



# GEMS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Graham Elementary and Middle School

## School Update

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the school year is coming to an end! Monday, October 26 marks the beginning of quarter 2. Your student's schedule will remain mostly unchanged, except for the addition of 1-2 synchronous specials classes each week - art, music, or physical education. Students are expected to attend during their scheduled time. If they are unable to attend they are required to watch the lesson and complete the corresponding assignments at a different time. Linked below are K-4 and 5-8 student daily schedules that reflect the quarter two changes. Students will continue to access Zoom links and class assignments through Schoology. If you have questions about your student's schedule please reach out to their teacher(s).

- [K-4 Daily Schedule](https://bit.ly/gemsK4schedule) - bit.ly/gemsK4schedule
- [5-8 Daily Schedule](https://bit.ly/gems58schedule) - bit.ly/gems58schedule

Quarter one interim reports will be mailed home this week. If you do not receive your student's interim report by Friday, October 30th please reach out to us at 614-253-4000 or by email at [office@gemsschool.org](mailto:office@gemsschool.org). If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback we would love to hear from you.

We added **Friday, November 6th, 2020** as a professional development day for teachers. This means that **students will not attend synchronous (live Zoom) class on Friday, November 6th** while teachers engage in professional learning. Students may use this day to makeup any work that needs to be completed. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sending safe and healthy thoughts,  
GEMS Administration

James Kutnow  
Executive Dean

Jordan Templeton  
Dean of Instruction

Leah Ecaruan  
Dean of Students (K-4)

Jisuka Cohen  
Assoc. Dean of Students (5-8)



## Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, October 28 - K-8th Grade Invited Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday, November 6 - No School - PD Day
- Monday, November 23 - Tuesday, November 24 - No School - PD Days - K-8 Student Led Conferences
- Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27 - No School - Thanksgiving Break



# Meal Pick Up During Virtual Learning

We have received exciting news that all students qualify for free breakfast and lunch from GEMS from now until the end of December. No paperwork is needed, but we do need to know if you are interested in pick up meals so that we can schedule weekly times for you to come to the building to pick up the food. You can let us know you are interested by calling the school or emailing us at [office@GEMSSchool.org](mailto:office@GEMSSchool.org). This is only for students enrolled at GEMS. Food portions will not be provided for siblings.



## When you shop at Kroger, and/or Amazon you can help GEMS raise money for expeditions!

**Kroger** - GEMS has a New School Number! Must Re-Enroll!

Go to: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://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: FD086 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.

### Amazon

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!



## GEMS Enrolling Grades K, 1st, & 2nd

Do you know someone who might be interested in attending GEMS this school year? GEMS is enrolling K, 1st, and 2nd graders! Space is limited!

[Click here to complete an online application](#)

[Click here to watch a video and learn more about GEMS!](#)

Please e-mail LeMoyne Jackson at [ljackson.1@gemsschool.org](mailto:ljackson.1@gemsschool.org) with any questions.

## FREE INTERNET HOT SPOTS AVAILABLE NOW FOR ALL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH!

Through a partnership with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio PCs For People we are offering free Internet Hot Spots to all families eligible for free or reduced lunch. If you are eligible, please visit the school during regular office hours (8:00am-4:00pm) to pick up a hot spot to improve internet access for student Chromebooks. Click here to complete a Free and Reduced lunch application. Please contact the front desk (614-253-4000) with any questions.

# Camera Update

Dear GEMS Families,

As we enter week 8 of school, we are learning more about how to effectively serve our students virtually. Some challenges with attendance, class participation, and behavior have led us to make the decision to **require all students in grades five through eight to have their cameras on** and have their first and last name listed during synchronous class sessions. Teachers will remind students during class to turn on their cameras and keep them on. Students who do not keep their cameras on during classes may be dismissed from class resulting in an unexcused absence. Our goal is to keep our students safe, engaged, and learning.

If your student has a laptop without a working camera, please contact the office to let us know and to arrange pick up for a GEMS laptop with a working camera. You can reach us at [office@gemsschool.org](mailto:office@gemsschool.org) or 614-253-4000. The office staff will notify teachers if a student's camera is not working properly and they will be permitted to participate in class until they receive a GEMS laptop with a working camera. Communication is key to this process. If your student has any challenges with their camera or participating in synchronous Zoom classes in general, please let us know and we will work together to find a solution.



