



GEMS

Graham Elementary and Middle School

2019

Parent Newsletter

April

Important Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	15	16	17	18	19	20
April		3rd-4th Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm	Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm		No School - Spring Break	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
No School - Spring Break						
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
April		K-2nd Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm	Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm	Scholastic Book Fair - May 1-3		4
Spirit Week - April 29 - May 3			Ohio's State Tests - See page 5			
				May		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm		5th-8th -Career Day - 9:00-10:45am	
			Ohio's State Tests - See page 5			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		3rd-4th Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm K-2nd Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm	1st-4th Celebrations of Learning 5:00-6:00pm Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm	5th-7th Student Led Conferences 8th Passages No School - PD Day	5th-7th Student Led Conferences 8th Passages No School - PD Day	

GEMS 140 E. 16th Ave. Columbus, OH 43201 - 614-253-4000

Front Office Hours: 8:00am-4:45pm

K In skills block, kindergarten is beginning to learn about digraphs, letters that work together to make one sound. In math, students are continuing to solve and write addition and subtraction number sentences up to 10. We will also begin to become experts in teen numbers. In modules, students are using their knowledge of plants to become tree experts! We will be doing fieldwork at Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens to learn from experts.



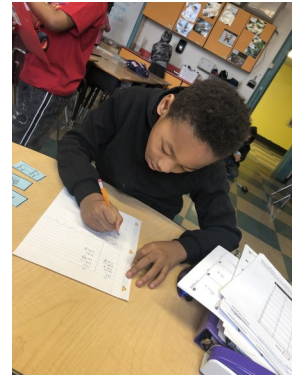
1st

Graders are the proud parents of cute baby chicks! We are keeping a close eye on the chicks to answer our Module 3 guiding question: How does a bird's features help it survive? Stop in to hear the students tell you how the chicks use their beaks and feathers. In math, we are adding and subtracting two digit numbers. In skills block, we are reviewing the sounds we've learned this year and using those sounds to spell words phonetically. Finally, we will say goodbye to our student teachers, Miss Shen and Miss Clawson, this month. Make sure to wish them well before their last day.



2nd

Graders are continuing to learn social and emotional skills. This month we reviewed the difference between fact and opinion and have begun writing paragraphs about why it is important to plant seeds for butterflies. We are continuing small group skills block work. We are still looking for volunteers for Career Day on Friday, May 3 so please volunteer if you can! We are looking forward to our Field Experience next month exploring butterflies at the Franklin Park Conservatory!



3rd

Graders have had a great month! We're wrapping up our mid-unit study of Peter Pan and the students have been doing a wonderful job of examining characters, comparing stories, and deepening their understanding of literary classics. In math, we have been discussing fractions including fractional units, parts of a whole, denominators and numerators and what they represent, and much more! Next time you have a pizza, ask what fraction of the whole they are eating! Lastly, we LOVED having our OSU volunteers for Reading Is Fundamental sharing with our students a love of reading! What a great April!



4th

Graders are excited to have Ms. Maria joining them for their learning through the rest of the year. In both fourth grade classes students are hard at work preparing for the transition to middle school. In math we are continuing our fractions unit and will move into decimals soon. In English Language Arts we are reading the play "Divided Loyalties" and discussing the different perspectives of colonists during the American Revolution. We are also hard at work preparing for our passages presentation, which are required to pass fourth grade. Please look for a sign up form from your student after spring break!

Art: In April, Fourth grade will be learning about Claes Oldenberg and will create clay food sculptures inspired by his work. Third graders will be completing Peter Pan collage portraits of their chosen characters from the book. Second grade will be studying masks from various world cultures, and create masks of their own. First grade is finishing their study of Faith Ringgold's illustrations. Students are also learning about The Heidelberg Project in Kindergarten- an art movement to brighten up neighborhoods in Detroit. Kindergarteners will create their own "better world neighborhood" with their art for Better World Day.



Music: This month we are continuing our unit on ukulele in all classes. We are passing our ukulele license goals and getting ready to learn to play our performance songs! We are also rehearsing for an upcoming performance on better world day! All grades that currently have music, Kindergarten, first, and, second grade, will be performing a song on better world day to celebrate the awesome work they have been doing in music class and in their classrooms.

Guidance: 5th-8th grade is still looking for career day volunteers for Friday May 10th, from 9:00am-10:45am! We would love to have any career come in and share about their occupation. If you would like to volunteer please contact Courtney Smoot at Csmoot.1@gemsschool.org.

P.E.: In Physical Education, K,1st, and 4th grades are learning dances. Fourth graders will create their own dance next week. Dance is not only fun but great exercise! Second graders are learning how to throw and catch. They have been practicing the underhand and overhand throws. The spring weather provides great opportunities to get out and play catch at home.

