



THE JOURNEY

Newsletter of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton School District

November/December 2018

Volume 29, Number 2



Cover story: Changing lives through mentoring
PLEASE SEE PAGES: 8-9

From the desk of Superintendent Annette Hammond

We again had a great turnout for our PK-12 Open House. We thank parents and community members for supporting our students by attending various school events. Your attendance at athletic events, concerts, plays, and other programs adds so much to the quality of our students' journey in life. Thank you!

Our Musical Production of Mary Poppins is being directed by alumnus Mr. Nathan Sloan. Please come out for the show on November 9th and 10th with the senior citizen dessert and show scheduled for November 8th. The students have put in a tremendous amount of time between soccer practice and games to rehearse and make this a great production! Many staff, students, and parents have been working tirelessly in preparation for the musical. I hope to see you at the show!

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

We are in the season of thanksgiving and family. Although exciting for many, it can be a stressful time for families and students. We keep careful watch of all students and try to meet their needs as much as possible, but if you have concerns about your child or if your family is



struggling in some way, please do not hesitate to contact the school. If we cannot be of direct assistance to you, we can certainly provide you with resources that may be helpful.

This season is also full of student activities at the school, including holiday concerts and winter athletics. Boys' and girls' varsity and junior varsity basketball will have a full slate of games throughout the first three weeks of December. If you decide to attend our sporting events, please remember that each of us is representing the GMU school community as a whole. We need to model good sportsmanship for our student athletes and for all spectators. When spectators become negative in their comments and actions, this becomes stressful for the student athletes and others around them. It is imperative that comments and actions remain positive at all events and that respect is shown for all even if we are in disagreement. Thank you for representing GMU well and for your

support to our student athletes.

I would like to thank our coaches for their hard work and dedication throughout the Fall and Winter sports seasons. Coaching is not an easy job, and it takes an incredible amount of dedication and love of teenagers and the sport to coach students. I am so grateful for such a committed group of individuals. Thank you!

Our music department will showcase the talents of our choral students on December 6th and our musicians on December 13th at two concerts. Student talent in grades 5-12 will be featured at these concerts, which will be held in our auditorium at 6:30 p.m. I am always impressed by the musical talents of our students!

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

Annette D. Hammond
Superintendent

Raffles to benefit GMU Backpack Program



The GMU Backpack Program is hosting a ham raffle to be drawn on December 14th at Morning Raiders and a turkey raffle to be drawn on November 16th at Morning Raiders.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5

The Backpack Program is also hosting a quilt raffle to

be drawn on December 14th at Morning Raiders. This year's quilt was created and donated by Kathy York. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

If you are interested in any of these raffles, please contact Raquel Norton at 783-2207 or rnorton@gmucsd.org

Literacy Corner with Mrs. Weidman

Welcome back to another exciting school year! I want to begin by congratulating Kayden Peck, Sophia Parslow, and Gabby Barnes for completing the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge!

Each of them read for at least 20 minutes every day of summer vacation!

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

They were thrilled to attend a celebratory field trip to Joe & Vinny's Pizzeria and the Sidney Memorial Library on October 4th.

We hope to have even more students complete the challenge next summer!

As you are getting back into the school routine, please take advantage of the WI State Reading As-



sociation website (www.wsra.org), which has "Calendars of Ideas" in the Families & Literacy section.

These include several book titles that you can read aloud, as well as many ideas for how to engage your family in literacy activities at home.

Also, make sure you are taking the time to read daily with your child

by establishing a routine, whether before bedtime, right away in the morning, or during another part of the day.

Research shows that reading aloud daily is the single most important thing you can do to prepare a child for success in reading and learning.

SENIOR OF THE MONTH

September: Natalie Grace Pistor

Congratulations to September's Senior of the Month, Natalie Pistor!

Natalie joined our GMU family as a freshman; we are blessed to know her and her sweet, gentle spirit.

Natalie exemplifies kindness, caring, and dedication.

She is currently the President of the Student Council and National Honor Society. She is also Vice President of Women for a Change Club. She is Treasurer of her class (she recently served for two years as President). Natalie is a member of Ski Club, Spanish Club, SADD, and Leadership Club. In her earlier high school career, she also tried her hand at Track and Mock Trial. She was on stage crew in her sophomore year, and she made her GMU stage debut last year as Officer Klein



in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Natalie participated in HOBY this past June, and she is active in her church's youth group. Natalie has interned at Catholic Charities for two summers; in addition to clerical work, she worked directly with clients, providing them assistance for emergency needs.

Natalie is currently enrolled in TC3 Accounting, TC3 Chemistry, and TC3 Economics and Government this year, among other courses.

Loyal to the core, Natalie will always lend a hand to anyone who needs it.

Her hobbies are traveling, skiing, photography, and designing. Natalie has a fine sense of fashion, so it is fitting that we send her off with a quote from the elegant Audrey Hepburn: "For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone." We are happier for having walked with you, Natalie, on this GMU journey, and we wish you all the best life has to offer.

Winter Choral News

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

The elementary chorus consists of students from grades five and six. The students have been working very hard on their choral music and it should be a fantastic performance. Among the pieces the elementary chorus will be performing is a composition called *Snow is Falling* composed by Ruth Elaine Schram. This piece has definitely been one of their favorites to sing and perform!

