



Office: 597-3226

A Greencastle-Antrim Middle School Publication

Fall 2018

Upcoming Events

September

- 3 – **Labor Day – No School**
- 4 – School Fundraiser begins – Kickoff Assembly
- 5 – School Fundraiser – Reach-Out Books due
- 5 – Newcomer’s Meeting
- 7 – “Social Media” Assembly presented by PA office of Attorney Gen.
- 11 – 9/11 Remembrance Day
- 12 – School Picture Day
- 12 – Newcomer’s Pizza Party
- 13 – MAP Testing – 7th grade – Science
- 14 – MAP Testing – 7th grade - Science
- 17 – “Constitution” and “Citizenship” Day
- 17 – MAP Testing – 8th grade – Blue team
- 18 – School Fundraiser ends
- 18 – MAP Testing – 8th grade – Gold team
- 19 – “THINK” Meeting
- 20 – MAP Testing – 8th grade – White team
- 21 – MAP Testing – 7th grade – Gold team
- 24 – MAP Testing – 7th grade – Blue team
- 25 – MAP Testing – 7th grade – White team
- 26 - 28 – MAP Testing – 6th grade

October

- 2 – Yearbook Fundraiser begins
- 8 – **No School/Vacation**
- 9 – **Act 80 Day – 2 Hour Delay for Students**
- 11 – Parent Conference Day – (no early dismissal)
- 16 – 18 – Book Fair
- 18 - School Fundraiser Order Pick Up – 3:00 -5:30 @ MS cafeteria
- 18 – Parent Conference Day – **Early dismissal at 12:45**
- 18 – Yearbook Fundraiser ends
- 19 – **Early Dismissal @ 12:45**
- 22 – Red Ribbon Week Kickoff Assembly
- 22 – 26 – “Red Ribbon” Week
- 24 – 2nd Marking Period Begins
- 24 – “THINK” Meeting
- 25 – School Picture make-up day
- 26 – “Make a Difference” Day

November

- 7 – “THINK” Meeting
- 9 – Fundraiser Reward – Movie Theater Trip
- 12 - Veterans’ Day Activities
- 12–16 – American Education Week
- 19 – Yearbook Fundraiser Order Pick-Up – 3:00 – 5:30 @ MS cafeteria
- 21 – School Fundraiser Reward Trip to Skating Rink
- 21 – **Early Dismissal @ 12:45**
- 22–27 – **No School – Thanksgiving Vacation**
- 28 – **Act 80 Day – NO school**
- 30 – Grade Level Spelling Bee – 6th grade

From the desk of Mrs. Martin:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Greencastle-Antrim Middle School. I am excited for the new year and I have enjoyed reconnecting with the seventh and eighth grade students as well as meeting many new sixth grade students. Our theme for this year is "Inspire", and I am looking forward to finding ways to inspire the students as well as working with them to seek ways to inspire one another. I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know you, and to another great year at the Greencastle-Antrim Middle School.

Mrs. Ashley Martin
Mrs. Ashley Martin
Assistant Principal
Greencastle-Antrim Middle School
717-597-3226 / anmartin@gcasd.org



Homework Support Program

Greencastle-Antrim Middle School will again be offering homework support to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders beginning Tuesday, August 28th. Support will be offered every Tuesday, and Thursday from 2:35 p.m. until 3:50 p.m. On those days, announcements will remind students that Mrs. Forrester will hold it in her room, 109. Students will be responsible for bringing necessary materials applicable to subject of need. Parents are responsible for transportation home from school. For more information, please contact Fred Yelton, Guidance Counselor at 597-3226, ext. 20521.



Attendance Matters

Here are some things to keep in mind concerning your child's attendance:

1. A written excuse provided by parent/guardian/doctor must be provided within 3 days of the absence and turned in to Mrs. Douglas at reception. Please include your child's first and last name on all attendance notes. Absence forms are available on the school website www.gcasd.org under the parent tab, then click on Forms.
2. If your child has an appointment, submit a written note with the time that you would like your child to be dismissed and have them turn it in to reception first thing in the morning.
3. If you are taking a family trip, a minimum of 5 days prior to that trip, an Educational Trip form must be turned in for approval by a building administrator. This form may be picked up at the reception window or student services. It can also be found on our website www.gcasd.org under the parent tab, and then click on Forms.

