



GEMS

Graham Elementary and Middle School

2019

Parent Newsletter

August

Important Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11	19 4:00-6:00pm Kindergarten Screeners	20	21	22	23	24 GEMS Fall Clean Up 9:00am- 12:00pm
No School - Summer Break						
August						
25	26 6-7:30pm Ori- entation - K, 5th grade and new 6th-8th grade	27	28 6-7:30pm Back to School Night for K- 8th graders	29	30	31
No School - Summer Break						
1	2 No School - Labor Day	3 First Day of School 8:45am-3:30pm	4	5	6	7 Save the Date GEMS Family Crew meeting Tues, Sept. 10 - 6:30-7:15pm
September						

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!

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.

Families will have a chance to tour classrooms. On the front lawn, there will be lots of fun activities to enjoy!

Please bring any student information/paperwork that have not yet been submitted.

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

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

GEMS Online Store

The GEMS Store is open! You can now pay school fees (\$35) and lunch balance online at the Store.

[Click here to pay online at the Store.](#)

GEMS Fall Clean-Up Day

Saturday, August 24 - 9:00am-12:00pm

Join us for GEMS Fall Clean Up Day! We will be working inside and outside, weeding, raking, painting, classroom set-up, etc.

Please contact the Front Office with any questions 614-253-4000.

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 Returning Student Registration Packet.](#)

[Click here to print another copy of the NEW Student 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 please contact LeMoyne Jackson at ljackson.1@gemsschool.org or at 614-253-4000. Thank you for your prompt response and continual support of our school.

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 through out the year. If you interested in learning more about participating in this group. Please contact Jennifer Waddell at waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org.

Join us at the GEMS Family Crew meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 6:30-7:15pm in the school library.

School Supply Lists

[Kindergarten](#)

[1st Grade](#)

[2nd Grade](#)

[3rd Grade](#)

[4th Grade](#)

[5th-8th Grade](#)

Bus Information for the 2019-20 School Year

- Returning GEMS families **do not** need to complete a new online application for the 2019-20 school year.
- 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 bus routing or issues with the application system.

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!

Nurse Notes

Vaccination requirements for this school 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 and 8th graders will need a TDap and one dose of the Meningococcal vaccination (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 records prior to the 15th day of school or the student may be excluded from attending school until it is received

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!

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 with any questions.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."