



The Journey

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

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

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It's the Quality of the Journey that Counts!

Superintendent's Message



Oh and what a great Journey we are going to have this year with lots of new things in store like the look and name of our newsletter! In an effort to save some costs while continuing to provide our community with information about our school and students, our newly named newsletter, *The Journey*, will be more packed with information because we will be combining

two months of information into one newsletter. I hope you enjoy its contents. Also, our website is under construction and we are hoping to reveal its new look and contents to you by the end of October. Not only will it look different, but we heard your request for more up-to-date information and we think our new calendar program will accomplish that! All school events, including sporting events, will be updated in real time so that you can view the latest accurate information!

Thank you to Mr. Digsby and his custodial staff for getting the school and the surrounding grounds in great shape, ready for our return! Thank you also to the student summer workers who assisted the custodial staff. They did everything from weed whacking outdoors, to washing windows and vacuuming. This summer work program has been available to students for many years and it provides students with an opportunity to not only make money but to gain valuable skills and experience that can help them in future jobs and care of their own homes. This year's student workers were **Makayla Lewis, Dustin Nesbitt, Brian Banks, Nick Cammer, Elle MacPherson** and **Angie Welch**.

Thank you to Mr. Joe Zaczek and our Transportation staff for their safe transportation of our most precious cargo, your children. The 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 they are in school, students can have a delicious breakfast prepared for them by our cafeteria staff. Our Cafeteria staff provides students with delicious homemade meals with a smile. Each cafeteria staff member is student-centered and works hard to provide many options for students and staff. Thank you to Mrs. Susan Sebeck and her dedicated kitchen crew!

The 2016-2017 school year has gotten off to a great start! Welcome to all of our new faculty, staff, students and their families. We are thrilled to welcome you into the GMU family!

Our teachers and support staff have come back rested and ready to amaze students with all there is to learn! We have lost many staff members this year but I feel confident that we have hired some incredibly talented people. Our teachers tirelessly give of themselves each day and are truly present for our students. They teach, guide and listen so well trying to best meet the needs of each student. Welcome back teachers and thank you for your dedication to our students and the GMU school community!

All of our staff works to make connections with students on the bus, in the halls, in the classroom, cafeteria, and on the fields and courts! Our fall sports are in full swing with numerous soccer games and cross-country meets taking place. Thank you to all the coaches who give of their personal time to provide lifelong lessons through sports. I firmly believe that as adults/spectators, we need to model appropriate behaviors that we want our students to adopt as adults. It is imperative that we are always demonstrating good sportsmanship at all contests. Watching a contest can be much more enjoyable for all involved if we are making positive comments and being encouraging. Please support our students in our athletic contests and all extra-curricular programs that they participate in. Having supportive fans can provide a positive boost of energy for all involved!

Preparations for the start of the capital project are underway. This month I have met with our architects and project managers to continue the planning to move forward. It appears that if everything goes well at the state level, combined with the work of our architects, we may be able to start our project this spring and possibly finish by November 2017! I want to again thank our capital project steering committee and our community for supporting this project that will provide added safety features and much needed updates to our school.

Parents, student drivers and community members, please remember that we want to keep all of our students as safe as

Continued on next page

Superintendent's Message, cont.

possible, so on these foggy fall and slippery winter mornings, remember to take it slow and be aware as you cannot pass a school bus that has its lights on. Also, during morning drop-offs and afternoon bus loading, the front circle is closed to all traffic except our busses. During these times it is best to use the parent drop-off and pick-up area adjacent to the playground. It is also prohibited to pass a bus in our front circle any time of day. A big shout out to the Morris Rotary Club for the sign posted on our school property reminding all of us to drive carefully to protect our children. Have a fantastic fall and keep an eye out for the next newsletter in mid-December.

—Mrs. Annette D. Hammond,
Superintendent & CSE Director



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Emergency Procedures

All school districts in the State of New York are required to comply with the Commissioner's Regulation 155.13 which requires written annual instructions to parents, students and staff regarding District emergency management plans. The complete plans are on file in each Principal's Office and are available to parents, students and staff at any time.

The object of emergency planning is to anticipate problems in dealing with natural and man-made disasters. Depending on the kind of intensity of this disaster, the school may be required to carry out any of the following procedures:

- A. School Cancellation
- B. Evacuation
- C. Early Dismissal
- D. Sheltering

Sheltering and early dismissal or "go home" drills are held at least once a year. Parents will receive an advance announcement of these drills via a newsletter at least one week prior to the drill.

It is important to note that emergency procedures may be carried out without advance notice. Children may be coming home to either empty homes or locked doors. Parents must make contingency plans with their children to go to the home of a neighbor if the children require supervision. A note has been sent home to all elementary parents requesting a copy of this plan.

Emergency information will be broadcast over the following radio stations: WKXZ, WCDO, WDOS, WSKG, WZOZ, WDLA, WDHI, WIYN, WBKT, WHWK, WAAL, WWYL, WLTB, and school closings will also be broadcast on News Channel 34, WBNG-TV, WUTR/WFXV, and YNN TV as well as, on our website www.gmucsd.org, facebook.com/gmucsd and evesun.com.

If you have questions concerning any of the above information, please contact the Main Office at 783-2207, ext. 103. Thank you for your cooperation.

—Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent

School Board Recognition Week

The week of October 24 is School Board Recognition Week in New York. School board members give their time and talents to serve our District and our students. If you see a GMU Board Member, be sure to tell them *thanks!*

Our GMU School Board consists of Jerry Theis, President; Larry Smith, Vice President; and members Ethan Eberly, Carrieann Heath, Barbara Hill, Jeremy Pain, and Zachary Proskine.

No Child Left Behind

Our Student Support Services Department, following the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, continues to provide academic, remedial, and social/emotional support to ALL students. This support is directly linked to our Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) which includes extra in-class help provided by teachers and/or aides, learning centers, after-school programs, scheduled AIS or RTI, counseling and intensive individualized instruction. In addition, Student Support Services provides special education and 504 interventions as needed and required.

As outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School is committed to providing our students with highly qualified educators. We appreciate and applaud initiatives aimed at recruiting and maintaining trained professionals and we continue to seek out the best teachers and support personnel to serve your children. If you are interested in learning more about our District's excellent staff, we welcome your inquires. You may request the following information via the District Office about your child's teacher and/or paraprofessional:

- whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived;
- the Baccalaureate Degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field or discipline of the certification or degree; and
- whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you have any questions about our programs, feel free to call Heather Wilcox, Acting Pk-12 Principal, at 783-2207 any time or for more information. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Board of Education Meetings

June 7, BOE Meeting

- Our School Meals Audit last month went well.
- GMU Marching Band participated in a lovely Memorial Day Parade in Gilbertsville and Mt. Upton Ceremony.
- Spring Sports Awards Ceremony was June 6.
- This week, we are conducting a Curriculum Audit; report to follow.
- We will be rolling out a cloud-based calendar in the fall that will be in real-time and improve communication.

Elementary School Highlights

- Girls on the Run and Heart & Sole CNY 5K Run/Walk was held in Cooperstown on Sunday, June 5.
- 2nd grade has a field trip to Rogers June 9.
- 3rd Grade field trip to Wes Markets, May 26.
- 4th-6th Grade field trip to B-Mets game, May 26.
- 4th Grade field trip to The Farmer's Museum, June 1.
- 1st Grade field trip to Hannaford/Neahwa Park, June 1.

Middle/High School Highlights

- Student Council Assembly May 19.
- On May 21, the Class of 2017 successfully hosted the GMU Junior Prom, *Springtime in Paris*. Students did a great job decorating and preparing for this event. 77 tickets were sold. Thank you to Lynne Ryberg and Debbie Gross for donating delicious cupcakes and fruit kabobs.
- Prom Court: Princes: **Daniel Backman** (3), **Andy Baker** (2), **Christian Merlo** (1), King: **Liam Champion**. Princesses: **Cecelia Caietta** (3), **Gabby Charron** (2), **Felicia Musson** (1), Queen: **Jade Osterwald**.
- After Prom Party went well—students had a great time!
- The vocal music concert on May 24 was well attended and well received. Students in grades 4-12 performed a varied repertoire of vocal music which culminated in a grand finale with all the choruses singing *We Sing Out*. The 100+ member chorus enjoyed a standing ovation.
- On Saturday, May 28 four music ensembles (52 students) traveled to Darien Lake to participate in their annual Summer Music Festival. Each ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, Ladies Ensemble, Jr. Chorus, and Sr. Chorus received an Outstanding with Distinction Rating, earning a 97 or above, and had a great time.
- Senior Trip went really well—the students had a great time and big bang for their bucks! All but one student went!
- Sherburne Pageant of Bands, June 2 and 4:
 - Jazz Ensemble, 1st Place
 - Small Ensemble, 1st Place
 - Concert Band, 1st Place
 - Parade, 1st Place
 - Drumline, 2nd Place
 - Best of Class C Award

Whole School Highlights

- Jeans for Troops charity was a success. We raised over \$200 for the GIGO Fund and there was participation from students, staff, faculty and administrators.
- The Green Team and Student Council are looking into planting some apple trees, raspberries, blueberries. We have reached out to Cornell Cooperative Extension and are waiting to hear back on how they can help us plan for this. We have received donations to go toward this and are looking at preparing in the fall and planting in the spring.

Information

- Next board meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. with a workshop presentation by Attorney James Gregory.
- To approve transfers of 2015-2016 year end fund balances
- To approve A. Treffeisen & Son, LLC, as our award bid for the 2016 Small Capital Project.
- To approve unpaid FMLA leave of absence for occupational therapist Angela Garlick.
- To approve changes as a correction to tenure date for Science teacher Kaitlyn Woods, from 01 Sept 2018 to 01 Sept 2019.
- To approve Lisa Dibble as bus monitor, effective on or about May 24, 2016.
- To acknowledge resignation of cleaner Jon Wilson, effective May 23, 2016.
- To accept resignation with regret and thanks, of kindergarten teacher Meghan Benoit, effective August 31, 2016.
- To accept resignation with regret and thanks, of secondary math teacher Dana Zietz, effective August 31, 2016.
- To accept resignation with regret and thanks, of secondary science teacher Daniel Hammond, effective June 30, 2016.
- To approve ordering of Board of Education policy book from Hogan & Sarzynski, Lynch, DeWind & Gregory, LLP.
- To approve request from Guilford-Mt. Upton Summer Program Chairman, Carol Hubbard, for bus transportation to transport participants to Guilford Lake from July 5, 2016 through August 5, 2016.
- To approve the request from Butternut Summer Youth Program Director, Amanda Musson, for bus transportation.
- To approve Standard Workday Reporting Form.
- Executive Session
- Discussion: Coaches 2016-2017 and Oxford Football Merger
Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

June 21 BOE Meeting

- Our Marching Band marched in the Sidney Parade; went well.
- Our first Wellness Committee just met, as a response to our School Meals Audit.

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BOE Minutes, cont.

