



# 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!**

## GMU Showcases Recycling Program



### Students take part in green efforts!

Administrators from the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District recently made a presentation about the school's recycling program, which has allowed the district to reduce its carbon footprint. The district has been developing this program for several years, and it has saved the district thousands of dollars in the long run.

Superintendent Annette Hammond, Business Manager Dorothy Iannello, School Meals Manager Susan Sebeck, Principal Heather Wilcox, and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Alan Digsby attended the Rural Schools Association conference recently to showcase the program, and to explain the steps taken to get to where GMU currently is.

"The program has come a long way and has become one of pride for the district," Hammond said. "Our staff and students have worked extremely hard as a team to make sure the program is sustainable and will help our school as we move forward in future years."

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## Superintendent's Message



Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year! Please join us at our **School Open House on Thursday, October 4.** We have so much going on that night, including opportunities to meet our new and returning teachers and see our school building. Thank you to Mr. Digsby and his custodial staff for the incredible amount of work they did this summer preparing for the opening of school. The

student workers also did great work as they painted, lugged furniture, cleaned, and worked along with the Buildings and Grounds Staff. Our student summer work program has been an opportunity for students for many years. 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. Thank you to this year's student workers: **Kathryn Hawkins, Simon Dear, Austin Oliver and Hunter Christian.**

Thank you to Mr. Joe Zaczek and our Transportation Staff for their work in preparing for the arrival of your children, our most precious cargo. 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 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. Thank you to Mrs. Susan Sebeck and her dedicated kitchen crew!

Welcome to all of our new faculty, staff, students and their families—we are thrilled to welcome you into the GMU family! Making connections with students on the bus, in the halls, in the classroom, cafeteria, and on the fields and courts is a priority at our school! Our faculty and staff teach, guide, listen, and provide much-needed support to our students. They tirelessly give of themselves each day and are truly present for our students.

I would like to thank our teachers and staff for their dedication to our students and the GMU School Community! Together, our teachers will continue to work on improved programs and instruction District-wide. Last year, students were dismissed early on Fridays to allow teachers time to collaborate together in teams across grade levels and subjects. Remember that these teams are called PLCs, or Professional Learning Communities. The work that teachers do in these teams will continue on Friday afternoons this year, but we will not be dismissing students early. We will be implementing a District-wide mentoring program that will benefit all students, and we look forward to added opportunities we can expose students to during this valuable time.

Communication with our school and extended school community is important, so please don't forget to utilize this newsletter and our District website along with other social media sites (Facebook and Instagram) to access the most up to date schedule of events here at school and to see what is going

on with our students! Our web address is [www.gmucsd.org](http://www.gmucsd.org).

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 and encouraging comments. 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!

Parents, student drivers, and community members, please remember that we want to keep all of our students as safe as possible, so on these foggy fall and fast-approaching slippery winter mornings, remember to take it slow and remember that you cannot pass a school bus that has its blinking lights on. Also, during morning drop-offs and afternoon bus loading, the front circle is closed to all traffic except our buses. 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.

Student and staff safety is very important to us all. Please know that although inconvenient, we will continue to ask visitors to stay outside or in our vestibule entrance unless you are meeting with someone in the school building. This is for the safety of all students and employees. You will need to use the communication device on the left side of the main doors to ring into the office to let them know what you need before being given access to the building. You will find Mrs. Deb Ostrander greeting you in our security office, and in the space behind that office we have moved the Main Office/Mrs. Wilcox's Office, with Mrs. Kristy Carey as the secretary. We often use summer as a time to rethink our office structure and make improvements that are beneficial to the safety and flow of our building.

The establishment of the School-Based Health Clinic has been slow, as the Board of Education has been cautious trying to make sure expenses are kept to a minimum. We put the renovation of the space project out to bid twice this past spring, and both times the proposals have come back \$70,000 or more over the voter approved use of reserves in the amount of \$300,000. We are currently working with Bassett to try and secure additional funds to cover the cost of this project. We are also exploring opportunities to invite you to a School-Based Health Clinic meeting in which you can hear about the program that Bassett is working to establish with us. More information to come on this.

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

— Mrs. Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent



**Continued from front cover**

In 2011, discussions were initiated to see how the school could become more green. Items talked about included marker recycling, composting, and donating to the school garden project.

One of the highlights, though, was making sure the program was not just being staff-run, rather having the involvement of students.

The school garden came from an Elementary Student Council project. The produce grown is used by the school cafeteria in lunches, as well as sold to the public at Open House. The produce is also used in cooking projects. PK-12 classes sign up to care for sections of the garden, with jobs including planting, weeding, and watering.

The recycling aspect goes a bit deeper. The High School Student Council has led the way in classroom recycling. Bins were purchased for every classroom and office. The council sets the schedule and assigns students to various recycling tasks. There has been a reduction in garbage pick-up frequency.

The bigger picture also includes the Elementary and Middle School/High School cafeterias. Each cafeteria has waste/recycle counters, which help educate students and staff on the importance of the program. Separate color-coordinated disposals are used for land-fill, pig/compost, recyclables, and

liquids. Casella Waste helped with the development and process of the signage.

