



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—Mr. Lekkas

Summer is upon us? Not yet!

No Time for counting down. Too much left to do.

I don't usually do countdowns. Life is too short to be wasting away today wishing for tomorrow. However, it is human nature to look forward to certain events, opportunities, or times of the year.

Recently, I have begun hearing whispers on the breeze. Perhaps a student smiling and telling me only this many days to go. A parent casually stating x number weeks left. A teacher commenting on how quickly the year is flying by. My son at home making plans for a sports camp the first week off of school. Countdown time? No way!

We are fortunate at G-K schools to have been working diligently and continuously on mapping effective, standards base curriculum for all classes - for the entire year. Skills taught and refined in the latter months of the school year are vital for student learning and preparation for what lies ahead this year and next.

All that work continues into June and beyond.

When the time comes, we will wish all our families a happy and safe summer. But, not now. Too much important learning to do and great experiences for kids to have here at GKMS!

Some of our teachers participating in trainings – to get better for our students!



From the Assistant Principal

As of May 4th, 83% of students have received 0 or 1 detentions or referrals this school year. The students at GKMS are doing an awesome job of being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. If we end the school year above 80%, all students will receive a slice of pizza and ice cream as an incentive for their terrific behavior throughout the year. Please discuss making good choices with your student as we are very close to meeting our yearly goal of 80%.

From the office

The office will be closed starting June 8th and will reopen August 1st.

All incoming 6th graders need a school physical and a dental examine. Please schedule early.

On-line registration is now open. If you have a change of address please bring in proof of residency. Please make any updates such as, phone numbers and emergency contact names.

All school fees or payment plan and physical must be done before any sports can be played.

DRAMA

The drama performances were a huge hit! Many thanks to all the family, friends, staff and students who helped make this a success.

PBIS

Our theme for the school year, "You Can Get There From Here", is still going strong and coming to an end and these students are really working hard towards their goals. Students are well on their way to making their year end goal and getting pizza and ice cream!

Cool tools for expected behaviors continue to be taught weekly in Study Hall classes and reinforced the following week in classes. Our focus has been on respectful behavior towards your peers and adults in the building. We are also reminding students of appropriate hallway behavior as students get more excited towards the end of the year.

Students of the Week continue to be chosen weekly and Quarter 4 Cog of the Quarters will be chosen before the end of the year. Look for those yard signs in town to recognize those students! Congratulations to those students-you should be proud of your accomplishments.

Our five students that joined our PBIS Tier 1 team continue to help us with our efforts here at the school. Their ideas already have helped us to improve our efforts with PBIS. They are helping to bridge the gap with our students so that their voices and ideas can be heard for ways to change and improve positive behaviors here at GKMS. Again, thank you for your continued support! #gkcogs.

8th Grade Dance

May 11th, 6:30-8:30 @ Middle School. Tickets will be on sale 5/7-5/11, cost \$5.00 a ticket. ONLY 8th grade students who attend GKMS are invited to attend. Please be prompt on picking up your child at 8:30.

From the 6th grade Team

Science

We will finish the year looking at the different sources of energy and how we use energy. What can we do to conserve energy? How will we meet our future energy needs? How will this impact our environment? It has been a great year of studying Earth and Space Science.

Reading & Language Arts

During this final month in Language Arts, we will review and apply the conventions of English throughout short assigned writing pieces using the RAFT outline. The RAFT outline consisted of a prompt, requiring the student to identify their role, audience, format, and topic in order to address the prompt properly. The students will be expected to focus on tone, varying sentence types, and the appropriate use of figurative language. This is done with the goal of reviewing what we have taught over the past year. We will also continue to work on various area of grammar including punctuation, capitalization, and parts of speech.

In Reading, we will read a variety of texts and demonstrate skills in the areas of theme, central ideas, evidence, explicit information, implicit information, connotation, and denotation ultimately showing comprehension of text. To culminate the year, we will be analyzing different types of text in an effort to generate reviews of literature.

To culminate the book reports for the year, students will be giving their oral book report presentations with a choice of a visual aid. Focus will given to the areas of detail, speaking and listening skills.

When reflecting on the year, it is amazing to think about all of the books we have read as a grade level in addition to all of the books that each student has read independently. 6th Grade students have all read Wonder, Tuck Everlasting and The Detective's Assistant. Smaller groups have read numerous other novels in their Reading WIN classes including Westing Game, Narnia and No More Dead Dogs. Remember to keep reading this summer!

It has been a pleasure to work with this group of students as they have shown great growth in many areas over the school year. We look forward to seeing them continue to succeed as they move on to 7th grade. Have a safe, fun, and wonderful summer!

From the 6th Grade Cont.....

