

The Lions' Den

Goddard Middle School Newsletter

Volume 1, October 2011

USD 265



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Principally Speaking

Lisa Hogarth - Principal

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year at Goddard Middle School! It doesn't seem possible, but we are quickly nearing the end of the first quarter already and will soon be scheduling our first round of parent-teacher conferences. We have enjoyed a very positive start to what we hope will be a fantastic school year. We are certainly more "settled" this year as we begin our second year in our new facility.

Please be advised that we will produce four newsletters this year. Feedback from parents indicated the newsletter was a valuable tool to them in addition to the updates and information sent via Skyward email. So, to accommodate as many parents as we possibly can, we will continue to do both. Expect to see a newsletter each quarter of the school year with email communications interspersed. Also, please check out our website by going to www.goddardusd.com and clicking on Goddard Middle School. Finally, don't forget about Skyward Family Access. There is a wealth of information on these two sites so that you may be more informed and involved in your child's education at Goddard Middle School.

I hope you noticed that our PTO has not offered a school fundraiser to the students. After surveying the parents a couple years ago, we have opted to collect \$25 from each family in lieu of any door-to-door sales. The Donation Drive began September 15 and ended September 30, but we are still accepting donations if that window of time was not feasible to some parents. We hope to know the results of this Donation Drive soon and if this is successful, the only fundraisers associated with GMS will be our choir and band fundraisers. We hope this lessens the load for many busy families yet still allows PTO to provide many of the "extras" they have in the past.

As I mentioned, our first round of parent teacher conferences will be at the end of October. I will send an email with all the details when it is time to schedule those conferences.

I would like to welcome two teachers new to the GMS staff. Suzanne Cross comes to us from USD 259 and teaches 7th grade social studies. Brett Morrison transferred from Eisenhower Middle School and is our band/orchestra director. Both are doing a great job and we are pleased to have them on staff!

Again, I want to welcome you all to GMS! We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year. At the middle school, we are committed not only to the academic progress of every child, but also to the social and emotional well-being of every child. If we can ever be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to call, email or stop by. We welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Counselor's Connection

Lisa Tyler - Counselor



Peer Mediation Produces Positive Results

Goddard Middle School has several peer programs that help students to get involved. One of these is the Peer Mediation program which is designed to aid in resolving conflicts among students. We use peer mediation when two students, involved in a disagreement, are willing to meet to try and resolve the conflict. The students involved in the conflict must agree to follow the guidelines explained to them by the peer mediators.

Student peer mediators are recommended by their teachers and are rated in the areas of confidence, tolerance, trustworthiness, confidentiality, respectable leadership and creative intelligence.

On Friday, September 23, twelve peer mediators from our school completed peer mediation training at the district conference center. Student mediators are trained in listening skills, brainstorming, and choosing solutions. They also get practical experience through role playing.

The eighth grade peer mediators are Jon Gorges, Kaytlynn Hansel, Dakota O'Dette, Corbin Pospisil, Joshua Purdy and Jayden Titus. Our new seventh grade peer mediators are Zach Baxley, Griffin Bryant, Joe Fasbender, Kayleigh Hewitt, Trinity Mitts and Jenna Todd. Please contact me if you have questions about peer mediation.

Health Hints

Deb McClanahan, RN

One of the most important ways to help your student be successful at school is to start the day with a balanced breakfast. Middle school is a time of rapid growth; therefore nourishment helps the body to maintain health, mental focus, and the ability for the body to grow. With flu season approaching, it is important to remember to drink extra fluids; this helps to keep our immune system functioning properly.

I will be doing vision and hearing tests on all new students. If your student fails a screening, I will send you a letter in the mail. The 8th grade class will have their vision checked in January after Christmas break.



If your student needs to take medication at school, please have the proper paperwork filled out and signed. Your doctor **MUST** sign all medications that are prescribed. Students are allowed to carry over the counter (OTC) medicines such as Tylenol, ibuprofen, antacids, cough drops, etc. if you have filled out, signed and returned a pink "permit to carry" form. You may request a form at any time, and I will send one home with your student. Loose, unlabeled pills are not allowed at school. Please keep in mind that the school does not provide any "basic" medications such as pain relief for headaches.

Good Sportsmanship Always Appropriate ~ Always Appreciated!

Sean Hollas, Athletic Director

When I began teaching in the district fifteen years ago, one of the first things I noticed was a sign in the gym at what is now Challenger Intermediate which had evidently been there for quite some time. I don't know if the sign is still there, but the message on it is still appropriate and definitely worth sharing with you. It read —

**The spectator never boos a player or official.
The spectator appreciates a good play, no matter who makes it.
The spectator knows that the school gets the blame or the credit.**

Good sportsmanship is something that our administration and coaches stress to all of our athletes. We explain to them that they represent Goddard Middle School and everything they do on the court or playing field is a reflection of our school. Fans, along with athletes and coaches, are also a reflection of our school community. Coaches review sportsmanship expectations with their athletes regularly, and I would like to take time to review expectations for our spectators also.

