

Remember to order your yearbook! See form inside.



THE JOURNEY

Newsletter of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District

Volume 31, Number 2

Winter 2021

It's all good at GMU!



**Students, staff have plenty
to celebrate in 2020-2021**





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
District Treasurer, Dorothy Iannello
diannello@gmucsd.org
District Clerk, Jarrin Hayen
jhayen@gmucsd.org

Board of Education

President, Jeremy Pain
jeremypain@gmucsd.org
Term: July 2019-June 2022
Vice President, Larry Smith
larrysmith@gmucsd.org
Term: July 2019-June 2022
Member, Jed Barnes
jedbarnes@gmucsd.org
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Member, Sean Barrows
seanbarrows@gmucsd.org
Term: July 2020-June 2021
Member, Cole Covington
colecovington@gmucsd.org
Term: July 2020-June 2021
Member, Hillary Giuda-Philpott
hillarygiuda@gmucsd.org
Term: July 2018-June 2021
Member, Brian Underwood
brianunderwood@gmucsd.org
Term: July 2020-June 2023

REMAINING BOE MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, unless noted.

2021

- March 17: Regular Meeting
- April 19: Regular Meeting
- April 27: BOCES Vote
- May 11: Budget Hearing
- May 18: School Budget Vote
- May 19: Regular Meeting
- June 16: Regular Meeting

Our Motto

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

Superintendent's Message

Thank you for helping our Raiders return!

Hello GMU Community!

It has been quite the year for everyone! I am so proud of our students, families, and community for working hard to follow protocols for COVID-19. Everyone's efforts are evidenced in the relatively low positivity rate within our community. This, in turn, has allowed us to begin opening up school and bring more students back into the building this past month.

Additionally, due to our combined work and lots of creativity, we put together a month-long basketball season! Now, we're looking forward to additional sports seasons, as well as Mock Trial, Clay Target League, Prom, and many other opportunities for our students! We'll be sure to post updates on our website and social-media pages (Facebook, Twitter) to help keep you informed, so be sure to check our digital platforms frequently in the coming months.

It's no secret that New York state is struggling financially, so building a budget for the next three years will certainly have its challenges. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a toll on New York's financial state, but I am working diligently with the Board of Education and the rest of the GMU team to be as creative as possible when developing a budget proposal for the 2021-2022 school year.

As always, I give you my word that I will do my best to build a budget that provides great opportunities for students while being mindful of the financial burden taxes place on our community members, especially during the COVID-19 health crisis.

Circle May 3 on your calendars, too, as our Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week starts that day. GMU teachers and other staff members have truly been superheroes this school year, so please join me that week in thanking each and every one of them for their dedication and hard work throughout this pandemic.

Again, please keep an eye on our digital platforms (website, Facebook, Twitter) for the most accurate and up-to-date information about the GMU Community, including student opportunities, budget updates, special events and more!

Sincerely,

Annette D. Hammond

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD Superintendent
ahammond@gmucsd.org



From Our Health Office

Is your child sick?

A child with one or more of the following COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home from school: fever (temperature greater than 100.0), chills, body aches, cold symptoms (nasal congestion/runny nose, coughing), sore throat, loss of taste or smell, stomachache/nausea, headache, vomiting or diarrhea.

For the health of your child, classmates and staff members, sick students should stay home from school. Please remember to complete the weekly COVID-19 Screening and monitor your child's temperature daily.

Thank you for understanding these guidelines. They are meant to serve the best interests of all students and staff.

Cold Weather Precautions

Please talk your child about how to stay warm and safe during cold/extreme weather. Regardless of a student's age, it is important to check your child's outerwear daily. Winter jackets, hats, scarves, boots and an extra pair of dry gloves are recommended to help prevent frostbite and/or illness when cold weather strikes.

Be sure to develop an emergency cold weather plan with your child, so he/she knows when to ask for help, where to find safe shelter, how to identify danger signs (body numbness, burning sensation, pain), and what to wear for protection from the elements. This is particularly important for kids who may be early to a bus stop, especially if any of their outerwear is cold and/or wet.

Children's Dental Health

Poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on children's quality of life, their performance at school and their success later in life. Children and adolescents with poor oral health are more likely to experience oral pain and miss school.

Cavities are decayed areas of your teeth that develop into tiny openings or holes. Cavities form when sugar from sweet foods and drinks mix with plaque, a sticky clear film that's always on your teeth. Although tooth decay is largely preventable, it remains the most common chronic disease of children ages 6-11 and adolescents ages 12-19.

The following tips can help you child improve their oral health:

- Brush 2 minutes, 2 times a day (morning and night) with a soft toothbrush
- Eat healthy foods
- Floss between teeth daily
- Visit a dentist regularly
- Drink water
- Replace toothbrushes when bristles are bent/worn out
- Use mouth guards when competing in sports
- Don't chew on hard objects
- Chew sugarless gum to increase saliva to wash out food particles
- Ask your dentist if sealants might help protect permanent teeth

Dr. O'Brien joins SBHC at GMU



Bassett's School-Based Health Center at Gilbertsville-Mount Upton welcomes Dr. Gina O'Brien, a Rotterdam native with extensive pediatric experience.

Dr. O'Brien recently completed her MBA from The Isenberg School of Management in Massachusetts and typically will be on site three days a week to provide medical care to GMU students enrolled in the SBHC program. Her appointment makes GMU's in-school facility the first Bassett Healthcare Network SBHC staffed by a doctor.