Math

As the school year comes to a close, we are wrapping up our data analysis unit. We will be using the skills we learned in a few labs/activities that involve data analysis and geometry. It will be a good demonstration of problem solving using what we know about shapes. We will use our results from the activity to compare with other classes to see who could work under pressure. Our last big activity will involve using geometry (triangles) to find the heights of objects outside that we wouldn't normally be able to measure. Since we will be using the objects shadows, we are hoping the weather stays good.

As always, keep working on your facts and let's hope for bright sunny days.

Social Studies

Sixth grade students have been learning about the early development of Rome. Covered in this era were the 1st rulers of Rome the Etruscans. Also being covered is the Greek and Etruscan influences on Roman life. The Roman Republic has been covered and students compared the Roman Republic with that of the United States. Stories about Julius Caesar, Hannibal and Caesar Augustus will be shared and the unit will end with the development of Christianity.

From The 7th Grade Team

Math

We are feverishly finishing up all the seventh grade standards as we near the end of the school year.

Students in Course 2 continued to explore geometry concepts and completed the unit on circles, prisms, and pyramids. The last month of school will be centered around probability and statistics. Students will learn about probability of simple events such as flipping a coin or rolling a number cube. From there we will explore theoretical probability and experimental probability. Students will conclude Course 2 by looking at populations and different sample sizes

We continue to push the pace in the Accelerated math class as the year winds down. Recently we discussed probability similar to what the Course 2 students will see in the near future. Currently we are working on classifying triangles and polygons and determining missing angle measures for both. Lastly, the students will explore some geometry concepts that will be crucial for success during their 8th grade math year.

Overall, the students have done a great job this year in both classes. The students worked hard and made a great amount of progress from the beginning of the year until now. Great work 7th graders!

7th Grade Cont.....

Science

In May we will be studying ecosystems. Now that we have learned how organisms are classified as well as the characteristics of different kingdoms of organisms, it is time to focus on how they all interact with each other. In this unit, we will explore relationships between organisms (predator-prey, competition, and symbiosis), the flow of energy through an ecosystem (food chains), and how resource availability and other changes in an ecosystem can influence the organisms living there.

Reading & Language Arts

As we head into the last month of school, we continue to prepare students for 8th grade through practicing study habits, being respectful, responsible, and safe. We are confident that they will be ready to have a very successful 8th grade school year.

In 7th grade reading, we will focus on characterization. The students will identify examples of direct and indirect characterization in reading passages and justify using textual evidence and interpretation. Students will participate in a group jigsaw on the topic of *Children of the West*. *They will generate a google slideshow, questions at each level of thinking, and present their findings to the class. Students will also continue to produce analytical writing in order to demonstrate their comprehension and interpretation of text. 7th grade students are becoming experts in citing valid and relevant pieces of textual evidence to support their analysis of what the text says explicitly and implicitly. They also include their own thoughts and inferences in order to support their written, constructed responses. Students will be asked to compare and contrast the themes, moods, and tones used in multiple poems and passages read during reading classes.*

In language arts class, we will wrap up the year with one last benchmark paper. Throughout this expository essay, we will continue to break down the paper into manageable tasks by focusing the students' attention on each individual trait and their key qualities. We will improve our writing by thinking about how voice affects word choice, how ideas affect organization, how conventions affect sentence fluency, and so on. We will take all of these trait interactions into consideration so that our last benchmark paper really shines. We are very pleased with the great improvements we have seen in the students' quality of writing this school year!

From the 8th Grade Team

Reading

Well the school year is coming to a close, but we are still busy in Reading. We are just getting done with our Sci-Fi Unit where technology became “out of this world”. Students worked with multiple texts including “The Veldt”, “Harrison Bergeron”, and “The Collecting Team”. They then took this new vocabulary, scientific ideas, and text structure to create their own Sci-Fi stories in Language Arts.

We will be working on our final book project the second week in May. Students will be creating a video game idea and use their plot, characters, and settings, to create a plan to “submit” to a “game company”.

Finally, we will end the year by students working on their Time Capsule. This is an 8th grade tradition where students create and add artifacts and items into their time capsule to open when they graduate in four years from high school. We are so proud of their growth this year and are excited for them in their future endeavors. If you could send a shoebox, cereal box, or some kind of container for them to use and decorate that would be great!

It has been a wonderful year with these students and I am so very proud of all of them. Any questions, never hesitate to email me at cstoll@gkschools.org. As always, thank you for your ongoing support!

Language Arts

We will finish out the year in language arts by publishing our science fiction stories using the online publisher, Storybird. Students' stories actually look like a picture book after using the tools! We will also be working with Mrs. Stoll's reading classes to produce time capsules--a great end-of-elementary-school project!

Students have made great strides in vocabulary with our daily Membean practice. Students can access Membean until August, so summer practice would be beneficial.

