



Graham Expeditionary Middle School 2011-2012 Annual Report

Governing Authority

Graham Expeditionary Middle School is chartered in the State of Ohio and as such, is overseen by the Ohio Department of Education. Our sponsor is the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, an important partner in our work. The GEMS Board of Directors provides governance, meeting a minimum of six times per year. A schedule of meeting dates and times, as well as a record of actions taken, are kept at the school's office and are available for review by the public. Board members in 2011-12 included: **Sara Neikirk**, President, **Trent Smith**, Vice President; **Chuck Graham**, Secretary/Treasurer, **Susan Barker**, **D'Andra Mull**, and **Mari Sunami**. In addition, the school's educational partner is Expeditionary Learning, national experts in effective educational practice using an expeditionary model.

Our Mission

As a member of The Graham Family of Schools, the Graham Expeditionary Middle School (GEMS) prepares students for academic success, self-direction, lifelong learning, and commitment to community by providing intentional learning experiences that foster imagination, discovery, problem solving skills, and growing independence. With a particular mission to serve urban students, GEMS is a supportive community where students learn to care for themselves, each other and the natural world. As a school that values generosity, stewardship, and service, GEMS nurtures not only students' academic growth and confidence but also their development as compassionate citizens of a global world.

Eileen Meers	Superintendent, Executive Dean of Students
Greg Brown	Executive Dean of Academics and Administration, Principal
James Kutnow	Dean of Academics

Experiential Education Curriculum

Expeditionary Learning (EL) partners with schools, districts, and charter boards to open new schools and transform existing schools. It provides school leaders and teachers with professional development, curriculum planning resources, and new school structures to boost student engagement, character development, and achievement. GEMS works with EL to help implement the EL philosophy of education. EL exists in over 165 schools in over 30 states nationwide. The EL model is a proven success in supporting schools to develop positive school culture and higher achievement scores when compared to the school districts in which they exist.

This year students at GEMS participated in; *The Underground Railroad, A Journey to Freedom* - Students studied what freedom is and how it is attained by looking at different stories and elements of history regarding this subject from Ancient Egypt to modern day slavery. *Adventure and Survival* – Guiding questions include the following: How can you survive an adventure? What makes a person a survivor? An adventurer? Students looked at literature, events in history and science projects that sought to answer these questions. *What's My Impact/Carbon Footprint?* – A look into the environmental impact we have on the world and an examination of energy sources. *When Cultures Collide* – Students studied the Cape Verde Islands in West Africa, worked with the Columbus Global Academy and published a book of narratives on the stories of peers who have experienced a different culture than ours for most of their life. *1908* – Students studied the era when our historic building was erected and issues of the day including the work environment, labor unions, and inventors of the time. *Vernal Pools* – In partnership with Glacier Ridge MetroPark, students studied the impact of vernal pools on our ecosystem. GEMS students traveled four times to the metro park to work with a naturalist in collecting and cataloging data on specimens collected including salamander eggs, tree frogs and a variety of invertebrates.



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Student Engagement

Students participate in an anonymous technology-based engagement survey twice each school year, with the goal of further aligning the needs of the student population with the programs and processes of the school. The survey was designed to reveal the kinds and level of student engagement at the school along four Efficacy dimensions: networked computer use, self-regulated learning, academic achievement and school/community engagement. Among the most reliable predictors of student success (outside of demographics) is student engagement. The analysis of these four efficacy dimensions helps to understand how well GEMS is doing at the overall student level. What are the patterns of increases in student efficacy over time; questions that these results raise for teaching and learning at the school; and action steps that GEMS could/should take to facilitate increased school efficacy. Staff members are also surveyed with the same basic purpose.



Assessments and Results

GEMS uses the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessments. Every GEMS student participates in MAP assessments at the beginning of the school year, in January, and at the end of the school year in an effort to correctly place, evaluate and support student work. A second function of the MAP data is to capture an additional objective data set to evaluate academic growth a function of the state mandated value added measure. GEMS also administers the Ohio Achievement Assessments. In addition a variety of assessments are given in the classroom throughout the year to measure learning targets. At the end of each trimester, students make presentations demonstrating their learning.



Financial Status

In fiscal year 2011-12, the school received \$998,885 in state funds. The school also received \$409,385 in federal funds and \$63,193 in development funds, among other separated categories. Sources of income totaled \$1,480,755. In fiscal year 2011-12, the school paid for employee salaries and benefits including payroll taxes and retirement through The Graham School, GEMS's financial manager, and paid \$17,081 in lease payments to Columbus City Schools for the use of the 16th Avenue building. Uses, including the aforementioned items along with classroom support expenses, utilities, insurance and assorted services to and purchases for the school, totaled \$1,445,307 in expenses. When the current cash in bank was added to the sources, the year-end adjusted cash balance was \$6,605 to be carried over to 2012-13. The school conducts its own on-going internal financial under the direction of its Board Audit Committee and Treasurer Brian Adams, MBA, CMA, CFM, CGFM. Finances also were audited by the school's sponsor, The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio. And, the school is audited annually under the auspices of the State of Ohio Auditor's Office. All found the finances to be accurately and appropriately accounted for.