In addition, if you are dropping off something for your student (lunch box, planner, gym clothes, etc...), please note that we do not interrupt instructional time to call your student to pick up their items. Your student will be called during our mid-morning announcements at **11:00 am**. Should they need their item prior to the mid-morning announcements, it is their responsibility to check at reception in between classes.

Your child's attendance is important to his/her success! Should you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Mrs. Melissa Shuey
Assistant Principal
717-597-3226 x 20512

Guidance Department Information from Mr. Yelton

NEWCOMERS GROUP

Fred Yelton, Guidance Counselor at the middle school will be running a "Newcomers Group," for all students that are new to the district in grades 6-8 this year. We will meet every Wednesday for the first four weeks of school. Our third meeting will be a field trip exploring the wonderful historical sites around Greencastle. It will end with a stop at Mikies Ice Cream for free Ice Cream! The trip is sponsored by Marty Boscolo, owner of Mikies. We end with a "pizza party," on the 4th meeting. Mr. Yelton will continue to run the group throughout the remainder of the year on a less frequent basis. The group is formed to support the students during what can be a very difficult time. The students are given time to ask questions and receive information that is important for their success, it also gives the students a feeling of belonging. Research shows that when students feel like they belong, their chance of success is much higher. For more information, please contact Fred Yelton at 597-3226, ext. 20521.

IS IT HARASSMENT?

Greencastle-Antrim Middle School in conjunction with Women In Need (W.I.N) will be offering the program, "Is it Harassment," to all 7th grade classrooms. Students will learn about all forms of harassment, focusing on mutual respect, as well as the impact that harassment has on victims. Through interactive discussions and activities, students will also become familiar with the dynamics of harassment, what the law says about harassment, as well as learn to tell the difference between flirting and sexual harassment. Program dates will be 8/31, 9/6, 9/14, 9/17, 9/18, 9/18. For more information, contact Fred Yelton, Guidance Counselor at 597-3226, ext. 20521.

PAL (Pupil Assistance Lines)

P.A.L. (Pupil Assistance Lines) teams are in schools all across Pennsylvania working to help students facing problems that stand in the way of learning. We are a specially trained team of educators comprised of teachers, nurses, counselors and administrators that are here to support students having major problems in any of the following areas:

Family Problems; Feeling Low; Worries and Fears; Drug or Alcohol; School Problems; Sexual Issues; and Hostility/Anger. For more information, please contact Fred Yelton, Guidance Counselor at 597-3226, ext. 20521.

RED RIBBON WEEK ACTIVITIES



Greencastle Antrim Middle School recognizes and celebrates National Red Ribbon Week. The dates will be Oct. 22–26. Red Ribbon Week was started in 1989 to honor the tragic death of DEA agent Kiki Camarena. GAMS activities include daily anti-drug announcements, homeroom anti-drug message poster contests, daily fun dress up days, and an anti-drug assembly presented by a representative from the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General. Any questions, please contact Mr. Yelton at 597-3226, ext. 20521



CAREER CRUISING INTEREST INVENTORY

All students at Greencastle-Antrim Middle School will have the opportunity to take the Career Cruising Interest Inventory, which is a test designed to give the student an idea of what type of career they may be suited for. It is a nationally recognized middle school based questionnaire that is based on the student's responses and takes about 45 minutes to complete. When the test is complete, the students actually self-score so they have their results immediately. They will be given passwords so that the parents and the child can access this great resource at home. The Career Cruising Inventory will be given in October and will be administered in their Social Studies class. For more information, contact Fred Yelton at 717-597-3226, ext. 20521 or visit www.careercruising.com

BULLYING TRAINING

Greencastle-Antrim Middle School in conjunction with Women In Need (W.I.N) will be offering the program, "Bullying," to all 6th grade classrooms. It is important for students to learn how to deal with Bullying and what they can do to help prevent it in our school. The Bullying Program uses a video and discussion to talk about techniques on how to handle a Bully, as well as how to be a good bystander. Program dates will be 8/31, 9/17, 9/18. For more information contact Fred Yelton, Guidance Counselor at 597-3226, ext. 20521.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR SCHOOL

"Great American" School Fundraiser!!!