Technology: K-4 is beginning a new unit on the basics of conducting research, and asking questions using technology! We will start with learning about the 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and what kind of careers use these questions all of the time! We will then jump right into using these inquiry skills to research Holidays we are unfamiliar with, and will then create artifacts of our findings through slide presentations. Computer skills that we will be learning FOR THE FIRST TIME include: Copy and pasting text, using the Internet as a vehicle for research, breaking down information through lists and bullet points, and other creative presentation tools on Google Slides!

Scholastic Book Fair

GEMS will host a Scholastic Book Fair for grades K-8 and families on May 1st - 3rd. The book fair will be available for parents on Thursday, May 2nd from 3:00-4:00, Friday, May 3rd from 9:00-10:00, and Friday, May 3rd from 3:00-6:30. You can also visit the Online Fair at: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/gemsk8>, which will be available online from April 29th-May 10th. All purchases at the Book Fair and Online Book Fair will benefit our school. Hope to see you there!

5th

Graders have gone into the field to collect ant specimens around our school with OSU researcher and professor Dr. Rachelle Adams. To collect ant specimens, the students set up bait traps and also hunted for ant colonies.

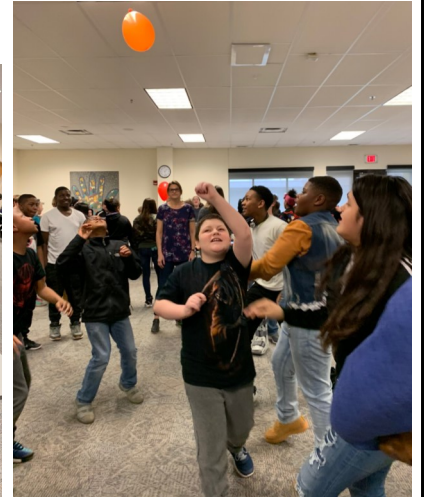
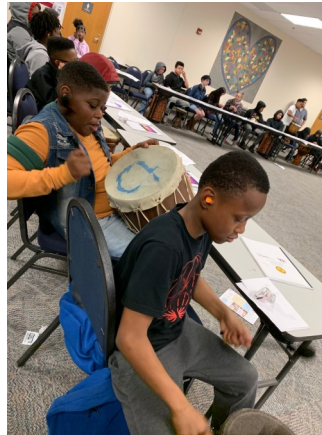
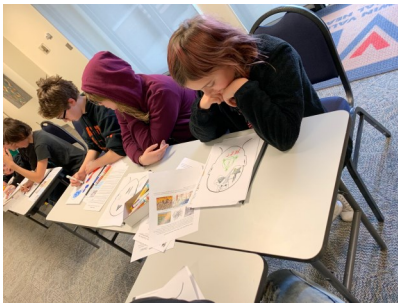
Back at school, we will use microscopes to identify the ants using a dichotomous key. Eventually, the data we collect will be used to create our own dichotomous keys to help identify ants in Columbus!



6th

Graders attended fieldwork at the Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare Hospital today. They heard from doctors at the hospital, a peer counselor, and an employee from the Ohio Department of Mental Health. They had the opportunity to experience a demonstration of art therapy, recreation therapy and music therapy. They will be using what they learned today to create their final product

brochures! The 6th grade COL will be taking place on Friday, May 3rd at 1:00-2:00 PM on The Ohio State University Oval. Students will work in shifts to pass out their brochures and tell people about why discussing mental health is important, then demonstrate some of the ways we have learned to boost our mental health. We hope you can join us!



7th

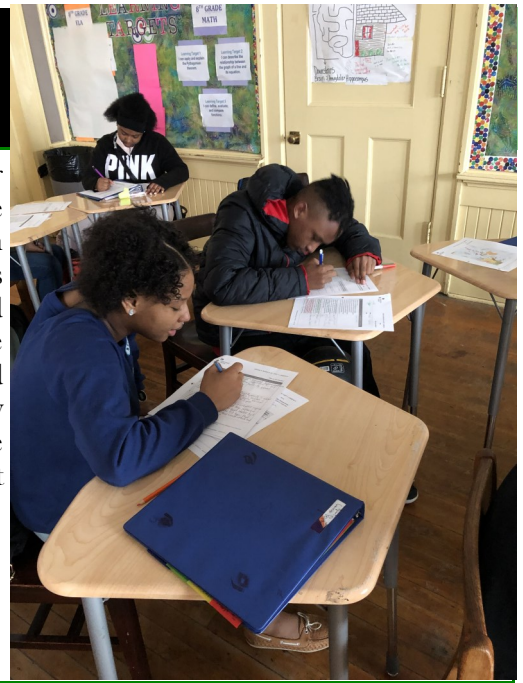
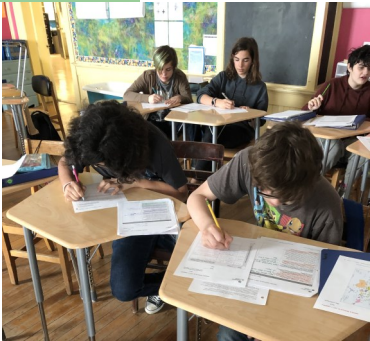
Graders visited Glacier Ridge Metro Park to study Vernal Pools. These temporary wetlands provide a habitat for amphibians to lay eggs because there are no fish as predators. Students helped the park take PH and dissolved oxygen readings and identified organisms living in the Vernal Pool. The mornings were chilly, but we had fun being scientists!



