## Important Dates

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<td>5-8th Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm</td>
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### February

- **17**: No school - Presidents Day
- **18**: No school - Presidents Day
- **19**: 3-4th Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm
- **20**: 4-5th Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm
- **21**: Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm
- **22**: Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm
- **23**: Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm
- **24**: First Day of Trimester 3
- **25**: First Day of Trimester 3
- **26**: K-2nd Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm
- **27**: Enrollment Information Session at 6:00pm
- **28**: No School - PD Days
- **29**: No School - PD Days
- **30**: Full Day School
- **31**: No School - PD Days

### March

- **1**: No School - PD Days
- **2**: Have a Heart - 6:00-9:00pm
- **3**: First Day of Trimester 3
- **4**: First Day of Trimester 3
- **5**: First Day of Trimester 3
- **6**: First Day of Trimester 3
- **7**: First Day of Trimester 3
- **8**: 5-8th Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm
- **9**: 5-8th Community Meeting - 2:45 -3:15pm

**GEMS 140 E. 16th Ave. Columbus, OH 43201 - 614-253-4000**
In skills block, kindergarten will be starting to spell Consonant-vowel-consonant words and will continue to practice writing sentences. In math, students will become experts on comparing groups using more than, less than, and the same as. In the upcoming weeks, we will also be starting solving and writing addition sentences. In modules, students are continuing to study the weather and we will have a meteorologist visiting to help students become experts on reporting the weather.

Students are becoming writers during Modules and Labs. Students have been taking facts learned about the sun, moon, stars, planets and changing them into poems and riddles. It has been a fun learning experience. In math we have continued to enhance our adding and subtracting of math facts to 40. In skills block we continue to become readers by working hard at learning different phonics sounds to make words. It is busy in first grade!

Graders are learning about the differences between butterflies and moths, and butterfly adaptations and defenses. In math, we are working on three-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. We are still teaching social skills and the importance of reading using Black History texts. We have finished mid-year assessments and will begin teaching small groups in skills block and math based on this data.

This has been a wonderful trimester full of freaky frogs, properties of multiplication, and getting back to the basic of school. We have especially enjoyed studying about the Amazon Horned Frog (who we got to see at the zoo on our most recent field work), the Water Holding Frog, and the Flying Frog. All of our studies are to answer the guiding questions “How do frogs survive?” “What do experts do?” and “How do I build expertise on a topic?” Looking forward to finishing this trimester strong and entering our third and final trimester learning about literary classics and Peter Pan!
Graders are still studying animal defense mechanisms. After collecting and organizing research, both fourth grade classes have begun to draft an informational paragraph about a specific animal. This week we will focus on giving and receiving peer feedback to one another in addition to strengthening our writing through the editing process. In math, we are in the middle of a geometry unit and learning about shapes and angles. We have loved working with protectors and are showing great progress!

**Music:** In fourth grade we are finishing up our unit on recorders this month and working towards playing a song together as a class! In third grade and first grade we are continuing to learn songs on boomwhackers and performing them as a class. We are working on playing songs while reading the music on the music staff in third grade. In first grade we are working and playing as a group and playing our parts within the beat of the music. In kindergarten we are learning a song about the weather in the different seasons throughout the year and about the musical instruments that are used to create sounds that you find in nature like rain and thunder!

**Art:** In art this month, Kindergarten is creating rain sticks using tempera paint and recycled cardboard tubes. They will be using these handmade instruments in music! First graders have been learning about ancient cave art and are in the process of creating their own 'cave drawings' with chalk pastel. Second grade is studying abstract art and applying their learning to a tile project. These tiles will be used to produce coasters available at the Have a Heart fundraiser. Third graders are working on realistic frog drawings that will be turned into trading cards for their module final product.

**P.E.:** In Physical Education, 2nd graders completed a fitness unit. We practiced building cardio endurance through a tag game, building muscular strength and endurance through push-ups, curl-ups, and the climbing wall, and improved our flexibility through yoga. Students learned fitness, with a bit of nutrition knowledge, can be fun! What fun fitness activities can you do as a family? We will move into jumping rope next as we prepare for Jump Rope for Heart.

**Guidance:** In K-4 guidance students will be learning about safety. They will be learning and discussing who their trusted adults are, how to stay safe if a stranger approaches them. And students will be learning the importance of cybersafety.

In 8th grade guidance students are beginning their career exploration research! Students are looking at different aspects of a job they are interested in, this includes the skills that are needed for their career, the amount of education they need, and other important information! Also, on February 26th from 9:10am-11:30am 8th grade students are going on High School tours of The Graham School & The Charles School.
This trimester, students will have the opportunity to present their interpretations and art pieces related to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Columbus Library Main Branch on **Monday, March 4th**. Please join us from 10:00am-12:00pm as students present to the community and enjoy lunch downtown! RSVP to our Celebration of Learning at [5thGradeCOLT2.rsvpify.com](https://5thGradeCOLT2.rsvpify.com)

**5th**

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**6th**

Please save the date for our second trimester Celebration of Learning! At our Celebration of Learning we will explain what we studied during the trimester and show off our final products. The 6th grade COL this trimester will be **March 14th at 6 pm** at GEMS. We hope to see you there!

