



2019

Parent Newsletter

March

Important Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	25	26	27	28	29	30
March		K-2nd Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm	Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm	GEMS Is in Session	No School - PD Day	
		Ohio's State Tests - See page 6 for the testing schedule.				
31						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
April			Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm		5-8th Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm	
			Ohio's State Tests - See page 6 for the testing schedule.			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		B4U Send Event at 5:30pm FTO Meeting at 6:00pm	Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm		5-8th Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm K-4th Math with Munchies - 9-9:30am	
			Ohio's State Tests - See page 6 for the testing schedule.			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		3rd-4th Community Meeting - 2:45-3:15pm	Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm		No School - Spring Break (April 19-26)	
	Ohio's State Tests - See page 6 for the testing schedule.					

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

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

K This month in skills block students will continue to learn about long and short vowel sounds and will begin to focus on writing sentences. In modules, we will begin to learn about living and non-living things with a focus on plants and what they need to survive. Students will continue to practice writing and solving addition number sentences in math and will begin to learn about subtraction.

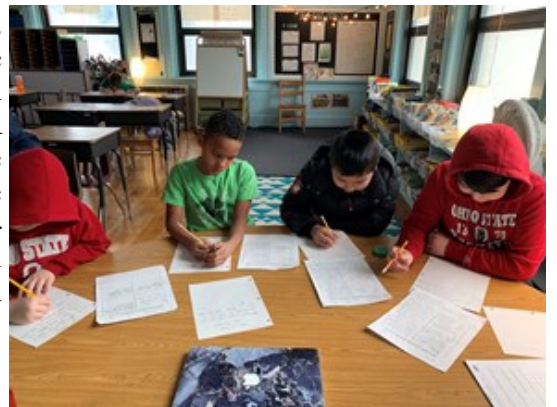


1st Graders are working hard as researchers this month. We will read multiple texts and look closely at pictures and videos to find out how birds use their feathers and their beaks to survive. In labs, we are using the Explore Lab to learn more about how birds use their feathers. We are using the Imagine Lab to recreate birdhouses and even create body parts of birds with our materials. This month, our Habits of Learning goal is to make expected choices instead of unexpected choices (Responsibility).

2nd Graders have begun working in their expert groups to learn about specific butterflies. In math, we are working on repeated addition and making groups to introduce multiplication. We are still teaching social skills and the importance of reading using Women's History texts. We have begun teaching small groups in skills block based on mid-year data.



3rd Graders have loved our unit study of Peter Pan so far! The pirates, mermaids, flying, and magic are all super fun and we are loving that we get to read every single day! The students also did an amazing job with their black history month projects where they chose one of our black history month figures, researched them, drafted a short report, and then got to type it! We're hoping that we can do more of these projects in the future. In math, we have begun our study of area including figuring out that multiplying the sides together will give us the area in square units. The class is truly doing a great job with this study! As the year is winding down we are looking forward to growing from 3rd Graders to future 4th Graders!

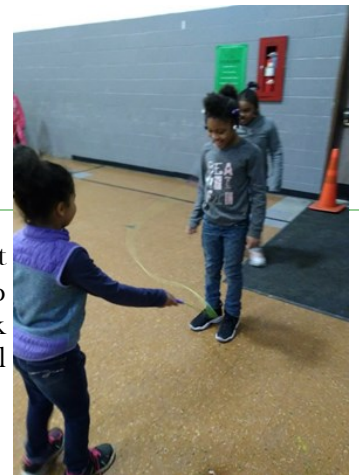


4th Graders are hard at work as they enter the final trimester before fifth grade. We recently kicked off a module on the Revolutionary War and are examining the issues of the times through the lenses of the Patriots, Loyalists, Slaves and Native Americans. In math we are studying fractions. We have learned how to find equivalent fractions and will move towards comparing fractions with different denominators. Lastly, we have started preparing for passages. We are excited to show our community and families how much we have learned this year!

Art: This March in Art, students are working with a wide variety of materials! After reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", kindergarteners are creating their own "hungry caterpillars" out of clay. First Grade read the book "Tar Beach", and they are making fabric collage scenes based on the work of the illustrator. Second Grade is drafting their butterfly study drawings and Third Grade is finishing their frog trading cards. Fourth graders learned about Aboriginal art from Australia, and will be creating their own aboriginal-themed prints.



Music: In music this trimester all classes are starting a unit on the Ukulele. We will be exploring the history of and how to play the ukulele. To start our unit off we learned about each part of the ukulele, and what it does. Now we are using "basket ukuleles" with rubber bands on them to learn how to properly pluck and strum the strings. Then we are moving on to the real deal and learning to practice and perform songs.



P.E.: Our school is participating in our annual Jump Rope Program for the AHA and issuing out a Kids Heart Challenge! The students are learning new jump rope skills and different ways to keep their hearts and minds healthy. This is a fun and exciting event for our entire school as we work together to raise donations for the American Heart Association, earn new equipment for Physical Education, and save lives together!



GEMS Student Presents at Board Meeting

6th grade student, William Mullen, shares his report with the GEMS school board about findings from the 6th grade expedition, "Watts My Impact," with specific ideas for the school to save money on costs relating to cooling the building.