It is time for our school fundraiser! This year, it will be bigger and better! In addition to magazines, the sales catalog this year also contains things like gift items, candy and jewelry as well as Virginia Diner Peanuts. Also, new this year, NFL and NCAA Fan Flags will be for sale! The "kick-off" assembly is September 4th. Reach Out books are due the next day on the 5th. (The Reach Out books purpose is to have addresses of friends and family not in the Greencastle area that may be interested in purchasing something). Sale will end, and all orders are due by Sept. 18th. Orders will be delivered to GAMS on October 18th and will be available for you to pick up from 3:00 - 5:30p.m. in our cafeteria. Please refer to the parent letter that is included with your child's order packet for more information and the exact prize rewards. Please help your child reach his/her selling goal to earn prizes and help GAMS at the same time!

Any questions, please contact Robin Frost at
rfrost@gcasd.org or call 717-597-3226, ext. 20520



Welcome back to the start of a new school year and to a new year of A+ School Rewards! This year's A+ Program runs from September 7, 2018 through March 16, 2019.

Our school Greencastle-Antrim Middle School ID#: **20203** has the opportunity to participate in and earn **CASH** from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through your local Giant!

Former Supporters:

You DO NOT need to re-register your card if your school selection(s) remains the same as last year.

New Supporters or Existing Supporters Wishing to Make Changes:

- Beginning *August 3, 2018*, visit giantfoodstores.com and select "SIGN IN" at the top right to log into your online account. Once logged in, select "MY ACCOUNT", followed by "MANAGE MY ACCOUNT", then "REWARDS & SAVINGS" to select your school.
- If you do not have an online account, visit giantfoodstores.com and click "REGISTER". Follow the prompts to create your online account. Once logged in, follow the same instructions as noted above.
- You'll need your 11-digit BONUSCARD® number and the School ID number. If you need assistance, call 1-888-814-4268 option 1.

To earn points:

- Use your registered BONUSCARD® each time you shop at any Giant, and you will earn CASH for our school. You can confirm your school selection by logging into your account.
- At the end of each month, your points are calculated and converted to CASH rewards. These CASH rewards for our school are updated monthly. You can track our progress when you sign in to your online account.
- Our school will receive one CASH rewards check at the end of the program and can use this cash for any of our educational needs.

Please bring us your “Box Tops for Education”



Language Arts Happenings

This fall students at GAMS will participate in the preliminary rounds of the 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Students will take written spelling tests in their Language Arts classes to determine the best spellers in each class. From there, the best spellers in each grade will compete to earn spots for the GAMS Spelling Bee, which will take place on Monday December 17. See Mr. Mowery with questions. Good luck spellers!

This fall students from GAMS are invited to participate in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, sponsored by the Greencastle VFW Ladies' Auxiliary. This year's theme is "Why I Honor the American Flag." Any sixth, seventh, or eighth grader is eligible for the monetary prizes: \$100 for first, \$75 for second, \$50 for third, and \$25 for fourth. The essay must be between 300-400 words and should be typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman (or similar) font. Students may use research in the essay but may not include images or any identifying information (student's name, name of school, name of town, or name of state). Essays are due to Mr. Mowery (room 210) by Thursday October 25. See Mr. Mowery with questions. Good luck writers!

Welcome to **Destiny - GAMS On-Line Library**

The Middle School's Book Depository is an “**on-line library only**” which supports the students, faculty and staff for research needs whether it be for recreational, creative, empowering, inspiring, informative or developmental reading.

