



'20'21 5th Graders Making the Best of a Tough Situation! #WESTONKASTRONG!

Welcome to **GMS!**

Welcome to all our returning 6th and 7th graders and a special welcome to all our new students! We look forward to meeting all of you and getting started with what should be one of the best years ever at Grandview! As I enter my 22nd year in the Westonka district I continue to feel very blessed. Not only have I been fortunate to work at MWS as a Spanish teacher and at GMS as dean and principal, but I have had the experience as a parent at Early Childhood, Hilltop, Shirley Hills, Grandview and MWS too. There is no other place I'd rather work or raise my kids. There is such a commitment to the success of each and every student every step of the way. Thank you for sending your child to GMS. We are grateful for your trust and will do everything we can to fulfill our promise to give you small school advantages, big school opportunities and to make your own, real-life success story!

~Christy Zachow, GMS Principal

Grandview Welcomes New Staff We are very proud of our new staff who have joined us at GMS! They bring with them great experience and enthusiasm and we are thrilled to have them on our team.

- Ryan Rank, 6th Grade Science/Social
- Mikayla Bebeau, 6th Grade Science/Social Studies & Americorp Promise Fellow
- Madison Bishop, 5th Grade SPED
- Joanna Martin, 6th Grade LA
- Nancy Taran, Attendance Secretary

5th-7th Grade Open House will be held Tuesday August 31st, 3-6pm. As tough as last year was, there were some things we learned that we are going to keep. One of those things was to provide a more structured Open House so teachers could do short presentations in the classrooms and that the halls and parking lots don't get overwhelmed with people. We will again provide an in-person Open House, with scheduled time slots for parents to choose. Teachers will hold a short presentation in their classroom and distribute supplies and collect papers/fees. When the presentation is done, students and a parent can walk around and find classrooms, take pictures and put materials in lockers. We anticipate families needing roughly 45 minutes in all. **Sign up for Open House NOW in Family Access!**

5th Grade and New Student Where Everybody Belongs Orientation-Wednesday September 1st, 8:10am-12:10pm.

We invite your 5th grader or new-to-GMS student to attend our 5th Grade/New Student Orientation as it is an excellent opportunity to help students to feel more comfortable with their classmates and with their new school. The main goal of "WEB" or "Where Everybody Belongs" is to help make new students feel welcome at GMS. Buses will pick students up at their regular pick up time (masks required on buses). Students should look at the bus stop information posted on the district web site after August 23rd.

<https://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/transportation>

Students who normally don't ride the bus can be dropped off and picked at GMS. Students should NOT bring any supplies/backpacks to the WEB Orientation. This day is more about meeting new friends and getting familiar with GMS and not to organize lockers etc. We also encourage students to wear comfortable clothes as we spend a lot of time seated on the floor. We look forward to meeting you all!

What Should We Bring to Orientation?

Fees in Provided Envelope In the past, for parents who write checks, they have to write separate checks and deliver them different places. This year if you want to pay fees and insurance, you can in one check! Just put it in the envelope and note what you are paying for. **Even if you are paying on line, we ask you to turn in your envelope so we have a record of your payment method.** Please return to the Morning Meeting Teacher at Open House. Thank you!

Permission Form We are also taking a cue from our awesome primary schools and attempting to do one field trip/program permission form instead of collecting multiple forms throughout the year. We'd ask that you fill this out and return it during Open House. Please note that it is also permission for special support classes, but we always contact parents before making those changes. Our hope is that we do not need to badger you for more forms!

Emergency Card Updates One household per student received an Emergency Card. Please review it and make corrections to it and turn it in at Open House.

Lunch Money You can drop this in the office and food service will deposit the next day. **Note school breakfast and lunch is again free**, but if your child wants to purchase extras, there needs to be money in the account.

Medications If your child takes medication please bring it in original container when possible and bring directly to the nurse.

PTO Fun(D) Raiser- If you would like to make a donation now, we will take your money! We welcome any and all donations and pledges! The red envelope can be returned with donations.

What Will Happen and What Will I Pick Up At Orientation?

You can come a little early or stay a little late, but please arrive in your child's Morning Meeting classroom at the selected time. Here you will get a short presentation with information from teachers on GMS and grade-level specific items.

Covid Updates If there are updates, they will be explained and distributed here. This will be an important part of this evening for all GMS students and parents.

Password Cheatsheet you'll be glad you have this!

