



Graham Expeditionary Middle School 2012-2013 Annual Report

Our Mission

As a member of The Graham Family of Schools, Graham Expeditionary Middle School (GEMS) prepares students for academic success, self-direction, lifelong learning, and commitment to community by providing intentional learning experiences that foster imagination, discovery, problem solving skills, and growing independence. With a particular mission to serve urban students, GEMS is a supportive community where students learn to care for themselves, each other and the natural world. As a school that values generosity, stewardship, and service, GEMS nurtures not only students' academic growth and confidence but also their development as compassionate citizens of a global world.

Governing Authority

Graham Expeditionary Middle School is chartered in the state of Ohio and as such, is overseen by the Ohio Department of Education. Our sponsor is the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, an important partner in our work. The GEMS Board of Directors provides governance, meeting a minimum of six times per year. A schedule of meeting dates and times, as well as a record of actions taken, are kept at the school's office and are available for review by the public. Board members in 2012-13 included: **Sara Neikirk**, President; **Angela Stoller-Zervas**, Vice President/Treasurer; **Mari Sunami** Secretary; **Jane Peters**, and **Lisa Chambers**. In addition, GEMS educational partner is Expeditionary Learning, national experts in effective educational practice using an expeditionary model.

Experiential Education Curriculum

Expeditionary Learning partners with schools, districts, and charter boards to open new schools and transform existing schools. They provide school leaders and teachers with professional development, curriculum planning resources, and new school structures to boost student engagement, character, and achievement. EL exists in over 165 schools in over 30 states nationwide. The EL model is a proven success in supporting schools in developing a positive school culture and higher achievement scores when compared to the school districts in which they exist.

Expeditions 2012-2013

The Underground Railroad, A Journey to Freedom - Students studied what freedom is and how it is attained by looking at different stories and elements of history regarding this subject from Ancient Egypt to modern day slavery. *Adventure and Survival* - Guiding questions include the following: How can you survive an adventure? What makes a person a survivor? An adventurer? Students studied literature, events in history and science projects that sought to answer these questions. *What's My Impact/Carbon Footprint?* - A look into the environmental impact we have on the world and an examination of energy sources. *When Cultures Collide* - Students studied the Cape Verde Islands in West Africa, worked with the Columbus Global Academy and published a book of narratives on the stories of peers who have experienced a different culture than ours for most of their life. *1908* - Students took the era when our historic building was erected and studied issues of the day including the work environment, labor unions, and inventors of the time. *Vernal Pools* - In partnership with Glacier Ridge MetroPark, students studied the impact of

vernal pools on our ecosystem. GEMS students traveled four times to the metro park to work with a naturalist in collecting and cataloging data on salamander eggs, tree frogs and a variety of invertebrates. *Is There Anybody Out There?* - An exploration into space, space travel and the connection to our future and the galaxy beyond. Students visited the John Glenn Archive Library and presented their final products in the public lecture hall at the OSU John Glenn School of Public Policy. *The American Revolution*. Students read and learned about the American Revolution. Literature focused on individual experiences during this time period and the struggles in a developing country. The culmination of student work came in a three act play in which all 8th grade students took a part in performing a revolution story. *Bicycles WAS* the final expedition and students kicked off the trimester with a mini conference in which representatives from 5 different local bike-related non-profit organizations and bike stores came to present to students in workshop style. Students learned about simple machines throughout the term and spent fieldwork at BikeSource to learn the basics of bike repair as well as fueling a bike-powered generator.

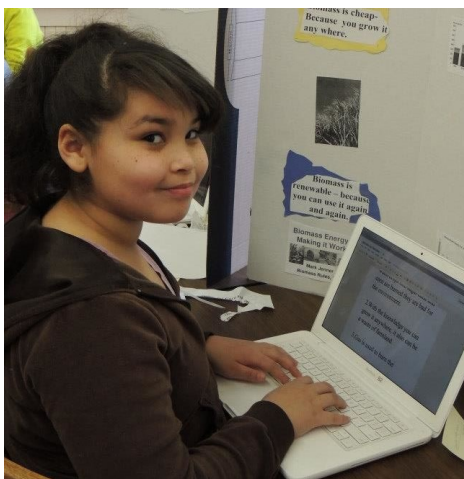




Graham Expeditionary Middle School

Assessments

GEMS uses the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessments at the beginning of the school year, in January, and at the end of the school year in an effort to correctly place, evaluate and support student work. A second function of the MAP data is to capture an additional objective data set to evaluate academic growth; a function of the state mandated value added measure. In addition a variety of assessments are given in the classroom throughout the year to measure Learning Targets met. At the end of each trimester students make presentations demonstrating their learning. GEMS administers the Ohio Achievement Assessments. GEMS also started an internal assessment calendar for teachers to administer interims halfway through and at the end of each trimester to help inform their teaching and assess student learning. At the end of each interim assessment week, staff meet in data teams to evaluate student progress and set goals for the next six weeks.



Celebrating our Work

Students exhibited work from their expeditions during our Celebrations of Learning each Trimester. Some of the festivities included an inventor's workshop, a popcorn factory from the early 1900's with unions and a strike through the hallway, an alternative energy debate, a poetry reading, and public service announcements about what to do in the event of a natural disaster.

Parent Group and Athletics

Many parent volunteers assisted with chaperoning field trips, fall clean-up day, two middle school dances, and the annual TGFS event Have a Heart, a fund raiser for all of the TGFS entities.

Students participated in boy's and girl's basketball teams with the Central Ohio Community Involvement Foundation.