Parents and fans come to games to show support for our athletes and teams. Please remember that it is bad sportsmanship to yell at a player, coach, or official. You may disagree with a call made by an official or a decision made by one of the coaching staff, but it is unacceptable to yell out and criticize these people during the game. Our coaches and officials do a good job and do not deserve to be publicly humiliated or criticized.

In addition to practicing good sportsmanship, I would also like to ask parents to supervise their young children during sporting events. We always encourage families to bring younger siblings to middle school games, but these children should watch the game with their parents in the stands. Children should not be roaming around a sports complex or school building unsupervised.

On behalf of Mrs. Hogarth and myself, I would like to invite all parents to come out and enjoy all of the activities Goddard Middle School has to offer.



Parents,

* ANY TIME you need to take your child from school for an appointment, please send a note with your child to the front office in the morning so that we will not interrupt classes by using the intercom to dismiss students.

*ANY TIME your student is absent PLEASE CALL THE FRONT OFFICE in the morning at 794-4230. Our voice mail is on 24 hours a day.

*ANY changes to your address, phone numbers, or e-mail address need to be updated as soon as possible. You can send a note with your child or call Retta Wyssenbach at 794-4245. Her voice mail is on 24 hours a day.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Goddard Middle School Office

Be part of the team!
Use "Family Access"
to stay connected.

8th Grade Team

*Ashley Dunham, Cheryl Emerson, Jamie Frost, Terry Gordon,
Peggy Griswold, Chris LeFevre and Kevin Shobe*
Team Conference Time 9:55 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. M - T - Th - F

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. Teaming is an integral part of Goddard Middle School. This year the 8th grade teachers have combined to form one large team. This makes it easier to balance class size and make schedule changes. The team will consist of the following core teachers: Ms. Dunham, social studies and English; Ms. Emerson, science; Ms. Frost, science; Ms. Gordon, English; Ms. Griswold, math; Mr. LeFevre, social studies; and Mr. Shobe, math.

Teaming enables us to track each student's progress in the core classes. Teaming also allows for consistency and flexibility in scheduling, interdisciplinary units, field trips, and other enrichment activities. Our team is already planning a field trip to the Cosmosphere on October 24. The field trip forms are due to your student's social studies teacher on Tuesday, October 18. A common team time among the team teachers allows us to conference with parents and/or students as needed. Our team time is from 9:55 – 10:40 A.M. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. If you have questions, concerns, or would like to schedule a conference, please call 794-4230. The best time to catch us together is during our team time; however, if you would like to leave a message during the day, we will return your call.

English classes have been working on a review of six-trait writing strategies. Students learn the six traits and work on developing and improving writing skills. The unit will culminate with a test and a writing project. Students will be asked to compare themselves to a character from a book they have read independently.

All of the math students are excited about receiving new textbooks this year! Since the students can access their math book online, every student has the opportunity to complete their work even if his/her math book is left at school. In addition, there are many other resources available online such as video tutorials which are explanations of the examples in the book. If your child has been absent, it would be helpful to watch these.

Social studies classes have learned about the Constitution and our system of government. We will spend time learning about the early development of our country under the leadership of George Washington.

In science, we discovered what science actually "is" and practiced measuring length, mass, volume, density, and temperature using the metric system. Now that we have completed science safety skills, we will continue with chemistry and even create an atomic model!

We are looking forward to meeting and working with you during this school year.

Breakfast is Served!

Do you know that our school offers a breakfast program for all students?
Breakfast is served each day in the GMS cafeteria from 7:05-7:30.

The price for a student breakfast is \$1.70.

If a student is eligible for free or reduced lunches,
he or she also qualifies for a free or reduced breakfast.

The price of a reduced breakfast is 30 cents.

Please check into our delicious and healthy breakfast food!



7th Grade Team

*Cassie Banka, Karen Carmichael, Suzanne Cross, Pat Easum, Mike Harms,
Keith Lewandowski and Melissa Rindt*
Team Conference Time 9:05 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. M - T - Th - F

Our team uses
Family Access!
Do you?

Welcome to Goddard Middle School! We are excited to have the school year in full swing. There are several useful resources listed below that you should take the time to investigate.

