national CFES conference November 6.

School districts partner with CFES 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.



GMU welcomes School Resource Officer!



Community member Ray Beach will serve Gilbertsville-Mount Upton as its School Resource Officer during the 2023-2024 school year.

The father of three GMU students – one graduate and two current – will bring 25 years of experience in law enforcement to our campus as an armed police presence through the Binghamton-based Upstate Security Consultants, LLC.

“I am committed to strengthening a secure environment where students, parents, and staff thrive,” said Beach, a retired corrections officer who served on GMU’s Capital Project Facilities Planning Committee during the 2022-2023 school year. “This community has been my home for three

decades, and I’m genuinely invested in its safety and well-being.”

Beach’s appointment follows overwhelming support for the position, based on results from a parents/guardians survey conducted by the District last school year.

“We are very happy to welcome Mr. Beach to our staff as he will add another level of security to ensure that everyone at GMU can learn and grow together in a safe environment,” Superintendent Annette Hammond said. “Mr. Beach brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise and protection to our campus and, beyond that, will look to develop positive, productive relationships with students and staff all year long.”

Beach said of his appointment: “I am here to support and assist our school community, ensuring that everyone can focus on education while feeling safe and protected. I’m looking forward to serving the GMU community!”

Welcome to GMU!

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

PATRICK BENNETT

MS/HS MATH TEACHER

Patrick has trained in the Martial Arts since 2009. A Sensei with a first-degree black belt, Patrick has a Mathematics degree from St. Joseph's College.



It's the Quality of the Journey that counts!

www.gmuksd.org

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

RACHEL CRONIN

GRADE 5 TEACHER

Rachel earned a degree as a dual-major from SUNY Oneonta and graduated cum laude. Last Spring, she was a student-teacher at GMU!



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www.gmuksd.org

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

MACKENZIE CHERRY

GRADE 5 AIDE

MacKenzie is a 2023 GMU graduate who earned Scholar Recognition as a senior. She is pursuing an online degree to become an elementary teacher.



It's the Quality of the Journey that counts!

www.gmuksd.org

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

DONNA DEAN

SUPERINTENDENT SECRETARY

Donna is a Sidney CSD graduate who brings a plethora of experience to GMU, including eight years as a Superintendent Secretary / District Clerk.



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Please join us in
welcoming the
newest faculty and
staff members of
our GMU Family!

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

ASHLEY ELBOGEN

PRE-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Ashley earned a degree in Early Childhood / Childhood Education from SUNY Oneonta. She completed her student teaching here at GMU!



It's the Quality of the Journey that counts!

www.gmuksd.org

Welcome to GMU!

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

KAITLYN FULLER

GRADE 4 AIDE

Kaitlyn has a degree from SUNY Broome and was a substitute teacher last year. A GMU graduate, she is excited to be back to work with students!



It's the Quality of the journey that counts!

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WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

LAUREN ROBERTS

MS/HS SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Lauren earned degrees from SUNY Cortland (Psychology) and the University at Buffalo (School Counseling). She is our SADD club advisor!



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WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

DEVIN HARRIS

GRADE 3 AIDE

Devin has a degree in Fine Arts / Liberal Arts and earned a certificate in Commercial Arts. Devin's daughters inspired her to join the GMU Family!



It's the Quality of the journey that counts!

www.gmucsd.org

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

BETHANIE WEAND

GRADE 1 TEACHER

Bethanie earned a degree in Early Childhood / Elementary Education from SUNY Oneonta. She has worked as a Nanny and Daycare Teacher.



It's the Quality of the journey that counts!

www.gmucsd.org

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

KENDRA HARRIS

GRADE 1 AIDE

Kendra previously worked at Carousel Children Services. She loves that adults can teach kids as much as they teach you!



It's the Quality of the journey that counts!

www.gmucsd.org

WELCOME TO GMU!

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

ALLISON ZIMMERMAN

MS/HS ELA TEACHER

Allison earned a degree from CUNY Queens College and is a singer/songwriter who has spent seven-plus years in musical theatre.



It's the Quality of the journey that counts!

www.gmucsd.org

Bus Vote set for February 6

Please join us February 6 to vote on one proposition related to the purchase of new school buses and a van, which will not increase the school tax levy. Bus purchases are aided by NYSED at a rate of 90%. The district anticipates purchasing one 66-passenger bus, one 35-passenger bus, and a van.