- Our 3012d APPR plan is ready to submit, thank you Kimberly Degear for her assistance in this.
- 4th Grade field trip to Weis Markets June 8.
- 3rd Grade field trip to SUCO June 9.
- 5-8th Awards Ceremony June 13.
- Elementary Field Days June 20, thank you, Mrs. McMullen.
- 9-12 Awards Assembly June 8.
- Water Safari Field Trip June 17.
- We are currently in the middle of administering Regents Exams.
- Over 3,000 teachers, their families and students were in attendance at the Oneonta Outlaws game on Friday, June 10, sponsored by NYSUT and spearheaded by Aaron Sorensen.
- Curriculum Audit.
- June 22—PK-4 Moving Up Ceremony, 8:30 a.m. featuring Robbie -Raider (Robot).
- June 24—Graduation rehearsal 8:00 a.m., Baccalaureate 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 25—Graduation 10:30 a.m.
- Executive Session
- To accept May 2016 financial reports.
- To accept the bid of the following company for the removal of our solid waste for the 2016-2017 school year: Casella Waste.
- Installment Purchase Agreement (07/01/16-06/30/19 IPA).
- Resolution Authorizing Installment Purchase Contract.
- To approve Pamala Davis as Summer Help Monitor for Summer 2016.
- To approve Summer Workers for Summer 2016.
- To acknowledge resignation of .5 FTE Business Clerk Cathy Lefkowitz.
- To appoint Danielle Rhone as Full time Secondary Science Teacher.
- To approve confidential/exempt salaries for the 2016-2017 school year.
- To approve coaches for the 2016 fall sports season.
- To approve Legal Counsel.
- To approve New York Public Officers Law.
- To approve a modified and varsity cross country merger between Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School and Morris Central School for the 2016-2017 fall sports season.
- To approve modified and varsity football merger between Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School and Oxford Academy for the 2016-2017 sports season.
- To approve varsity golf merger between Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School and Sidney Central School District for the 2016-2017 fall sports season.

Discussion

- Graduation attendance poll of BOE.
- Driver Education is projected to be offered in the fall, as there was a paperwork timing snafu, prohibiting us from offering it in the Summer 2016.
- We purchased new elementary cafeteria tables with left-over equipment money.
- Bi-monthly newsletter as a savings to the district, as social media and website usage increases.
- Dress code: Member Heath was advised to join/form a committee with administration to revisit dress code.
Exec session.
Adjourn 9:24 p.m.

July 5 Re-organization and Regular BOE

- Appointments and designations were made for the 2016-2017 school year.

Positive Highlights

- The Awards Ceremonies and Moving Up Ceremonies were successful and were well attended.
- Graduation was excellent. Congratulations to the Class of 2016.
- GMU Marching Band played in Gilbertsville's 4th of July parade. The band sounded great.
- Section IV approved Oxford-Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Blackhawks Football team.
- Our submitted APPR plan was "kicked back" for revisions; this is normal part of the process.
- There would be an estimated \$3500 cost savings to the district if we went with a bi-monthly newsletter.
- Milk, ice cream and bread bids were accepted.
- To appoint Ashley Mannina as Full time Elementary Teacher.
- To appoint the following full time aides: Jennifer Keuhn, Amy MacLaury, Kari Stockdale.
- To appoint Winnie Sortman as .5 long-term substitute.
- To reassign Cindy Ketchum as .5 FTE aide, and appoint as .5 FTE business clerk.
- Re-classification: Probationary to permanent: Aimee Piedmonte-Silvoy and Jeff Utter.
- Appoint substitutes, advisors, and mentors for the 2016-2017 school year.
- To accept the resignation of Pk-12 Principal Denise Wickham.
- To approve a leave of absence for Heather Wilcox from School Counselor position for the 2016-2017 school year.
- To appoint Heather Wilcox Dean of Students, effective 06 July 2016.
- To approve coaches for the 2016 fall sports season.
- To approve the tentative 2016-2019 CSEA agreement.
- To approve revised 2016-2017 school year calendar, in which June 13 is a Regents Exam Day.

Executive session

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

August 16 BOE Meeting

- Acknowledge thank you notes from 2016 GMU graduates Elle MacPherson, Elaina Palada, and Colin Wind; and GMU Student Skye Wilson, for scholarships.

Positive Highlights

- Senator Seward awarded GMU a special one-time \$49,000 education grant.
- LINKS committee worked on formulating goals for the 2016-17 school year.
- Student art work will be featured in thank you cards given to GMU guests.
- APPR Plan for 2016-17 is approved.
- We continue to roll out the FISH philosophy to the entire staff. All staff will have read the book by September.
- Fall sports started on 08/15.
- We are rolling out a new online District calendar in the fall. This creates a paperless, more efficient Buildings and Ground Request process.
- A 4:30 p.m. late bus will be running five days a week and the day before holidays to better accommodate sports, etc.
- MS and HS classrooms have been swapped to curtail negative behavior in the hallways.
- Schedules were mailed.
- Summer School is wrapping up.

Reports

- Tax Levy, Dorothy Iannello.
- Superintendent Evaluation, Jerry Theis.
- Merged Football Team with Oxford Academy Transportation.
- Dress Code, Heather Wilcox.
- Executive Session
- To accept the financial reports for June 2016 and July 2016.
- To approve the proposed tax warrant for the 2016-2017 school year.
- To approve the external audit for the 2015-2016 school year.
- To accept resignation of Jamie Privitera, elementary teacher.
- To acknowledge resignation of Juston Spathelf.
- To appoint Joseph Harder as certified secondary special education long-term substitute.
- To appoint Christina Palmer as Full time Elementary Teacher.
- To appoint Lindsey Wagner as 7-12 School Counselor, for a one year leave position for the 2016-2017 school year.
- To appoint Katherine Izzo as Full time Secondary Math Teacher.
- To appoint Eric Knowles as Full time Secondary Social Studies Teacher.
- To rescind the appointments of Cindy Ketchum as .5 FTE aide and as .5 FTE business clerk and to appoint Cindy Ketchum as .75 Deputy Treasurer.