Some of the compost and certain liquid and food waste are donated to a local farmer, who picks up the waste each night. The waste is fed to farm pigs, and the farmer returns the clean buckets. In turn, the farmer gives a pig back to the school. That pig is taken to a USDA-certified butcher, and the school dictates how the pig needs to be processed. Pork is then used for school meals, and the only district cost is for processing of the meat.

Though there are several facets to the program, the end result is savings to taxpayers. At its peak, the yearly invoice amount for waste was \$16,238.80 in 2012. In 2017, that number has dropped to \$3,075. Not only that, the frequency of garbage being picked up has reduced from five days to one.

The hard work going into this program has been noticed statewide, too, as a recent New York State Comptroller audit noted the program provided educational opportunities for students, reduced waste and their effect on the environment, and saved money. The audit also commended the District for identifying areas to reduce cafeteria costs and enhance revenues through the recycling project.



## News from the Main Office

On the first day of school, your child was sent home with a Student Information Form. Please 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 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 notes: No changes to busing may be made after 10:00 a.m. each day.** If you need to make changes to your child's busing after 10:00 a.m., you must arrange the change on your own based on the child's scheduled drop off location. Note that your child's note can only be written either for the week, or sent in daily. 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. You may drop off a note at the front desk, fax a note (607) 783-2254 or email changes to [busnotes@gmucsd.org](mailto:busnotes@gmucsd.org) before 10:00 a.m. the day of the change. 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 and the street address.
- **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,

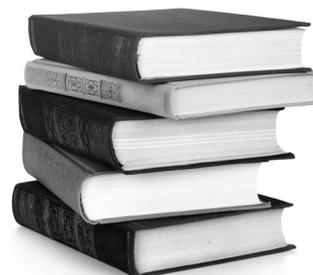
don't hesitate to call the teacher with any questions.

- **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.
- **Illegal Absences:** 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.
- 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 grades PK-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 Thursday the late bus will leave the school at 4:30 p.m. Students staying after school for any program, including sports, need to sign up during their lunch to take the late bus each day.

### Grades 4-12 After-School Program

We are again offering an After-School Program that will take place each Monday thru Thursday. 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 and end at 4:25. I hope that students take advantage of the extra help they can get in the After-School Program.

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## Elementary Counselor Corner

I hope that everyone had a great and relaxing summer! I would like to welcome all GMU families and students back to our 2018-2019 academic year. I have always been enthusiastic about the beginning of school. Even as a child, the start of the school year meant new things to me, like new teachers, new classrooms, meeting new students as well as connecting back with old friends. This is a great time to start with a new outlook. Remind your child about their accomplishments last year, and if they did not do as well last year, talk to them and discuss how they can start fresh and do things differently this year.

This year I will be piloting a new Social-Emotional Learning program called “Connected and Respected” in two grades. The purpose of this program is to help students develop the social and emotional skills that are not only useful in their academic success, but to their success in building and maintaining relationships and making positive contributions to their school and community. “Connected and Respected” encompasses character education, conflict resolution, and interpersonal relations. It is not a bullying prevention program per se, but it does address how to deal with bullying behavior, prejudice, assertiveness, and concepts of peace. It addresses anger management, listening skills, and working cooperatively. It helps children in developing what I call the 3 C’s—Character, Confidence, and Competence. Students perform better when they feel connected to their classroom and respected for who they are . . . and therein lies the perfect title for the program . . . “Connected and Respected.”

I will also be conducting my annual Small Counseling groups on topics such as Friendship Building, Social Skills, Managing and Expressing our Emotions, and Divorce/Changing Families. Groups will start in October and will meet during lunch in the Counseling Suite.

As always, please feel free to contact me by phone or via email with any questions or concerns you might have throughout your child’s academic school year.

— Tina Hall, PK-6 Elementary School Counselor



## Main Office Moves Front and Center

The Main Office at the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School is moving to the front of the building, and a new Counseling Center is sprouting in its place, said Dean of Students, Heather Wilcox.

“We are the front line for visitors to the building,” Wilcox said, “and this move places us where we can be more effective. At the same time, it creates space for a center for our school counselors, giving them more room than they had before.”

The Main Office will be on the left for visitors entering the main entrance, just beyond the security desk that is immediately inside the main doors.

Plans for the switch include a new, larger space for group counseling and meeting sessions and a large area for college and career information, Wilcox said. The District has a counselor for PK-6th grades and one for grades 7-12. “We have all this great resource material for our students who are considering college and employment, and now we have a great new space to display it,” she said.

The move should be completed by the start of classes in September.

## NEWS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE (continued)

### Upcoming November Dates to Remember

- 2 PK-2 Awards, Auditorium, 8:25 a.m.
- 8 Veteran’s Breakfast
- 8 ½ Day, Early Dismissal, Noon  
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 12:30-7:00 p.m.
- 9 No School—Staff Development Day
- 12 No School—Veterans Day Observed  
(Offices Closed)
- 21-23 No School—Thanksgiving Recess
- 28 Award Ceremonies, Auditorium,  
Grades 9-12, 8:15 a.m.  
Grades 7-8, 9:15 a.m.  
Grades 3-6, 10:15 a.m.

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 do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. The teachers and I look forward to seeing you at Open House in October!

