



GEMS

Graham Elementary and Middle School

2020

Parent Newsletter

February

Important Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17 No School - Presidents' Day	18 2:45-3:15pm Community Meeting - 3rd-4th Grade	19 6:00pm Enrollment Information Session	20	21 9:00am Munchies with Math - K-4th Grade 2:45-3:15pm Community Meeting - 5th-8th Grade	22
February						
23	24	25 2:45-3:15pm Community Meeting - K-2nd Grade	26	27	28 2:45-3:15pm Community Meeting - 5th-8th Grade	29
1	2	3	4 6:00pm Enrollment Information Session Last Day of Trimester 2	5 No School - PD Days	6 No School - PD Days	7
March						
8	9 First Day of Trimester 3	10	11	12 6:00pm Celebration of Learning - 5th-8th Grade	13 2:45-3:15pm Community Meeting - 5th-8th Grade	14
15	16	17	18 6:00pm Enrollment Information Session 6:00pm Kindergarten Open Enrollment Night	19	20 9:00am Breakfast with Books - K-4th Grade 2:45-3:15pm Community Meeting - 5th-8th Grade	21

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

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

**K**

Are working on CVC words in skills block. We are finishing our math measurement unit this month and will soon be moving on to adding and subtracting! We are also becoming expert meteorologists and even had a visit from Marshall McPeck. We will be able to tell our own forecasts soon!

1st

Graders are well into our second Expedition about Birds. Students have been researching the different types of bird feathers and beaks. They will soon write a paragraph that tells how these body parts help birds survive. In math, we are learning different strategies to use when adding and subtracting to 40. In skills block, we are learning how to read words with a silent e at the end.

2nd

Graders are continuing to learn about butterflies. They will soon be able to determine the difference between butterflies and moths. In math, they are practicing triple digit addition with regrouping and starting to learn how to subtract with borrowing. Second graders are continuing to learn about the qualities of being a good friend during crew focusing on thoughtfulness.

3rd

Graders have been studying how experts acquire and share knowledge. They are learning how to become researchers - researching frogs. In math they are exploring a variety of strategies to complete multiplication and division problems.

4th

Graders are learning more about animal defense mechanisms and will be writing an informative essay soon. They are trying to get better at writing, making sure we have a Main Idea and the supporting details. Students are learning to apply what they know about multiplication and division to solve challenging word problems. They are also getting started on fractions.

Music: In music throughout this month we are exploring how to create music and sounds using instruments. Each grade level is working on performance songs that use boomwhackers. In third grade students are starting to play recorders this month. They are using their music reading and note recognition skills to play songs. In kindergarten through second grade students are working on their small group and individual singing skills to boost their confidence with their singing abilities.

Art: All grades are working hard practicing the skills they will need to create their final products. Kindergarten is creating artwork inspired by the weather. They are using the skills of drawing, painting, cutting and gluing. First grade is busy mastering the shapes that make up birds. Second grade is learning about symmetry and surrealism as they prepare for lifelike butterflies. Third grade is learning the parts of a landscape composition and practicing filling their composition space using different media

Exploration: Fourth grade students are completing an online course titled Vault, in which they have learned about the world of finances and making good decisions for their future. We are next diving into Healthier Me, in which they will get an introduction into wellness fundamentals; how to introduce more opportunities for physical activity into their daily lives, and choosing healthy food options.

Physical Education: Fourth and sixth grade students will finish the trimester with a Fitness unit followed by a Net/Wall games. 8th graders are finishing their GEMS Wellness Needs Assessment Proposals. Their goal is to create lasting change that will benefit the wellness of our school community.

Follow Us:



or www.GemsSchool.org

[Click here to purchase your tickets online today!](#)

Have a Heart

Celebrating 20 years of Experiential Education and Honoring our Board members, past and present



Celebrating 20 Years!

Saturday, April 4, 2020 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

at

New Location

The Boat House at Confluence Park

679 West Spring Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please contact Jennifer Waddell, waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org or 614-643-5068 with any questions.



Graham Elementary and Middle School

Standards-Based Expeditionary Curriculum!



Kindergarten Open Enrollment Night Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00pm

- Learn more about our full day kindergarten program
- Meet our kindergarten teachers
- Check out our classrooms

Graham Elementary and Middle School
140 E. 16th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201

Please call 614-253-4000 for additional information
or visit the school website: www.GEMSSchool.org

A member of The Graham Family of Schools This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Third graders reading with Ms. Sheffield's therapy and service dog, Dewey!