- To appoint Robert Slater, Jr. as full time cleaner.
 - Re-classification: Probationary to Permanent: Susan Sebeck and Nancy Bakhuizen.
 - To approve bus driver substitutes: Yulia Drapaniotis, Jan Ireland, Edward Ziobro.
 - To approve non-certified Pk-12 substitutes and substitute aides.
 - To rescind appointment of Cierra Stafford as Leadership Club Advisor and appoint Molly Toulson.
 - To appoint mentors for teachers.
 - To appoint Tom Connell for the position of Internal Claims Auditor.
 - To approve non-resident students for the 2016-2017 school year.
 - To first-read and approve changes to dress code.
 - To approve participation in the National School Meals Program.
 - To approve the DCMO BOCES Classroom Rental Agreement
 - To approve the Standard Form of Agreement between GMUCSD (Owner) and A. Treffeisen & Son LLC (Contractor) for the 2016 Small Capital Project: Electrical Construction.
 - To approve Otsego County Department of Health Related Service Provider School District Contract.
 - To approve transportation contract with DCMO BOCES.
 - To approve the agreement between The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital and GMU CSD from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 for medical services.
 - To approve the LINKS plan for the 2016-2017 school year.
 - To approve the transportation costs for student participation in the merged football program with Oxford Central School District for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

August 24 BOE Meeting

- To accept resignation of Aaron Sorensen, special education teacher
 - To appoint Deanna Behnke as full time aide
 - To appoint Nicole Conway as Full time Special Education Teacher
 - To appoint Nicole Conway as Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach
 - To approve request to bus student to Valley Heights Christian Academy for the 2016-2017 school year.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

New Hires at Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton

Deanna Behnke



Hello everyone! My name is Deanna Behnke and I am the new first grade classroom aide. I am a resident of Gilbertsville along with my husband, Bobby, and our three children, Payton, Pacey and Paris who attend GMU. I am a 2002 graduate of Sidney Central School. I received my associate degree at Herkimer and following that completed an eight month internship at Walt Disney World. I am really looking forward to working here! Go Raiders!

Nicole Conway



As one of the students that entered GMU's new school building in the first Kindergarten class, it is extremely exciting to be returning again, this time around as an educator. My name is Nicole Conway. After graduating from Bainbridge-Guilford High School in 2007, I attended Broome Community College and received my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts while playing on the basketball team. I then went on to continue my education at Oneonta State and received my Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education, while playing basketball as well. In my last semester at Oneonta, I decided to take on a new journey as I left my small hometown in Mount Upton for New York City. I have spent the last four years living in New York City, as I started off student teaching and then becoming a full-time teacher. I continued my education while teaching to obtain an Advanced Certificate in Special Education from the College of St. Rose, as well as, my Masters Degree in Physical Education from Queens College.

Although my time was truly enjoyed in New York City, I am very enthusiastic to be back in my hometown doing what I love. I will be working in the elementary grades supporting students on a daily basis, as well as, coaching the Girls' Varsity Basketball team this upcoming season! I look forward to seeing many familiar faces and meeting many new ones along the way.

Tina Hall



Hello GMU Families! My name is Tina Hall and I am the PK-6 grade Elementary School Counselor. I am looking forward to meeting all the students and working closely with everyone to ensure all students become successful both in school and in our community. I graduated from SUNY Oneonta with my Master's in School Counseling and am currently working on my Certificate of Advanced

Study. I currently live in Binghamton with my husband and our very energetic 16 month-old son. I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family, cooking and relaxing with a good book. Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions, concerns or just to say "hi." Here's to a great school year!

Joseph Harder



My name is Joseph Harder and I am the long-term substitute for Lori Heggenstaller. I will be one of the high school special education teachers and consultant teachers here at GMU. I am a 1992 graduate of Susquehanna Valley Central School District. I received my Park and Recreation Associate Degree in 1995 from SUNY Delhi. After working in a factory from 1995 to May 2000, I decided to go back to school to SUNY Cortland and get my degree in Physical Education. I graduated in 2003 from Cortland and in 2007; I received my Master's degree in Special Education from Marywood University. Since 2003, I have been working a various school districts. From 2008 to 2014, I was a teaching assistant at Windsor Central School District where I also coached, modified soccer, modified wrestling and modified track and field. In 2014 until last June, I worked at Otselic Valley Central School as an AIS math teacher, resource room teacher, PK through 6th Grade Physical Education teacher, 8th grade Physical Education teacher and middle school health teacher. I am looking forward to a new start here at GMU, either though it is only for 20 weeks or so, I am excited to see what this school year has in store for me and my new students!

Katherine Izzo



Hello, I am the new high school mathematics teacher at GMU. Originally, I am from Rochester, but after getting my bachelors in special education from Keuka College and my masters in mathematics from SUNY Binghamton, I taught in Danville, Virginia for three years. This year, I am excited to be back home in New York State with my kitty-cat named Squirrel. In my free time, I enjoy reading, watching detective shows, and crocheting; however, my favorite pastime is solving puzzles. Mostly, I hope to impart this particular joy to my students as we traverse the challenging curriculums in store for us.

Jennifer Keuhn



Hello, my name is Jennifer Keuhn and I am the new 2nd grade teacher's aide. I grew up in Massachusetts and moved to Gilbertsville in 1999, where I trained horses and taught horseback riding lessons at my family farm. I also coach my son's soccer team. My three children all attend GMU, so I am very familiar with the students and staff here. When I am not working I love reading, riding my bike, running, listening to music, and dancing! I am excited to be a part of GMU, and look forward to working with the students in 2nd grade.

Mary LaBounty



Hello, everyone! My name is Mary LaBounty. I am happy to be driving for GMU! I previously worked for OPWDD for 12 years driving the company bus and taking care of developmentally disabled adults and children; a job I took great pride in! At the same time I worked for Springbrook and ARC. Unfortunately, I was injured on the job and had to leave. Now here I am, working with children again and I couldn't be happier. I have four children of my own, three of which are grown, and my youngest attends GMU in the 6th grade. I enjoy camping, the beach, and most of all spending time with my children (the older ones are still my babies!)

Amy MacLaury



Hello, my name is Amy MacLaury. I am a new one-on-one aide in the PK classroom. I am a 2005 graduate of Oxford Academy and lifetime resident of the area. I went to Keuka College for four years studying Early Childhood. I graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Unified Early Childhood and Special Education.