The Middle-School Chorus consists of students in grades seven and eight. These students have been doing an amazing job working on such pieces as "My Soul Is Awakened" by Cristi Cary Miller and "I Ask For One Day" by Jim Papoulis. Both pieces have been equal favorites within the Junior Chorus! "My Soul Is Awakened" reflects the words from one of Anne Bronte's poems capturing the

spirit of nature. "I Ask For One Day" reflects the words of Claire Latimer. Claire is a 12-year-old who wrote the words during a choral workshop and inspired the composer to take the words and put them to music. We cannot wait until you get to see our fantastic performance!

The High School Chorus consists of students in grades 9-12. One of their favorite pieces we are working on is "Beautiful December" by Amy Bernon. It is a lovely selection talking about the beauty of the winter time with wonderfully expressive dynamics.

And finally, the Ladies' Ensemble consists of students in grades 9-12. These students have enjoyed working on a piece called "Baloo Baleerie", a Scottish Folk Song arranged by Ruth Schram. They are really looking forward to performing this in the upcoming concert!

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

*Anne Monaco - Music Teacher
Deanna Perkosky - Chorus Teacher*

SENIOR OF THE MONTH

October: Hunter Christian

Congratulations to October's Senior of the Month: Hunter Christian!

Hunter is an ambitious young woman with the goal to be a Registered Nurse. Her future dreams start now, as she is currently enrolled in the rigorous New Visions Allied Health Program at DCMO BOCES. She is respected by her peers and teachers, and was the recipient of the Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award and was selected to participate in both ALA Girls State and HOBY.

People have described Hunter as kind, respectful, caring, and willing to help students in need. One of her strongest attributes is her persistence.

Hunter is Vice President of National Honor Society and the Class of 2019, and the Treasurer for SADD, STUCO, and Language Club. In years past, she has held many officer positions for her Class of 2019.

Hunter can be seen in action in a variety of sports: Girls' Varsity Soccer, Basketball, and Softball. Hunter is also involved in GMU Academic Team, Women for a Change, Drama Club, Stage Crew, and several GMU plays and musicals. Earlier in her high school career, she was active in the GMU band and music department.

Community service is a priority for Hunter, who has lent a hand at GMU Clean-up Day, other neighborhood clean-up projects for her church, as well as pumpkin painting at Cross Roads in Otego, preparing meals for a men's shelter in Bing-



hamton, and other fundraisers for her youth group.

She is currently employed as a cook at The Empire House. She was also a maintenance worker for GMU this past summer.

Hunter is an unstoppable force who will never give up, no matter what. She gives everything she does her very best effort. We wish her happiness as she pursues her dreams of being an RN. With Hunter's outstanding work ethic and compassion, she will be a phenomenal nurse.

We are reminded of Hunter in this quote about perseverance: "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it." - Maya Angelou

Student Council

Instrumental Music News

This year the Instrumental Winter Concert will be on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30pm in the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School auditorium.

The elementary band consists of elementary students from grades 5 and 6. The students have been working very hard on their band music, and it should be an enjoyable performance.

Among the pieces the elementary band will be performing is a composition called "A Festive Fanfare" arranged by Brian Balmages. This piece was fun to prepare because it includes some original composition material by Brian Balmages as well as six Holiday tunes mixed in! We hope you enjoy!

Concert Band: This group is made up of 7th-8th graders. Right now, the band is working on "Siberian Express" and "Tijuana Taxi," two different modes of transportation in two very different parts of the world! I am excited to have you hear them at the Winter Concert.

Symphonic Band: This group consists of 9th-12th graders. They have just begun working on "The Nutcracker Suite" and "Greensleeves," two major musical compositions. "Into the Arctic" is another exciting piece they will be tackling for the Winter Concert.

It should be an exciting concert for this winter celebration. We hope you will come out and see us!

*Anne Monaco - Music Teacher
William Gilchrest - Music Teacher*

Scholastic Book Challenge



Mrs. Acla, Mrs. Titus, and Mrs. VanVorce want to thank the many generous donors who made it possible for each of their students to receive free books through the Scholastic Book challenge!

Scholastic has books every month that are \$1. The teachers asked on Facebook for \$10 per student to give each student a new book each month from September



to June.

Thank you so much for helping support their students!

“New books are always so fun, and it’s a great way to build a lifelong love of reading,” said Mrs. VanVorce, who organized the campaign. “We appreciate it more than words can explain!”

GMU ADMINISTRATORS, BOARD MEMBERS,
AND CAFETERIA STAFF

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21 | NOON | GMU CAFETERIA

ALL ARE WELCOME!

RSVP BY DEC. 15

607-783-2207 - EXT140

Booster Club News

We would like to invite parents or community members to please join Booster Club.

Currently we have fewer than 10 members who participate on a regular basis.

Last year we were able to raise over \$5000 with only a handful of people participating, but imagine what we could do if we had several more!

We donated to several areas of our school such as the Drama Club, Student Council, the Athletic Department and Safety Patrol. Please join us even if you are only able to make a couple of events.