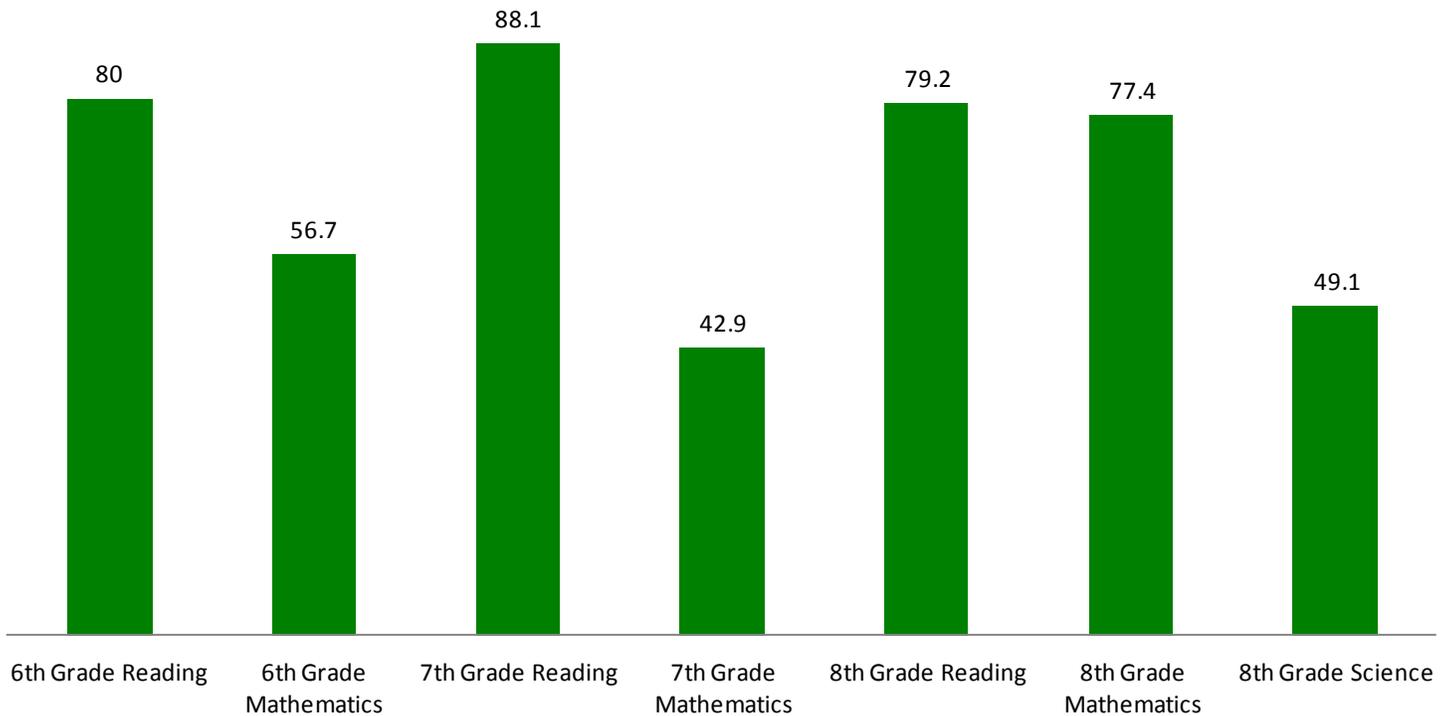
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OAA Results

The school was rated Continuous Improvement with an 86.8 performance index. GEMS met 5 out of 8 performance measures, and met Adequate Yearly Progress goals. GEMS has seen growth in its state scores, increasing proficiency from 2 to 5 out of 8 indicators. GEMS had a student attendance rate of 94.4 percent, the state requirement is 93.0 percent.

A state requirement in Ohio is passage of all parts (Reading, Mathematics, and Science) of the Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA). All 6th graders must pass Reading and Mathematics, 7th graders must pass Reading and Mathematics and 8th graders must pass Reading, Mathematics and Science. The OAA is a statewide testing requirement.

OAA Passing Rate Percentages



Staff for the 2011-12 school year

Debbie Addison	Mike Butsko	Sean Joseph	Myra Molnar	Michael Taylor
Hadley Bachman	Cathy Carrico	James Kutnow	Dawn Ramsey	Destanie VanDyne
Michael Beard	Brittani Davis	Katie Logan	Cory Righter	Jennifer Waddell
Greg Brown	Jeff Grunewald	Cheryl Long	Lauren Schell	Stephanie Waldeck
Judy Butsko	Jisuka Hessler	Eileen Meers	Rachelle Smith	Lauren Wosiak



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Outstanding Students

At the end of each term, we have an awards ceremony. We also have one at the end of the year.

Trimester 1		Trimester 2		Trimester 3	
Exemplary Citizen	Christopher Burford & Ashley Michaels	Exemplary Citizen	Stephanie Farmer Jacob Merz Daujee Scott Hana Yencer	Exemplary Citizen	Michaela Clem-Jacobs Juwan Gripper
Expedition Leader	Michaela Clem-Jacobs	Expedition Leader	Andie Carter Max Wright	Expedition Leader	Tyler Hogans Xavier Rivas Alex Thompson Andrea Zerkle
Golden Ruler	Holdan Thompson	Golden Ruler	Arielle Anderson Nico Buoni Alex Vazquez	Golden Ruler	Kyla Blackenberry Eric Miller Toby Smith

End of Year Awards

English Award	Raen Walmark
Behavior Golden Ruler	Eric Miller
Math	Jacob Merz Alex Thompson
Reading Award	Lydia Crowder
Reach for the Stars	Adeva McKenzie Anyha Wharton
Science	Sammi Stoner
Social Studies	Norman Williams
True GEM	Nora Bell Hana Yencer
True North	Christopher Burford



Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors as well as the generous individuals who supported Have a Heart:

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Nina Brand
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Camille Farmer

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Kris Kuzora
Sara Neikirk
Mari Sunami
Dorothy Turnbo