Working with children has always been my passion. I have been working with children since I was 12, and have never stopped. I am a mom to two dogs, Hunter and Grizzly. They are 5 and 7 years old (in human years). I love this area, soccer, animals, and spending time with family and friends. Looking forward to growing at GMU!

Ashley Mannina



Hello, my name is Ashley Mannina and I am the new kindergarten teacher at GMU. I am from Otego and graduated high school from Unatego Central School in 2010. I attended college at SUNY Cortland where I received my bachelor's degree in early childhood and childhood

education. Additionally, I am currently working towards my master's degree in special education. Some of my favorite activities include playing with my dog Ayda, reading, and watching football (Go Steelers!). I am so thankful for the warm welcome I have received here at GMU and am excited to become a part of this community!

Christina Palmer



My name is Christina Palmer and I am the new second grade teacher here at GMU. This is my first year as lead teacher; however, I have several years of experience working as a substitute teacher as well as an LTA working under the RtI reading specialist at Bainbridge-Guilford Central School. I am a 2004 graduate of Bainbridge-Guilford. I received my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education online from Grand Canyon University in 2011, and my Master's degree in Reading from Grand Canyon University in 2014. I am happily married and we have two children together, our son, who will turn four in December, and our daughter who is seven months old. Teaching is my passion; but I also enjoy running, golfing, crafting, shopping and spending time with our families and friends. Becoming a teacher has always been my goal and I am so happy to be taking on this lead teacher role and joining the GMU team! I look forward to becoming a part of such an amazing community and school district!

Danielle Rhone



My name is Danielle Rhone and I am the new science teacher at GMU. I graduated from GMU a number of years ago and I am so excited to be returning to a place that holds so many fond memories for me! My first two years of college were spent at SUNY Cobleskill where I received an Associates degree in science. After graduating I took a few years off to work, eventually returning to college to earn a Bachelors degree in biology from SUNY College at Oneonta and a Masters from Empire State College.

My husband, Jeff, is a Spanish teacher and we have two beautiful children, Mila and Finley. In my free time I enjoy reading, hiking, camping, and gardening. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Jaime Sherwood



Hello, my name is Jaime Sherwood and I am excited to be working here at GMU! I attended Binghamton University for Psychology where I was also on the track and field team for all four years. I then did my graduate work at Sage Gradu-

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Message from the Principal

With September comes the beginning of a new school year, new goals and challenges, new friends, and the renewal of old friendships. How exciting all of it can be! By now, all students received their teacher assignments on their report card prior to the summer or in August with a letter and supply list from their teacher.

On the first day of school, your child came home with a Student Information Form be sure this has been returned to the school for use in case of an emergency. The Student/Parent Handbook was also sent home and it is important that you also read through the handbook with your child(ren) and be aware of the any changes.

Some reminders for parents at the start of the school year

- Please look at what your children are wearing before leaving the house for school, so that you can make sure their choice in clothing meets dress code expectations. These expectations are outlined specifically in the handbook.
- Send your child to school with a note if they arrive late, are leaving early, or have been absent. Having a note will ensure that your child has an accurate attendance record. These notes must be written and signed by a parent/ guardian and must have a reason for why they are late, leaving early, or were absent. If a reason is not included in the note, students will be marked with an illegal absence. Students also need a note if they are not taking the bus, or if they are riding the bus with a different student or if they are being picked up by someone other than their parent.

Bus note change: No changes to busing may be made after 1:30 p.m. each day. If you need to make changes to your child's busing after 1:30 p.m., you must arrange the change on your own based on the child's scheduled drop off location. We cannot allow changes after this time because it has become a safety issue in the past and keeping all of our students safe is our priority. Thank you for your understanding with this. Please fax any changes or drop a note off to the front desk to be given to Mrs. Carey before 1:30 p.m. on the day of the change. In an emergency situation it can be faxed to the school *before* 1:30 p.m. Preferably bus note changes should be brought to school with your child no later than the morning of the change. Please make sure your bus note includes the following information: the child's full name, regular bus number (or animal), the full name of the person whose house they are going to (i.e. Jane Doe; not Aunt Jane) and that bus number or animal or street address.

Tips: Start the school year off right—Set up a quiet time and place for your child(ren) to do homework and set a bedtime for your child(ren) that allows them to get at least eight hours of sleep a night. Get a routine set up that includes

asking your child(ren) about their school day, looking at their agenda/homework folder/Friday folder for homework assignments and notes and other information from the school or your child's teacher. And please, don't hesitate to call the teacher with any questions.

Parent/Teacher communication is important for the success of your child. I encourage you to please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Please recognize that when you pull your child out of school for vacation it is an illegal absence. Know that even if you request work for your child, there is nothing that can replace the direct instruction received from a teacher by being in class. If you choose to take a vacation during the school year, you can expect that your child may miss some free time or recess to make up the direct instruction lost during their absence.

Please remember that if you are sending in money or a check with your child please put it in an envelope with your child's name, teacher's name and reason for the money (*i.e.* lunch, book fair, etc.). We would also like you to go through your child's backpack each night to check for communications from the school. Students in grade K-6 should be bringing home a homework folder with information and/or homework assignments that need to be checked by you. Students in grades 3-6 have an agenda book that should be coming home every evening and you should be reviewing this and signing off in it. Please ask your child about these and review the information every evening. Be sure your child packs their folder with the agenda book in their bag, signed by you or their care provider every day. Please do not send in candy or soda with your child for lunch or snack. If you pack your child's lunch consider adding at least one fruit and vegetable each day to keep their lunch balanced and healthy.