Voting will take place from noon-8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District. Please note that residents must present identification to vote on the following proposition:

Proposition 1: Bus Purchase

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase one (1) 20-48 passenger school bus, one (1) 48-70 passenger school bus, and one (1) van vehicle for the purpose of providing student transportation and ancillary educational purposes, including original equipment and incidental expenses for the foregoing purpose, at a total estimated cost after taking into account state aid not to exceed \$367,096.26; and that such sum or so much thereof as the Board may deem appropriate, in its discretion, shall be paid from the Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Fund to the extent that it is funded?



Bus Vote!

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Noon-8 p.m.
Vote in person at Gilbertsville-Mount Upton!



Healthy Kids ASP is back!

The Healthy Kids After School Program has returned to Gilbertsville-Mount Upton for the 2023-2024 school year.

The program is available on campus for GMU students in kindergarten up to age 12 from dismissal to 6 p.m. on regular school days. Participating students have the opportunity to learn new skills, get moving, make friends and have fun through

a variety of social, academic, STEM, and fitness activities.

Parents/guardians can register their students for the Healthy Kids ASP and see related fees and tuition rates for 2023-2024 online. Just click <https://www.healthykidsprograms.com/locations>, then scroll down and click on "Otsego County" to open the information link for GMU.

For more information, email GMU's Healthy Kids ASP Director, Danielle Biggers, at danielleb@healthykidsprograms.com or call her at 845-568-6100, ext. 1025.

September 'Rockin' Raiders!

Congratulations to our elementary school award-winners for September, who were recognized September 29 during our first Rockin' Raiders program of the 2023-2024 school year!



Soaring Eagle Award – Caring

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

Brayleigh Barse, Alex Breslau, Layla Covington, Lilliana Crawford, Emilee Crisell, Tyler Crisell, Maverick Davis, Kylo Hamata, Carol Jaycox, Donald Krebbeks, Elizabeth Tiffany, Madilynn Tiffany, Brantley Tompkins-Stone, Camden Wilcox.



Essential Skill Award – Goal Setting

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

Alaina Beckwith, Benjamin Breslau, Jasper Cole, Evelyn Covington, Tanner Delaney, Bryce Delmar, Bryce Gundlach, Wesley Hall, Sofia Henness, Martin Lytle, Damien Maine, Kaidyn Rowe, Aaliyah Seneck, Maelie Smith.

No-cost school meals in 2023-2024

We are pleased to inform you that Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD will continue to participate in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and After School Snack Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2023-2024 school year.

What does this mean for you and your children attending Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD? Great news for you and your students! All students enrolled at Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast AND lunch at no charge to your household for the 2023-2024 school year.

We strongly encourage you to fill out the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Household Income Eligibility Form. This helps the school as well as our students who might be eligible to have test fees waived or reduced fees for college courses.

School meals are a great value and a huge convenience for busy families! We look forward to welcoming your children to the cafeteria this fall. If you need further assistance, please call Susan Sebeck at 607-783-2207, ext. 122, or email her at ssebeck@gmucsd.org.



Thank you, Sidney Elks Lodge!

Special thanks to Sharon Harris and her friends from the Sidney Elks Lodge 2175 who stopped by school in September with donations for our Backpack Program!

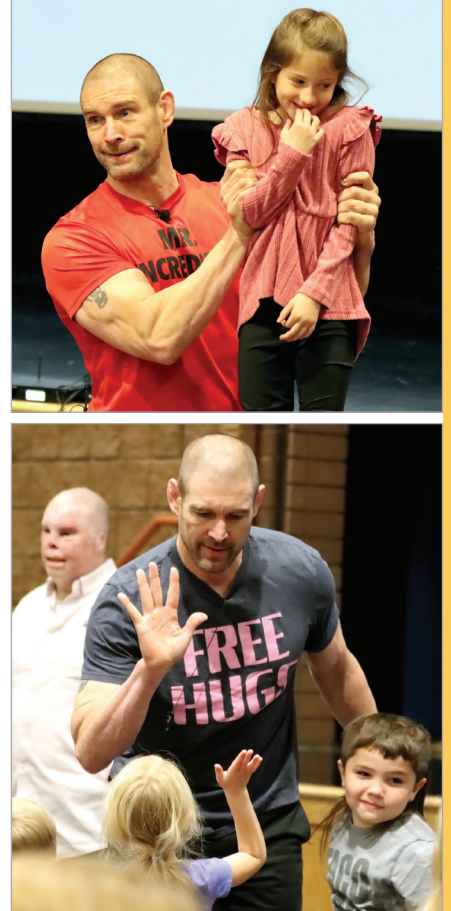
Loud and clear!

Thanks to Tom Murphy and Rick Yarosh for sharing their message of HOPE with all of our students November 2-3 during a series of Sweethearts and Heroes' presentations in the auditorium!