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**7th**

Thiossane West African Dance Institute taught our 7th grade students and step club about traditional West African music, culture and dances.

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**8th**

Dr. Barbara Lehman and Dr. Daniel Lehman came to speak to 8th graders about their work with Peacemaker Teams in Palestine and Israel. Their expert presentation kicked off the 8th grade final product where students will create PSAs (Public Service Announcements) on a topic of choice that they want to take a stand for.

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**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.](https://www.gemschool.org)

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**Attention Parents/Guardians**

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!
Please join The Graham Family of Schools for

**Have a Heart**

Saturday, March, 2019 - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

at Peace Hall, Ohio Dominican University

Featuring educational speaker Steven Levy

Invitations have been mailed out. Don’t miss this great event! Mail in your RSVP card today!

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

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**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](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 number! 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](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4350069) to get started!

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**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**

February 27  March 13  March 27

AT

The Graham School  The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University  GEMS

For more information please visit the school’s websites

[www.thegrahamschool.org](http://www.thegrahamschool.org)  [www.thecharlesschool.org](http://www.thecharlesschool.org)  [www.gemsschool.org](http://www.gemsschool.org)
SPIRIT WEEK

Next week, dress up with us to show GEMS spirit and have fun!

TUESDAY, FEB 19: PAJAMA DAY

WEDNESDAY, FEB 20: SPORTS TEAM DAY

THURSDAY, FEB 21: HAT DAY

FRIDAY, FEB 22: GRYPHON SPIRIT DAY

Don't worry- We will have a spirit week in the spring as well.
My name is Ms. Phyllis Peterson. I have a B.S. in Math-Science from The Ohio State University and my Master of Education in Mathematics Education from Bowling Green State University. I grew up in the famous Glenville Community of the East Side of Cleveland, but was born in another state. I had the opportunity to attend high school in a totally different community than Glenville - Northfield, MN. I have lived in other states.

I have an interest in researching the things of interest to me, and I also have an interest in the Arts. My motto is to "To treat other human beings the way you want to be treated and try to live positively and peacefully."

L. M. Sheffield is our new third grade teacher. With more than 15+ years of PK-12, higher education, and organizational leadership experience in building relationships, teaching and coaching, designing and founding schools, shepherding professional learning communities, and facilitating startups, turnarounds, and strategic initiatives, Ms. Sheffield’s devotion to lifelong learning and leadership have taken her around the globe.

Ms. Sheffield’s roots in education began with teaching in grades 2-5 and graduate school in Cleveland, Ohio and later designing and coaching Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound [ELOB] schools in Ohio, Massachusetts, Georgia, and West Virginia. Before joining GEMS, Ms. Sheffield served as an education and leadership coach in PK-12 communities in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast until Hurricane’s Florence and Michael brought her back to Ohio.

Whether guiding learners in and outside the classroom, growing teachers and leaders, or serving the needs of others in the community - Ms. Sheffield’s focus is on engaging and equipping next generation learners and leaders by connecting one-to-one, in the community, and around the world.

Other roles Ms. Sheffield has held: Founding Board Member of The National Teachers College and President of Learning Forward Ohio in which she helped spearhead the adoption of the Professional Learning Standards by the Education Standards Board and Ohio Department of Education. As Director of Professional Learning with Scholastic, Inc. & the International Center for Leadership in Education, she led and implemented 21st century, competency-based learning and leadership initiatives with a focus on rigor, relevance, and relationships. Under the auspices of the Governor’s Literacy Task Force and the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Voices Programs, she served as a Transformational Leadership Coach and Project Leader facilitating and implementing professional learning, literacy, and social-emotional initiatives to increase learner engagement and language acquisition in PK-12 schools in the US, Fiji, and South Africa.

Ms. Sheffield holds undergraduate degrees in English and design & historic preservation, graduate degrees in education and leadership, a professional teaching and principal license [K-8] from the Ohio Department of Education, and postgraduate certifications in executive leadership and coaching from Cornell.

Ms. Sheffield is a bookworm, loves building things, growing gardens, spending time on the water, and serving schools, libraries, and hospitals with her yellow lab, Dewey, a certified service + therapy, canine companion.

Hello, my name is Laura Rapp, and I am GEMS new Technology and Design teacher for the remainder of the school year! I’m a Columbus native, recently moved back into the area from a stint taking care of a family farm. I’m excited to be here, and look forward to an exciting year of changes!