Late Bus

In an effort to accommodate increasing transportation needs for our students, the District has extended the late bus departure time. Monday through Friday the late bus will leave the school at 4:30 p.m. Students staying after school for any program, including sports, need to stop at the front desk by 1:30 p.m. to sign up to take the late bus each day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

4th-12th Grade After School Program

Beginning on Monday, September 19, we will be offering an After School Program that will take place each Monday thru Friday. Students can stay after school to get homework help by a teacher/aide or just use the location as a quiet place to get school work done. The After School Program will be held in the library and will begin at 3:05 p.m. and end at 4:25 p.m. I hope that students take advantage of the extra help they can get in the After School Program.

October Dates to Remember

- 21 Early Dismissal Drill, 2:45 p.m.
Junior Carnival, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 PK-6 Parade of Good Books, 1:30 p.m.

November Dates to Remember

- 6 Daylight Saving Time: Set clocks back one hour
- 10 Veteran's Breakfast
K-6 Dismiss at 11:00 a.m. (no lunches served for PK-6)
PK-6: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 11:45 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
- 11 **No School—Veterans Day**
- 23 Grades 9-12 Awards Ceremony, 8:15 a.m.
Grades 7-8 Awards Ceremony, 9:15 a.m.
Grades 3-6 Awards Ceremony, 10:15 a.m.

Half Day for students—Dismissal at 11:00 a.m. (no lunches served)

24-25 No School—Thanksgiving Recess

The teachers, support staff and I look forward to working closely with you throughout the year. Together, we will share the rewarding venture of providing your child(ren) with a quality and exciting educational program. I hope your child enjoys the upcoming school year and meets it with a great deal of success!

I would like to strongly encourage communication between parents and the school; your child's success and attitude toward school improves with the increase in communication between parents and teachers.

Thank you so much for sharing your children with us and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. The teachers and I look forward to seeing you at Open House!

I am looking forward to a great year of partnering with parents and community members.

—Mrs. Wilcox, PK-12 Acting Principal

Confidential Toll-Free Line

Troop C of the New York State Police reminds people of the creation of the toll-free line for the confidential reporting of potentially dangerous situations in the 16 school districts of the DCMO BOCES. This system, housed at Troop C Headquarters, is answered by a machine which is regularly checked by police officials. This system is not designated for callers reporting an immediate threat; such calls should be reported to "911" or other appropriate emergency service providers. The phone number is available on posters placed in the school districts and also through school district publications.

New Hires, continued from page 7

ate School in Troy where I got my masters in Occupational Therapy. I have been fortunate enough to have worked in several therapy settings including acute care and nursing homes but love being with students! I have been working in public education for the past seven years and enjoyed every year. As well as working with students doing occupational therapy I also have a therapy dog named Jake who comes to visit with the classrooms.

I have been living in Morris since 2008 after moving here from Clifton Park. I live with my husband and two daughters Paige and Piper. When I am not with my school kids I love to be active with my own family. We enjoy being outside either on our bikes, playing at the playground, or swimming. If we aren't at home in Morris we like to spend time in the Adirondacks. I am so happy to be part of the staff here at GMU.

Robert Slater, Jr.



Welcome to GMU, Robert Slater, Jr., our newest custodian.

Kari Stockdale



I am Kari Stockdale, a new aide at GMU. I have always been a stay at home wife and mom of three. My kids Isaiah, Ella, and Koda all attend GMU. I am excited to be here at GMU and to have the opportunity to make a difference in children's lives.

Lindsey Wagner



My name is Lindsey Wagner and I am the 7-12 School Counselor for the 2016-2017 school year. I am originally from Deposit, where I graduated from high school. I received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Nazareth College in Rochester in 2012 and I earned my Master's degree in School Counseling from the University of the Southwest this past March. I played field hockey in college and I continue to enjoy playing sports, especially golf! I have a cat-daughter, Binx, and a dog-son, Tyson. In my free time I like to listen to music, golf, and spend time with friends and family. I look forward to meeting you and my door is always open!

Guidance Office

Hello GMU families and welcome back! My name is Tina Hall and I am the PK-6 Elementary School Counselor. I am very excited to be starting the new school year and getting to know each and every student!

During the month of September I visited every PK-6 grade classroom to introduce myself and to discuss with the students what the School Counseling Program is all about. It is very important that students understand what the School Counselor does and the ways I am here to help each and every student be successful. Make sure to check out my School Counseling brochure in the lobby for more information!

This year I will be running Banana Splits Groups for children whose parents are not living together, are divorced or have separated. These groups will start in mid-October for those students who are in grades 2-6. Also, I will be running a Lunch Bunch group for every PK-1 grade student. The main focus of our group will be to help students work on their social interaction skills and learn to apply them to every day social situations. These groups will begin in November. These are just some of the fun and exciting things I have planned for our students here at GMU. Finally, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to a great school year!

—Mrs. Tina Hall, School Counselor

The Class of 2018 presents



JUNIOR CARNIVAL
Friday, October 21
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Haunted House, Giant Slide, Sweet Shop,
Photo Booth, Games, Prizes and much more!

Yearbooks Available From Former Years

Are you missing a yearbook from your collection? We have extras dating back to 2004. If you would like to purchase one (or more) for \$10 each, please contact Lynne Talbot at ltalbot@gmucsd.org or (607)783-2207 and leave a message.

Information from the Health Office

Autumn Tips to Help Keep Your Kids Safe and Healthy

Autumn requires us to make changes in our lifestyle due to weather, school activities, and upcoming holidays. Greet the fall with ways to help keep you and your kids safe and healthy. Take steps to make sure your kids develop healthy habits that will help them now and throughout their lives.

Have an afternoon of food tasting

Gather your family together to research at least 3-5 varieties of one type of food (i.e., fruit, vegetable, or nut). Talk about the unique qualities of the food and a little about its history (i.e., when it was discovered or what it is known for). Lead the family in a taste test of the different varieties of the food, or prepare the food several different ways and have everyone choose their favorite. For example, an apple could be prepared as apple snack wedges, applesauce, apple cider, and baked apples. You could also present similar types of vegetables, such as collard greens, spinach, kale, and mustard greens. Talk about differences in their taste. Pick fall favorites, or be adventurous and try new things.