The School District's goal is to provide support for students to be effective users of information and technology and to promote them to be life-long learners and readers.

- The Library Media Assistant will conduct numerous Scavenger Hunts throughout the school year to make students, faculty and staff members aware of the various books available for check out.
- Rollout for this school year will be **September 2018** and continues until April 30, 2019.
- The “Library Book Return Mail Box” is in the upper main lobby near the book store.
- GAMS On-Line Library will close in April 1st.
- The how to “Hold” (Check out Books) instruction is located on the Middle School intranet <http://intranet.gcasd.org/ms.html>
 - Click on “Destiny” in the Docs area *or*
 - Click on the “Destiny icon” under Applications
 - Click on “Greencastle-Antrim Middle School”
 - Click on “How to Check Out Books”
- The “library book return mailbox” is located in the main lobby.



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” — [Dr. Seuss, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!](#)

News from the Nurse

6th and 7th Graders' Due Date Reminders

Reminder 6th graders:

- * All 6th graders submit a 6th grade physical exam form. They are due on 12/14/18.
- * All 6th graders can submit a green dental card. They will be due in March of their 7th grade year.
- * Immunization Requirements for 6th grade students entering 7th grade in the 2019/2020 school year. The school must have proof of these vaccines or exemptions prior to the start of the 7th grade year.
- * 1 dose of Meningococcal vaccine
- * 1 dose of Tdap if 5 years since the last dose

Reminder 7th graders:

- * All 7th graders submit a dental form. They are due on 3/15/19.

***All forms are on the district web site under the parent tab.**

Benefits of Good Health is Limitless

Follow these suggestions:

❖ *Avoid alcohol, illegal drugs and smoking*



❖ *Exercise sixty minutes at least five times a week*



❖ *Eat healthy foods*



❖ *Wear a bike helmet when riding your bike*



❖ *Sleep at least eight hours each night*



❖ *Buckle up every time you ride in a car*



Middle School Band

Welcome back GAMS Band students. I am looking forward to the new school year. Everyone should be practicing the march "Valley Forge" and "Star Spangled Banner". Extra copies are available in the band room and on Dr. Plum's website.

The band will have a busy fall. We start the year by giving back to the community during a community outreach project on September 13th. The first public performance will be Saturday, October 13th during the high school's home marching band show. We will also perform the "Star Spangled Banner" at a home football game on Friday, October 19th. The last performance of the fall will be the Greencastle Christmas Parade on November 18th.

Middle School Chorus

- Select Vocal Ensemble/District Workshop – September 19 to Messiah College (van leaves at 2:30). Please contact Mrs. Roz Bingaman for cost and details.
- Franklin/Fulton Music Educators Choral Festival @ Southern Fulton HS – November 2 and 3. Auditions will be scheduled in September. Afterschool rehearsals will be Tuesdays from 2:30-3:00.
- Holiday Christmas Choral Concert – December 10. 6th – 12th grade combined concert.



Do you think you are good at math? Would you like to test yourself against the best in the region? State? Nation? Want to win an all-expenses paid trip to Florida? GAMS is offering the opportunity to be part of the MATHCOUNTS Competition team!

MATHCOUNTS is a national program that provides students the opportunity to compete in live, in-person math contests. It is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Students will have practice once a week on Tuesday from 2:30-3:20 in preparation for the regional competition in February.

See or email Mr. Geesaman; ageesaman@gcasd.org or Ms. Durofchalk; jdurfochalk@gcasd.org for more details.



School Bookstore

Did you know that GAMS has a school bookstore? It is open Monday thru Friday 10:45 to 11:04 (during anchor period) and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 7:20 to 7:30. They carry, pencils, pens, notebooks, 3 ring binders, folders, locker accessories, and most recently added chilled bottled water! Regular water is \$.50 and flavored water is \$1.00.



~ Lost and Found ~

If your child is missing any personal items or school items, they can check in our lost and found.

- Lost and found is located in the cafeteria near the windows.
- Lost & found items will be removed on the last school day of each month.