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

—Mrs. Wilcox, Dean of Students

# Summer Workers Program



Four GMU seniors-to-be spent their summer working 20 hours a week with the school staff, cleaning and painting classrooms and offices, moving furniture and equipment, and helping with general building and grounds maintenance.

The Summer Workers program was created by Director of Facilities Alan Digsby, who started employing students to help with the upkeep of the 144,000 square-foot school in the summer of 1997.

Students are eligible for the program after their junior years and must apply for the job and interview with Digsby.

Some students even continue in the program for a second year, during the summer after they graduate from GMU, Digsby said.

This year's student workers in the 8-week program were **Kathryn Hawkins, Simon Dear, Austin Oliver, and Hunter Christian.**

One of the supervisors of the program is Pam Davis, who works during the school year as an aide in grades 3 and 4. She said she loves working with the summer students. "It's always been my thing, working with kids," she said. "This summer program is a lot of fun. And these kids are great."

"I would never get all of this school clean without the help of the summer kids," Digsby added.



GMU Drama Club presents Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's

# Mary Poppins

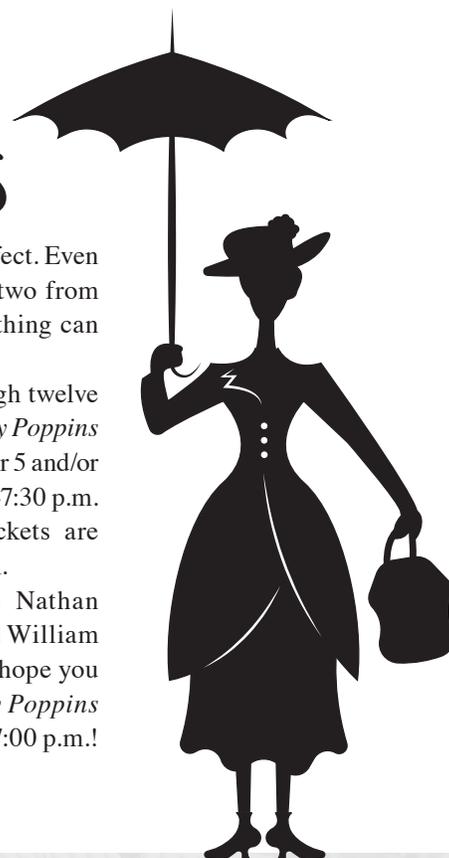
*Mary Poppins* is set to take over the GMU stage in November! Students will present *Mary Poppins* the musical on Friday, November 9 and Saturday, November, 10 at 7:00 p.m. Students will also present a Senior Citizen dessert night at 6:30 p.m. with performance to follow at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2018. We hope to see you there!

The jack-of-all-trades, Bert, introduces us to 1910 England and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael are not the only ones

upon whom she has a profound effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "anything can happen if you let it."

Students in grades eight through twelve who would like to audition for *Mary Poppins* can do so on Wednesday, September 5 and/or Thursday, September 6 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Audition packets are available outside the chorus room.

We would like to welcome Nathan Sloan as our musical director and William Gilchrest as our pit director! We hope you come out and enjoy GMU's *Mary Poppins* November 9 and November 10 at 7:00 p.m.!



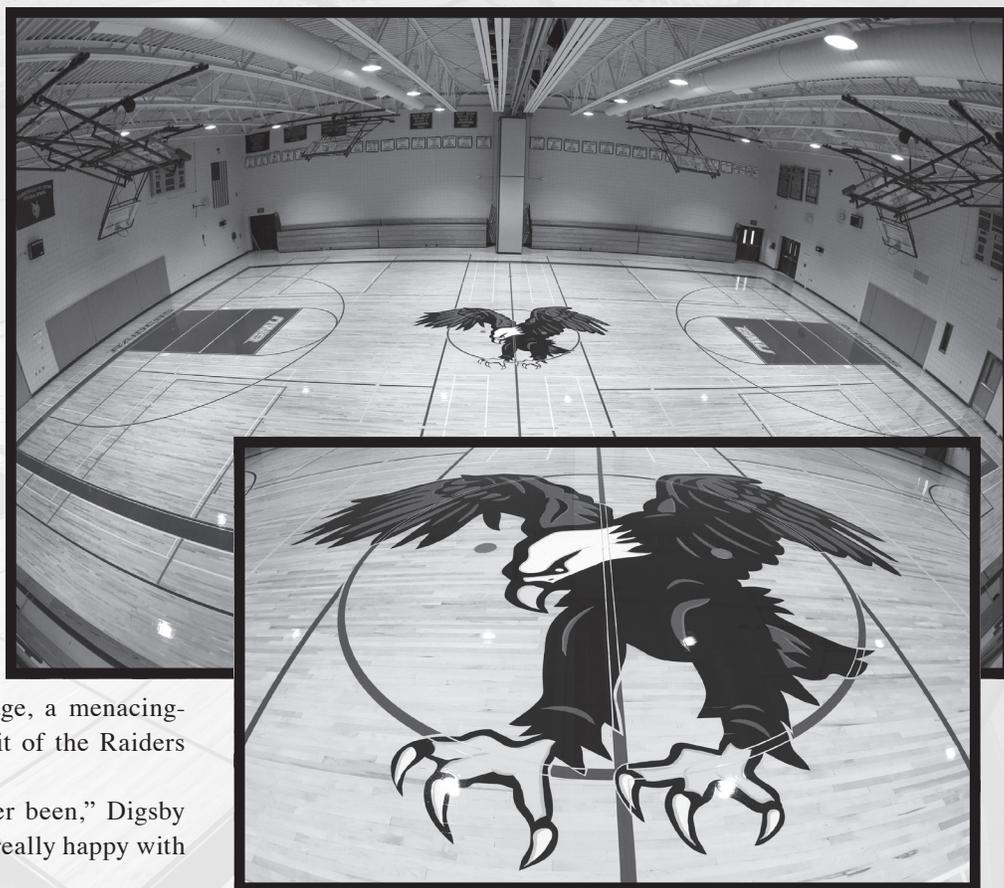
## GMU Gymnasium Floor features new finish, Eagle