Our meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Booster Club room.

GMU Booster Club Apparel Order Form 2018

\$65



Item #1-Soft Shell Jacket
Port Authority Soft Shell Jacket
Royal Blue or Grey w/ Embroidery
Youth Sizes S-XL Ladies Sizes XS-4XL Adult Sizes XS-4XL
2XL +\$2 3XL +3 4XL +\$4

\$55



Item #2-Applique Varsity Hoodie
Sport Tek Athletic Hoodie 9 oz 65/35 cotton/poly
Blue or Grey w/ Embroidery
Youth Sizes S-XL Adult Sizes XS-4XL
2XL +\$2 3XL +3 4XL +\$4

\$28



Item #3-Basic Sweatpants
Jerzees 8oz 50/50 cotton/poly
Blue with Gold Print
Youth Sizes S-XL Adult Sizes S-3XL
2XL +\$2 3XL +3

\$15



Item #4-Sport Tek Performance Hat
Sport Tek Performance Cap
Blue/White with Embroidery
One Size Fits Most Velcro Closure

\$30



Item #5-Basic Hoodie
Jerzees 8 oz 50/50 cotton/poly
Blue or Grey with Gold and White Print
Youth Sizes S-XL Adult Sizes S-4XL
2XL +\$2 3XL +3 4XL +\$4

\$40



Item #6-Sport Tek Quarter Zip
Sport Tek 9 ounce 65/35 cotton/poly
Blue or Grey with LC Embroidery
Ladies Sizes XS-4XL Adult Sizes XS-4XL
2XL +\$2 3XL +3 4XL +\$4

\$18



Item #7-Pom Pom Beanie
Sport Tek Beanie
Blue/Black/White with Embroidery
One Size Fits Most

\$14



Item #8-Short Sleeve Tee
Jerzees 50/50 Cotton/Poly
Blue or Grey with Gold and White Print
Youth Sizes S-XL Adult Sizes XS-4XL
2XL +\$2 3XL +3 4XL +\$4

\$19



Item #9-Long Sleeve Tee
Jerzees 50/50 Cotton/Poly
Blue or Grey with Gold and White Print
Youth Sizes S-XL Adult Sizes XS-4XL
2XL +\$2 3XL +3 4XL +\$4

Basic Personalization Available On All Items +\$5 each

Make Checks Payable: GMU Booster Club

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Item	Size	Size Type	Color	Personalization	Price
		Adult Ladies Youth			
		Adult Ladies Youth			
		Adult Ladies Youth			
		Adult Ladies Youth			
		Adult Ladies Youth			
		Adult Ladies Youth			
Total:					

Mentoring program will “change lives”

The Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District may be small, but when it comes to student mentors, it boasts a big number: 100. As in 100 percent.

That’s how many GMU students are participating in this year’s newly expanded Mentoring Program, which matches students in Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade with those in grades 6 through 12. For the district of 369 students, that’s a lot of organization and coordination of schedules and students. But organizers say the payoff will be well worth the effort.

“It’s going to change lives,” said Heather Wilcox, acting principal at GMU. “We’re really excited about it.”

The program meets every Friday at the end of the day. Wilcox noted that choosing a time was easy, as the district had received a lot of feedback from parents who said early dismissal on Fridays presented challenges to picking up their children on time after work. The Mentor Program was a nice fit for that time.

In the program, Pre-K students are matched up with 6th-graders, Kindergarteners with 7th-graders, and so on so that each mentor has one or two ‘mentees’ to work with. The students learn social and life skills through a series of activities across seven different stations.

Chance Kilmer, 7, is a third-grader in the program. He said he likes being with his mentor, 10th-grader Teddy Sharkey. “He lifted me up so I could dunk!” Chance said. “We have fun,” added the third-grader,



Aaron Barkman, a first grader, and Kendra Hammond, an eighth grader, work together during the school’s mentoring program.

who said he has an older sister in college and 9-year-old brother.

Sharkey said he gets a lot out of the new friendship. He has a brother who is younger than Chance, and this gives him more experience in the whole big-brother thing. “You realize how much they look up to you, and it’s good to be part of how they learn about things,” he said.

The expansion to include every student comes after several years of offering a volunteer mentor program, Wilcox said. “We had about 50 students in the Mentoring Program last year, and that was our all-time high. We wanted to reach the kids we knew needed it, so expanding was the way to go.”

Another incentive came from the Clark Foundation, a Cooperstown, NY-based charitable organization that began offering support to Otsego County districts years ago

and approached officials at GMU and the Morris School District in 2014 with an offer to become the 12th and 13th districts to join. By signing on, GMU now receives eight to 10 scholarships for its students each year, most of them handed out at graduation.

“The scholarships our students receive at graduation are for four years of college, so the commitment from the Clark Foundation is huge,” Wilcox said.

To participate with the Clark Foundation, the district had to adopt criteria through the College For Every Student (CFES) Brilliant Pathways program, a non-profit organization that helps students in more than 1,500 rural and urban schools across the country and in Ireland. CFES emphasizes three areas: Pathways to College, Mentoring, and Leadership Through Service.