Saturday, September 8th, 6:00-9:00pm - Greencastle United Recognition Night
Greencastle United soccer players are admitted into the GAHS Boys Soccer Game for free and will be recognized prior to kickoff.

Tuesday, September 18th, 6:00-9:00pm - Greencastle AYSO Recognition Night
Greencastle AYSO soccer players are admitted into the GAHS Boys Soccer Game for free and will be recognized prior to kickoff.

WORDS FROM WELLNESS DEPARTMENT

We hope that your child is enjoying Wellness class at the middle school! We strive to be as active as possible and will be taking advantage of using multiple locations to stay healthy. These areas include the gym, fields, track, cardio room, health classroom, and our brand new Student Council- funded Fitness Center. All students should be prepared with gym clothes and sneakers each day, and sweat shirts and/or sweatpants, as the weather gets cooler. Please reiterate at home that nothing should be left unlocked during class or day-to-day. Students who do not have a lock on their gym locker should take their clothes back and forth each day. Girls may buy locks throughout the year from their Wellness teacher for \$6, and uniforms can be purchased in the main office for \$12. If your child's size is back ordered, we ask that they bring a change of clothes for Wellness until the uniform arrives. As we emphasize safety, no jewelry of any kind may be worn during class. Students must sit out of class (and lose points) if jewelry is worn. No tape or bandaids over jewelry are permitted. Summer is probably the best time to get a new piercing so it has time to heal, and your child does not have to worry about removing jewelry every day. Everyone should bring deodorant for their locker, however, no sprays or glass is allowed. We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Have a Healthy and Active Fall!!

Ms. Brookens, Mrs. Barkdoll, Mr. Layton, and Mr. Eby





Boost Bus Safety

Get your child on board with school bus safety! To avoid dangerous situations and accidents, students must follow bus safety rules and procedures. First, review your school's specific bus rules and procedures with your children. Then, make sure they understand these general bus safety principles.

Board the bus safely. Students should walk, not run, to the bus stop. While waiting for the bus, children should stay in a safe spot away from the road. Remind your child never to never speak to strangers at the bus stop. When the bus arrives, students should wait their turn to board and never push or shove on the stairs. Students should ask the driver for help if they drop something while getting on or off the school bus.

Follow the driver's rules. Explain to your child that drivers have to focus on the road to keep students safe. Distracting the driver, even for a second, could put all the riders in danger. Remind students to treat drivers with respect, and always follow printed rules or the driver's procedures—especially in case of an emergency.

Keep the bus calm and quiet. Students should find a seat quickly and stay in it. Many schools have a code of conduct for the bus—go over it with your child to make sure he or she understands the behaviors that are acceptable and unacceptable. Behaviors that might seem "cool" (waving one's arms out the window, for instance) can put your child's, and other children's, safety at risk. Enforce tough punishment if your child exhibits bad bus behavior. Students should never throw things on the bus or out the windows, or play with emergency exits. Make sure students know to use their "inside voices," and never play loud music on the bus.

Watch for bullying behavior. Alert the bus driver if students on the bus are harassing your child. School bus drivers are not counselors, but they are there to transport students safely. You can work with them to find a solution to problems.

Avoid the "danger zone." Children should wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off, and use the handrails. When crossing in front of the bus, children should take five giant steps away from the bus, make eye

contact with the driver, and cross when the driver indicates that it's safe. Teach your child to look both ways before crossing, and to stay away from the wheels of the bus.

Listen and report. Remind your child to tell you if they notice something odd or unsafe on the bus, such as the driver seeming impaired or students bullying one another. If your child tells you about any inappropriate behavior, speak to your principal.



Web Resources

The **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** has a bus safety pledge students can take.
www.nhtsa.gov/parents/parents-bus.html

Visit **SafeKids.org** for factsheets on bus accidents and safety statistics.
www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/school-bus-safety

Your state's **Department of Transportation** website may have state-specific guidelines or activities related to bus safety.