- * Skyward Family Access – This is where you can check on your student’s grades. If are not familiar with this website, contact the office for your log-in information.
- * <http://new.schoolnotes.com/parents/main> – Mr. Harms posts his lesson plans on school notes. Simply go to the website, type in the school zip code (67052), and look for his name!
- * my.hrw.com – This website is used in science and in math. Both text books can be found page by page! They also have fun activities, labs, videos, and homework help. The students are all assigned a password. Both science and math teachers have asked them to write this down in a safe place.
- * Mrindt.weebly.com – Mrs. Rindt has a new website this year. You can find her lesson plans and links to science and social studies activities.
- * <https://sites.google.com/site/bankamath7> - Mrs. Banka also keeps a website with math information. Lesson plans, class notes, and important announcements are posted to this site.
- * www.goddardusd.com/gms/ - To find a teacher’s contact information, go to the Goddard website. Under staff, you can click on any teacher’s name to send an email. There are also links to teachers who have a personal website mentioned above!

If your student will be absent for two days or more, please contact the school office in advance of a planned absence, or before 10:00 AM on the second day of illness, to request homework assignments. **All homework requests need to be processed through the front office (not through teachers) for attendance purposes!** All of your child’s teachers are then asked to fill out a form to indicate the necessary homework. Assignments and books can be picked up in the front office after 2:30 PM on the day requested.

Science classes are studying life science. We began at the smallest unit, the cell, and we are working our way through the different kingdoms. In October we will focus on heredity and how DNA and genes work. We will also look at how organisms are arranged and grouped so scientists can study them. In November we will start going through each of the Kingdoms and looking at the organisms and characteristics that make up each organism. Please remember that the textbook is on-line at my.hrw.com.

English: Having completed our unit on six-trait writing, our focus will shift to literature. Using class time, students will read and discuss a number of short stories from our literature book. At the conclusion of each story, assignments will be given that focus on vocabulary, story elements, critical thinking, and figurative language. Class time will be given to begin work on assignments; it’s imperative that students make full use of this time as uncompleted work will have to be finished outside the classroom. In November, we will read and write folk tales. As a class, we’ll read selected folk tales and discuss the history and country of origin for each. To conclude this unit, students will research an African country and create their own folk tale based on their research. Final copies will be in the form of student created pop-up books. By the end of November we hope to be reading mysteries from our literature book.

Social Studies: During the first week of October we should finish our unit about Europe, during which students complete a web-based study of selected European countries and make a travel brochure highlighting three specific countries. The majority of October and November will be spent studying Southwest Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Students will work on a Middle East project that requires each student to select a country, research 15 questions related to the five Themes of Geography, and prepare a visual to be shared with the class. The Africa unit will cover Chapters 13, 14, and 15 in our text book and will provide excellent background information for our “Out of Africa” activity that will be covered in English classes.

Last but not least, mathematics is pushing through a brand new textbook! Math 7 classes are getting ready to work with greatest common factor and least common multiple. Comprehension of those topics will help when students start calculating fractions. In Math 7 Plus classes, students have already started to work with fractions. These classes will be challenged by having to solve equations that have decimals and fractions.

Just for Parents

Lisa Hogarth, Principal

It's not easy to raise a young teen. Many outside influences distract our children and complicate our efforts. But whatever the challenges, we share one aim: to do the best job possible as parents. During the early adolescent years, parents and families can greatly influence the growth and development of their children. We sell our children short if we expect little from them and we sell ourselves short if we believe that we have no influence.

The Kansas Parent Resource Center, federally funded under Title V of No Child Left Behind, is the official Parent Information Technical Assistance Center for the state of Kansas. The KPIRC works hand-in-hand with the KSDE State and Federal Programs office in providing parents with information and resources on early childhood through high school parent involvement. We hope that you find the articles being reproduced in this newsletter helpful, and we encourage you to explore all the resources available to you as parents at www.kpirc.org.

The Middle Grades: What is school like for young adolescents?

It is likely that you attended a junior high school. It probably combined grades seven through nine and resembled a mini-high school. You probably moved from class to class throughout the school day and had a different teacher for each subject.

During the past 20 years, many changes have taken place in how young adolescents are educated. These changes continue as we learn more about how these children develop and learn. Today, fewer and fewer young adolescents attend junior highs. Instead, a growing number attend middle schools. Most of these schools are for grades 6–8, although some may have grades 5–8, 5–7 or even 7–8. As the middle school movement has accelerated, many high schools have moved from serving grades 10–12 to grades 9–12.

As a parent, you may wonder, "Is one grade structure better than another for my child?" Most educators believe (and research confirms) that the way a school organizes the grades is not as important as what goes on inside the school. That is, *what* gets taught and *how* it gets taught in a school matter more than how the school combines its grades. Furthermore, the grade span of a school doesn't tell you much about the quality of the school and whether its educational practices are well suited to young adolescent students.