Be active outdoors and indoors

Make fall yard work fun. Have kids come up with different ways to pick up leaves or pine cones (i.e., squatting, bending, leaning, stretching, or balancing on one foot). Sing, dance, and explore. Provide kids with rakes and other tools that are kid-sized for comfort and safety. For indoor fun, play board games and computer games that encourage physical activity. Have a song-and-dance talent show. Draw, color and explore with health in mind. Remember that children and adolescents should be active for at least 2 ½ hours a week. Don't forget to apply sunscreen and insect repellent to protect you and your family from the sun, mosquitoes and ticks.

Check the safety of toys and other products

Check to see if any of your family's toys, jewelry, clothing, appliances, furniture and other products have been recalled due to lead paint or other potential hazards. As you begin thinking about toys and gifts for upcoming events and holidays, make sure they are age-appropriate. Ensure playground equipment is safe. For fall festivals, events, and Halloween, take steps to keep kids safe and away from potential dangers. (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*)

Have a safe and happy fall!

—Carol Angelone, RN, School Nurse

Memo from the Health Office

- After an illness absence for more than three days, a doctor's note is needed upon return. Call attendance clerk at 783-2207 to report absence and follow up with note.
- If child is ill, fever, vomiting/diarrhea, keep them home until symptom-free for 24 hours.
- If student is injured or ill and cannot participate in gym, note from doctor stating *no gym* is needed for specific amount of time. Doctor must also write clearance note for return to gym.
- If child becomes ill during school hours, he/she is released by the School Nurse who will make the appropriate contact with the parent/guardian. Students may not call a parent for release. The Parent/guardian or emergency contact person must sign the student out at the front desk. Students cannot be released to anyone other than those listed on The Student Information form. For students who drive themselves to school and become ill, at the discretion of the School Nurse, a parent/guardian will be contacted to obtain permission for this student to drive self home.
- If injured in school or at a school-sponsored activity and medical treatment is necessary, contact the School Nurse immediately, submit claims to your own Health Insurance provider, then submit proof of payment of claim or denial to the Business Office. The school only covers the cost not covered by your own insurance.

Many things influence a child's progress and success in school—one of the most important is their health. Children must be healthy to learn. Children with cavities are not healthy. Cavities are preventable, but they affect more children than any other chronic disease (as per California's Dental Health Association).

Baby teeth are very important, not just teeth that will fall out. Children need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities have difficulties in some or all of these areas. They may also have problems paying attention and learning at school. Tooth decay is an infection that does not heal and can be painful if left without treatment. If left untreated, adult teeth may be permanently damaged.

Here is important advice to help your child stay healthy.

- Visit dentist twice a year (or as suggested by your dentist).
- Choose healthy foods for the entire family.
- Brush at least twice a day (use fluoride if suggested by MD)
- Limit soda and candy. These contain a lot of sugar which causes cavities and contribute to weight problems.

I hope this information is helpful to you in ensuring good dental health for your child/children.

Thank you for your cooperation in these health matters.

—Carol Angelone, RN

Important Info from the Health Office

The District's School Health Services program supports your student's academic success by promoting health in the school setting. One way that we provide care for your student is by performing the health screenings as mandated by the State of New York.

During this school year, the following screenings will be required or completed at school:

Vision

- Distance acuity for all newly entering students (including PK) and students in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 10.
- Near vision acuity, hyperopia and color perception screening for all newly entering students (including PK).

Hearing

- Hearing screening for all newly entering students (including PK) and students in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10

Scoliosis

- Scoliosis (spinal curvature) screening for all students in Grades 5-9.

Health Appraisals

- A physical examination including Body Mass Index and Weight Status Category Information is required for all newly entering students and students in PK or Kindergarten, Grades 2, 4, 7 and 10 (this may be done by your private Health Care Professional or done here by Karen Adams, FNP starting in September). Please notify the Health Office if you prefer to have your student's physical done at school. If we do not receive notification of a private physical being completed or a current one is not on file, the student will be automatically placed on the appointment list for a school physical. You will be notified of the time and date.

Dental Certificates

- A dental certificate is *requested* for all newly entering students (including PK) and students in Kindergarten, Grades 2, 4, 7 and 10.

A letter will be sent home if there are any findings on the screening done at school that would cause concern or need medical follow-up. Please call the school's Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Carol Angelone, RN
School Nurse

BE A DIGITAL CITIZEN



Use your **PERSONAL DEVICE** for **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES** only.

*Only use the assigned **WIFI** network when at school

*Keep your device safe and secure at all times

Protect your **PRIVATE INFO** and the information of others.

*Log out

*Don't share your password

*Don't share login information

Make sure that you are **SAFE & APPROPRIATE** when you are online

*Visit appropriate website that promote learning and are for educational purposes.

*Follow Copyright Laws and remember to cite the sources you use for all your projects.

RESPECT yourself and others when you're online. Use kind words and remember your digital footprint should not harm others.

Stand up and say **NO** to **CYBERBULLYING**

Tell an adult if someone is being unkind or harmful.

Blue and Gold DANCE

When: Friday, November 4
 Time: 7:00-10:00 p.m.
 Where: MS/HS Cafeteria
 Who: Grades 7-12
 Cost: \$5.00/(\$1.00 off for wearing blue and gold and/or bringing in canned or dry goods for local food pantries)
 Prizes: Will be given out for dance contests!
 Drinks available for purchase.

Come have fun, show your school spirit, and support your High School Student Council!

Disclaimer: All eligibility and school rules apply.
 Sponsored By Your High School Student Council



**No Dogs Except Service Dogs
 Allowed On School Grounds**



The Veterans Breakfast

Thursday, November 10 at 8:30 a.m.