Thank You for a great year!

Math

With the spring months here the last thing on students' minds is a math test. Unfortunately for Algebra and Geometry students there is still one monumental hurdle for them left in eighth grade. The Algebra and Geometry students will have their math growth final on **May 14th through May 17th**. For both classes this is a way to judge if there was enough academic growth through second semester to comfortably move on to Geometry and Algebra 2 respectively. In addition to a study guide, study hall time will be reserved for the specific purpose of preparing for the final.

Pre-Algebra students do get a reprieve from a final, however they still have one more test to contribute to their 4th quarter grade. We will finish the year by studying transformation of shapes. We will slide, reflect, rotate and dilate many different polygons. Once that last CSA has taken place we will spend the last week or so reviewing concepts that will be used upon entering high school Algebra

It has been a great year, but there are still plenty of important things to do!

8th Grade Cont.....

Science

We are in the "Home stretch" of this school year and Middle School will soon be in the past for our 8th grade students. I believe the students of the Class of 2022 have shown a lot of academic and personal growth. My hope for all of them is that they find success in the classroom and in whatever activities they choose during their High School years as they have in Physical Science this year.

Currently in 8th grade science we are beginning our unit on Work, Power, and Simple Machines. We will learn how Work, Power and Force are related. We will learn about the types of simple machines and how they make our work easier. Students will also gain a basic understanding of how the mechanical advantage of a machine allows us to change the force and speed with which we are able to accomplish our work.

I would also like to again encourage all parents to ask their students about the things we are doing in school, to keep checking assignment connection and grades on PowerSchool. As you know middle school students are not fully independent and need support from home studying for tests, completing projects and finding purpose in the lessons they are taught.

Thank you for your support and your fantastic kids!

Social Studies

As we finish up the year, we will be examining the Progressive Era with a special focus on the fight for Women's Suffrage. As always, students will be using both secondary and primary sources to formulate questions and generate conclusions.

It's hard to believe that this school year is almost over. As I get ready to say goodbye to this class of 8th graders, I am reminded of a speech Dr. Martin Luther King Jr delivered to an 8th grade class almost fifty-one years ago. In it he taught us to be the best at what we chose to be regardless of our situation in life. He reminds us that we should always aspire to be the best in our work and in our life,

"And when you discover what you will be in your life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it. Don't just set out to do a good job. Set out to do such a good job that the living, the dead or the unborn couldn't do it any better. If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well. If you can't be a pine at the top of the hill, be a shrub in the valley. Be the best little shrub on the side of the hill. Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are."

To all of my 8th graders, I wish you the best of luck as you move on to the high school. Whatever you chose to do, do it well. Make your family, your school and your community proud. The future is in your hands!

Stem

In the second semester of STEM Concepts students will be having me as their Encore teacher for the second time this year. All students in 6th and 7th grades will be assessed in their ability to meet the keyboarding standard as described in Common Core to: “demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.” All of my current 6th and 7th grade classes have an account in Typing Club to practice their keyboarding which can be accessed at <https://gkschools.typingclub.com>. Students who are not able to meet the standard will be given daily and weekly practice in class. But all students are encouraged to practice on their own time as well.

In 6th grade students will first be learning the fundamentals of coding using the lessons found at <https://code.org>. We will learn how to program animations using Scratch found at (<https://scratch.mit.edu>.) Then we will create a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system using Scratch.

7th grade students will be building upon the Engineering and Design lessons from first semester. We are solving an engineering design problem to create a puzzle out of excess 3/4" wooden cubes. And they are to design a therapeutic toy for a child with cerebral palsy. Working individually and in groups, they will be planning, drawing and designing on the computer their ideas. Every student should be taking home a puzzle cube that they designed and assembled themselves.

8th grade students will be using the Engineering Design Process to develop a tool or system to solve a problem. Then we will be learning how to program VEX Robotics using RobotC (a form of the C programming language). Then we will apply the Engineering Design Process with VEX Robotics and C programming to make automated machines and robots to solve problems.

We have a lot of learning to do in just 6 weeks!

Track Schedule

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|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 05/01/2018 | Tue | @ Oregon Jack & Jill Invite | A | 4:00 PM | Oregon | - |
| 05/02/2018 | Wed | vs. GKMS Invitational | H | 4:15 PM | GKHS Stadium | - |
| 05/08/2018 | Tue | @ MNC Boys Conference | A | 4:15 PM | Harvard | - |
| 05/12/2018 | Sat | @ I E S A Sectionals | TBA | TBA | tba | - |

Important Dates:

5/4: No School

5/11: 8th grade dance 6:30 at Middle School

5/21: 8th grade promotion

5/22: School Board Meeting

5/24: Last day of school 11:30 dismissal