Dr. O'Brien also graduated from Siena College (1987, BS Biology) and Georgetown University School of Medicine (1996, MD). She completed Pediatric Residency Training at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson in 1999 and became a Certified Physician Executive (CPE) through the American Association of Physician Leadership in 2017.

Dr. O'Brien and her husband of 25 years, Liam, have two sons – Connor and Aidan – and a Standard Poodle named Lucy.

The SBHC is open during school days for well-child visits, immunizations, flu shots and physicals. SBHC staff also can conduct COVID-19 testing for any student enrolled in a school-based health program. Telehealth options are available as well.

Please call 607-783-2250 or 844-255-7242 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays to schedule an appointment. Schedules are subject to change.

Welcome!

Last stop for Chuck!



The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District thanks bus driver Chuck Frank for 40 years of outstanding service and wishes him nothing but the best in his retirement.

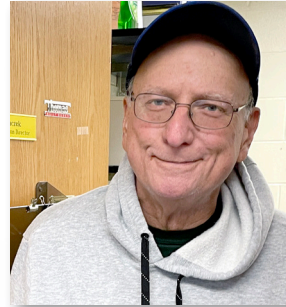
Chuck is a Mount Upton native and resident who safely transported GMU students to and from home on school days as the driver of our “62 Duck Bus.”

We honored Chuck with a special ceremony on February 25 in the auditorium, followed by a bus parade in the circle to memorialize his last ride. You can see more photos and videos of Chuck’s big day on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GMUCentral>.

Enjoy the next chapter, Chuck!



Transportation Supervisor retires



As Joe Zaczek fittingly puts it, “It’s been a good ride.”

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton’s Transportation Supervisor closed a 30-year career with the district when he retired January 4, 2021. The 69-year-old Mount Upton graduate said he’s not sure what he’ll do next, although spending time in Florida with his wife, Linda, is right at the top of the list.

“Ask me again in three months,” said Joe, whose family moved from Deposit to Mount Upton when he was a sixth-grader. “Retirement is a new thing for me.”

Transportation was new to Joe at one point, too, as the opportunity to drive buses just sort of popped up. Although active daily on his family’s farm, Joe agreed to become a bus driver in January of 1991 at the request of then-Mount Upton superintendent Michael Klockowski.

“He called me and asked if there was any way I could help out because someone was sick and they needed a driver,” Joe said of Klockowski, his former basketball coach. “I was going to take a month off and do nothing, but two weeks later, I was on the road.”

Six years after that, “they talked me into taking the supervisor job,” and the rest is transportation history.

“I had no idea I was going to do this,” said Joe, who raised three children (Brian, Jeff, Joanne) with high-school sweetheart Linda along the way. “It went very fast, but it’s been a good ride.”

Asked what he’ll miss the most, Joe didn’t hesitate: “The kids. You just get attached to them. You know their car, you know their parents, you know if they’re home, you know if they’re not home. They’re like your own kids.”

GMU thanks Joe for his three decades of service to the district and wishes him nothing but the best in retirement!



Good Luck in the Future!

Pre-K and Kindergarten registration

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton is accepting registrations for students who will attend pre-kindergarten and kindergarten during the 2021-2022 school year.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Resident children of Gilbertsville-Mount Upton School District who will be age 4 by December 1, 2021, are eligible to register/apply for the full day Pre-K program. The class size is limited to 18 students; therefore, a lottery system is used to determine the class roll if more than 18 applications are received.

Kindergarten Registration

Resident children of Gilbertsville-Mount Upton School District who will be age 5 on or before December 1, 2021, are eligible to register for the Kindergarten class for the 2021-2022 school year.

Registration Requirements

The following items must be submitted at the time of Pre-K and Kindergarten registration:

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

For information about how to obtain an application, please call Kristy Carey, Registrar, at 607-783-2207, ext. 103. All applications must be returned by noon on Wednesday April 1, 2021.

Job Openings: Sub Bus Drivers

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District has immediate openings for substitute bus drivers!

Please send letters of applications to:

Mrs. Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent
Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD
693 State Highway 51
Gilbertsville, NY 13776-1104
Salary: As per CSEA Contract.



Legal Notice of Fire Safety Inspection

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District's school building, press box and bus garage for fire hazards that might endanger the lives of students, teachers and employees therein has been completed for the 2020-2021 school year. This report is available for inspection at the district office of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District, at 693 State Highway 51, Gilbertsville, NY 13776 upon request.

—Jarrin Hayen, District Clerk



Elks' Club replenishes Backpack Program



Gilbertsville-Mount Upton thanks Sharon Harris and Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 for their continued generosity in support of our Backpack Program!

GMU Principal Heather Wilcox (left) and Librarian/Backpack Program Coordinator Raquel Norton (right) welcomed Sharon and her massive delivery of brand-new clothes, boots, sneakers, bags, toiletries and more during dismissal on October 29, 2020.

Sharon secured a \$2,500 grant from the Elks National Foundation that went toward the purchase of the aforementioned items for students in the GMU, Bainbridge-Guilford, Sidney and Unatego school districts.

Thank You, Counselors!

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton celebrated School Counselors Clara Tanner and Lisa Ruland during National School Counseling Week, which ran February 1-5 in 2021.

Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

Clara serves our middle and high school students while Lisa helps our elementary kiddos. We appreciate everything you do for our students every day!



Lisa Ruland



Clara Tanner



*Thank you Lisa
and Clara!*

GMU adds TeachingBooks to online learning resources

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District students and teachers can now access TeachingBooks, an online collection of more than 238,000 digital materials about books for children and young adults.

TeachingBooks features links to author interviews, video book trailers, read-alongs, discussion questions, vocabulary lists and more for young children, teens, educators and adults.

Students can find the link to TeachingBooks under the "Online Learning" list on the GMU Students webpage at <https://www.gmucsd.org/Students.aspx>. For educators, the link is also posted on the GMU Staff webpage at <https://www.gmucsd.org/Staff.aspx>.

Please email GMU Library Media Specialist Raquel Norton at rnorton@gmucsd.org for log-in information and general inquiries.

'Cutting Edge' mentoring at GMU

Congratulations to Gilbertsville-Mount Upton's Mentoring Program, which was recently highlighted in the CFES Brilliant Pathways Summit.

The following is an excerpt from an article titled "CFES Summit Highlights Cutting Edge Mentoring Programs from Educators Across the Country," originally published by Newswise on March 2, 2021. It is posted online at <https://brilliantpathways.org/cfes-summit-highlights-cutting-edge-mentoring-programs-from-educators-across-the-country/>.

"In rural schools where mentors can be harder to find ... Heather Wilcox, principal at Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School, created a peer mentoring program to ensure consistent meetings.

The newly expanded program at GMU, a partnership between the school and CFES, has Pre-K through 5th graders meeting weekly with mentors in grades 6 through 12. The students learn social and life skills through a series of activities, including a pen pal program with writing prompts and holiday cards.

'It's really about relationships,' says Wilcox. 'It's changing lives.' "

You can watch Mrs. Wilcox's presentation during the CFES Brilliant Pathways webinar titled "Mentoring Summit: Engage the New Age" here: <https://brilliantpathways.org/events/webinar-mentoring-in-a-virtual-world/>. Her presentation begins around the 6-minute mark.



This "Lunch with Mentors" photo was taken in January 2020 (pre-COVID closures).

NHS students deliver for GMU families



Gilbertsville-Mount Upton would like to thank National Honor Society students and other volunteers who are helping to deliver food and school-work to district families on Mondays.

NHS members **Gavin Bonczkowski, Kailah Davis, Emily Hammond, Olivia Held, Dylan McVey, Kyle Meyers, Nicole Meyers, Dalton Proskine** and **Teddy Sharkey**, as well as Leadership students **Hannah Bonczkowski, Lane Dibble, Kendra Hammond** and **Fiona Held**, staff and administrators in the GMU Cafeteria on Mondays to package food and school assignments for once-a-week home deliveries.

After loading the packages onto school buses, these students ride along during regular dismissal runs and drop off food and school assignments at designated bus stops. This ensures that children



who attend GMU for in-person instruction and those who are learning remotely receive the food and materials they need to be successful each week.

School bus deliveries also give NHS students community service hours, which have been difficult to find elsewhere because of the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

Food packages are automatically delivered to the homes of GMU students who request school meals. All GMU students are eligible to receive free meals this school year. For more information, please call 607-783-2207.

Technology program still going strong

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton students completed a variety of Technology projects last year, packing the shop with such things as a saddle cabinet, rustic coffee tables, walnut cutting boards, foot stools, shaker peg boards, circuit boards, electric motors, problem-solving activities, and more.



Then, COVID-19 changed the world. The 2019-2020 school year closed with months of remote instruction, and school is a lot different in 2020-2021.

Technology teacher Ken Held said the program is still project-based despite the new challenges stemming from the pandemic. "We had to scale back some of the larger projects due to the time constraints and lack of student access to machinery," he said, "but students are still making furniture."

Those enrolled in Furniture class have already built end tables, rustic shelves, antique-style wooden trays, and more. Students recently received a bag full of wood at home to turn into a rustic shelf. Since some lack machinery at home, pieces were precut in the shop. Handsaws were distributed, too, so they could make the final cuts at home. One student, **Kendra Hammond**, even gathered her own pile of cherry to work on with the machines at home.

Middle school students are still hands-on even when they're learning in a virtual setting. Some of the student projects include are foot stools, peg boards and electronics. A few have been scaled back, but technology classes continue nonetheless.

"I see some students thrive in the technology room where they struggle in other courses," Held said. "Technology fills a void as core courses don't always offer a technical-based environment."

Dominic Hartwell, Natalie Gross, Jeff Barnes, Blake SanSoucie, Madison Lockwood and Jenna Carpenter helped prefabricate some parts to make foot stools for 32 students, and hundreds of pieces of lumber have been sent to their homes.

Most students have been online at home for Technology class, doing floor plan drawings, 3-D modeling on computers, and other drawings and activities. "We are making the best of this, trying to still offer a variety of opportunities for students," Held said.

DDP/CAD class enables students to obtain college credit in the drawing class using AutoCAD through Tompkins Cortland Community College. Whether students attend college or not, they will have work-based experience with a program found in many industries. Special thanks to Technology Director Eric Voorhees for creating a link for students to download the CAD program so they can work on it from home!

GMU Senior of the Month, December 2020

Kyle Meyers

The GMU Student Council is proud to congratulate Kyle Meyers as its Senior of the Month for December 2020!