Students of all ages clearly got their message – Hold On, Possibilities Exist – during these interactive, action-packed, anti-bullying presentations, which were open to parents/guardians.

The dynamic duo also connected with kids during Q&A sessions and circle activities, and we can't wait to see them again!

"We aim to stop students from making destructive decisions and help them treat each other with kindness," said S&H founder and director Murphy, whose team focuses on the basic components of social-emotional learning. "We also make our messages sustainable in schools, so that they have an eventual and sustainable effect on the local community. The spider-web effect is powerful and incredible, and there is HOPE for everyone."



Little firefighting Raiders!

Thanks to the Gilbertsville Fire Department for visiting campus October 21 with "Big Mike" the fire truck for Fire Prevention Week!

GMU elementary school students learned some valuable lessons about fire safety, including "Stop, Drop and Roll," home fire-alarm maintenance, and who to contact in the event of an emergency.

Our guests demonstrated how first responders suit up and how the "Jaws of Life" can cut through wood and metal, too. We even got to hear just how loud the siren in "Big Mike" is! Trust us ... it's very loud!





Thank you, veterans!

We packed the auditorium and cafeteria November 9 to honor military veterans past and present in our GMU Community!

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual Veterans Breakfast, which followed a recognition ceremony led by Anne Sebeck of the Gilbertsville American Legion Auxiliary.

The pre-breakfast presentation featured podium appearances by National Honor Society members *Natalie Livelsberger*, *Leah Cotten*, *Alyssa Sorochinsky* and *Devon Hartwell*. *Noah Pain* and *Kyra Demmon* handed out certificates of honor to veterans in attendance. *Sorochinsky* played "Taps" on stage during the ceremony, which included performances by the GMU Chorus.

Special thanks to NHS co-advisors Jennifer McDowall and Raquel Norton and Leadership Club advisor Abbey Beaver for organizing this event, to Susan Sebeck and her cafeteria staff for providing a hearty breakfast, and to all of our volunteer servers and helpers.



RSVP for our Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon!

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton's Board of Education, administrators and cafeteria staff cordially invite all local senior citizens to our annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 22, in the GMU Cafeteria.

This free holiday luncheon for senior citizens in our GMU Community will begin at noon December 22, which is a half-day of school for our students.

Please note that all guests must register by December 8 by calling 607-783-2207, ext. 140, during regular school hours.

GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

RSVP
BY 12/8

DECEMBER 22, 2023
GMU CAFETERIA
12 NOON

SENIOR CITIZEN
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Must RSVP by December 8: Call 607-783-2207, ext. 140

'Seussical' is a hit!

Thanks to everyone who supported the GMU Theatre Club's presentations of "Seussical" on November 10 and 11 in the auditorium. Shout out to the cast and crew of this unique musical, which was directed by Anne Monaco.



Seussical Cast

Cat in the Hat: *Ariana Cornell*

Horton: *Myanna Dickey*

Gertrude: *Emma Peck*

Mayzie: *Alyssa Sorochinsky*

Sour Kangaroo: *Kaleigh Gee*

Young Kangaroo: *Kaylee Stewart*

Bird Girls 1 and 2: *Kristin Gee*
and *Joslynn Irons*

Wickershams 1, 2, 3/Cadets:
Caden Champion, Tyler Crisell,
Thomas Breslau

Yertle the Turtle: *Alex Irons*

Vlad Vladikof: *Mr. Walsh*

JoJo: *Avriel Correll*

Mr. Mayor: *Ryan Davis*

Mrs. Mayor: *Lindsay Turnbull*

Cindy Lou Who: *Olivia Perkosky*

Gen. Ghengis Kahn Schmitz:
Wyatt Eastman

Grinch: *Sammy Beach*

Members of Whoville: *Indigo Cole,*
Etta Hall, Abbi-Lynn Page,
Owen Perkosky, Lawton VanCleeef



Visit our Facebook page to see hundreds of Seussical photos.

We love the 'Boo' at GMU!

Raiders celebrate Halloween with Junior Carnival and Trunk or Treat. See dozens of Halloween pics on Facebook!



Junior runner qualifies for states!

Congratulations to GMU junior *Noah Pain*, who qualified for the State Cross Country Championships with his seventh-place finish at the Section IV Class D Meet on November 2 at Chenango Valley State Park.