COVER STORY



Seventh graders walk kindergartners to the bus at the end of a week of school.

Jaiden Larson is a second-grader who said he enjoys coloring and drawing with this mentor, 9th-grader Morgan Keuhn. “She’s nice,” said the oldest brother to a 4-year-old sister and a 10-month-old baby brother. “It’s like I got an older sister.”

Morgan is the oldest sister in a family that includes three step-siblings and two siblings. “I like doing this,” she said. “It’s a lot of fun, and you can see the littler kids getting a lot out of it.”

Morgan is surprised to hear that a small number of her classmates do not relish the role model role. “It’s great that all the way up until we graduate, we’ll get to work with the same kids, and that will help them see how important the program is.

“Why wouldn’t you want to help someone that way?”

Raquel Norton, a Pre-K through Grade 12 Library Media Specialist at GMU, is the district’s liaison with



Tenth-grader Teddy Sharkey and third-grader Chance Kilmer work together.

CFES, and she directs the Mentoring Program. She met with the Mentoring Committee over the summer, reviewing every class list in the district to match mentors with mentees.

Two weeks into the program, the

students have already begun to build friendships, she said. “They’ve already made connections. We can see how being responsible for this relationship has made a lot of the mentors proud and given them something to think about.”

Norton added that because the students are always working in groups with other mentors and mentees, there is a shared responsibility and no mentor ever feels isolated or pressured to act alone. And there are faculty and staff supervisors for every grade level.

Some mentees, she added, come from limited or troubled family lives that may include being raised by a grandparent or lacking the social interactions that are so important for early childhood development. “This helps those students, and for those mentors who are ‘only children’ or haven’t had this kind of responsibility, it can be a great thing.”

Morris Rotary honors GMU employees



GMU Superintendent Annette Hammond is the newest member of the Morris Rotary Club following her induction by Club President Winnie Talbot last month. The club also continued its annual tradition by welcoming GMU's five newest teachers (left to right, starting with Mrs. Hammond) Jaclyn Turnbull, Teresa Titus, Greg Duvall, Will Gilchrest, and Nathan Cutting.

Message to Middle School parents

Hello Parents and Students!

Middle School is a time of life when teachers start to expect kids to be more independent. There are fewer reminders, but more notes. This keeps increasing for students until they move from High School to post-graduation schooling or careers.

The level of independence expected can sometimes get away from the students; parents often want to know what is going on, and calendars are often busy and filled in quickly.

For all of these reasons, I am available in the Middle School to help support all students. One way I do this is through Google Classroom.

I want to share with you the opportunity to utilize the Google Classrooms that I have created for each Middle School core class. I am in several classes, and those that I cannot be in, I get notes from the teachers so that I can keep track of when and what tests and assignments are coming up.

I try to keep up with announcing tests and assignments...but the greatest resource I can provide are the study guides that students use for quizzes and tests. Learning to take your own notes is a process that can be overwhelming.

I use colors, pictures and "hints" in my notes to help students make connections to memories so that they

can improve memory skills.

Below are the sign-up codes to request access to the classrooms. I make them available to any 7th- or 8th-grade parent and student who would like to have access. I'm not perfect, I may miss a quiz or 2, but I do try to provide the information regularly.

<u>8th grade codes</u>	<u>Class name</u>	<u>7th grade codes</u>
4ugf3i	Overall MS details	4ugf3i
mq9ahs	ELA	wy7y52l
yuzkk2v	Math	r52cfz
c7ot7e	Science	tp2sxq
7sok4k	Social Studies	7swatil

To join a class, all that is needed is to have an email account. Open google, access google classroom and click on join. It will ask for some profile information to determine if you are a student, parent or teacher, and then ask if you want to create a class or join a class. Choose join, enter the codes that are listed above and I will receive an email that will tell me you would like to be added. I can accept as many student and parents as sign up, there is no limit.

Kimberly Degear
Middle School Learning Lab Leader
kdegear@gmucsd.org
607-783-2207 ext 264

VETERANS' BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 8th at 8:30am
Auditorium/High School Cafeteria

Student speakers: Shalleigh Taranto, Hunter Christian
& Andrew Meyers

Menu: Breakfast casserole, sausage, juice, coffee



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

RSVP: Cierra Stafford by 11/2/18
783-2207
cstafford@gmucsd.org

GMU to perform Mary Poppins

This November, the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School Drama Club is taking the stage with its small-ensemble production of the classic *Mary Poppins*.

Their rendition of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's 2004 musical will employ no more than fourteen cast members, each playing up to five characters plus ensemble throughout the show.

Drawing from both the novels by P. L. Travers and the 1964 film, it tells the story of the Banks family. With two unruly children, George and Winifred Banks have scared off nearly every nanny in London. That is, until *Mary Poppins* applies for the job! With her "practically perfect" manners, her friend Bert the chimney sweep, and a touch of magic, she soon whips children Jane and Michael into shape.

The children love her, but their father believes she is teaching them unacceptable behavior that will not place them in favor of London's high society. He suggests they hire his childhood nanny, the heavy-handed Miss Andrew. His wife disagrees, and they quarrel. The family must be brought together, and only Mary can do it!