**You're invited!**

## ANIMAL Dance Party

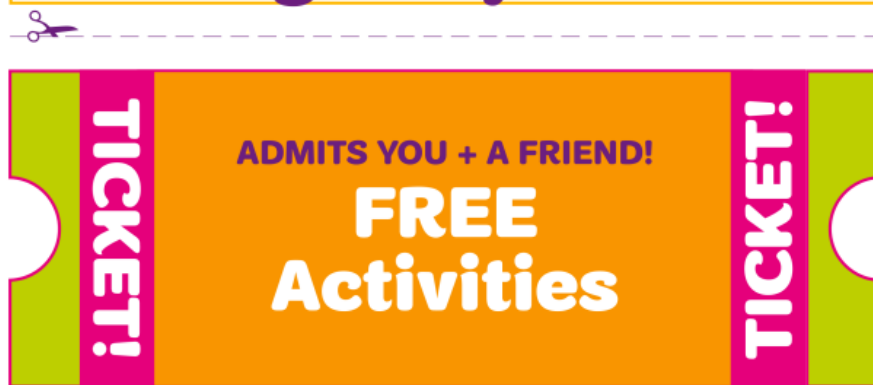
Bring a friend, make new ones, and get **WILD** on the dance floor **OR** build a **ROBOT** with **GIRL SCOUTS**—it's all **FREE!**

Visit [gsoh.org/invited](http://gsoh.org/invited) to find dates and times that work best for you!

Parents & Caregivers, you're invited too!

## ROBOT Building Party

girl scouts of ohio's heartland



**TICKET!**

ADMITS YOU + A FRIEND!

# FREE Activities

**TICKET!**



# Grade Level Updates

## K

This month we are adding the letters C, N, M, R, V, and S to our alphabet. We will also be learning the High Frequency Words: the, in, & he. In math we are counting up to ten, learning how to use the words “more than” “fewer than” and “same as” to describe groups, and learning how to find out if we have “enough”. For Expedition, we will begin our final unit of Toy Preferences. In Unit 1, we learned attribute words to describe toys. In Unit 2 we worked on Speaking and Listening skills as well as writing skills addressing what toys each student preferred. In Unit 3 we will cover the Speaking & Listening and Writing standards while we discuss what Classroom Toys our classmates prefer.

## 1st

Graders have been working hard as readers, writers, and mathematicians! During Expeditions, we've continued our study of how tools help us do important work while closely reading, The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires. We are getting excited to use our knowledge of tools to help us design and create an object that is needed at home or in our classroom!

Our mathematicians began solving new types of story problems using the relationship between addition and subtraction. We will continue to develop an understanding of the meaning of the equal sign and connect story problems to equations!

## 2nd

Graders have been busy studying why schools are important in Expedition! This month, we will begin studying schools around the world; the challenges they face and how they overcome those challenges.

In Crew, we are learning to identify our emotions using the zones of regulation. We are also discovering strategies that we can use to regulate our bodies when we start to feel out of control.

In math, students have begun exploring place value and have been finding different strategies to add and subtract numbers with regrouping!

## 3rd

Graders have started unit two in our expeditions/modules. We are learning about the challenges people face all over the world when trying to access books.

Our Mathematicians are diving right into multiplication by working with equal groups.

This month our goals are to increase participation and work submission, and consistently having our camera's on!

## 4th

Graders are navigating their way through Schoology with a Scavenger Hunt, they are strengthening reading and writing skills in Expeditions and ALL Block, and they are working with fractions in math. Through all of this they are showing great CHAMPS protocol, earning lots of HERO points, and treating others with respect in our virtual learning environment.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# Grade Level Updates

**5th** Graders are diving deeply into our rights as humans and studying how human rights can be upheld or taken away. We are using the novel Esperanza Rising to study not only human rights, but the importance of those human rights in cultures outside of our own. Students are also learning about the planets and their roles in our solar system as well as volume in science and math classes.

**6th** Graders are continuing to look at our guiding question "How do humans impact their environment?" In humanities, students are reading Flush and learning about ancient civilizations and their geography. Students are learning about energy, rocks, minerals, and renewable vs. nonrenewable resources in science.

**7th** Graders are diving deeper into the question "How does a point in time shape the present and the future?" In humanities, students are completing their study of All American Boys and beginning to look at how colonization shaped the beginning of America.

**8th** Graders are looking deeper at the sources of our food and answering the question, "How do we feed a growing population?" In humanities, students are reading the Omnivore's Dilemma to explore different food supply chains. In science, students are learning the genetics of food. In math, students have been exploring exponents, roots and scientific notation. As we begin the second quarter, students will be looking at the prices of various foods used to make their own family recipes. Students will use this information to demonstrate their understanding of solving equations.

