



GRISWOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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August 15, 2022

Dear Griswold Middle School Families;

On behalf of the GMS faculty and staff, I am excited to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. I wish to extend a special hello to the newest members of our GMS community, our fifth grade families. We are committed to creating a positive transition for fifth graders and we will work collaboratively to ensure that happens. We are looking forward to a wonderful year full of new experiences and personal/academic growth. In order for our children to be successful in school, I'm inviting you to create a partnership with us because students will need support from home and school. Our partnership will allow our students to reach new milestones and enjoy their middle school experience.

The GMS team focuses on providing each member of our school community a safe and positive learning environment where continued growth is at our core. We are a school committed to educating for excellence by empowering our students to become compassionate, confident, kind, creative and resourceful members of society.

Please welcome the following teachers/staff members new to GMS:

Mrs. Samantha McShane *Grade 8 Math*

Mrs. Kailey Shea *Grades 5-8 Music*

Mrs. Chloe Fitzgerald *Grade 6 ELA*

I want to remind our families that **school begins on Tuesday, August 30th 2022. The school day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 2:19 PM.** Please remember that parent drop off and pickup is on the side of the building facing Slater Avenue (please see attached drop-off map). Students are expected to be in their first class by 7:30 a.m. on that day and every day. Thank you for making every effort to have your child *arrive on time* each day of school. One important reminder: It is vital that parents notify GMS when students are absent. Parents can email the main office by 8:00 a.m. at gmsoffice@griswoldpublicschools.org Please recognize that once a student reaches 10 absences **documentation is required** in order for an absence to be excused. Detailed information regarding excused absences and protocols are outlined in the student/parent handbook. If you have any questions, please be sure to contact us.

Our talented and committed staff works to make certain that learning is relevant and dynamic. An important part of this work involves the key relationships with our parents and community. We value and rely upon these alliances as they are paramount to the success of all of our students. I hope you'll consider joining our Parent Teacher Organization and becoming more involved in our school community. Our first PTO meeting is Wednesday, September 14th, 2:30 pm at GMS. It is our goal to have parents representing grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 participate as we kick off the new year together.

You'll notice the **Census Verification Report** is included with this letter. The verification form includes your household information and emergency contact information. Please review the data printed to ensure accuracy. If there are any errors or additions, please correct this information so that we can update our database. It is essential that we have this information in the event of an emergency. In addition, it is also important that we have your current email address. *Please return this form on the **first day of school even if there are no changes.***

All students have been scheduled into their classes and schedules are available on the infinite campus parent portal. In addition, a copy of each student's schedule is included.

As we partner together this year, communication is key. Last year we introduced a new platform for communication on our online site, [GMS Now!](#). *GMS Now!* includes our school calendar, live updates from GMS classrooms and events, important information for students and families, and all other documents. Look for *GMS Now!*

A second important communication tool is the [GMS Parent/Student Handbook](#). The 2022-2023 copy has been posted electronically on the GMS website (www.griswold.k12.ct.us/gms). The handbook is loaded with key information and will answer many parent questions about GMS. Please be sure to read the handbook with your student and sign the form that acknowledges that you have received and read this important material. We ask that your student return the signed form to their WEB teacher by Friday, September 2.

Griswold Public Schools Food Service Department has moved over to a new Point of Sale product that has a new convenient way to pay for school meals, school fees and services. When in your portal account just go to the Food Service area and you will have the ability to choose the student and the account. If you have not set up your portal account for your student/s you can do so by going to the district's homepage and clicking on "Portal Link For Students and Parents". Soon you will be able to pay for many school fees and other services. If applicable, please fill out the [free and reduced lunch application](#).

The opening of a school each year is exhilarating and busy. There is much to share with the students and many details to work through. We understand that having an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and visit their classrooms early on helps with the transition to a new grade level. We hope to see all of our parents during our "Back to School Night" which will be held on September 15th, 2022 from 5:30-6:30pm.

When school begins, I ask that you please take some time to ask your child about their day, read the materials in the 1st day folder, and begin a yearlong discussion about learning and school. This level of communication will help to make the year successful for all. Please visit our school website (www.griswold.k12.ct.us) for up-to-date information, teachers' email addresses, calendars, and lunch menus. GMS will do our best to consistently update and add important information throughout the school year to our new site, [GMS Now!](#). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Together, we can make this year great for all of our students.

Sincerely yours,



Louis Zubek
GMS Principal