Kyle possesses both the best of small-town values and the most courageous and expansive expectations for his future. Summer customers at Morris' ice cream destination, Get the Scoop, experience Kyle's polite manner, his gift for conversation, and his exemplary work ethic. Friends already know of the demands Kyle places upon himself to succeed, a quality essential to propel him forward in the competitive film industry.

Articulate, intelligent and curious, Kyle has been an asset to GMU classrooms. He is a philosopher at heart, digging deeply into the intellectual questions beyond the daily lesson. Having earned the admiration of his teachers, Kyle was inducted into the National Honor Society as a testament to his strength of character. Kyle's supportive nature is antithetical to that of conflict. Unfailingly polite, he is quick to laugh, positive and cheerful, without so much as a tinge of insincerity.

Always a welcome teammate, Kyle has participated in varsity soccer, varsity track and field, and junior varsity basketball. Beyond interscholastic sports, Kyle applies his grace and athleticism to biking, hiking, fishing, skiing, and even roller skating. He also can solve the Rubik's Cube, play the piano, and whistle like none other!

Kyle has been interested in reading more lately, particularly as a way to expand his vocabulary. He was likely inspired by the community exchange library that he engineered and maintains with his aunt. Feel free to offer up your favorite title as Kyle welcomes suggestions.

Those who find themselves taking the high road in life have a great chance of running into Kyle along the way!



Congratulations!

GMU Senior of the Month, January 2021

Teddy Sharkey

The GMU Student Council is overjoyed to recognize Teddy Sharkey as the first Senior of the Month of 2021.



Although Teddy is Treasurer of the Student Council, we hope this honor is a surprising accolade to add to his many achievements.

Teddy is spending a great deal of time out of the building during his senior year as he's getting an impressive head start on his college pursuits at the New Visions program. His broad range of interests and abilities makes it challenging to follow one particular college path. Friends have heard Teddy talk about an interest in physical therapy or sports medicine, but there is no hiding his intellectual curiosity in Mr. Connell's classes (particularly the genocide class). Teddy is also fascinated by gaming design.

Teddy is soft-spoken, gracious and kind, but his quiet demeanor belies the performer within. His love of music is renowned – he likes to listen to rap, but as a trombone player, he has participated in many genres of music and excelled at all of them! Teddy has performed for Area All-State, NYSSMA Solo Festivals, All-County Band and Jazz Band. This year, he's the president of the Symphonic Band.

"Teddy has been a pillar of the music department during his time at GMU," Instrumental Music teacher Will Gilchrist said. "Besides being an excellent musician, he is always upbeat, positive and willing to go above and beyond."

Teddy's love of music propelled him up out of the pit and onto the musical theater stage, where he memorably performed in "Mary Poppins." He went on to join Drama Club last year, just as the pandemic forced schools to shutter public performances.

With a remarkable work ethic, an ability to think outside of the box, and superb creative-writing skills, Teddy is certainly known for his academic accomplishments. He has consistently enrolled in advanced classes and was elected to the National Honor Society. Teddy is quite tall, too, putting his height to good use as an athletic basketball player for the Raiders. He also works at Angela's, a pizza place in Norwich.

Above all, it is Teddy's strength of character and his generosity of spirit that defines his interactions with others. Teddy easily finds commonalities in social situations but, as an only child, is self-sufficient and self-reflective. There is an amazing life ahead for Teddy Sharkey and we can't wait to see where his journey will take him.

GMU Senior of the Month, February 2021 **Zan SanSoucie**

The GMU Student Council is proud to recognize Zan SanSoucie as its Senior of the Month for February 2021!



Zan is a friendly, compassionate and ambitious student who takes full responsibility for his learning, is diligent in completing his assignments, and consistently shows up for school.

A scholar of the intricacies of gaming, Zan advocates for the ways this field can help students with academics and socialization in school. He keeps himself apprised of developments in the industry and plans to make this keen interest a part of his future.

Zan's competitive spirit is not restricted to screen time as he takes it onto the playing fields as well. He has represented GMU in soccer and baseball for several years and earned a Section IV Character Counts Recognition Award as a sophomore.

"I knew exactly what I was going to get from him every practice and game," said Coach Johnson, adding he was always thrilled to have Zan on his teams. "Zan is a person who always gives it his all and always leaves everything out on the field. It was a privilege to coach Zan. I enjoyed every second of it."

Teachers often compliment Zan on his character as he is respectful of others, embracing of all, polite, and a champion of the underdog. He does not tolerate bullying, is quick to extend a helping hand and does not accept less than his best when it comes to his schoolwork.

Zan enjoys the outdoors and camping, and spending time with his family is very important. Whether he's around a campfire or in a classroom, Zan can weave a great story and excels at contributing to discussions.

Mrs. Talbot put it simply and eloquently when asked for her thoughts about GMU's latest Senior of the Month: "Zan is a great choice!"



GMU Senior of the Month, March 2021 **Olivia Held**

The Student Council is thrilled to recognize Olivia Held, one of our most involved and most active seniors, as Gilbertville-Mount Upton's Senior of the Month for March 2021.



Academically, Olivia swings for the fences by challenging herself to succeed at the highest levels as she consistently has made the High Honor Roll throughout high school. She considers herself to be a perfectionist and competitive, but Olivia is always willing to share her understanding and to ask the tough or embarrassing questions that allow the whole class to move forward.