After more than 20 years, the GMU gym floor has a new look.

The opportunity for a change came when it was time to refinish the floor last year. The 20-year refinishing was a standard maintenance project, said Building and Grounds Supervisor Alan Digsby. But it took three failed attempts by the original installer of the floor last year before GMU Superintendent Annette Hammond and the Board of Education opted for another contractor this spring.

To remedy a sub-par job, the new contractor stripped the floor all the way to the hardwood planks and re-drew all the lines and boundaries. And they installed the new mascot image, a menacing-looking eagle that reflects the spirit of the Raiders athletic teams.

"The floor is better than it's ever been," Digsby said. "Our athletes and fans will be really happy with the new look."



## News from the Guidance Office

### Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

Welcome back GMU students and families! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year at GMU. MS/HS students should have received their schedules in the mail and should bring them to school on the first day!

### College Information

The fall is a great time for juniors and seniors to visit colleges for open house and campus tours. I encourage students and families to visit campuses. Choosing the right college may be one of the most important decisions a young adult makes. In addition to open house programs, many campuses offer campus tours, admission interviews, overnight stays and the opportunity to meet with faculty, staff and coaches. Contact the admissions office at the college or university that you are interested in visiting or view the college website for information about fall programs.

### College Entrance Exam Test Dates

SAT Dates	
SAT TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019
ACT Dates	
ACT TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
October 27, 2018	September 28, 2018
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019

### Get involved at GMU!

We encourage students and families to GET INVOLVED. GMU offers many opportunities for involvement in clubs, music programs, sports and extra-curricular activities. We encourage parents to attend informational meetings, parent teacher conferences, scheduling sessions, family nights and sports and music performances.

We want to remind you that the Guidance Office provides important information and services to our students, families and community members. Please feel free to call the Guidance Office (607) 783-2207 or contact Ms. Parsons at [kparsons@gmucsd.org](mailto:kparsons@gmucsd.org) with questions regarding student enrollment, academic advisement, career planning, financial aid, scholarships and counseling services available to students and their families.

## Upcoming Counseling Events!

### 2018-2019 Senior FAFSA Night

October 4, 2018

*COMPLETE your FREE Application for Federal Student Aid! This event is open to all Seniors and Families!*

### PSAT TEST DATE: October 10!

*Open to all 11th grade students!  
Be on the lookout for more information!*

## Memo from the Health Office

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).

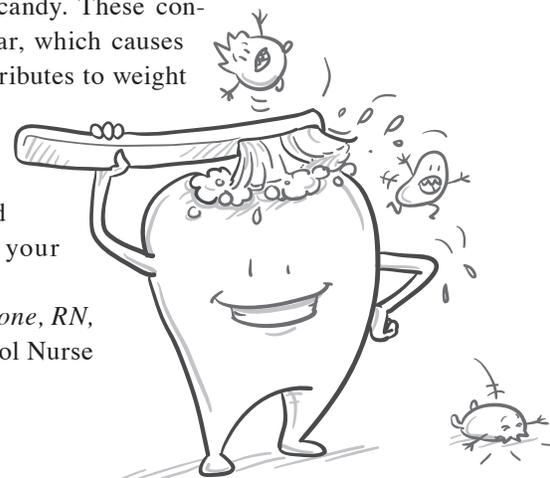
Baby teeth are very important, not just teeth that will fall out. Children need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities have difficulties in some or all of these areas. They may also have problems paying attention and learning at school. Tooth decay 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 contributes to weight problems.

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

— Carol Angelone, RN,  
School Nurse



**Attention Parents: New Meal Charge Policy**  
**School Payment & Meal Charge Policy**

**I. PURPOSE**

The goal of the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton CSD is to provide student access to nutritious no- or low-cost meals each school day.

The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal requirements for the USDA Child Nutrition Program, and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances. Unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our school district.

This policy will establish procedures to address unpaid meal charges throughout the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton CSD. The provisions of this policy pertain to regular and reduced priced school breakfast, lunch and snack (if applicable) meals only. The Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton CSD provides, as a courtesy to students, the option to charge a meal in the event that they forget or lose their lunch money. Charging of items outside of the reimbursable meals (a la carte items, adult meals, etc.) is expressly prohibited.