Click here to Follow GEMS on Instagram



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5th

Graders are continuing to learn about what human rights are. They will be interviewing a children's book author to learn about the process of making a children's book. Additionally they will interview an immigrant and tell their story in a book!

6th

Graders are starting their final product! We are taking a tour of our school to analyze its energy efficiency and writing a proposal for how we can improve it. Students will be graphing their proposal's price and savings, as well as learning about how they can help save energy at home.

7th

Graders are exploring events that have defined their lives and shaped their identity. We are working on being willing to have conversations with people who come from different backgrounds and cultures than our own. To learn about others, 7th grade is conducting interviews with members of the Columbus community at Roosevelt Coffeehouse. Students will be working hard to write tributes to these individuals centered on what they learned from the interviews.

8th

Graders are moving into final product work this month. We will continue to look at the theme of Taking a Stand with a focus on Taking a Stand for What You Stand On. Students will be looking at varying viewpoints of climate change and using that information to take a stand for climate action. 8th graders will be creating PSA commercials to inform their audience on climate change and persuading them on best ways to take action.

7th grade students visited the National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center today. They also took a campus tour of Wilberforce University, the first Historically Black College in the United States.



Silent Auction Items Needed

We are seeking items for the Have a Heart silent auction. Items could include gift cards, art work, jewelry, crafts, event tickets, and more! As you shop and talk with your friends and family please think about items that might help with this wonderful event. Please contact Jennifer Waddell, waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org or 614-643-5068 with any questions or to donate items.

Funds raised at Have a Heart will support expeditions.

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.

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Ohio's State Tests Start March 24th

GEMS begins Ohio's State Tests on Tuesday, March 24th. Please see the schedule below and help prepare your students with a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast! Attendance is very important on these days!

Tuesday, March 24, 2020	6th grade ELA, part 1	5th grade ELA, part 1
Wednesday, March 25, 2020	6th grade ELA, part 2	5th grade ELA, part 2
Thursday, March 26, 2020	7th grade ELA, part 1	4th grade ELA, part 1
Friday, March 27, 2020	7th grade ELA, part 2	4th grade ELA, part 2
Tuesday, March 31, 2020	8th grade ELA, part 1	3rd grade ELA, part 1
Wednesday, April 1, 2020	8th grade ELA, part 2	3rd grade ELA, part 2
Friday, April 10, 2020 - Friday, April 17	Spring Break - No School	
Wednesday, April 22, 2020	6th grade Math, part 1	5th grade Math, part 1
Thursday, April 23, 2020	6th grade Math, part 2	5th grade Math, part 2
Monday, April 27, 2020	8th grade Math, part 1	3rd grade Math, part 1
Tuesday, April 28, 2020	8th grade Math, part 2	3rd grade Math, part 2
Wednesday, April 29, 2020	7th grade Math, part 1	4th grade Math, part 1
Thursday, April 30, 2020	7th grade Math, part 2	4th grade Math, part 2
Monday, May 4, 2020	8th grade Science, part 1	5th grade Science, part 1
Tuesday, May 5, 2020	8th grade Science, part 2	5th grade Science, part 2

Help Us Be Good Neighbors

Please help us be good neighbors and not cut through the sorority parking lot. Due to safety concerns, **we are asking our families to drive around the block and not cut through the sorority across the street from GEMS.** Thank you for your help in this matter.

Attendance

Attention Parents/Guardians

Attendance

Attending school daily is critical to student success. Ohio's House Bill 410 law requires a preventative approach to excessive student absences. An Attendance Team has been established to work with 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!

GEMS Family Crew

At GEMS we know that involving students' families as much as we can is a great way to help kids grow. GEMS Family Crew will help facilitate volunteering and fundraising activities throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more about participating in this group please contact Jennifer Waddell at waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org.

[Click here to join the GEMS Family Crew Facebook page.](#)

Anti-Bullying Form

Please check out our 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.](#)

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GEMS Needs Your Support!

You should have received a letter about the GEMS Annual Fund. The Annual Fund provides essential resources for our school. We hope to have parents, community members, and local businesses support this important effort. [Click here to make your donation.](#) Or mail in your reply envelope. Thanks in advance for your participation!

[Click here to show your support!](#)

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: 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.

Giant Eagle

Go to: <https://www.gianteagle.com/schools/apples-for-students> to sign up online or call 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!

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.

Enrollment Information!

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.

Wednesday at 6:00pm

February 19 March 4 & 18

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.thegramschool.org

www.thecharlesschool.org

www.gemsschool.org

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."