



GEMS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Graham Elementary and Middle School

Fall MAP Testing

NWEA MAP Growth testing for reading and math will take place virtually for grades 1-8 in October during one of your students' regularly scheduled classes. The MAP Growth Test helps determine what a student knows and is used by teachers and students to set goals for learning. Students will take the MAP Growth test in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Your students' performance on this test will not affect their grade, however, it is very important that they try their best, without help, so that teachers get a clear picture of their strengths and areas for growth. You can support your student by making sure they get a full night's sleep and healthy breakfast or lunch prior to the test. **If possible, please have an adult available to help your student log in on the dates of their MAP testing.**

1-4* MAP Growth Testing Schedule

- **Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 9:30am** - Reading MAP Growth Test
- **Thursday, Oct. 8 at 9:30am** - Math MAP Growth Test

Students will go to their regularly scheduled ELA class at 9:30am on October 6th and 8th and will complete the MAP growth test during that class time. When students finish the test, they will log off the computer until their math session begins at 11:30 or 11:50am.

*Kindergarteners do not take the MAP Growth test in the Fall because they take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. Kindergarteners will take the MAP Growth test in the Winter and Spring.

5-8 MAP Growth Testing Schedule

- **Monday, Oct. 12 & Tuesday, Oct. 13** during Humanities class - Reading MAP Growth Test
- **Thursday, Oct 15 and Friday, Oct 16** during Math & Science class - Math MAP growth test



→ Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, October 6 - Thursday, October 8 - 1st-4th Grade MAP Testing
- Monday, October 12 - Friday, October 16 - 5th-8th Grade MAP Testing
- Wednesday, October 28 - K-8th Grade Invited Parent Teacher Conferences



Meal Pick Up During Virtual Learning

- If you are interested in receiving meals from GEMS and have not signed up, please complete our August 2020 Questionnaire at bit.ly/GEMSFallSurvey.
- **Meal pick up will be on Mondays and Wednesdays.**
- Families will schedule a time for food pickup between **8:30am-5:00pm**.
- Please make sure you have completed the free and reduced lunch form (bit.ly/GEMSFreeRedLunch).
- Families without the form or who do not qualify for free and reduced lunch will pay \$3.09 per meal.
- You can check your status by reaching out to Dodie Thebeault in the front office at office@gemsschool.org or by calling 614-253-4000.
- If you have any questions regarding meal pick up, please email Montana Fout at mfout.1@gemsschool.org.



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 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 & 6th

Do you know someone who might be interested in attending GEMS this school year? GEMS is enrolling K, 1st, 2nd and 6th 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 with any questions.

Have you Signed Up for Remind?

Remind is a great way to stay connected with your student's teacher. Sign up today!

Parents/Guardians with **K-4th** grade student(s) go to : <https://www.remind.com/join/k4gems> OR text K4GEMS to 81010 to sign up.

Parents/Guardians with **5-8th** grade student(s) go to: <https://www.remind.com/join/k4gems> OR text @58GEMS to 81010 to sign up.

Parents/Guardians with **5-8th** grade student(s) should also sign up for their student's specific grade levels:

- **5th Grade:** <https://www.remind.com/join/gem5thg> OR text @gems5thg to 81010 to sign up if they have an 5th grader
- **6th Grade:** <https://www.remind.com/join/gems-6th> OR text @gems-6th to 81010 to sign up if they have a 6th grader
- **7th Grade:** <https://www.remind.com/join/gems-7th> OR text @gems-7th to 81010 to sign up if they have a 7th grader
- **8th Grade:** <https://www.remind.com/join/gems8th> OR text @gems8th to 81010 to sign up if they have an 8th grader

GEMS Domino's Slice the Price Fundraiser

Order by Sept. 28

- Each card is \$10 and can be used as often as you like until June 2021!
- The cards are good for buy 1 large pizza, get 1 large pizza free! (You can use the card an unlimited amount of times until June 30, 2021)
- Order your cards TODAY and support GEMS at: [slicethepricecard.com/34053](https://www.slicethepricecard.com/34053)
- Cards must be ordered online and everything will be shipped directly to your home



Grade Level Updates

K

Kindergartners have been learning all about each other and their names! We are beginning to explore letters and numbers 1-5. In Expedition, we have begun our Making Playing Together Fun Module where students will continue to learn about each other and be thoughtful community members. Don't forget to log into Zoom for Crew each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:00 am!

1st

Graders have been off to a great start with virtual learning. In just two weeks they have become masters of muting and unmuting along with other class zoom expectations! In the last week we have gotten to share and tell, play math jeopardy, and learn class songs. Next week we are going to be reading, writing and talking about tools used for cooking, math and science during Expedition (Modules). We are excited to get started with adding, subtracting, and interpreting data during our first math unit!