Most young teens entering a new school find that it's a big change. They're used to being the oldest; once again they're the youngest. Many classmates are new, as are the routines and the school work. Coming at a time when young teens are undergoing many other stressful changes, the move to a new school can be overwhelming and have a negative impact on motivation and self-esteem.

Because of this, many middle schools have programs to ease the transition. For example, they might invite elementary school students to visit the middle school to become familiar with the building, lockers and changing classrooms. Or, administrators of the middle and elementary schools might meet to discuss programs. School counselors might meet to talk about how to help students make a smooth transition. These and other practices can help make the new school seem friendlier.

Hormones may be fluctuating, but young teens of all backgrounds and with a broad range of personal characteristics still absorb vast amounts of information. They also can benefit from a strong curriculum. As young adolescents develop their cognitive skills, they are able to complete longer and more involved projects and to explore subjects in more depth.

Young teens generally benefit from being exposed to a broad range of experiences and programs—academic, recreational and vocational. These opportunities take advantage of their natural curiosity and can be invaluable in familiarizing them with new worlds and possibilities.

These exploratory programs can also be fun. For these reasons, some schools provide opportunities both in and out of school for students to participate in sports, as well as in programs to learn subjects that range from foreign languages, to music, to drama, to technology.



Just for Parents

(continued from page 6)

Many schools also encourage students to participate in volunteer or community service projects. Exploratory programs can help young teens figure out where they fit in and allow them to think about their future plans.

There's still plenty of room for improvement in middle schools. Test scores suggest that many young teens lack the skills needed for high school success. On international comparisons they aren't scoring as well as we would like in areas such as reading and math.

More educators and policymakers are becoming aware of the high levels to which young teens can achieve. This awareness is leading to still more change in middle-grades education: in what gets taught, how it is taught, how teachers are prepared and how to assess what students know and can do.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 25-27

The time for Parent-Teacher Conferences is rapidly approaching. Conferences will be held during the following dates:

Tuesday, October 25	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 26	12:20 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 27	12:20 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, October 28	No School



You may schedule conference times with your student's academic team teachers and/or his elective teachers. **The secretaries in the front office began scheduling conferences on Thursday, October 6.** If you would like to schedule a conference, contact the office at 794-4230. Please be aware that the team teachers have a limited number of evening slots available. If you have a certain day or time that works better for you, we recommend that you **call early to reserve your spot!** If conference times fill up, a team teacher will work with you to schedule a conference call or a personal visit during the staff "team time."

Lunch Money Procedures

If you send a CHECK, please include your student's **first name, last name** and **grade** in the memo area of your check. Checks for lunch money delivered to school can be made out to GMS Nutrition Service.

If you send CASH, ask your child to put his/her **first and last names** and the **amount of the deposit on a piece of scrap paper**, fold it up, and put it in the box located at the front office window. These simple steps will insure that your money gets put into the right account.

Remind your child to have all lunch business taken care of in the front office before 9:45 each morning. **Any money dropped off after 9:45 will NOT be entered into your child's account until the next day.**

Don't forget that you can also deposit lunch money via computer by logging on to the district website at www.goddardusd.com and clicking MyNutriKids.com.



Art Activities

Angie Mitchell



The GMS art classes are off to a great start this semester. On September 16 we finally finished the color wheel paintings in Art 2-D and the Kuba papier mache masks in Art 3-D. Each of these projects had several steps to complete before we had a finished product. Rather than complete simple, superficial art projects on a daily basis, the classes at our school spend a significant amount of time creating multi-step, in-depth assignments. These long-term projects not only cover a broad range of standards, but the artwork is more meaningful to the students

in the end. Each completed artwork represents a big investment of the student's time and energy.

We in the GMS art department love to repurpose and recycle leftovers! If you have any of the following items collecting dust at home, we would love to take them off your hands. We could use any of these items:

- Newspapers
- Wire hangers
- Scraps of lumber (particularly pine or cedar)
- Large sheets of cardboard



FACS Facts

Jessica Buchanan

In FACS (Family and Consumer Science), we are currently finishing our unit over human relationships. Other units to be covered during the semester include family relationships, nutrition, clothing, basic economic principles, goal setting, communication skills, laundry, and baby-sitting. Throughout this course, we apply principles taught in English, math, and science to common everyday tasks.

The beginning of October will bring our second unit in FACS, foods and nutrition. The students will enjoy preparing dishes during class time including beirocks, cookies, and a treat prepared in the microwave. As part of the unit and the study of recipes and following directions, the students will have the opportunity to prepare their favorite treat at home, and bring it to school to share with the class.



For any questions, feel free to contact me at school by phone 794-4230 or email jbuchanan1@goddardusd.com.