The show is led by Nina D'Amato and Gavin Keith Bonczkowski as *Mary Poppins* and Bert. The Banks family will be played by Kacie Turnbull (Jane), Hannah L.

Bonczkowski (Michael), Emily Hammond (Winifred), and Austin Smith (George). Fiona Held will be playing the housekeeper Mrs. Brill, as well as Miss Smythe, a policeman, and Valentine.

The houseboy Robertson Ay will



The cast of Mary Poppins, which will be performed at GMU at 7 p.m. on November 9-10.

be played by Tyler Joslyn, who will also play Neleus, Von Hussler, and the teddy bear.

Maya Farwell will play Katie Nanna, the Banks' first nanny, a policeman, the park keeper, Northbrook, and the doll. Theodore C. Sharkey will be Admiral Boom, the bank chairman, and Mr. Punch.

Finally, Anika Liv Christensen is going to play Miss Lark, Queen Victoria, the bird woman, Mrs. Corry, and the villainous Miss Andrew. The ensemble will be comprised of Kailah M. Davis, Kadence Jade Canfield, and Hailey Cappiello.

The show will feature recognizable classics, such as *Step In Time*, *A Spoonful of Sugar*, and *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*, as well as numbers not present in the film, like *Brimstone and Treacle*, *Playing the Game*, and *Anything Can Happen*.

Offstage, Kendra Hammond, Noah Pain, and Emma Peck will be doing lights.

The stage crew will consist of Co-

rey Wilson and Chelsea Pope. Choreography is by Danika Clair, and the costumes are by Sallye Sadlocha and Carrie D'Amato.

Anne Monaco and Sandy Bonczkowski are assisting with vocal coaching.

The musical is directed by Nathan Sloan.

The pit orchestra is going to be directed by William Gilchrest, with Anne Monaco, Vicki Rickard, and Malik Clanton on reeds, Mathew Oram and Amy Hoxie on trumpet, Megan Carpenter on horn, Becky Sabin on trombone, Todd Loucks on percussion, Sean Degan on bass, and Rosemary Jaytainey and Karen Clark on keyboard.

Showings will be at 7 p.m. November 9 and 10 in the GMU auditorium.

A senior citizen preview will be held at 6:30 p.m. November 8.

Admission will be \$5 or free will donation.

Come see these versatile actors steal the show!



GMU BOOSTER CLUB's FALL FUNDRAISER:

“DON'T COOK FOR A MONTH!”

**WIN 30(!) GIFT CERTIFICATES
to LOCAL RESTAURANTS, EATERIES AND
SHOPS**



TAKE A BREAK
FROM COOKING
BY WINNING
*A WHOLE MONTH'S
WORTH*
OF FREE MEALS!



RAFFLE TICKETS COST:
\$2 FOR 1 - \$5 FOR 3 or \$10 FOR 10

DRAWING DATE:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018
(AT THE START OF THE BOY'S VARSITY BASKETBALL GAME)

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM ANY BOOSTER CLUB MEMBER.

(DONATIONS OF GIFT CERTIFICATES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RAFFLE MAY ALSO BE MADE.
PLEASE SEE KRISTY CAREY OR RACQUEL NORTON WITH YOUR DONATION.)



Counselors' Corner

HOBY

The Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership delegate selected to represent GMU at the 2017 HOBY Seminar is Teddy Sharkey.

The alternate selected is Olivia Held.

They were both selected because they demonstrate the potential to lead others. The HOBY mission is "to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation."

The HOBY Leadership Seminar encourages students to improve critical thinking skills, enhances leadership skills, reviews the democratic process, develops goal setting skills and challenges students to complete 100 hours of volunteer service.

The 2019 seminar will be held at SUNY Oneonta in the spring.

Congratulations Teddy and Olivia!

Congratulations!

The following 8th graders were chosen to attend the Catskill Area

School Study Council 8th Grade Leadership Workshop on at SUNY Oneonta— Hannah Bonczkowski, Nathan Bresee, Mackenzie Cherry, Kendra Dunham, Connor Eberly, Kendra Hammond, Fiona Held, Megan Perrine, Bianca Plows, Kacie Turnbull, and Kali Wilcox.

They all participated in large and small group activities to learn various leadership techniques.

Students attending the workshop are encouraged to return to their schools and become leaders and role models for other students.

Student Leadership - Juniors

Congratulations to the following students who attended the Student Leadership Conference sponsored by the Catskill Area School Study Council on November 15th.

This conference is designed to train young men and women to assume leadership roles in their school and community.

Students who attend are generally articulate, enthusiastic, confident, intelligent, and possess the ability to become a role model for other students.

This year's representatives from GMU are: Savannah Bresee, Ethan Charron, Kalvyn Cole. Zach Grabo, Vanessa Nelson, Ethan Newman, Kyli Odell, Sam Piedmonte, Sadra Smith and Airyana Wright.

This conference is the first of three training conferences which encourage teamwork, community involvement, and communication.

Seniors - College Applications

This is an important time of the year for seniors as they are preparing to transition into a new chapter of their lives.

Senior meetings are now complete and students are encouraged to complete and submit college applications ASAP.

