



# GEMS

Graham Elementary and Middle School

# 2019

## Parent Newsletter

## July

### Important Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 <b>August</b>	12	13	14	15 9:00am-12:00pm Kindergarten Screeners	16	17
No School - Summer Break						
18	19 4:00-6:00pm Kindergarten Screeners	20	21	22	23	24
No School - Summer Break						
25	26 6-7:30pm Ori- entation - K, 5th grade and new 6th-8th grade families	27	28 6-7:30pm Back to School Night	29	30	31
No School - Summer Break						
						<b>First Day of School</b> Tuesday, September, 3 8:45am-3:30pm

### Have you Scheduled Your Kindergarten Screener?

We will be holding kindergarten screeners at GEMS on **Thursday, August 15th from 9:00am-12:00pm** and **Monday, August 19th from 4:00pm-6:00pm**. If you have not yet scheduled your screener, please call the GEMS front office at 614-253-4000 to do so!

Kindergarten screeners help us get to know your student before the school year starts. The process will consist of stations to check in on your student's academic skills, check hearing and vision, meet a teacher, and complete some paperwork. You will also receive a bag of goodies to help you support your student at home!

### Back to School Night - Wednesday, August 28 - 6:00-7:30pm

New and returning GEMS students are invited to come and meet teachers, receive class schedules, and drop off school supplies. Please note that this is an outdoor event!

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

Summer Front Office Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm

## School Supply Lists

[Kindergarten](#)

[1st Grade](#)

[2nd Grade](#)

[3rd Grade](#)

[4th Grade](#)

[5th-8th Grade](#)

## Bus Information for the 2019-20 School Year

- All returning GEMS families **do not** need to complete a new online application for the 2019-20 school year.
- All returning GEMS families that have moved or plan to move over the summer will need to complete an online application.
- All **new** GEMS families will need to complete an online application.



[Click here to complete the online application.](#)

Please contact CCS transportation at 614-365-5074 with any questions or concerns regarding CCS transportation routing or issues with the application system.

## 2019-2020 Registration Packet Due TODAY!

2019-2020 Registration Packets were sent home with your student(s). We ask all of our parents/guardians to complete the registration packet every year for the safety & well-being of the students. These forms are required by the Ohio Department of Education and our sponsor (ESCCO) to be updated annually or when there is a change in information regarding the student.

**Please note: your student's enrollment at GEMS is not guaranteed for the 2019-20 school year until all necessary forms are returned.** All forms are due today to secure your student's enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year.

[Click here to print another copy of the Registration Packet.](#)

In addition to the Registration Packet, we are mandated by the Ohio Department of Education to obtain a new proof of residency every school year. This can be a copy of a utility bill, lease agreement or mortgage statement. Proof of residency must be submitted on or before the first day of school. Utility bills must be dated on or after July 1, 2019.

Graham Elementary and Middle School is a public community school that is open to all Ohio students. The school has high costs each year supplying items such as technology, paper, printer ink, and class supplies that allow our students to have significant class experiences during their time at GEMS. We are asking our families to help with these expenses by making an annual school contribution of \$35.00. You can pay with credit card, cash, check or money order in person or by mail. [Click here to pay online.](#)

If you have any questions or concerns or if your student will not be returning to GEMS next school year, please contact Sarah Salvatore at [ssalvatore.1@gemsschool.org](mailto:ssalvatore.1@gemsschool.org) or at 614-253-4000. Thank you for your prompt response and continual support of our school.

## Orientation For Kindergarten, 5th Grade and New 6th-8th Grade Families Monday, August 26 - 6:00-7:30pm

Kindergarten Orientation is an opportunity for you to learn about what your student will experience this coming year and meet their kindergarten teacher!

Students entering 5th grade, or who are new to the GEMS middle school are invited to come in and meet their teachers, as well as become acclimated to the school building and the systems of the middle school!

## Summer Lunch Program

All children ages 1 through 18 are eligible to receive free meals during the summer months at participating program sites. Individuals age 19 through 21 who have been identified as having mental or physical disabilities and are following Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) through their current enrollment in educational programs are also eligible for free summer meals. Below is a sample of locations available for the summer of 2019. For a full list of locations, or a location near to you, call 1-866-3-HUNGRY(486479), or visit <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Food-and-Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program>.

- Columbus Mennonite - 35 Oakland Park Ave Columbus, OH 43214
- Maple Grove United Methodist Church - 7 W. Henderson Road Columbus, OH 43214
- The Hardy Center - 1743 E Lakeview Ave Columbus, OH 43224
- Ohio Stadium - 411 Woody Hayes Dr. Columbus, OH 43210
- Rosewind - 1400 Brooks Avenue 183 Hawkes Ave Columbus, OH 43223e Columbus, OH 43211
- Gladden Community House - 183 Hawkes Ave Columbus, OH 43223

## 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](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: 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](http://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!

### Nurse Notes

Vaccination requirements for next year:

- All incoming kindergarteners are required to have: DTap - 4 or more doses, Polio - 3 or more doses, MMR - 2 doses, HEP B - 3 doses, Varicella (Chicken Pox) - 2 doses or a history of the disease.
- All incoming 7th graders will need a TDap and one dose of the Meningococcal vaccination (MCV4).
- All students in grades 7-10 are required to have one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4).

Please take time over the summer break to make sure your student is up to date in their vaccinations. Franklin County Public Health has free vaccination clinics. Click here for more information <https://myfcph.org/health-wellness/shots/>. Ohio law states that GEMS must have valid immunization record prior to the 15th day of school or the student may be excluded from attending until it is received

### We are expanding the Parent & Guardian Group!

At GEMS we know that involving students' families as much as we can is a great way to help kids grow, so we are hoping to expand our Parent & Guardian Group next year. Are you interested in learning more about participating in this group? If so, please contact Jennifer Waddell at [waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org](mailto:waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org).

[Click here to check out the job opportunities at The Graham Family of Schools!](#)

#### \*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!

### 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 AN ADDRESS CHANGE. IF EVIDENCE IS NOT PROVIDED REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION OR A HOME VISIT MAY OCCUR.**

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.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."