

F A L L 2 0 1 5

# Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



## GMS's Excellence: Gold Ribbon, Title I Achievement, AVID National Demo Site

As you may have already heard, GMS received some awesome recognition recently. Earlier this year GMS was recognized by the state of California as a Gold Ribbon School of Excellence. This put us in the top 12% of all middle schools throughout the entire state. The state also recognized us as a Title I Academic Achievement Award School. Once again, this is the state's way of recognizing us as one of the top middle schools throughout California. We are very happy and equally humbled by this prestigious recognition, but we want to stay hungry and always improve so our kids benefit academically.

## Principal's Corner

I want to take the time to welcome you to a new school year at GMS. We have many exciting things for the 2015-2016 school year that we want to share with you. You will read about our state and nationally recognized programs, our Chromebook program, and our school sports program. But we also want to share some of the other important programs at GMS too.

We are very excited to have Mr. Dan Honeycutt serve as our GMS coach, as he will continue to support our at-risk students as well as help with technology and he will support our teachers as they learn new and successful ways to help our kids with the Common Core Standards. We also implemented a program that is similar to WUHSD, which we call Mind the Red-Binder Check Mondays. This program will help our kids get support with their grades and missing assignments. As I have said before, "Come see the difference at Graves Middle School!"

### Save the Date!

Parent/Teacher Conferences  
**November 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**  
Please make an appointment with your child's teachers. Minimum day schedule, students released at 1:20 pm

Trimester 1 Ends  
**11/6/15**  
Our first trimester ends Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, so please be on the lookout for advisory cards and report cards shortly after Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

School Site Council  
**11/12/15**  
Join us for the SSC meeting in the Parent Center from 3:00-4:00 pm.

## GMS Rolls Out Chromebooks in the AVID Program

We are excited to share information about the roll out of Chromebooks in our AVID program. As part of a four-year plan we are piloting a Chromebook 1-1 program with our 7<sup>th</sup> grade traditional AVID students and our 7<sup>th</sup> grade AVID Excel students.

Graves is on the cutting edge with our 1-1 Chromebook program, as our students are allowed to take the Chromebooks home on a daily basis and they can keep them for the two years they are at GMS as long as they take care of them. This puts our kids in a position to enjoy 21<sup>st</sup> Century educational tools every single day. Students are learning to use Google Classroom, Google Apps for Education (GAPE), and they are making presentations on their Chromebooks. Google Classroom is like an online classroom where kids can talk to their teachers and their classmates after school hours. They can download their assignments and they can also complete them online and turn them in online rather than having to print them out. GAPE are the different apps in the “Google world” that can be used to write papers, make presentations, meet online, and do many other things online. This gives us the opportunity to become a paperless school in the near future. Our online textbooks, online math programs, GAPE, and Google Classroom put us well on the road to our goal.



### Excellence at GMS continued

Graves was also invited to attend a summer training session for our AVID program, which puts us on track to become an AVID National Demonstration Site. If all goes according to plan, this means two things for GMS and our kids. First, we will be a model program and when new AVID schools start up, they will visit Graves for guidance about how an AVID program should operate properly. This also means that we will be in the top 4% of all middle school AVID programs throughout the entire nation. Once again, we want to work hard, stay humble, and always improve so we can receive National Demonstration status and so we can continue to support our kids.

We are also proud to share that half of the student ambassadors at the AVID Summer Institute in Anaheim were from Graves. Students were selected from the entire L.A. and Orange County area and our kids did an awesome job representing GMS and the AVID program. We are also proud of our AVID Excel program (for our English learners) for their great progress this year. We look forward to the rest of the school year and we will keep you abreast of our progress.



## Panthers Go Into Battle

Our fall sports program is beginning and our football and volleyball teams are gearing up for a competitive season. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football teams are off to an even start, as we have had some exciting victories against East Whittier and Los Nietos and some tough losses to Edwards Middle School. We have upcoming games against Granada, Lake Center, and we will battle a new foe from Whittier City, Andrews School, amongst other schools. Our coaches have been pleased with our kids' effort and look forward to the upcoming games in our evenly matched league. Go Graves Middle School football players!

Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball teams have also been working hard and are off to a great start this year, especially our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade team is currently undefeated with impressive and decisive wins against Edwards, East Whittier, and Los Nietos. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade team beat two of those three teams and are off and running. We are very excited about the season this year. All of our sports teams, the students and the coaches, would like to encourage you to come and cheer on our school as we vie for the league championship this season. You will notice that our kids exhibit good sportsmanship, give great effort, and work hard. We look forward to a great season, go Panthers!