PE Pointers

Barb Letts and Matt Busby

The Physical Education Department welcomes all our new and returning students to Goddard Middle School. We're off and running . . . and with much greater ease than last year!!! What a difference being in our building for a year makes. We've worked out most of the kinks and we think we know where everything is now. Mr. Busby and Ms. Letts are eager to share the many things students can do to help them lead a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, we only see our students for physical education for one semester so we will pack in as much as we can in that amount of time.



Our semester starts off with a round of physical fitness pretests. This gives the students a basis from which to start working. We provide the means to help them set personal goals and work throughout the semester to meet those goals through a variety of activities. Hopefully along the way, our young men and women will learn many new avenues to life-long health. Studies are telling us that our generation (as parents) is the first generation that, on an average, will NOT live as long as the generation before us. We hope to instill in this current generation of young people the means to turn that alarming news around.

Parents, please be looking for your child's "Activity Log". Part of each student's grade is based on this outside assignment of 30 minutes of activity, three times per week. Each entry must be signed by a parent or guardian. Make it a family activity so the whole family gets moving!

We are grateful those 100 degree temperatures have left the neighborhood! We generally try to spend the first nine weeks outside learning the skills and rules to play Frisbee Golf, Ultimate Frisbee, football, soccer, softball, lacrosse, tennis, and golf. When weather doesn't permit us to be outdoors, we will be playing indoor fitness games and activities.

The P.E. department would like to thank you parents for your support this semester, insuring that students get their uniforms washed and returned promptly. Students should also have their sweatshirts and sweatpants in their lockers by now to cover those occasional cool fall days.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call or send a quick e-mail. Thanks again and enjoy the fall weather that is quickly approaching by getting outside and being active with your child.

Cheerleaders Anticipate an Exciting Season

The 2011 – 2012 GMS cheerleaders attended camp over the summer at Acrobatic Academy. They learned cheers, stunts, and a dance that they performed during the fall pep rally. These young ladies have been working very hard and hope for a lot of support from everyone for our Goddard Lion teams this year. The fall 2011 cheerleaders are:

8th Grade

Brianna Albers
Celsea Craig
Libby Hinkle
Livi Nunnelley
Maddie Speer
Brittany Stewart

Ashlyn Arnold
Maddie Domebo
Kacee Moore
Jenna Puthoff



7th Grade

Maddie Bolton
Logan Hamilton
Caylee Kirby
Natilee Stephen
Clara Towey

Taryn Clain
Autumn Hanson
Ashley Stanphill
Jenna Todd
London Veach
BriLea Winkle

Project: Publications

Jessie Skala

The Publications staff has just finished the first issue of the newspaper. I'm very proud of the students for being able to organize and conquer creating a newspaper. The girls are learning how to depend on one another, and are developing the maturity it takes to work well in groups. We hope you got a chance to read our first newspaper issue with a release date of September 30.



The staff recently went to a Jostens workshop to learn about creating a yearbook. The next quarter will see the girls working not only on the next issue of the newspaper, but beginning to build the yearbook. They will develop many levels of skill and responsibility through several types of media. This is another great opportunity for the girls to practice working as a team. I have high hopes for a great year!

Spotlight on Spanish

Profesora Skala

¡Hola! My name is Jessie Skala, and this is my second year of teaching Spanish classes. I love the Spanish language and culture and can't wait to share my passion with the students. This past month in both types of Spanish classes the students mastered the alphabet, along with the names of Spanish-speaking countries and their capitals. The students displayed their knowledge by making PowerPoint presentations over one Spanish-speaking country and presenting this to the class.

Our one-semester classes of Exploratory Spanish have begun learning the basic Spanish language. In the upcoming weeks we will explore how to say where we are from and what we like/don't like. Students will create posters about themselves using their Spanish knowledge and will present to the class.



The year-long Spanish I classes are beginning to fall into a rhythm of a high school level course. While this requires more time outside of class, the students are developing study skills for the future. Students will begin learning how to describe people in the coming weeks along with a lot of grammar! I look forward to the advancement of essay writing skills in Spanish.

September Students of the Month

Angelica Alvarez
Kaitlyn Anthony
Monay Bowen
Brielle Burger
Matthew Cherry
Stacy Coldwater
Noah Compton
Cristian De la Cruz
Kendall Frame
Daryan Freeman

Grace Hall
Kimberley Hansel
Dominic Hemken
Katie Joslyn
Jayla Krueger
Pelumi Okeowo
Caleb Palmer
Ashley Peery
Rachael Pyle
Ellie Taylor
Tomi Tran

Nichole Wade
Jordyn Walock
CJ Wilhelm
Lane Wilson
Shea Witherspoon



Band & Orchestra Notes

Brett Morrison - Director

Recently the marching band performed at one of the most exciting events of the year—the Goddard Fall Festival Parade. Both the 7th and 8th grade bands marched together in the parade on October 1 and did an outstanding job! Our winter concert will be held at the high school on the first of December at 6:15 PM. It will feature the combined 7th and 8th grade bands and orchestra along with the GMS choir. Mark your calendar now; it's sure to be a fun event!