Students should watch specific admission deadlines as they are extremely important. Colleges are not flexible with deadlines.

A great way to apply to multiple schools is using one application called The Common Application (<https://www.commonapp.org>).

You can access specific college supplements to the application as well. Not all schools subscribe to this service. However, check out this link to see if any of the schools to which you will apply offer this option.

Also, while completing the application students should indicate who is their counselor and the teachers who will provide reference information to each school.

This will simplify the application process.

SAT & ACT Registration

Juniors, now is the time to start registering for the Spring 2019 college entrance exams!

The next two exam dates are listed below, to register and for all exam dates please visit the specific testing websites.

SAT

Date: March 9 (register by February 8)

Date: May 4 (register by April 5)
www.collegeboard.com

ACT

Date: April 13 (register by March 8)

Date: June 8 (register by May 3)
www.actstudent.org



Teddy Sharkey



Olivia Held

Important Information

I have received this information from the New York State Education Department.

The intent is to reduce the spread and severity of illness in the education community:

General recommendations for the prevention of getting or spreading the flu:

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

The following is a request from the Attendance Office:

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

Thank you,
Carol Angelone, RN
Health Office

Memo from the Health Office

The State of New York mandates that health related screening be completed in our schools each year.

The requirements are as follows:

- For new entrants:

Vision: Distance Acuity, Near Vision, Color Perception

Hearing

Health Appraisal (Physical)

- Vision Screening: Pre K, Kindergarten and Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 11
- Hearing Screening: Pre K, Kindergarten and Grades 1, 3, 5, 11
- Scoliosis: Completed in Grades 5 & 7 for girls, grades 9 or boys
- Health Appraisals: Physicals are also required for Pre K, New Kindergarteners and Grades 1,3, 5, 7, and 11

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

Children need to “learn to be healthy” and need to be “healthy to learn!”

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

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

Carol Angelone, RN
School Nurse

Doo Wop Wed Widening Hood

The fifth –seventh grade musical Doo Wop Wed Widening Hood will be Friday, January 18 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, January 19 at 2 p.m. in the GMU auditorium. We hope to see you there!



BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

September 12 Regular Meeting

Appointments and designations were made for the 2018-19 school year.

Positive Highlights:

- The GMU Facebook page has been updated for the 2018-19 school year.
- The Superintendent introduced GMU's new Public Relations employee.
- The GMU web page is under construction.
- Opening Day went well.
- The Title Grants were all approved.

Information for Members

- The Superintendent informed the board of how many new registered students are currently enrolled at GMU for the 2018-19 school year. We have 25 new students and 17 students who left the district. We have a total of 368 students currently enrolled.

Reports

- The school counselors reported on new regulations for school counseling.

Board Discussion

- The Board members were reminded to submit their bios to Principal Heather Wilcox for the front display case.

Action Items:

- Approved the minutes from the August 15 meeting.
- Adopted the proposed September 12, 2018 Regular Consent Agenda.
- Approved the Financial Consent Agenda.
- Accepted the financial reports for August 2018.
- Approved the external audit for the year ending June 30, 2018.
- Approved the Personnel Consent Agenda.
- Approved an Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk, a bus monitor, a cafeteria substitute, co-advisors for ski-club, a teacher's aide/recess monitor, substitutes, and coaching recommendations for coaches for the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted a resignation.
- Approved the New Items Consent Agenda
- Approved a non-resident student for the 2018-19 school year.
- Approved the Safety Plan updates for the 2018-19 school year.
- Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Homecoming Night 2018 blasts the big fun

By Isabella Ramos

Journalism Student

On Friday September 28, Gilbertsville Mount Upton's High School Student Council brought Homecoming back--better than ever.

After the Boys Varsity soccer game, students from 9th grade through 12 grade showed up to the school for the big dance—a semi-formal, which had taken place in the school's newly renovated gym.

After the game, everyone went home to dress up for the semi-formal, which started at 8 P.M.

Student Council members arrived earlier to help set up the gym for

the dance.

Natalie Pistor, senior, and President of Student Council, said, "I believe Student Council outdid themselves bringing back Homecoming filled with great food, an amazing DJ, and a fun and energetic student body."

STUCO served Joe and Vinny's pizza and scored a DJ from Oneonta, who played current and classic music.

Many viewed the dance as a fun and amazing night. Junior Kallie Cole mentioned, "Homecoming was fun-- so many people had a great time dancing, singing, and interacting with some other people."

Later into the evening, Mrs. Piedmonte, English teacher and STUCO advisor, announced the homecoming court.

Due to the lack of senior boys present, a last minute change had to be made, and Homecoming Queen and Princess were announced.

Isabella Ramos was voted Homecoming Queen 2018 and Natalie Pistor was Homecoming Princess 2018.

At the end of the dance night, students left the school with new memories.

Junior Airyana Wright exclaimed, "I would do it all over again!"

News from the Main Office

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

The holiday season is approaching us and winter is in full force! Please be sure your children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Your child needs to wear mittens, boots, a hat, a winter coat and snow pants, so they can go out for recess. It is important for the students to get fresh air, so unless your child has a doctor's note stating they must stay in due to illness, we will not be able to keep students in at recess time.