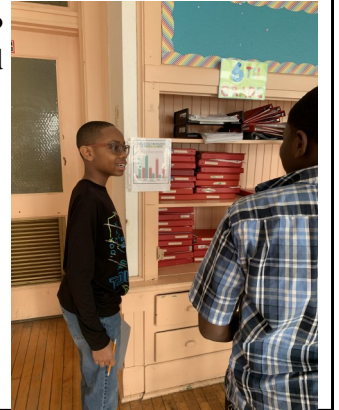
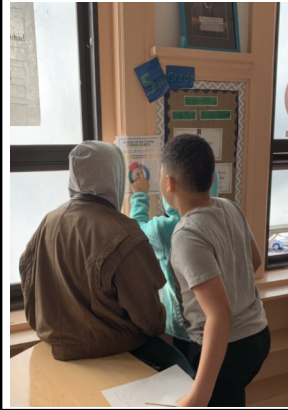
5th

Graders had our first visit to the Audubon Center to kick off our Trimester 3 expedition on ecosystems. While we were there, we applied our current knowledge about ecosystem to learn about bird migration with a game where we pretended to be birds and went on a bird hike to identify different types of birds!



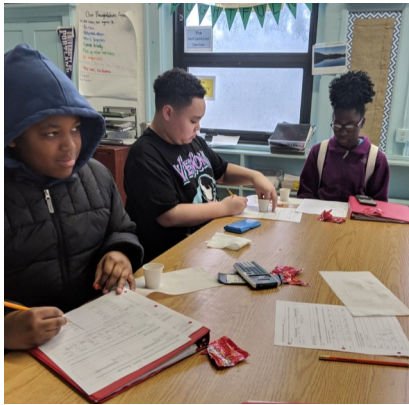
6th

Graders looked at statistics on mental health, access to mental healthcare and beliefs about the stigma around discussing mental health to kick off our new expedition!



7th

Graders students have been conducting experiments to explore the concept of probability in math class.



8th

Graders started their T3 expedition, Wheels of Change. Students completed their stairs project in math where they assessed the safety of the various staircases around the school using their knowledge of math concepts like; slope, graphing, and equations. In English, they started their expedition novels based on wartime events to gain different perspectives which will lead to their final products where they will interview veterans from The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

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!

**** REMINDER ****

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 aware you could be randomly selected to provide proof of residency during one of the required monthly random selections. Proof of residency would need to be turned in to the school within two weeks of the request. The following documents would satisfy the needs of the residency verification:

- A deed, mortgage, lease, current home owner's or renter's insurance declaration page, or current real property tax bill.
- A utility bill or receipt of utility installation issued within the last 90 days.
- A paycheck or paystub issued to the parent or student within the last 90 days that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence.
- The most current available bank statement issued to parent or student that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence.
- Any other official document issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent's or student's primary residence.

IF EVIDENCE IS NOT PROVIDED REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION OR A HOME VISIT MAY OCCUR.

B4USend - Tuesday, April 9, 5:30pm at GEMS

You are invited to a free presentation from the Ohio State Bar Association titled B4USend, an informational evening about the legal, social, and emotional consequences of cyber bullying and sexting. The presentation will be held on ***Please Note the New Date - Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30 PM.** Families of any GEMS student are invited to attend!

[Please click here to update your RSVP.](#)

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.](#)

Help GEMS Raise Money!

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!

Mr. Kutnow Goes to Romania

In mid-February, Mr. Kutnow was invited to lead professional development for a school in Iasi, Romania where his father has visited over a dozen times over the past two decades. Mr. Kutnow was invited to meet with their leadership team and then lead the entire staff in sessions that looked at how GEMS supports students especially in the use of student-engaged classroom protocols, project development, and student-led conferences!



Ohio's State Tests Start Next Week

GEMS begins Ohio's State Tests on Tuesday, March 26th. 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, March 26, 2019	8th grade ELA, part 1	5th grade ELA, part 1
Wednesday, March 27, 2019	8th grade ELA, part 2	5th grade ELA, part 2
Wednesday, April 3, 2019	7th grade ELA, part 1	4th grade ELA, part 1
Thursday, April 4, 2019	7th grade ELA, part 2	4th grade ELA, part 2
Friday, April 5, 2019	6th grade ELA, part 1	3rd grade ELA, part 1
Wednesday, April 10, 2019	6th grade ELA, part 2	3rd grade ELA, part 2
Monday, April 15, 2019	8th grade Math, part 1	5th grade Math, part 1
Tuesday, April 16, 2019	8th grade Math, part 2	5th grade Math, part 2
Wednesday, April 17, 2019	7th grade Math, part 1	4th grade Math, part 1
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

Guidance: K-4's Career day will be **Friday, May 3rd, 2019** from 1:30-3:05pm and we want your help! We want to give our students as much exposure as possible to various professions to help them begin thinking about all of the career opportunities that lie ahead of them. We are asking for family volunteers who are willing to present for our students. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please contact Courtney Smoot at Csmoot.1@gemsschool.org by no later than **Monday April 1st, 2019**.

Have a Heart Was A Success

Thank you for all who attended Have a Heart an evening in support of The Graham Family of Schools on Saturday, March 2. Guests enjoyed watching students including the GEMS step team perform, bidding on silent auction items, and listening to Steven Levy, nationally recognized education leader.



GEMS Step Team



Steven Levy



Fiona Cobun
(former GEMS
student) TCS@ODU
student played her
violin

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

March 27 April 3 April 10 April 17
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

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

GEMS BETTER WORLD DAY FOOD TRUCK PICNIC!



The Paddy Wagon



**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019
5:00 - 8:00PM**

**IN THE FRONT YARD
OF THE SCHOOL**

**140 E. 16TH AVE
COLUMBUS, OH 43201**

Words Matter: The Bullying of our LGBTQ+ Youth
Tuesday, April 16 - 6:00-8:00pm
Thomas Worthington High School Auditorium

One of The Graham School board members, who is involved with Worthington Schools, last year helped host a successful event for teachers and parents to answer a wide variety of questions relating to LBGQT issues in schools. They are holding the event again this year and have opened it up to the wider community including the staff and parents of The Graham Family Schools.

[Click here to view the evite and to RSVP.](#)