Our color guard and drum line practices have already begun and are going very well. I appreciate all the effort the students are putting into the practices! Color guard members are: Stacy Coldwater, Debra Curtis, Jessie Gettings, Kimberley Hansel, Caleigh Kraus, Taylor Rohr, Jayden Titus, and Hailee Wortman. Our GMS drum major is Erick De Leon, and members of the drum line are: Grady Buresh, Jackson Coppola, Carter Davis, Logan Godsey, Devin Hart, Katie Joslyn, Hunter Larkin, Corbin Pospisil, Kale Ramos, Ruben Salcido, Ellie Taylor, Jesse Taylor and Daniel Tyndall.

We have also selected participants for the Pioneer League Band Festival which will be held at Prairie Hills Middle School on November 12. The band will be led by composer and conductor Jeff Jordan of C. Alan Publications.

This year's Honor Band participants are:

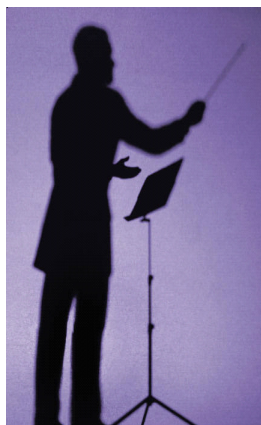
Flute: Molly Laha, Daryan Freeman. **Oboe:** Aidan Mannette.
Clarinet: Angelica Alvarez, Ashlyn Arnold, ReAnn Emery, Libby Hinkle.
Alto Sax: James Coleman, Seth Peery, Brittany Stewart.
Tenor Sax: Derek Belford. **Baritone Sax:** Erick De Leon.
Trumpet: James Dixon, Jeremy Wedel. **Trombone:** Dalton Bailey, Aaron Osterman.
Tuba: Garrett Penney. **Baritone:** John Rickard, Ryan Thomas.
Percussion: Devin Hart, Corbin Pospisil, Ellie Taylor.

Our first orchestra concert of the year is Tuesday, October 11 in the Goddard High School auditorium. The concert will start at 7:00 PM and will also feature the high school orchestra. We are also preparing for two other exciting events. The first is the Pioneer League Honor Festival at Prairie Hills Middle School on November 12. We will have a pre-festival concert on Thursday, November 10 at Goddard High School. This concert starts at 7:00 PM and will also include the high school orchestra.

Participants in Honor Orchestra include:

First Violin: Kacey Duncan, Taylor Rohr, Maria Zurschmiede
Second Violin: Marshall Fief, Julisa Ortega, Brooke Wentz, Kaitlyn Wedel
Viola: Abby Bay, Karlee Lowen, Brooke Wetta
Cello: Cailyn Kerschen, Ashley Stanphill, Jayden Titus
Bass: Logan Devlin, Brandon Pina, Nathan Slous

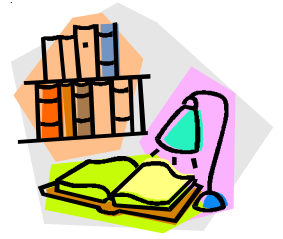
Our second big upcoming event for orchestra is the Christmas concert on December first which will also feature the combined 7th and 8th grade bands and the choir students. This concert starts at 6:15 PM. In addition, we are preparing for our performance at the annual "Breakfast with Santa" on December 10. This also takes place at Goddard High School. More detailed information about these upcoming performances will be sent out at a later date.



8th Grade Reading

Bobbi Cole

Welcome to 8th grade reading! We're off to a good start so far in that we've completed the STAR in the reading classes, and the entire school has completed the Gates-MacGinitie reading tests; the combined results determined each student's individual AR (Accelerated Reading) goal. The students read their AR book on a daily basis in class, and it is also part of each student's grade and responsibility to **read a minimum of 15 minutes every night at home**. One of the best ways to become a better reader is to **READ!**



We have almost finished with our Vocabulary Skills Unit. We created flash cards to help the students study word parts, and we will work on various assignments that focus on context clues, synonyms, antonyms, multiple meanings, etc. Research shows that the best way to improve one's vocabulary is to **READ!!** (Are you seeing a pattern here?)

Throughout the rest of the semester we will learn new reading strategies that will help sharpen developing skills, and we will apply various reading techniques to all forms of printed material. Reading is a school-wide strategy, so the more experience our students have with reading, the more success they will experience in all of their classes. Reading is a necessity throughout life and one of the goals of the reading class is to improve and fine-tune this lifelong skill.

Feel free to contact me during my plan time if you have any questions.