School Supplies If you visit the GMS webpage you will see that there is no school supply list. (Wait??? WHAT!?!?!?) In an effort to save time, money and frustration for parents, we have ordered all needed supplies. Supplies that your child keeps will be in a box to pick up at Open House. Please put the supplies in the locker but take the empty box home to recycle (pretty please!). We still would request all students have a backpack, tennis shoes for gym and a refillable bottle. If kids have earbuds/earphones and or a calculator they want, they can bring those too. We truly hope this makes this time of year a little less stressful for families.

Chromebook and Insurance Information Again we ask that you pay online in Family Access if you would like insurance (highly encouraged) or you can return in the envelope during Open House. You will receive your child's Chromebook at Orientation so you can charge it and it is ready to go on the first day of school!



Schedule with Lunch Code
So you can walk around and say hello to teachers.

Pictures These will be in the gym. Again, you can arrive early or stay late if you want to get these done. On Wednesday September 22nd we will also be taking them at school if you miss it.

Schedules Students can find schedules in Family Access and a copy will be shared at Open House. In the case of 'elective' classes (FPS, FC, Advanced Art) there was an application process due to limited space. Students not selected were given the alternate course if needed. You may also notice on your child's schedule there is a "R1, R2 or R3". What is that?!?!? Art, PSS and STEM are three TRIMESTER classes. However, the first Trimester will be longer so we can integrate important technology lessons that we want all students to have right away such as keyboarding, safe searching, Google Applications, and technology best practices. So, if you wonder why your child is doing keyboarding in art, STEM or PSS, that's why! Occasionally we must make changes for a number of reasons. If you see an error (for example, wanting band but getting choir) please email 5th grade/ 7th grade (L-Z) counselor Mrs. Thayer at thayerj@westonka.k12.mn.us or Mrs. Larson for 6th grade and 7th grade (A-K) at larsonj2@westonka.k12.mn.us. Those changes will be made before Open House and we request you reach out before so as not to have a line at Open House. We thank you in advance for not requesting teacher changes or requests to be with friends..

OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES

Start Times Remain The Same For most families who use the bus, it will be business-as-usual. Just register and check times. For those who get dropped off, you will want to know the time the doors are unlocked so kids aren't waiting outside unsupervised.

- Main Door Unlock/ Supervision in Foyer /Breakfast Begins: **7:30am**
- School Day: **8:10am-2:50pm**
- M-Th Homework Club: **2:50-4:30pm (Begins 9/13)**

Wellness Policy Although it is very uncommon for middle school students to bring birthday treats, we want to remind that our district policy (in accordance with Federal regulations) states that students are not allowed to bring food to share to celebrate birthdays. If you would like to send something with your child to celebrate his/her birthday, it must be a non-food items (again, very uncommon in middle school). 5th and 6th graders are still encouraged to bring a snack (peanut free due to allergies) for themselves daily because their lunch time is a bit later. However, this is not required. If you would like to learn more about Westonka's Policy please go to <http://wellness.westonka.k12.mn.us>.

PBIS & Second Step Curriculum Once again, GMS is not above stealing good ideas and after learning how happy our primary schools have been with their Second Step Curriculum and PBIS program we decided to adopt them here. PBIS or Positive

Behavioral Intervention Support is a systematic approach to helping teach kids appropriate behaviors as well as recognizing their positive behavior. You will hear more about PRIDE in the weeks to come.. Second Step Curriculum is a piece of the PBIS puzzle to help students navigate the emotional roller coaster we call middle school. These lessons take place primarily during Morning Meeting.

Safety First During Drop Off and Pick Up Our main school doors automatically unlock at 7:30 so we ask that students not be dropped off prior to that time. We will have supervision in that area starting at 7:30 and students will be excused to go directly to classrooms (to maintain social distancing and deterring small group gatherings). Our alley doors will open at 7:50 so students arriving before 7:50 will have to enter through the main doors.

For those who drive their child to and from school we ask that you are patient with the process. Drop off for parents is in the alley in the morning. Please pull up as far as you can and drop your child off anywhere where there is a sidewalk. This helps expedite the process. We encourage kids to be prepared to exit quickly. We only have one lane of traffic so we depend on parents to help make this process safe and efficient. Pick Up in the afternoon is in the parking lot. Pick up is curbside ONLY. We do not allow kids to cross through the parking lot or lanes of traffic to get to their parents' car. Please pull up as far as you can curbside and when your child is in, exit using the inside lane. Also, we encourage all walkers to use the sidewalks and crossing guards when traveling to and from school.



Taking the Bus? Please Register! Another thing we learned from last year was that having parents register to take the bus really helped transportation balance buses and routes before the year started among other benefits. If your child plans to take the bus, please sign up in Family Access! Please note that as of today, masks ARE required on buses.