## K-8th Counseling

Click on the link below to contact a GEMS School Counselor, to set up an appointment, and for community and social-emotional resources: <https://tinyurl.com/gemscounselors>

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# Grade Level Updates

## K-4th Art

Currently in art 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders are learning about repetition, rhythm, and pattern while creating portraits in the style of either Wadsworth Jarrell or April Sunami. We are building on our knowledge of shapes and lines to carefully draw each part of the face. Students are focusing on the habit of quality by filling their white space, taking their time, and adding details.

## K-4th Music

This month we are finishing our first quarter of music. Kindergarten and First grade have been working on recognizing things they hear in music and how to demonstrate musical opposites. We have been listening to and mapping out music that we hear from around the world.

## PE & Health

In Physical Education, 6th and 8th graders have been learning about Fitness and working to improve their fitness. Students have learned how fitness improves health, learned about the components of fitness, evaluated their fitness, practiced fitness activities, and have started creating a personal fitness plan. Students will follow their plan and evaluate their progress through the semester.

First grade students in Ms. Bush's class are participating in a reading of The Most Magnificent Thing. They are learning how to dig deeper into the meaning of the words and sentences they read. Showing the emotions of the little girl in the book is fun as well!

she starts to feel different.



But before long, she starts to feel different.

Bit by bit, the mad gets pushed out of her head.

What does the little girl do before long?  
How does she feel now?  
How do you know?

karol ledesma aguilar  
brayden  
jharmonyprice  
Mrs. Conrad

GEMS is collecting donations for **Thanksgiving baskets for our families**. If you are able to donate food items or gift cards, please sign up at [tinyurl.com/GEMSThanksgiving2020](https://tinyurl.com/GEMSThanksgiving2020). If your family would benefit from a basket, you can sign up at [tinyurl.com/GEMSBaskets2020](https://tinyurl.com/GEMSBaskets2020). If you have any questions, please contact Rosa Dixon at [dixon.2@gemsschool.org](mailto:dixon.2@gemsschool.org)

If you are able to donate items for Thanksgiving baskets for our GEMS families, please go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/GEMSThanksgiving2020>  
or email Rosa Dixon: [dixon.2@gemsschool.org](mailto:dixon.2@gemsschool.org)

## GEMS THANKSGIVING BASKETS

If your family needs a basket, please sign up at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/GEMSBaskets2020>  
or email Rosa Dixon: [dixon.2@gemsschool.org](mailto:dixon.2@gemsschool.org)

GEMS is a School-wide Title 1 program, enabling us to receive Federal Funds to ensure that our students receive the support they need to reach and exceed grade level goals particularly in reading and math. We welcome parent involvement in planning, review and improvement of Title 1 programs including the family engagement policy and the schoolwide program plan. Please contact Debbie Addison at [addison.2@gemsschool.org](mailto:addison.2@gemsschool.org) with any questions.

# Let's Get Strings Started Again!

Click [here](#) to watch a welcome video by Lane Champa, ProMusica's Play Us Forward music instructor  
Contact [Ichampa.1@gemsschool.org](mailto:Ichampa.1@gemsschool.org) with any questions.



## Let's Get Strings Started Again!

Lane Champa, ProMusica's Play Us Forward Music Instructor  
Graham Elementary and Middle School, 2020-2021

### Play Us Forward Beginning Strings

- **Who:** 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who would like to try violin for the first time or for those that think they may need a refresher
- **What:** Violin class for Beginning Strings
- **Where:** Online via Schoology and Zoom
- **When:** Tuesdays – 15-minute group class with 4-6 people, and Thursdays – 15-minute buddy private lesson with 1 other person
- **How Do I Sign Up:** GEMS will provide the sign-up form, and you want to turn it in quickly so that you can be in the class!

### Play Us Forward Advanced Strings

- **Who:** Available to any student who has studied violin, viola, or cello at least one year (or the partial 2019-2020 year)
- **What:** Strings Class of Violin, Viola, and Cello. Students may only choose the instrument they played originally, no switches.
- **Where:** Online via Schoology and Zoom
- **When:** Mondays – 15-minute group class with 4-6 people, and Wednesdays – 15-minute buddy private lesson with 1 other person
- **How Do I Sign Up:** GEMS will provide the sign-up form, and you want to turn it in quickly so that you can be in the class!

**Contact Me: [Ichampa.1@gemsschool.org](mailto:Ichampa.1@gemsschool.org)**

*Much appreciation to James Kutnow, GEMS staff, and Janet Chen.  
Looking forward to new music, new performance opportunities, new techniques, and more musical fun.*

#### 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 must be submitted within two weeks of an address change. If evidence is not provided, requests for additional documentation or a home visit may occur.