Plan Time: 11:20 – 12:15

Ph: 794-4230

E-mail: bcole@goddardusd.com

7th Grade Reading

Sarah Shobe

Seventh graders began the year reviewing reference materials, looking at word parts, and using context clues to increase vocabulary knowledge. We are now revisiting using text structure for comprehension. Students will also learn a couple of new features that authors use to convey a specific viewpoint.



But what else is happening in "reading" class? Why reading, of course! Every day students are required to bring an AR book to class that they have chosen to read during the time (15 minutes) allotted just for that purpose. Homework each evening consists of another "reading time" of at least 15 minutes.

Accelerated Reader (AR) goals have been set for this first quarter, so we make sure that students have several opportunities to visit the library when they need a new book. Each reading class is scheduled to visit the library on the opposite week of their English class; reading students earn a free trip after taking an AR test; the library is open before and after school for students to stop in; and students can also use a class pass during study time.

It has been an enjoyable beginning to the school year! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Log on to <http://reading7gms.blogspot.com/> to check my lesson plans for the current week. Go Lions!

Ph: 794-4230, ext. 42214

Email: sshobe@goddardusd.com

Plan Time: 9:55 - 10:40



Literacy in the Library

Susan Hardesty - Librarian/Media Specialist

The GMS library has undergone a major change since last year. Due to budget cuts, there are no longer library clerks in our intermediate, middle, and high school buildings. To take up some of the slack in the day-to-day library duties such as checking out books, the library has acquired five student aides for this fall semester. Many thanks to Alexis Cooper, Breanne Jacobs, Katie Joslyn, Natalie Lemanski, and Alyana Yenni. The girls have become a key component in keeping the library running smoothly. Thank you, girls, for a job well done!

This year there are plans in the making for a GMS book club. The proposed time for our first meeting was Friday, October 7 during Pride Time. Instead of everyone reading the same book, we will meet to discuss the books each student is individually reading. Also, if there is enough interest, I would like to set up a BlackBoard component where students can discuss the books with classmates online.

Lastly, the time for our annual book fair is quickly approaching. The fair will be open the weeks of October 17 through October 27. These dates include the three days the school will be holding Parent-Teacher Conferences. Hope to see you there.

Vocal Views

Mindy Barr - Choir Director

Our first concert of the year will be held on October 18 at 6:15 PM in the GMS commons area. The students are singing a variety of pieces and have been focusing on posture, performance and musical interpretation so we anticipate a great first concert!

The Honor Choir Festival will be held at Prairie Hills on Saturday, November 12th. The students will rehearse during the day with a concert that afternoon open to family and friends. More details to come regarding specific times! Members of the honor choir are:

SOPRANOS

Mackenzie Beden
Malori Bridwell
Grace Hall
Julianne Hansard
Cassidy Locke
Ashley Peery
Madison Watkins

TENOR

Adam Allen
Jake Pitcher
David Santos
Billy Sentilles
Ben Wagner
BARITONE
Noah Compton

ALTOS

Monay Bowen
Brielle Burger
Bethany Cocklin
Leah Emerson
Jessica Gardiner
Lexi Gerard
Livi Nunnolley



Please note that we are making a slight change to our Christmas concert on December 1. Because the high school choir concert was scheduled the same night, we will begin at 6:15 PM instead of 7 PM as it was originally listed. The online calendar has been changed to reflect this change.

Shirts have been issued to students. Please make sure that your student has a pair of tan or khaki slacks (girls are allowed to wear long tan or khaki skirts) for the concerts as well. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via e-mail at mbarr@goddardusd.com. You may also call the school at 794-4230.

Tech Topics

Carrie Schrader



Seventh grade students begin each class period with keyboarding drills using "Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing." Our goals are technique, accuracy and speed. We will be working hard on proper posture, fingering and other techniques. We have already used Word to create a table to track our progress as we go through the typing lessons. Many students are averaging around 15 words per minute while several have already gotten up to over 25 wpm. We have a black plastic cover that lies over the top of the students' hands as they type so they are not able to look at the keys. This has made it challenging, but the students are rising to meet the challenge. We have begun various activities to use their new skills. Currently students are creating their own trading card. These will be on display during Parent-Teacher conferences.

The following 7th grade students have already earned a space on the **Wall of Fame**. These students have keyed/typed **40 words per minute** with at least 80% accuracy: Ashley Stanphill, Garrett Allee', Devon Sutton, Daryan Freeman, Alyssa Prytherch, Will Spexarth, Pell Okeowo, Natilee Stephen, Armando Espinosa, Jordan Cooke, Kendall Frame, Brendan Patterson, Karlee Lowen, Kimberley Hansel, Ryan Fross, Zachery Baxley, Billy Sentilles, Matt Forbus, Justin Dean, Jenna Todd, Jesse Fronning, Kami Landwehr, Reed Schroeder, Kameron Frame, Royana Wilson, Andreia Carrasco, Thomas Parks, Marshall Fief, and Maddie Bolton.