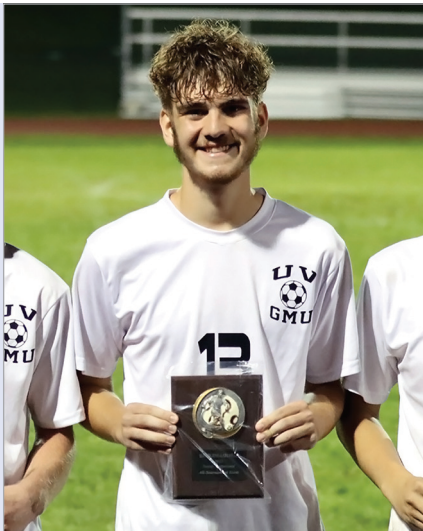
Noah completed the 5-kilometer course in 18 minutes, 25.30 seconds to secure his berth in states, which was hosted by Vernon-Verona-Sherrill on November 11. The Class D sectional field of 81 boys included *Noah's* Unadilla Valley-GMU teammates *Alex Kemnah* (28, 20:05.40), *Dominic Berthel* (64, 23:42.70) and *Zach Wilson* (74, 26:45.50).

Noah went on to finish 65th out of 115 runners in the Class D boys state championship race, completing the 5K course at VVS in 18:58:8.

GMU sophomore *Andrea Favinger* represented UV-GMU in the Section IV Class D girls 5K race and placed ninth out of 64 in 22:17.70.

Additionally, head coach Lee Schaeffer announced 2023 Midstate Athletic Conference awards for UV-GMU. *Noah*, *Alex* and *Andrea* earned MAC First Team All-Star honors, and our boys team received the conference's Sportsmanship Award.

Special shout out to *Jake Favinger* for winning the modified boys race at the MAC Championships on October 26 at Unadilla Valley!



Three GMU soccer All-Stars!

Congratulations to GMU student-athletes *Devon Hartwell*, *Mackenzie Barnes* and *Ariana Cornell* on their league All-Star awards for the 2023 fall soccer seasons.

Senior midfielder *Devon* made the Midstate Athletic Conference's Second Team for boys soccer. He was one of six Unadilla Valley-GMU MAC All-Stars, joining teammates and UV student-athletes *Tucker Cattnach* and *Connor Edgett* (First Team), and *Haywood Edwards*, *Nate Rumovicz* and *Trevor Smith* (Honorable Mentions).

In girls soccer, GMU senior goalie *Mackenzie* earned a Second Team award from the Tri-Valley League, which recognized junior defender *Ariana* as an Honorable Mention.

We also celebrated our senior soccer players with special recognition ceremonies in September. In addition to *Devon* and *Mackenzie*, *Morgan Williams* and *Abigail Davis* were also honored for their commitment to GMU's soccer programs.





High honor for GMU sports!

Congratulations to our varsity athletics programs, which received their 2022-2023 School of Distinction Award from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association in September.

The NYSPHSAA held a Section IV Athletic Directors' Workshop at Chenango Valley and presented several awards to Section IV schools, including

School of Distinction honors. NYSPHSAA Schools of Distinction achieve Scholar-Athlete Team status for 100 percent of their varsity programs during a school year.

To earn recognition as an NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team, 75 percent of a varsity roster must maintain an academic average of 90 or higher. Every Raiders varsity team accomplished this in 2022-2023 as GMU was one of seven NYSPHSAA School of Distinction award-winners from Section IV – and one of 84 across the state!



Raiders meet author Bloom!

GMU students got up close and personal with a real celebrity October 20 as Suzanne Bloom, an award-winning author/illustrator of children's picture books, visited campus!

Known for her widely popular Goose & Bear series, Upstate New York resident Bloom shared stories about her life, her career and, of course, her books with elementary school students in the GMU Auditorium.

Special thanks to GMU pre-kindergarten teacher Danielle Umbra for organizing Bloom's day-long appearance, which was documented by a pair of Ithaca College students for a class presentation.

Umbra's students had just finished reading "No Place for a Pig" by Bloom, who discussed various aspects of bookmaking and publishing while surrounded by poster-sized illustrations and wide-eyed children.

To learn more about Bloom, visit her website at <https://www.suzannebloom.com/> or find her on Facebook.



Great storytelling from Perry Ground!

Thanks to Perry Ground, a storyteller from the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, for visiting GMU in September!

Mr. Ground presented his "Stories from the People of the Longhouse" to several grade levels, and our students loved it!

In the afternoon, Mr. Ground enlightened our Grade 11 English and U.S. History classes on the traditions of oral storytelling and the influence Haudenosaunee ideas had on the development of American democracy.

Mr. Ground captivated students young and old, altering perceptions of the Native American identity and culture with his unique storytelling abilities. He also drew connections that deepened our understanding of our own cultural paradigm.

**GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON
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Mission, Vision, Values

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School

2023-2024 School Year

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
- Meaningful Relationships

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