We try to go outside every day that is above 20 degrees, even if it is for 15 minutes. If students do bring in notes stating they cannot participate in recess due to an injury, they will also be removed from PE during that time.

Label all items with your child's name. If your child wears boots to school, remind them to also bring shoes or sneakers to put on during the school day. It is amazing how many jackets, boots, shirts, glasses, etc. get lost and go unclaimed, so have your child check in the Health Office for lost items.

It is important that students listen to the radio on questionable days so they can be alerted to a delay or possible school closing.

Radio stations that broadcast our school information are: WCDO, WDOS, WKXZ, WZOZ, WSKG or watch WBNG-TV Channel 12. You can also access this information on the district website www.gmucsd.org. You will also receive a School Messenger call at the phone number, which you provided to the District this year.

Please make sure your phone number is up to date with the school. You can call the Main Office.

PK-2 Soaring Eagle Awards Ceremony

September Theme – Caring

- Displaying kindness & concern for others, yourself & your school community
- Giving of yourself without expecting an anything in return

PreK

Claire Beach

Jaxson Zaczek

Kindergarten

Anthony Kraft

Annabelle DiGiorgi

Evelyn Covington

1st Grade

Kloe Crandall

Broden Osborne

2nd Grade

Thomas Hanehan

Caden Champion

Important Dates:

November dates to remember:

- 2: PK-2 Awards Ceremony for October
- 8: Veteran's Breakfast
½ Day for Students-Parent/Teacher Conferences
Students dismissed @ 12:00 p.m.
- 9: No School - Staff Development Day
Mary Poppins Musical-7:00 p.m.
- 10: Mary Poppins Musical-7:00 p.m.
- 14: School Picture Retakes
- 12: No School – Veterans Day Observed
- 21-23: No School – Thanksgiving Recess
- 28: Quarterly Award Ceremonies
Grades 9-12, 8:15 a.m.
Grades 7-8, 9:15 a.m.
Grades 3-6, 10:15 a.m.

December dates to remember:

- 6: 5-12 Choral Concert-6:30 p.m. (12/11 Snow Date)
- 7: PK-2 Soaring Awards Ceremony for November
- 13: 5-12 Instrumental Concert - 6:30 p.m. (snow date 12/18)
- 21: ½ Day for Students dismissed @ 11:00 a.m.
No lunch served
Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon @ 12 p.m.
- 24 -31: No School - Winter Recess

January dates to remember:

- 1: No School - New Year's Day Observed
- 2: No School-New Year's Recess
- 4: PK-2 Awards for December
- 18: Grades 5-7 Jr. Musical – 7:00 p.m.
- 19: Grades 5-7 Jr. Musical – 2:00 p.m.
- 21: No School – Offices Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 25: ½ Day for students – Dismissed @ 12:00 p.m.
–Staff Development Day

—Mrs. Wilcox, PK-12 Acting Principal

RTI Program gets a new look

A new program aimed at improving student performance is gaining momentum at GMU, thanks to the contributions of faculty and staff at the school and the help of a few local school districts.

The Response to Intervention (RTI) Program is being overhauled, and school officials are expecting much better progress, growth and outcomes for students who need help with specific areas of their studies.

Simply put, RTI places teachers in Professional Learning Committees (PLCs) that meet regularly to discuss the individual needs of students and to refer students for specific extra help that will lead them to improve their individual skills in subject areas.

So if a student is struggling to keep up in math, a group of math teachers may use the referral process to recommend a specific set of exercises to strengthen the student's understanding of the math being taught in class.

"It's very goal-specific," said Acting Principal Heather Wilcox. "Before RTI, our Academic Intervention Services weren't structured. There wasn't a curriculum, and the success with a student was a lot less likely."

With RTI, the last period of each school day—Monday through Thursday—will place Middle School and High School students with their core teachers who know their specific academic needs and have a plan to help them.

Elementary students have RTI built into their daily schedules so that they are receiving immediate support.

On Fridays, all teachers will meet in their PLC teams to assess students' progress and plan RTI curriculums going forward.

Students will spend the last period on Fridays working together through

"We can compare where a student was before the extra instruction recommended through RTI, and where that student is after RTI services."

- Cierra Stafford

the district's non-academic Mentorship program, which is expanding this year to match every student in the district as a mentor (grades 6 through 12) or a mentee (grades Pre-Kindergarten through 5).

Unlike previous years, the revised RTI Program does not rely on students to seek out teachers for help; now, the teachers find the students who need help in their subject areas and put them to work in ways that will lead to measurable improvement.

Wilcox credits administrative intern Cierra Stafford, a 7-8 math teacher in the district, with designing a data sheet that keeps track of student progress in the RTI program.

"It quantifies what needs to be worked on and records what has been done and what the results are," Stafford said. "We can compare where a student was before the extra instruction recommended through RTI, and where that student is after RTI services."

Stafford and K-2 Special Education teacher Melissa Van Vorce gained useful tips on building a referral process from teachers in the Otselic Valley Central School District, and Stafford credits the Unadilla Valley School District with providing a model for the PLC process.