No matter what might be troublesome for Olivia, she shows up with abundant enthusiasm and positivity and generously shares her good will and excitement to learn.

Right now, Olivia balances her time outside of the classroom with a variety of interests. She might be:

- Center court for the varsity girls' basketball team, where she's been since ninth grade;
- In a Zoom session guiding the development of the yearbook;
- In the brass section, French horn in hand, finessing her embouchure to master one of the orchestra's most difficult instruments;
- Helping with fundraising as the president of her class for the fourth year in a row.
- Or, as President of Student Council, applauding the accomplishments of her peers every month (now it's her turn).

Olivia's hard work and attention to detail have produced well-deserved honors and distinctions, including induction into the National Honor Society, the HOBY Leadership Conference, and Girls' State. This year, she was selected by Ms. Rhone to join a select group of students to represent GMU in the CASSC Upstate Academic Competition. We will be cheering her on!

At the end of her junior year, she received the George Eastman Scholarship to the University of Rochester. We know more great things await Olivia as she propels herself beyond the halls of GMU.

"In circumstances where others might stumble, Olivia perseveres," Mrs. Talbot said. "She always handles herself with grace, which just happens to be her middle name!"

Great Job!

GMU Through the Year

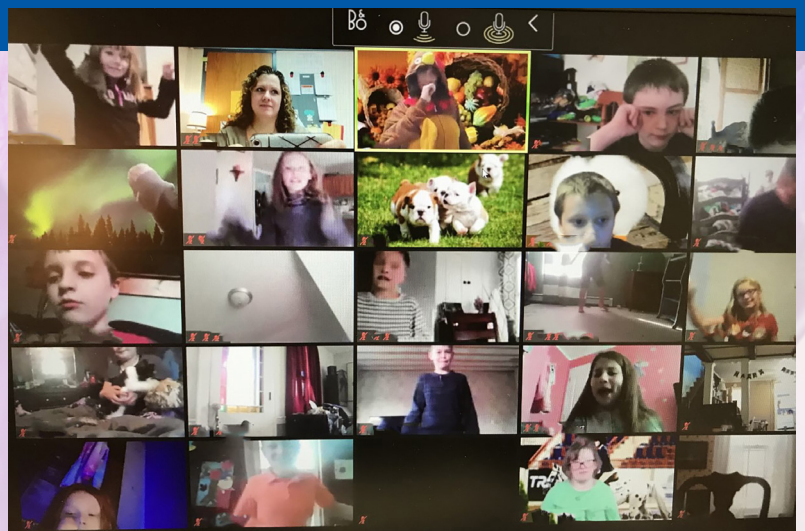
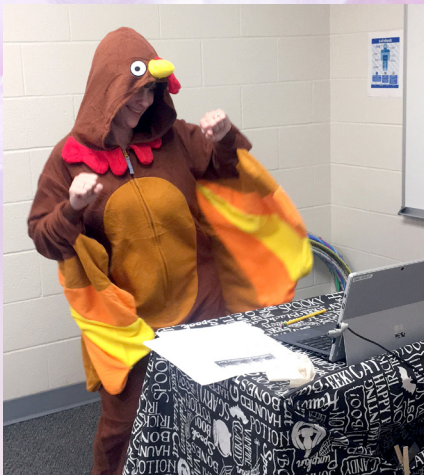
HALLOWEEN



VETERANS DAY



THANKSGIVING

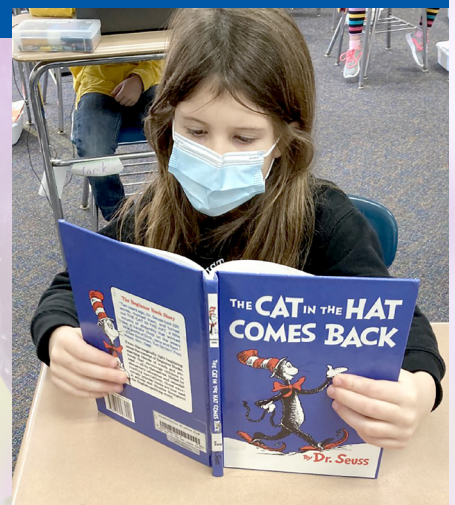


GMU Through the Year

CHRISTMAS

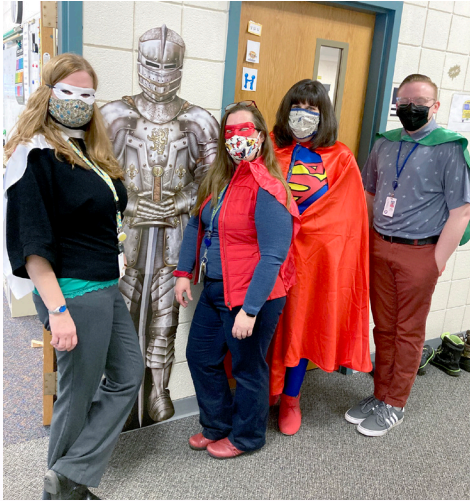


READ ACROSS AMERICA



GMU Through the Year

SPIRIT WEEK



GMU Celebrates Student Achievements!

Congratulations to the following Gilbertsville-Mount Upton students who have earned awards and honor roll status during the 2020-2021 school year so far. Keep up the great work!