**II. COST OF SCHOOL MEALS**

- **Free Meal Benefit:** Eligible students will be allowed to receive a free breakfast and lunch each day. A la carte purchases must be paid or prepaid.
- **Reduced Meal Benefit:** Eligible students will be allowed to receive a breakfast for \$.25 and lunch for \$.25 each day. A la carte purchases must be paid or prepaid.
- **Full Pay Students:** Students will pay for meals at the school's published paid meal rate each day. A la carte purchases must be paid or prepaid

**III. WHERE MEALS ARE NOT PAID FOR AT THE POINT OF SALE, THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY:**

- A. All students upon the student's request, regardless of whether their parent or legal guardian has unpaid charges for school meals and regardless of their ability to pay at the register, shall be provided with a school meal of the student's choice from the available reimbursable meal choices for that school day.
- B. The District shall only be required to provide access to reimbursable meals, not a la carte items, adult meals, or other items.
- C. Charging of items outside the reimbursable meals (a la carte items, adult meals, etc.) is expressly prohibited. All such items must be paid or prepaid.
- D. The Student's parent or guardian may provide written permission to the District to withhold a meal.

E. There will be no ADULT charging (employees, volunteers, or visitors) of school meals.

**IV. TRAINING**

All staff responsible for serving students meals or collecting money for such meals will be trained to ensure that the District's procedures are carried out correctly. Such training shall include receipt and review of this plan at the time of the employee's hire, with retraining as needed. Training shall also include communication strategies to minimize stigma or embarrassment to students denied a la carte items.

**V. MONEY OWED FOR UNPAID MEALS:**

- A. Parents/Guardians are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Discreet notices of low or deficit balances will be sent to the parent/guardian at regular intervals during the school year. Parents will be given notice of the negative balance on their Student's account with weekly communication regarding the unpaid balance, which may include auto calls or letters.
- B. The single payment. The District will work with families to develop a repayment schedule, when families are unable to pay the entire amount of any unpaid balance in a single payment.
- C. If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration will investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents and families will be encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meals for their child, if applicable.
- D. When a student owes money for five or more meals, the District shall:
  1. Attempt to determine if a student is directly certified to be eligible for free meals;
  2. Make at least two attempts, not including the application or instructions included in a school enrollment packet, to reach the student's parent or guardian to fill out a meal application; and
  3. Contact the parent or guardian to offer assistance with a meal application, determine if there are other issues within the household that have caused the child to have insufficient funds to purchase a school meal, and offer any other assistance that is appropriate.
- E. The District will not publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt by any means, including but not limited to:

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**MEAL CHARGE POLICY (continued)**

1. Requiring that a student wear a wristband or hand stamp;
2. Require a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt to do chores or other work to pay for meals;
3. Require that a student throw away a meal after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for the meal or because money is owed for earlier meals;
4. Take any action directed at a pupil to collect unpaid school meal fees. The District will attempt to collect unpaid school meal fees from a parent or guardian, but shall not use a debt collector as defined in section eight hundred three of the Federal; Consumer credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 169322a; or
5. Discuss any outstanding meal debt in the presence of other students.

F. Nothing in this plan is intended to allow for the unlimited accrual of debt.

**VI. PAYMENT**

- A. Students/parents/guardians may pay for meals in advance via *myschoolbucks.com* or with a check payable to Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton School Meals. Further details are available on our webpage at *www.gmucsd.org*. Funds should be maintained in the accounts to minimize the possibility that a student may be without meal money on any given day. Any remaining funds for a particular student may/will be carried over to the next school year.
- B. Surplus balances will be rolled over for the student's benefit for the following school year.
- C. Regarding funds for withdrawn and graduated students, a written or emailed request for a refund of any money remaining in their account must be submitted. Full-pay students who are graduating at the end of the school year will be given the option to transfer any balance to a sibling's account with a written request. Reduced-meal eligible students will have surplus money returned.
- D. Unclaimed funds must be requested within one school year. Unclaimed funds will then become the property of the Food Service Program.
- E. Collection of owed balances will follow the above procedures for unpaid meals.

**VII. ENROLLMENT IN THE FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM:**

- A. At the beginning of each school year, The District shall provide a free, printed meal application in every school enrollment packet, or provide information in the packet of how to access the meal

application on line and instructions for how parents can request a paper application at no cost.

- B. The District, upon request, will provide assistance to families in completing an application for enrollment.
- D. Where the District becomes aware that a student who has not submitted a meal application is eligible for free or reduced-free meals, the District shall complete and file an application for the student.
- E. The District's School Liaison for homeless, foster, and migrant students shall coordinate with the nutrition department to make sure such students receive free school meals in accordance with federal law.

**VIII. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION:**

The District will provide notice to all parents and guardians on an annual basis, prior to the opening day of school, outlining the requirements of this policy. This policy shall also be published in an appropriate school-based publication, and posted on the District's website.



**School Board  
Recognition Week**

The week of October 22 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:**

- Jeremy Pain, President*
- Ethan Eberly, Vice-President*
- Patricia Dunham*
- Hillary Giuda-Philpott*
- Barbara Hill*
- Mark Muller*
- 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, Dean of Students, at 783-2207 any time or for more information. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

## 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.

**No Pets Allowed  
On School  
Grounds**



## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY CHICKEN BBQ

**October 4<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:30PM**  
**Open House Night**

**\$7 for a half**  
**\$10 for a dinner**

Dinners include: Coleslaw, baked beans, and a cookie (all provided by GMU)

**Pick up in the High School Cafeteria**



Pre-Sale available September 17<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Chicken available on a first come, first serve basis on October 4<sup>th</sup>

See an Honor Society member or contact their advisor, Cierra Stafford, to order.