The students continually try to better themselves and reach the next chart on the Wall of Fame. The following students have accomplished this by reaching the following levels with at least 80% accuracy:

50 words per minute: Ashley Peery, Joe Fasbender, Garrett Allee', Devon Sutton, Karlee Lowen, Jenna Todd, Ryan Fross, Kendall Frame, Alyssa Prytherch, Brendan Patterson.

60 words per minute: Ashley Perry, Joe Fasbender, Garrett Allee'.

70 words per minute: Sinjin Vu, Ashley Peery, Joe Fasbender.

80 words per minute: Sinjin Vu, Ashley Peery.

We had an amazing thing happen already in Tech 7! **Sinjin Vu** broke the standing school record held by Shayne Rose (128 wpm) by keying **132 wpm with 100% accuracy!!** Shayne and 7th grade teacher Mr. Lew came in to have a "type-off". Sinjin held them both off and still holds the new school record. Since we have three more months of school for this semester, we are anxious to see if Sinjin will beat his own record.

Eighth grade technology class consists of working on Synergistic modules for 8-day periods. The module topics include Applied Physics, Audio Broadcasting, CADD, Careers, Computer Graphics & Animation, Creative Problem Solving, Digital Design, Digital Video, Electricity, Environmental Issues, Flight Technology, Forces, Forensic Science, Heart Fitness, Personal Finance, Research & Presentation, Robots, and Weather.

Students will most likely be able to complete ten or eleven modules by the end of the semester. Students work with partners at these modules while completing hands-on activities and worksheets. Audio/visual instructions, information, and daily quizzes are given on the computers. We have had some airplane crashes already, but fortunately no one was injured (since it's on a simulator).



Assistant's Advice

Sean Hollas - Assistant Principal



As a new year begins, I would like to encourage you to read the contents of your child's agenda book. This book serves as the GMS student handbook and will provide students and parents with basic information that will help ensure their success. Below are a few policies that I'd like to point out to all parents or guardians.

• **Attendance** - Regular attendance is crucial to the academic success of students. According to school board policy, the following are deemed valid excuses for an absence: "Personal illness, death in the family, doctor or dental appointments, court proceedings, religious observances, school activities, and other absences deemed necessary by the parents and approved by the administration". If your child is unable to attend school, please notify the office by phone at 794-4230 before 9:00 a.m. and inform them of the reason for the absence. You may also choose to request homework if your child is absent two or more days by calling the office before 9:00 a.m. You may pick up this work that day after 2:30 p.m.

• **Late arrivals to school** - Punctuality is something we at Goddard Middle School believe all students should value. School begins promptly at 7:35 a.m. with Pride Time. It is very important that students are in their assigned classrooms at this time so that they can prepare for the day and listen to announcements, and also so that our daily attendance and lunch count are accurate. If students are not in their assigned classrooms at 7:35, they are considered tardy. Three or more unexcused tardies to school in one semester without a valid excuse will result in the student being assigned Saturday detention.

• **Early dismissals** - Students leaving during the day for appointments, etc. need to check out through the office and check back in if returning later that same day. If a student needs to leave school early, we ask that parents notify the office by phone at 794-4230 or send a note to the office with the child.

• **Drug free schools** - According to this school board policy, "A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, distribute or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, any non-prescribed controlled substance, drug look-alike or alcoholic beverage of any kind." Please discuss this policy with your student, especially if they take medication while at school. If your child takes any form of medication while at school, prescribed or over the counter, he/she must have a completed medication form on file with the school. The medication will be kept in the nurse's office.

• **Electronic devices/cell phone policy** - The USD 265 Board of Education has developed a policy that addresses the use of cell phones and other electronic devices while our students are at school. The policy states that "The use of electronic communication devices by pupils on school property during the school day is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, pagers, cellular phones and other communication equipment that has potential to be disruptive to the educational process." If your child carries a cell phone or other electronic device such as an MP3 player to school, it must be turned off and kept in his/her locker during the school day. If you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please contact the office at 794-4230. Please do not call or text message your children on cell phones during the school day.

• **Locker policy** - Each student at Goddard Middle School is issued a locker which has a combination lock built into it. To keep the contents of your child's locker secure, encourage him or her to keep the combination private and to not share it with anyone. I would also like to remind parents and students that every student is responsible for the contents of his or her locker.

I hope that your child has a great educational experience while he/she is here at our school. If I can be of assistance to you, or if you have any questions, please feel free to call me or stop by my office at any time.