SOARING EAGLE AWARDS

September Theme—Caring

Displaying kindness and concern for others, yourself and your school community. Giving of yourself without expecting anything in return.

- Kindergarten: *Kayden Mills, Laura Schidzick, Lawton VanCleet, Abbigail Yost*
- First Grade: *Claire Beach, Alexis DeGroat, Mackenzie Miller, Jaxson Zaczek*
- Second Grade: *Evelyn Covington, Layla Covington, Willard Covington, Rihanna Fitch, Garrett Stanton*
- Third Grade: *Paris Behnke*
- Fourth Grade: *Amelia Beckwith, Julius Smith*
- Fifth Grade: *Madison Lent, Koda Stockdale*
- Sixth Grade: *Devin DeGroat*

October Theme—Determination

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

- Kindergarten: *Coraline Carney, Grace Rosenkrance, Arianna Schultes, Hunter Smith*
- First Grade: *Cheryl Davis, Logan Lange, Nicholas Schultes, Camden Wilcox*
- Second Grade: *Bryce Gundlach, Abigail Schaub*
- Third Grade: *Kaidyn Rowe*
- Fourth Grade: *Alivia Lum, Emma Schmitt*
- Fifth Grade: *Carrie Doyle*
- Sixth Grade: *Shane Carney, Dylan Page*

November Theme—Resourceful

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

- Kindergarten: *Elliot Bankus, Colten Carr, Brianna Cummings, Shane Nober*
- First Grade: *Alaina Beckwith, Aryiah Oliver, Noah Sturdevant*
- Second Grade: *Gianna Barnes, Chanler Roe*
- Third Grade: *Tyler Crisell*
- Fourth Grade: *Pacey Behnke, Sullivan DiGiorgi*
- Fifth Grade: *Cameron Schultes, Destiny Wright*
- Sixth Grade: *Brandon Kendall*

December Theme—Respect

Uses good manners and is considerate of the feelings of others. Has a positive attitude when it comes to school.

- Kindergarten: *Layton Esposito, Elijah Oliver, Presley Young*
- First Grade: *Wilbur Barnes, Alexis DeGroat, Kalli Lanfair, Mila Rhone*
- Second Grade: *Alexander Breslau, Kellan Burns, Owen Pitcher*

- Third Grade: *Maeleigh Lum*
- Fourth Grade: *Kayden Peck, Emily Schermerhorn*
- Fifth Grade: *Gabriella Barnes*
- Sixth Grade: *Peyton Norton*

January Theme—Creativity

Ability to use one's imagination or original ideas.

- Kindergarten: *Kayden Mills, Arianna Schultes, Abbigail Yost*
- First Grade: *Allison Boyce, Eli Fuller, Nicholas Schultes*
- Second Grade: *Landon Grabo, Bryce Gundlach, Moira McDonough, Abbi-Lynn Page*
- Third Grade: *Lily Hauptfleisch, Kaylee Stewart, Jacob Vaccaro*
- Fourth Grade: *Amelia Beckwith, Kristin Gee, Logan Panek*
- Fifth Grade: *Taylor Kline, Zayde Palmatier*
- Sixth Grade: *Alexis Davis, Cyrus Hall, Brandon Kendall, Mia Mantellassi, Raven Wilber*

FIRST-QUARTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

- Fifth Grade: *Carrie Doyle*
- Seventh Grade: *John Forbes Conaty, Mackenzi Marron, Dannaka Rasmussen*
- Eighth Grade: *Ariana Cornell, Kaleigh Gee, Emma Alexis Peck, Alyssa Sorochinsky*
- Ninth Grade: *Leah Cotton*
- 10th Grade: *Hannah Bonczkowski, Fiona Held, Kacie Turnbull*
- 11th Grade: *Tammy Barnes, Miranda Carrabba, Angelina Correll, Morgan Keuhn, Ashlyn Marron, Dylan McVey, Nicole Meyers, Madeline Pain, Skye Wilson*
- 12th Grade: *Gavin Bonczkowski, Shayne Christian, Maya Farwell, Emily Hammond, Olivia Held, Kyle Meyers, Theodore Sharkey*

FIRST-QUARTER HONOR ROLL

- Fifth Grade: *Mason Kiser, Koda Stockdale*
- Sixth Grade: *Brandon Kendall*
- Seventh Grade: *Jeffrey Barnes, Ryan Davis, Adeline DeGarmo, Madison Lockwood, Kira Nolan, Trenton Odell*
- Eighth Grade: *Kyra Demmon, Noah Pain, Lindsay Turnbull, Cody Wheeler*
- Ninth Grade: *Mackenzie Barnes, Haylee Harrington, Devon Hartwell, Corbin Page, Andrew Stone*
- 10th Grade: *Mackenzie Cherry, Corbin Demmon, Brennan Finch, Kendra Hammond, Morgan Katalinas, Megan Perrine, Waylon Raymond, Kali Wilcox*
- 11th Grade: *Skylar Clement, Dalton Proskine, Alivia Retz, Daniel Tompkins*
- 12th Grade: *Dominick Hartwell*

Oh, what a senior night!

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton's boys basketball team earned a 65-53 victory over visiting Franklin on Senior Night!

Seniors **Gavin Bonczkowski**, **Dominick Hartwell**, **Kyle Meyers**, and **Skyler Norton** were honored before the February 19 game for their dedication to the program.