Building the RTI program brings GMU into compliance with State Education Department mandates, Wilcox said, and it's simply the right thing to do to ensure that students are academically successful.

NEW TO GMU

Nate Cutting



What is your title at GMU?

MS/HS Science Teacher

Where did you grow up?

Afton, NY

Where did you go to college?

SUNY-ESF for B.S. Binghamton University for M.A.T.

Where did you work before this?

Everything from Teaching Assistant in Falconer, NY, to mapping gopher tortoises in GA, to working at State Parks.

What attracted you to GMU?

I wanted to work at a small school like I grew up in at Afton.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing here?

I hope to get students interested in the fascinating living world that surrounds us!

What do you like to do when you're not at school?

I like doing things outdoors: walking in the woods, camping, hunting, and fishing.

Favorite food?

Ribeye steak, of course!

What kind of music do you listen to?

Folk, Rock, Pop, Hip-Hop, Electronic, almost anything!

What's your favorite quote or saying?

"Life... uh... finds a way" - Dr. Malcolm from Jurassic Park

What do you want your students to know about you as their teacher?

I am passionate about teaching young people and sharing knowledge about living things!

NEW TO GMU

Greg DuVall



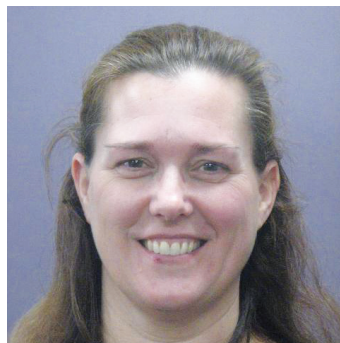
What is your title at GMU?
Elementary
Physical Education
Where did you grow up?
New Berlin
Where did you go to college?
SUNY Cortland
Where did you work before this?
This is my first full-time position!
What attracted you to GMU?
The family atmosphere and rural/beautiful area
What are you looking forward to accomplishing here?
Preparing our students to live healthy active lives in the present and future.
What do you like to do when you're not at school?
Spend time with my wife, April, and daughters ,Phoebe, and Sienna. I also love to be outside hunting and fishing.
Favorite food?
Seafood!
What kind of music do you listen to?
Country and Classic Rock
What's your favorite quote or saying?
"The only thing that you deserve is what you earn" Tom Brands Iowa Hawkeye Wrestling coach.
What do you want your students to know about you as their teacher?
That I care about them inside and outside the classroom and want what is best for their health!

Will Gilchrest



What is your title at GMU?
7-12 Instrumental Music Teacher
Where did you grow up?
Fitchburg, Massachusetts
Where did you go to college?
Gordon College: Undergrad
Binghamton University: Masters
Where did you work before this?
Schenevus Central School
What attracted you to GMU?
The location (I live in the district). The quality of the music department. The support of the Arts from the community and the administration.
What are you looking forward to accomplishing here?
I want to continue the success and quality of the music department. I want my students to love what they do.
What do you like to do when you're not at school?
Spend time with my family.
Favorite food?
Cheese, bacon, garlic
What kind of music do you listen to?
Classical music, film scores
What's your favorite quote or saying?
"It's what's in the heart that counts."
What do you want your students to know about you as their teacher?
I want all of my students to reach their fullest potential.

Teresa Titus



What is your title at GMU?
Special Education Teacher 12:1:1 Program
Where did you grow up?
Norwich
Where did you go to college?
Plattsburgh State (Undergraduate)
Oneonta State (Masters)
Where did you work before this?
A small school south of here.
What attracted you to GMU?
A good friend showed me an ad that they were hiring. She told me the Superintendent worked with her in the past, and was amazing and that I should apply. So I did.
What are you looking forward to accomplishing here?
A special education program that meets the needs of all students and excels the states standards.
What do you like to do when you're not at school?
School work
Favorite food?
Homemade French Fries
What kind of music do you listen to?
Everything but rap and hard rock or lyrics with swear words in them.
What's your favorite quote or saying?
"Once you make the decision to move on, don't look back. Your destiny will never be found in the rear view mirror."
What do you want your students to know about you as their teacher?
That every year even though I may add new students to my roster, my students from my past and present are like gifts I'm given to raise to their highest potential, and then get to sit back and watch them grow into life long learners spreading their knowledge onto others around them in the most positive of ways.

Jaclyn Turnbull



What is your title at GMU?
Special Education Teacher
Where did you grow up?
Woodbridge, NJ
Where did you go to college?
Kean University in Union NJ
Where did you work before this?
I worked for 18 years, grades 1-8 as a special education teacher in Woodbridge Township School District in Woodbridge, New Jersey.
What attracted you to GMU?
I recently moved to the area. It has a great reputation for being friendly and family-oriented.
What are you looking forward to accomplishing here?
I am looking to use my prior experience to advance students in reading and writing.
What do you like to do when you're not at school?
I enjoy camping, going on outings with my family, and farming sheep.
Favorite food?
Bacon Cheeseburgers
What kind of music do you listen to?
Country and Christian
What's your favorite quote or saying?
I don't really have one.
What do you want your students to know about you as their teacher?
If there is anything I can do to help them I would love to.

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Scenes from around GMU!