## Board of Education Highlights

### July 11 Reorganizational & Regular Meeting

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

#### Positive Highlights:

- Baccalaureate and graduation went well and was well attended.
- 33/40 seniors received college credit at graduation. 13 students have a college semester or more that they will not have to pay for.
- Five new courses for college credit through TC3 have been approved: Participation in Government, Economics, Psychology, Chemistry and Biology.
- The master schedule is almost complete.
- Mentoring pairings have been made and plans have been made for Friday activities in place of the 2:15 p.m. early dismissals.
- Gym floor is complete and looks great.
- The Superintendent, Dean of Students, Business Official, Building and Grounds Supervisor and the School Meals Manager attended and presented at the Rural Schools Association conference in Cooperstown on the GMU recycling program. Over 50 people were in attendance at this presentation.

#### Information for Members:

- The District Clerk handed out information on a training on Benchmarks in School Threat Assessment and Response as well as information on the 2018 New York State School Boards Association's annual conference that is taking place in New York City this year.

#### Reports:

- Principal Heather Wilcox reported on the June 2018 Regents results.

#### Board Discussion:

- The Board discussed revisions to the District's non-resident student policy and then approved the policy pending the discussed changes.
- The board also discussed fundraising ideas for the 2018-19 school year.
- Principal Heather Wilcox, invited board members to present to our students in grades 7-12 the last Thursday of each month on what career they are currently employed in. The focus is to get students thinking about what career or interest they would like to pursue after graduation.
- Superintendent Hammond updated the board on the School-Based Health Center.

#### Action Items:

- Approved minutes from the June 13 and 23 meetings.
- Adopted the proposed July 11, 2018 Regular Consent Agenda.
- Approved CSE/CPSE Consent Agenda. The meeting date

includes the June 15, 2018 meeting.

- Approved the Financial Consent Agenda.
- Accepted the financial reports for June 2018.
- Accepted two donations to the District.
- Accepted the milk, ice cream, and bread bids for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Approved the Personnel Consent Agenda.
- Accepted a resignation.
- Approved the kindergarten bridging program staff, PK meet and greet staff, athletic coordinator, literacy coordinator, a school counselor, a music teacher, a physical education teacher, a special education teacher, mentors, advisors, and coaches for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Approved the New Items Consent Agenda.
- Approved a request for transportation for the Butternut Summer Youth Program and an agreement with Bassett Hospital and the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton CS.
- Approved non-resident students for the 2018-19 school year.
- Approved District goals for the 2018-19 school year and a surplus of books.
- Amended and approved the meal charge policy BP5662.
- Approved a change order.
- Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



**JULY 2018**

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**AUGUST 2018**

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**SEPTEMBER 2018 (18+1)**

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**OCTOBER 2018 (21+1)**

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**NOVEMBER 2018 (17+1)**

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**DECEMBER 2018 (15)**

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# GILBERTSVILLE-MT. UPTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR 2018-2019

**Key**

<input type="checkbox"/>	No School — Vacation Day	<u>    </u>	Regents Day
<input type="checkbox"/>	Offices Closed	/	1/2 Day
<input type="checkbox"/>	No School — Conference Day		

**JULY 2018**

4 4th of July, Offices Closed

**AUGUST 2018**

16-17 Regents Exams

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

3 Labor Day—No School, Offices Closed  
4 Staff Development Day—No School  
5 First Day for Students

**OCTOBER 2018**

5 Staff Development Day—No School  
8 Columbus Day—No School, Offices Closed

**NOVEMBER 2018**

8 1/2 Day for Students, Noon Dismissal  
9 Staff Development Day  
12 Veterans Day—No School, Offices Closed  
21-23 Thanksgiving Recess—No School  
22-23 Offices Closed

**DECEMBER 2018**

21 1/2 Day for Students, 11:00 a.m. Dismissal  
24-31 Christmas Recess—No School  
24-26 Offices Closed

**JANUARY 2019**

1 New Year's Day—No School, Offices Closed  
2 New Year's Recess  
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No School  
22-25 Regents Exams  
25 1/2 Day for Students, Noon Dismissal

**FEBRUARY 2019**

18-22 Presidents' Day Recess—No School  
18 Offices Closed

**MARCH 2019**

7 1/2 Day for Students, Noon Dismissal  
8 Staff Development Day—No School

**APRIL 2019**

2-4 ELA Testing, Grades 3-8  
15-22 Spring Recess—No School  
19-22 Offices Closed

**MAY 2019**

1-3 Math Testing, Grades 3-8  
22 Science Performance Test, Grades 4 & 8  
27 Memorial Day—No School, Offices Closed

**JUNE 2019**

3 Science Written Test, Grades 4 & 8  
17 Last Day for Students, Grades 7-12  
18-25 Regents Exams  
22 Graduation  
25 1/2 Day for PK-6th Grades, 11:00 a.m. Dismissal  
26 Rating Day, No Regents