Only seniors were allowed to bring a limited number of in-person spectators. If you missed it live, you can watch the replay of the game and the ceremony any time on our YouTube and Facebook pages.



Gavin Bonczkowski



Dominick Hartwell



Skyler Norton



Kyle Meyers

Big win on senior night

Congrats to the GMU girls basketball team for its 50-31 victory over visiting Unadilla Valley on February 26!

Junior **Ashlyn Marron** finished with game-highs of 26 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Raiders, who honored **Olivia Held** and **Emily Hammond** on Senior Night. Both were recognized for their dedication to GMU basketball, Olivia as a player and Emily as a singer who has performed the national anthem at home games since she was an eighth-grader.

Go Raiders!



Olivia Held



Emily Hammond



Ashlyn Marron



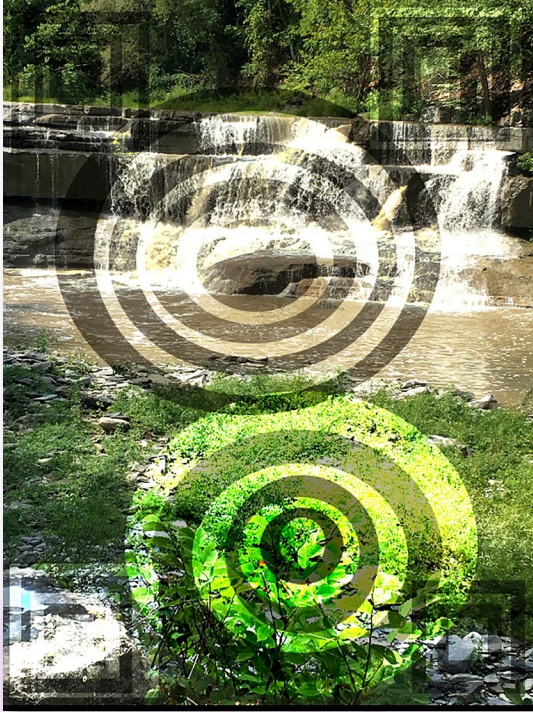
*Girls'
Basketball
Team*

Wow. Just . . . Wow!

You may be speechless, too, after seeing what Ashley Hughes' Digital Photography students can do.

The following pieces illustrate (pardon the pun) just how good our kids are getting as they become more and more proficient in both photography and creative editing using Adobe Photoshop.

These assignments—and more than a dozen others that you can see on our Facebook page—were inspired by the work of Fong Qi Wei, Marcelo Monreal, and David Hockney.



*circles timescape:
Aubree Palmer,
Grade 10*



**Amanda Gorman: Miranda Carrabba, Grade 11
Original photo of Amanda Gorman by Anna Zhang



*oranges:
Morgan Keuhn,
Grade 11*



face/comic book: Brynne Livelsberger, Grade 11

Reading challenges underway!

The SOAR and ROAR challenges kicked off in November for GMU students in Grades 1 and 2!

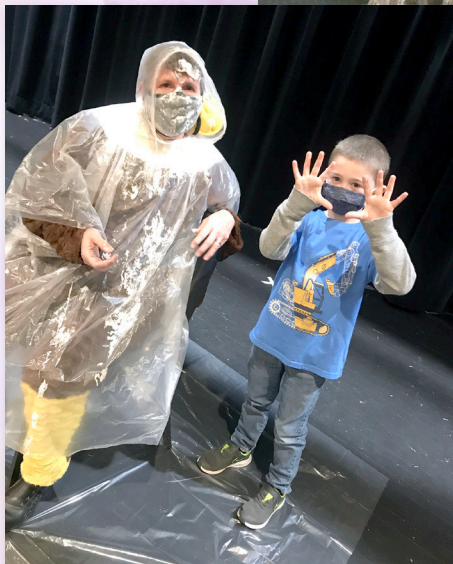
Sit Often And Read (SOAR) challenges first-graders to read 100 books, using Epic books for kids. Each student receives prizes and a feather for every 10 books read, and teacher Elisa Heggenstaller takes a pie in the face from first-graders who hit 100 books.

Read Often And Review (ROAR) challenges second-graders to read books and then write reviews using a standard template. Students receive a dinosaur-egg prize and add a tooth to our T-Rex each time they complete five book reviews. Those who write 25 book reviews get the opportunity to slime Mrs. Heggenstaller or her dino helper, Lauren Weidman.

Congratulations to the following students who have already been recognized with in-school ceremonies for achieving these goals:

SOAR (first grade, 100 books): **Camden Wilcox, Jaxson Zaczek, Mila Rhone, Mason Turnbull** and **Wilbur Barnes**.

ROAR (second grade, 25 book reviews): **Bryce Gundlach**.



*Keep reading,
Raiders!*



Shaping the future

Thanks to Mary Hankey for sharing photos of her kindergarten kiddos' shape creations!

The class went old school, using felt shapes and felt boards to craft pictures. Mary credited her sister, a former pre-school teacher, for setting her up with the materials.

Students worked on size discrimination, shapes recognition and following directions during the lesson, which took

place in January—the Soaring Eagle characteristic month for creativity.

“We talk a lot about using your imagination with play,” Mary said. “It was so quiet as they all worked to figure out what and where to put each shape to copy the picture. They were so proud of their finished products!”