High School Cafeteria/Auditorium

Keynote speakers: Jocelyn Duncan & Daniel Backman

Menu: Breakfast casserole, sausage, juice, coffee



*You have served our country honorably . . .
 . . . now let us serve you!*

RSVP: Cierra Stafford by November 4, 783-2207
 or cstafford@gmucsd.org

The GMU Drama Club Proudly Presents:

AIDA, THE TIMELESS LOVE STORY

High School Edition

November 10, 6:30 senior preview night

November 11, 12, 7:00

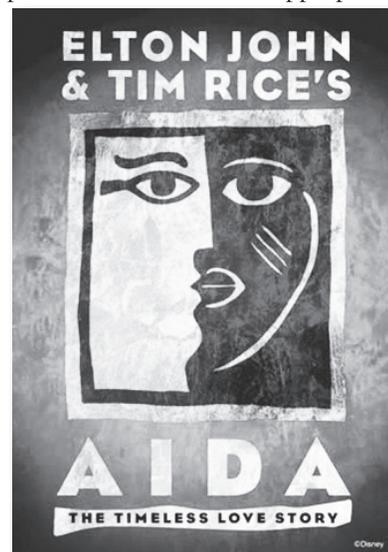
\$5 suggested donation accepted at the door

Aida is based on an Egyptian legend personified in Verdi's opera (1871) of the same name. With music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice and book by Linda Woolverton, Robert Falls, and Henry Hwang, Disney's Broadway adaptation juxtaposes modern *pop*-style music with ancient Egyptian and Nubian cultures. Princess Amneris (**Felicia Musson**), daughter of Pharaoh (**Michael Birdsall**), is betrothed to Egyptian army captain Radames (**Mickenson Clune**), son of Pharaoh's Chief Minister Zoser (**Michael O'Connor**), who, in turn, falls in love with Aida (**Charlene Heisler**), a captured Nubian princess and daughter of the Nubian King, Amonasro (**Timothy Picozzi**). Self-evaluation, confusion, betrayal, heartbreak, resolution and death ensue from this ill-fated romance.

Student Assistant Director/ Dance Captain **Molly D'Amato** is playing the role of Nehebka, a Nubian slave captured with Aida. **Cecelia Caietta, Gabrielle Charron, Hunter Christian, Nina D'Amato, Vasiliki Drapaniotis, Emily Hammond, Meredith Hammond, Auttum Hartwell, Alyssa Hotaling, Scarlett Newman, Shalleigh Taranto, and Zara Zeidman** complete the female ensemble.

Radames' faithful servant, a captured Nubian, Mereb, is played by **Lucas Piedmonte. Gavin Bonzcowski, Michael Pope, Theodore Sharkey, and Isaiah Stockdale** complete the male ensemble.

Aida is a high-energy show filled with mystery, intrigue, a lot of dancing, and beautiful music. Music Theatre International's (MTI) School Editions are edited and voiced for high school performers. The show is appropriate for all ages.



Everyday Preventive Actions That Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu

CDC recommends a three-step approach to fighting the flu.

CDC recommends a three-step approach to fighting influenza (flu). The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year. But if you get the flu, there are prescription antiviral drugs that can treat your illness. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women. Finally, everyday preventive actions may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu. This flyer contains information about everyday preventive actions.



How does the flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. Many other viruses spread these ways too.

People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day **before** symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days **after** becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

What are everyday preventive actions?

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

What additional steps can I take at work to help stop the spread of germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

- Find out about your employer's plans if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces, including doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.
- Make sure your workplace has an adequate supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes.
- Train others on how to do your job so they can cover for you in case you or a family member gets sick and you have to stay home.
- If you begin to feel sick while at work, go home as soon as possible.



What additional preventive actions can I take to protect my child from germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

- Find out about plans your child's school, child care program, or college has if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Make sure your child's school, child care program, or college routinely cleans frequently touched objects and surfaces, and that they have a good supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes on-site.
- Ask how sick students and staff are separated from others and who will care for them until they can go home.



Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses and may offer some protection against the flu.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

05/21/2013

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**ECRWSS
BOXHOLDER**

Seniors of the Month

September



Congratulations to **Daniel Backman!** Dan was the Empire Boys State Delegate for Gilbertsville's American Legion at SUNY Morrisville early this summer. He is an avid outdoorsman who loves camping, fishing, hiking and wood carving. He likes to collect historical *treasures* and is a wonderful person and citizen;

an all-around great guy! He is a cross-country and track captain, having participated in Sectional qualifiers during both seasons. He has participated in symphonic band and jazz band and attended BOCES last year for culinary.

This year, Dan is taking academic and college courses here on campus that include English 12, U.S. History through Music and Culture, Economics and Participation in Government, Computer Applications, TC3 Drafting, TC3 Principles of Biology, and TC3 Intro. to College Seminar.

We congratulate Dan on being Senior of the Month and appreciate his supportive, pleasant demeanor and great work ethic! Good luck in all the goals you *run after!*

—HS Student Council

October



Congratulations to **Felicia Musson!** For those of you who know Felicia, you know what a sweet and kind young lady she is. You also recognize her from the many performances (musicals, plays, and concerts) held here at GMU and elsewhere around our community. She has been involved in NYSSMA, Area All-State, Ladies Ensemble and Chorus. Her roles on stage have included Alice in *Up the Down Staircase*, Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*, and she plays Princess Amneris in *Aida* this year—these are just her recent parts in GMU productions.

Felicia is also her Senior Class President, a member of Student Council, Drama Club, Colorguard and Mock Trial. She enjoys the beach, horse-back riding and you will often see her taking photographs or sketching/painting. This year she is enrolled in Senior Theme Art, TC3 College Writing and Intro. to College Seminar, as well as Economics, Participation in Government, and U.S. History through Music and Culture. She has the voice and thoughtfulness of an angel and we know she will succeed know matter what path of creativity she travels!

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—HS Student Council

Congratulations! Great Job!