Financial Status

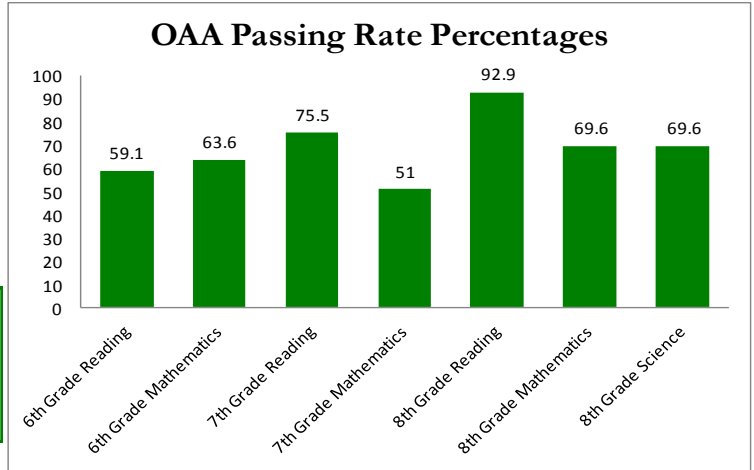
In fiscal year 2012-13 the school received \$1,117,166 in state funds. The school also received \$220,929 in federal funds and \$78,404 in development funds, among other separated categories. Sources of income totaled \$1,428,553. In fiscal year 2012-13 the school paid for employee salaries and benefits including payroll taxes and retirement through The Graham School, GEMS's financial manager: and paid \$88,490 in lease payments to Columbus City Schools for the use of the 16th Avenue building. Uses, including the aforementioned items along with classroom support expenses, utilities, insurance and assorted services to and purchases for the school, totaled \$1,401,783 in expenses. When the current cash in bank was added to the sources, the year-end adjusted cash balance was \$26,770 to be carried over to 2013-14. The school conducts its own on-going internal financial audit under the direction of its Board Audit Committee and treasurer Brian Adams, MBA, CMA, CFM, CGFM. Finances also were audited by the school's sponsor, The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio. The school is audited annually under the auspices of the State of Ohio Auditor's Office. All audits accurately and appropriately accounted for finances.

OAA Results

A state requirement in Ohio is passage of all parts (Reading, Mathematics, and Science) of the Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA).

OAA is a statewide testing requirement. The results, as published in the Ohio Department of Education’s “2012-13 School Year Report Card” for GEMS are as follows:

GEMS completed its 3rd year as a Race To The Top School receiving funds and guidance from Ohio Department of Education. GEMS is on track to reach all of its RTTT goals by the end of the 4 year grant period.



Staff for the 2012-13 school year

Debbie Addison	Director of Advancement
Hadley Bachman	Language Arts
Greg Brown	Executive Dean of Academics and Administration, Principal
Cathy Carrico	Front Desk, Registrar
Brittani Davis	Intervention Specialist
Cassie Farrell	Reading Specialist
Jeff Grunewald	IT Manager
Kate Hartwig	Science
Jisuka Hessler	Social Studies
Sean Joseph	Social Studies, Language Arts
James Kutnow	Dean
Katie Logan	Business Administration Assistant
Cheryl Long	Business Administrator
Scott McMullen	Educational Data Analyst
Eileen Meers	Superintendent, Executive Dean of Students
Myra Molnar	Dean, Instructional Guide
Timothy Nunn	Network Engineer
Dawn Ramsey	Science, Math
Cory Righter	Lunch program, Library
Lauren Schell	School Counselor

Rachelle Smith	Art
Michael Taylor	Math
Destanie VanDyne	Science
Jennifer Waddell	Development Coordinator
Stephanie Waldeck	Math
Laura Wosiak	Intervention Specialist





Graham Expeditionary Middle School

Outstanding Students

At the end of each term, we have an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding students.

Trimester 1		Trimester 2		Trimester 3	
Exemplary Citizen	Grace Randolph (6 th) Quincy Musgrave (6 th) Sulimaan Priest (7 th) Roman Cosner (7 th) Christopher Burford (8 th)	Exemplary Citizen	Nora Bell (8 th) Christopher Burford (8 th) Michaela Clem-Jacobs (8 th) Nico Buoni (8 th)	Exemplary Citizen	Rebecca Smith (8 th) Vivian Morrison (6 th)
Expedition Leader	Ely Lombardi (6 th) Taira Bennett (7 th) Noah Hinault (7 th) Brelana Anderson (8 th) Henry Carter (8 th)	Expedition Leader	Rebecca Smith (8 th)	Expedition Leader	Jaden Yencer (6 th) Lazaria Baker (7 th)
Golden Ruler	Helen Jordan (6 th) Kenyetta Peacock (7 th) Briana Howell (8 th)	Golden Ruler	Roman Cosner (7 th) Nico Buoni (7 th)	Golden Ruler	Devon Jordan (8 th) Alexis Jefferson (6 th) Arayah Willis (6 th) Cole Erb (6 th) Ta'Layzia Jones (7 th) Mallory Thompson (6 th) Levi Lehman (7 th)

End of Year Awards

English Award	Michaela Clem-Jacobs Jeylani Amin
Math	Nora Bell
Reach for the Stars	Nico Buoni Briona Howell
Science	Elijah Walton
Social Studies	Aidan Hayes
True GEM	Christopher Burford, Nora Bell
True North	Michaela Clem-Jacobs



Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors:

Continental Office Environments
Walton Family Foundation
Federal Charter School Program
Early and Ivy Brewer
Melaney Carter
Cindy Eledath
Sonya Yencer

All of the generous individuals who supported Have a Heart.