2nd

Graders have been hard at work over the last couple of weeks! Students have been becoming experts on identifying parts of speech and using each type in a sentence. Next week, students will begin reading and writing about why school is important during Expedition. In math, students have begun looking at data and learning different ways to represent and share it with others.

3rd

Graders have begun reading their book *Wish* by Barbara O'Conner. Students have become experienced in discussion norms and building our community. In math we have begun learning about graphs and completing work in books. In module expeditions we are diving deep into overcoming learning challenges, and becoming ethical people.

4th

Graders are starting to read a fun book written in prose. We are looking at poetry and starting to become authors. In math, we are studying factors, multiples, composite and prime numbers, and how to find the missing side of a rectangle when given one side and the area. We are also working to become more ethical people!

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Grade Level Updates

5th Graders are starting off this year by diving right into their expedition! This semester, students are investigating Human Rights and the impact Human Rights have on different groups of people (refugees and immigrants). Students will begin reading about this impact on refugees in the realistic fiction novel *Esperanza Rising*. In math, students are learning about volume and how objects take up space. In science, students will begin learning about the world beyond ours - space!

6th Graders are jumping right into distance learning. Soon we will begin our study on our expedition "Watt's My Impact?". Students will start reading about our impact on the environment through the nonfiction text *World without Fish*. In science, students will look into energy and how our choices impact the environment.

7th Graders are off to a great start this year! We are beginning our expedition "crossing cultures". In this expedition students will be learning about different civilizations throughout history and how these civilizations have shaped our world today. We are also starting our first book, *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds.

8th Graders are showing they are ready for their last year of middle school! We are excited to watch them grow and prepare them for high school. This fall we are kicking off our "Vote With Your Fork" expedition where we will explore the concepts of where our food comes from and food justice in America. We also hope to supplement this with a school garden. Students will be reading *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan in Humanities as well as a choice novel.

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

Grades 2, 3, and 4 are learning the systems and programs for virtual art. We are going in depth with how artists use lines and shapes to show their view of the world. We will also explore how to use rhythm, pattern, and repetition to create mood and show personality. Students are creating artwork and learning about contemporary artists exploring similar ideas. Our 6 week session will culminate with a self-portrait inspired by the artist April Sunami.

K-4th Music

This month in music our Kindergarten and First graders are learning all about music around them. How we can hear the differences in music and understand music's foundation. As we are all learning virtually right now please feel free to contact me with any questions on remind, email, schoology, or during office hours! (listed on my schoology course pages)

PE & Health

The sixth and eighth grades have started a fitness unit in PE. They are learning to set goals and track progress toward meeting them, and working to improve their fitness. Students also have joined a club where they are learning different skills and exercises connected to a sport or activity and can share their performances with their club members.



FREE INTERNET HOT SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH BEGINNING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28!

Through a partnership with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio 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) next week 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.

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 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:** 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th 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

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

Be sure to check out page 2!



New This Year

1. **Online Lessons**
2. **Goodie Bag** with surprises and learning tools
3. **Small Class Sizes**
4. **No Instruments, No Problem** during quarter 1.
Learn or review: bow hold, posture, instrument care, tuning, music reading, rhythm study, and more
5. **Loan an Instrument** from ProMusica Chamber Orchestra for 7 months of playing fun
6. **Learn Your Choice of Music** as well as required pieces from class
7. **Engage with Your Community** with music from many cultures
8. **Perform** for family and friends, possibly outdoor concerts
9. **Group and Buddy Lessons** will be offered
10. **Video Visits** from ProMusica musicians, local performers, and national performers

What You'll Need

- **A Positive Attitude**
- **An Interest** in improving and learning to play music on a string instrument
- **Cell Phone, iPad/Chromebook, Desktop** for class
- **Showing Up for Class 100%** (though we know life happens!)
 - If you show up for lessons consistently, you'll be able to check out a ProMusica violin (beginning and advanced), viola (advanced), or cello (advanced) to take home to practice. The instrument is property of ProMusica, but you will be able to practice and perform for family and friends during the school year. If your attendance drops, you may be required to return the instrument.
- **Good Communication Skills** that we'll continue to learn together

Sound like fun? I can't wait to meet you or to continue your fabulous learning of these amazing instruments. Let's get strings started again!

-Lane Champa

Professional Qualifications

The parent or guardian of each student enrolled at GEMS may request information on the professional qualifications of each classroom teacher who provides instruction to their student and the school will provide this information on each applicable teacher in a timely manner.

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 with any questions.

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.