Follow Us:  or www.GemsSchool.org

8th

Graders are working hard on understanding perspectives for their Wheels of Change expedition. In their 2nd case study, students are exploring the question: how did war change the world? We have been reading about WWII and the different perspectives taken during this time period. Students participated in a close reading protocol where they used the same text over a number of days. Students identified actions taken by the United States and those taken by Japan, then they used the information to analyze whether or not those events escalated the conflict between the two countries.



Ohio's State Tests

Please see the schedule below and help best prepare your students with a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast! Attendance is very important on these days!

Tuesday, April 30, 2019	7th grade Math, part 2	4th grade Math, part 2
Wednesday, May 1, 2019	6th grade Math, part 1	3rd grade Math, part 1
Thursday, May 2, 2019	6th grade Math, part 2	3rd grade Math, part 2
Tuesday, May 7, 2019	5th grade Science, part 1	8th grade Science, part 1
Wednesday, May 8, 2019	5th grade Science, part 2	8th grade Science, part 2

Help GEMS Raise Money For Expeditions!

**When you shop at Kroger, Giant Eagle, and/or Amazon you can help GEMS raise money!
Kroger - GEMS has a New School Number! Must Re-Enroll!**

Go to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com or call 1-800-837-4483 to enroll in the program. If you enrolled last year you must re-enroll each year to help GEMS. Add GEMS to your card. You can search for GEMS by name or use our school code: AD234 **New school code! Must re-enroll to help GEMS!** Shop! Every time you shop and use your Kroger Rewards Card GEMS gets rebates. Kroger totals those rebates and sends GEMS a check.

Giant Eagle

Go to: www.gianteagle.com/about/apples-for-students to sign up online or by calling 1-800-474-4777. Add GEMS to your card. Our school ID number is 5512. Shop! Every time you use your Giant Eagle Advantage Card GEMS earns money.

You shop. Amazon gives to GEMS!

When you make a purchase on Amazon Smile they will now donate 0.5% of your total purchase to GEMS.

Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4350069> to get started!

Attendance

Attention Parents/Guardians

Attendance

Attending school daily is critical to student success. Ohio's new House Bill 410 law requires a preventative approach to excessive student absences. An Attendance Team has been established to work with our students and families to help improve daily attendance. Note* - Missing as few as 2 days per month is considered chronically absent! We want to see your student in school every day!

Anti-Bullying Form

Please check out our new online anti-bullying form to report bullying or other incidents. The link can be found on the parent tab on the GEMS website. [Or by clicking here.](#)

RESIDENCY VERIFICATION NOTIFICATION

Per House Bill 21 community schools are now required to perform a monthly review of student files and randomly select families for residency verification.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY IN CASE OF AN ADDRESS CHANGE. PROOF OF RESIDENCY WILL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF ADDRESS CHANGE. IF EVIDENCE IS NOT PROVIDED REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION OR A HOME VISIT MAY OCCUR.

Enrollment Information Sessions!

Please be sure to spread the word to friends and neighbors about our upcoming enrollment information sessions. If you know of students who might be interested in attending The Graham School, The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University, or GEMS, please let them know about our upcoming enrollment information sessions.

Wednesdays at 6:00pm

May 1 May 8 May 15

AT

The Graham School
3950 Indianola Ave.

The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University
1270 Brentnell Ave.

GEMS
140 E. 16th Ave.

For more information please visit the school's websites

www.thegrahamschool.org

www.thecharlesschool.org

www.gemsschool.org

GEMS BETTER WORLD DAY FOOD TRUCK PICNIC!

5:00PM SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR OPEN

5:00PM FOOD TRUCKS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

JUMP HOUSE OPENS



5:30PM 8TH GRADE HONOR VETERANS INDUCTED TO OHIO
VETERAN HALL OF FAME

5:45PM 2ND GRADE - TREE PLANTING & DEDICATION

6:00PM 3RD GRADE - TOUR OF THE GALAXY GARDEN



The Paddy Wagon



FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019

5:00 - 8:00PM

ON THE FRONT YARD OF THE SCHOOL

140 E. 16TH AVE
COLUMBUS, OH 43201

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Follow Us:  or www.GemsSchool.org



GEMS SPIRIT WEEK

STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE INVITED TO DRESS UP EACH DAY!

MON, APRIL 29TH - DECADE DAY

TUES, APRIL 30TH - HAT DAY

WED, MAY 1ST - DINOSAUR DAY

THURS, MAY 2ND - DRESS LIKE A TEACHER DAY

FRI, MAY 3RD - GEMS SPIRIT DAY