**JANUARY 2019 (20)**

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**FEBRUARY 2019 (15)**

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**MARCH 2019 (20+1)**

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**APRIL 2019 (16)**

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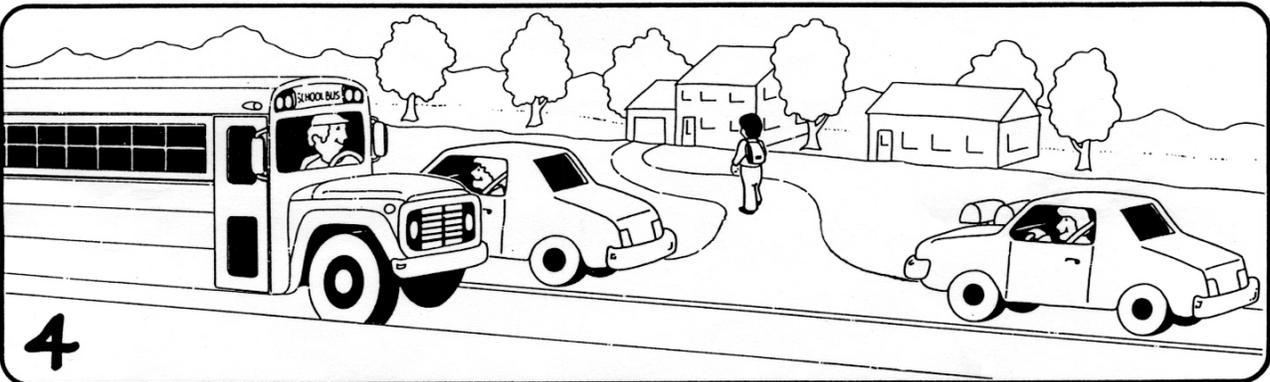
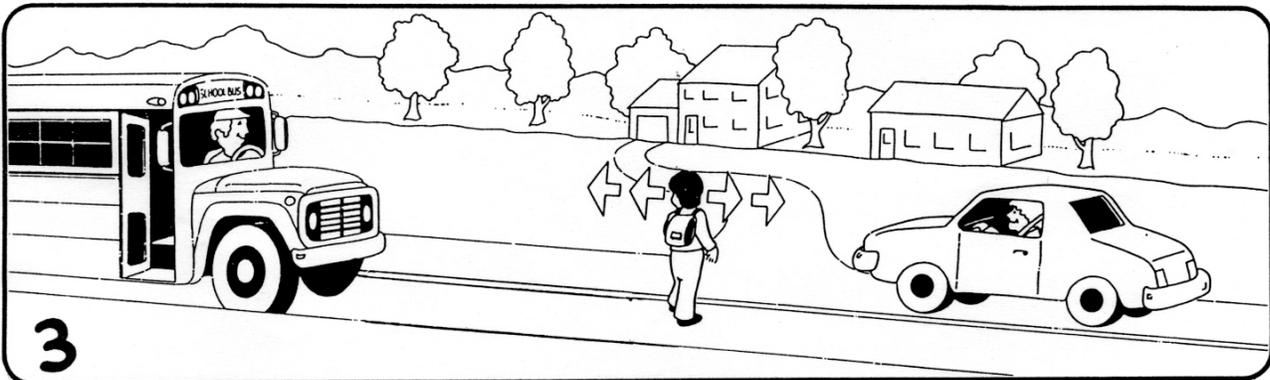
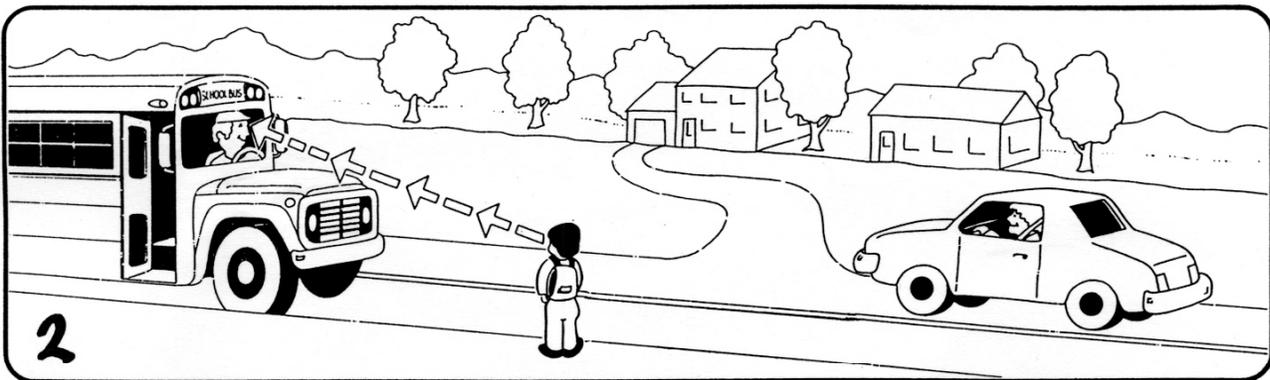
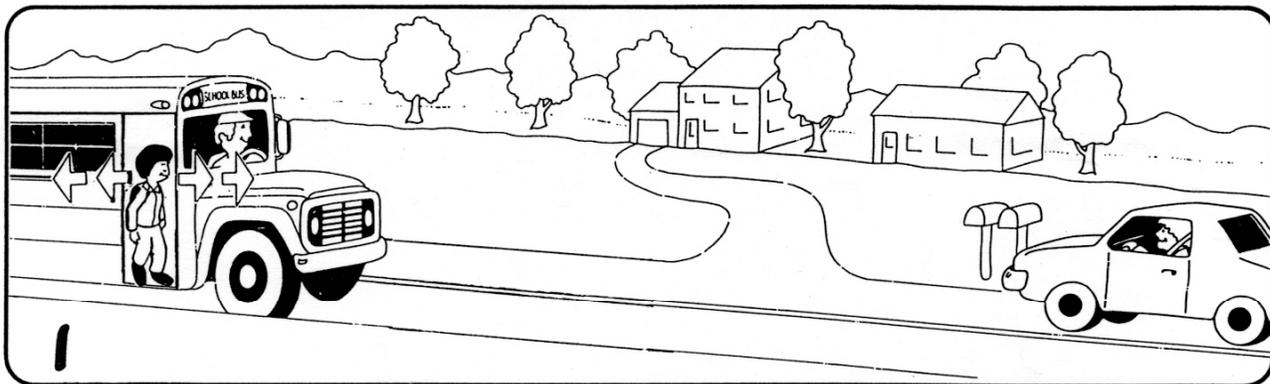
**MAY 2019 (22)**