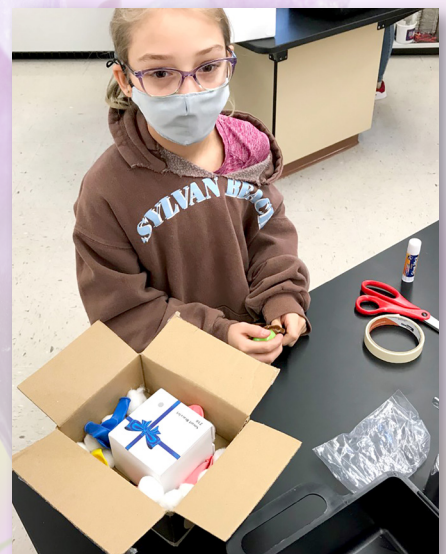
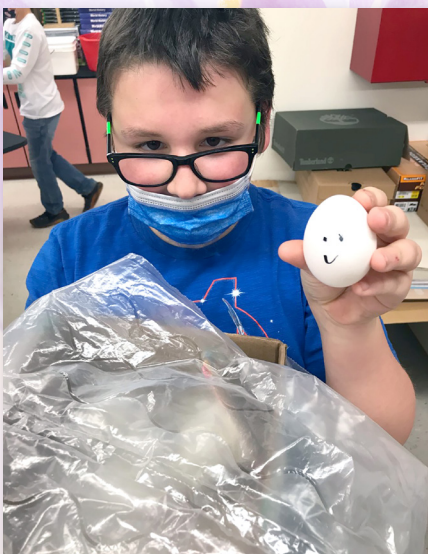
Excellent Eggstronaut Landers!

Thanks to Becky Acla for sharing pics from our November Eggstronaut Landers demonstrations on campus. The egg-drop project challenges students to build devices that will protect an egg when dropped from a high location. But we added a twist, asking kids to build a reusable lander that can survive repeated falls from the same height.

GMU students used the engineering design process to analyze the durability of their projects and improve the

design for multiple egg drops. In addition to protecting the egg, successful devices needed to minimize and distribute impact forces when landing.

Testing and observing designs allowed kids to identify weak spots, which could be fixed in future designs. This process of repeatedly designing, building and testing is called iteration and is used by real engineers!



Stacking up on fun!

GMU thanks substitute teachers Meredith Hammond and Darby Champion for taking and sharing pictures of our kindergarten kiddos engaged in a Christmas Tree STEM Stacking Challenge in December.

"I cannot tell you how thankful I am to have such wonderful help," GMU kindergarten teacher Samantha Wise said. "There have been other friendly faces helping us out as well. Without these amazing people, we wouldn't be able to have students engage in all the fun activities that we have planned."



Keep It Clean!

GMU fifth-graders studied the hydrosphere and conservation issues such as plastic, oil and pesticide pollution in December.

Students created land/water models "polluted" by oil, colored vinegar (acid rain), salt (pesticides), and debris (plastics).

Each researched the issues and determined which tools would be best to clean up the hydrosphere. In this science unit, students learned about how to be more responsible because once pollution is in the environment, it can be extremely difficult to clean up!

Thanks to fifth-grade teacher Alicia Cummings for sharing pictures of this messy but fun learning experience!





The Vallerian

Yearbooks for Sale! Yearbooks for Sale! Get Your Yearbooks!

It's that time of year again, when yearbooks go on sale! Have you ordered your copy?

If not, the 2021 Yearbook Staff is taking orders for this year's *The Vallerian*.

Yearbook prices are as follows:

<u>Order between these dates</u>	<u>Cost per yearbook</u>
Now-May 1, 2021	\$20.00
After May 1, 2021	\$25.00

To order your copy of *The Vallerian*, please follow these simple steps:

- Complete and cut out the form below;
- Write a check for the appropriate amount, made payable to GMU Yearbook;
- Send the form and your payment to:

GMU Central School
ATTN: Yearbook Order Staff
693 State Highway 51
Gilbertsville, NY 13776

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer McDowall at jmcdowall@gmucsd.org or at (607) 783-2207, ext. 262.

The Vallerian | Yearbook Order Form 2020-2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Grade/Teacher: _____

Number of copies ordered: _____ Total Cost: _____

**GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
693 State Highway 51
Gilbertsville, New York 13776-1104
607-783-2207

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Norwich,
NY 13815
PERMIT NO. 18

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeremy Pain, President
Larry Smith, Vice-President
Jed Barnes
Sean Barrows
Cole Covington
Hillary Giuda-Philpott
Brian Underwood

Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent
Jarrin Hayen, District Clerk

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**ECRWSS
BOXHOLDER**

FOLLOW US! FOLLOW US! FOLLOW US! FOLLOW US! FOLLOW US!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.gmucsd.org/>



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/GMUCentral/>
(@GMUCentral)



FOLLOW US ON Twitter

<https://twitter.com/GMUCentral>
(@GMUCentral)



OUR MISSION & VISION

Our Mission

At Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School, we use a trauma-sensitive approach to cultivate confident individuals with the desire to take risks, experience new opportunities, and to recognize the potential within themselves.

We are a student-centered learning community that values:

- A Growth Mindset
- Essential Skills for Career Readiness
- Social-Emotional Wellness
- Resilience
- Critical Thinking
- High Expectations
- Meaningful Relationships

Our Vision

We strive to provide an inclusive learning community that fosters life-long personal and academic growth.

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