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**JUNE 2019 (17+1)**

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## Important Meetings and Events



### September

- 3 No School—Labor Day (Offices Closed)**
- 4 No School—Staff Development Day**  
BVS vs. Worcester  
GVS @ Worcester
- 5 First Day of School**  
Grades 8-12 Musical Auditions  
Modified Sports Begins
- 6 Grades 8-12 Musical Auditions**  
BVS @ Richfield Springs  
GVS vs. Richfield Springs
- 7 Morning Raiders Begin, 8:25 a.m.**  
Grades 8-12 Musical Call Back  
SAT Registration
- 8 ACT Test**
- 10 GVS @ Schenevus**  
BVS vs. Schenevus
- 12 BVS vs. Edmeston**  
GVS @ Edmeston  
Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.**
- 17 Grades 5-7 Musical Auditions**
- 18 Grades 5-7 Musical Auditions**  
BVS @ Milford  
GVS vs. Milford
- 19 BVS @ Otselic Valley Tourney**
- 20 Grades 5-7 Musical Auditions**  
GVS vs. CV-S
- 21 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.**  
BVS @ Otselic Valley Tourney  
BMS @ CV-S  
GMS vs. CV-S
- 24 BMS vs. Sharon Springs**  
GMS @ Sharon Springs
- 25 GVS @ Morris**  
BVS vs. Morris
- 26 SAT Late Registration Deadline**
- 27 BVS @ Franklin**  
GVS vs. Franklin
- 28 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.**  
ACT Registration Deadline  
GVS @ Downsville

BVS vs. Downsville

### October

- 1 GVS vs. Sharon Springs**  
BVS @ Sharon Springs
- 2 BMS @ Schenevus**  
GMS vs. Schenevus
- 3 GVS @ Laurens**  
BVS vs. Laurens
- 4 Open House:**  
PK-6, 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
7-12, 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
BMS vs. Milford  
Financial Aid Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 No School—Staff Development Day**  
SAT Registration Deadline  
GVS, Tri-Valley Playoffs
- 6 SAT Test**  
BVS, Tri-Valley Playoffs
- 8 No School—Columbus Day**  
BMS @ Franklin  
GMS vs. Franklin
- 9 GVS, Tri-Valley Playoffs**  
BVS, Tri-Valley Playoffs
- 10 School Picture Day**  
Fall Sports Photos
- 11 BMS @ Worcester**  
GMS vs. Worcester
- 12 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.**  
PK-2 Awards for September, 8:25 a.m.  
GVS, Tri-Valley Playoffs  
BVS, Tri-Valley Playoffs  
BMS vs. Downsville  
GMS @ Downsville
- 13 GVS, Tri-Valley Championship**  
BVS, Tri-Valley Championship
- 15 BMS @ Edmeston**  
GMS vs. Edmeston
- 17 Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- 19 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.**  
**Early Dismissal Drill, 2:30 p.m.**
- 24 SAT Late Registration Deadline**
- 26 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.**  
GMS @ Richfield Springs  
BMS vs. Richfield Springs  
Junior Carnival, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 27 ACT Test**
- 29 GMS @ Morris**  
BMS vs. Morris
- 31 PK-6 Costume Parade, 1:30 p.m.**  
BMS vs. Laurens  
GMS @ Laurens

**GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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Barbara Hill  
Mark Muller  
Zachary Proskine

Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent  
Amber Birdsall, District Clerk

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

**ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER**

**JOIN US!**

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**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/gmucsd](http://www.facebook.com/gmucsd)  
**INSTAGRAM:** [www.instagram.com/gmucsd/](http://www.instagram.com/gmucsd/)

**WELCOME**  
BACK  
to  
School