Handbook- A friendly reminder our student handbook is online for parents and students to view. We review/highlight some (not all) expectations as a part of our PBIS program.

Are You Receiving Skyert Messages??? If not, you are missing a lot! By the time you receive this mailer, you should have received an email from GMS with summer updates. If you have not, there could be several

reasons for this. It could be we have an incorrect email, it could mean you have "unsubscribed" or it could mean your internet provider is reading our messages as SPAM and rejecting them. Last year we had about 75 families that fell into one of these categories. PLEASE reach out to us if you've not received anything from GMS. If you do not, you will also not get emergency updates via email. Please email or call Melissa Murphy at murphym@westonka.k12.mn.us or 952 491-8309 and she will investigate why you aren't getting our emails and work to fix it. Thank you!

White Hawks Welcome Team- 5th-7th Grade Leaders Wanted! The welcome team is a very important leadership role at Grandview. Team members assist new and prospective students throughout the year to make them feel welcome and accepted at GMS, answer any questions they may have, help them find their way around and get them connected with other students and staff. We need many students to help provide this service. If your child enjoys and is comfortable meeting and talking to new people, loves being a helper and leader this could be a great opportunity. Please read the application on the GMS Web Page for more detailed information. Thanks for considering!

All Things Co-Vid Related I think we know better than to type, print and mail much with regard to CoVid protocols because it seems guidelines are constantly changing. Rather than send out pages and pages of details, I'd encourage parents to check out the Westonka District Website with details. The district will continue to send and post updates as the situation evolves. After having lived through over a year of this, our students, staff and parents working together will be the key to our continued success. However, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Chances are other parents have that same question. We don't want to overwhelm parents, but we do want to make sure you know 'We have a plan for that!'

WELCOME BACK!

Again, thank you for entrusting us with your most valuable possessions- your children. It is an honor, privilege and a responsibility we do not take lightly. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Christy Zachow

Christine Zachow
GMS Principal
zachowc@westonka.k12.mn.us
952 491 8301



@GrandviewMS



Grandview Middle School

GMS 21-22 Supply List

This year the school has purchased all needed supplies for students. Those items which students will keep with them (e.g., earbuds, folders, notebooks, pencils, 7 pocket file folder etc.) will be in a box delivered at Open House.. Supplies that will be shared in the classroom will be provided by the school (e.g., white board markers, sanitizing wipes, scientific calculators). If students have headphones etc. that they'd prefer to use they certainly can but they will still get all in the provided kit. We do recommend all students have a backpack, tennis shoes for Physical Education, a water bottle to fill during the day and a mask (just in case!). The Student Fee below covers all school supplies, GMS t-shirt, online subscriptions and services, supplementary resources and small local field trips.

<p>All Student Fees: 5th-7th \$45</p> <p>Additional Band Fee: \$15 includes band t-shirt and Smart Music for Chromebooks</p> <p>Additional Choir Fee: \$15 includes t-shirt and choir materials and supplies</p>	<p>Optional Fees (but encouraged): \$45 Chromebook Insurance (\$110 Family Max) <i>*Please see Chromebook Insurance agreement for more information. This covers accidental damage and not intentional damage.</i></p>
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Fees should be paid online by logging into Family Access or by bringing checks to teachers during Open House. Collection envelope included for Open House turn in.

GMS Events/Field Trips Cost Estimates

We've had requests to get an estimate on some of the expenses that pop up during the year so families can plan and budget. Prices and collection dates are close estimates and they may be slightly higher due to gate fees, transportation or calendar changes etc. Please note that *Italicized* are *Optional Fees*, **BOLDED** have scholarships available, and those in red are **fundraisers for school or charity**.

Month	5th Event	6th Event	7th Event
August	School Fees <i>Chromebook Insurance</i>	School Fees <i>Chromebook Insurance</i>	School Fees <i>Chromebook Insurance</i>
September	<i>School Pictures</i> <i>PTO Fun-D Raiser</i>	<i>School Pictures</i> <i>River Rendezvous \$15 (TBD)</i> <i>PTO Fun-D Raiser</i>	<i>School Pictures</i> <i>PTO Fun-D Raiser</i>
October	<i>PTO Halloween Party \$10</i>	<i>PTO Halloween Party \$10</i>	<i>PTO Halloween Party \$10</i>
November		<i>Math day at the zoo \$20</i>	<i>Math day at the zoo \$ 20</i>
December	<i>Toy Drive</i> <i>PTO Silent Auction</i>	<i>Toy Drive</i> <i>PTO Silent Auction</i>	<i>Toy Drive</i> <i>PTO Silent Auction</i>
January	<i>Winter Blast \$10</i> <i>Winter Field Trip \$20</i>	<i>Winter Blast \$10</i> <i>Winter Field Trip \$35</i>	<i>Winter Blast \$10</i> <i>Winter Field Trip \$20</i>
February			
March	<i>Yearbook \$20</i> <i>Food/Supply Drive</i> <i>Spring Pictures</i>	<i>Yearbook \$20</i> <i>Food/ Supply Drive</i> <i>Spring Pictures</i> <i>MN History Center \$12</i>	<i>Yearbook \$20</i> <i>Food/Supply Drive</i> <i>Spring Pictures</i>
April	<i>Valleyfair \$30</i> <i>Spring Fling \$10</i>	<i>Valleyfair \$30</i> <i>Spring Fling \$10</i>	<i>Valleyfair \$30</i> <i>Spring Fling \$10</i> <i>Fort Snelling \$13</i>
May/June			7th Grade Graduation (Free but donations encouraged)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

GRANDVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022
PLEASE RETURN AT OPEN HOUSE OR WITH REGISTRATION!



Throughout the year at Grandview your child will be offered opportunities that require special permission from parents. While we work hard with families to get all permission forms returned, we know families are busy and permission slips can be lost in the craziness of everyday life. Also, many like to pay for field trips on-line but then still have to send paperwork. For that reason, we are sending one permission slip home at the beginning of the year for all these things. Some of the classes and trips below will only be offered to students who meet specific criteria. You will receive more information and notification when these opportunities become available.

Student Name _____ Grade _____ Morning Meeting Teacher _____

Please read the following agreements, sign and date each line, and return to your Morning Meeting teacher at Open House or the first week of school. . Thank you!

FIELD TRIP PERMISSION

I give permission for my child to participate in all grade level school field trips in Mound/Minnetrista and across the Minnesota area. I will be notified when these events take place so I know about costs, proper dress, lunch etc. Examples of these field trips are: MN Zoo, Afton Alps, Fort Snelling, MN History Center, Valleyfair, Westonka Historical Society, School Visits to HT, SH or MWHS etc.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

If your child is in need of extra support in school, we offer a wide variety of support services. We will contact you individually when and if we recommend one of the following support services. All of these do require parent permission so please sign below if you will grant your permission if your child qualifies and/or is recommended for these services. Some of these may already appear on your child's schedule if he/she selected them as a part of last year's registration process. Services include:

- * Supported Language Arts
- * Supported Math
- * Excel Guided Study
- * Support Groups (examples: Friendship Group, Anxiety Group, Family Change Group, Grief Group)
- * Check and Connect with Counselors

I give my written permission for my child to participate in support services listed above. I understand that I will be contacted by a teacher, guidance or the office to give verbal or electronic permission before starting any support services.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

BELL SCHEDULE

Daily (Monday-Thursday)

	7th Grade		6th Grade		5th Grade
MM	8:10-8:30	MM	8:10-8:30	MM	8:10-8:30
2	8:35-9:55	2	8:35-9:55	2	8:35-9:55
3	10:00-10:40	3	10:00-11:25	3	10:00-11:25
4	10:45-11:25	4	11:30-12:10	4	11:30-12:50
LUNCH	11:25-11:55	LUNCH	12:10-12:40	LUNCH	12:50-1:25
5	12:00-1:25	5	12:45-1:25	5	1:30-2:05
6	1:30-2:50	6	1:30-2:50	6	2:10-2:50

Morning PRIDE Time (Fridays)

	7th Grade		6th Grade		5th Grade
MM PRIDE	8:10-9:00	MM PRIDE	8:10-9:00	MM PRIDE	8:10-9:00
2	9:05-10:20	2	9:05-10:20	2	9:05-10:20
3	10:25-11:00	3	10:25-11:40	3	10:25-11:40
4	11:05-11:40	4	11:45-12:20	4	11:45-1:00
LUNCH	11:40-12:10	LUNCH	12:20-12:50	LUNCH	1:00-1:30
5	12:15-1:30	5	12:55-1:30	5	1:35-2:10
6	1:35-2:50	6	1:35-2:50	6	2:15-2:50

Afternoon PRIDE Time (as needed)

	7th Grade		6th Grade		5th Grade
2	8:10-9:20	2	8:10-9:20	2	8:10-9:20
3	9:25-10:00	3	9:25-10:40	3	9:25-10:40
4	10:05-10:40	4	10:45-11:20	4	10:45-11:55
LUNCH	10:40-11:10	LUNCH	11:20-11:50	LUNCH	11:55-12:30
5	11:15-12:30	5	11:55-12:30	5	12:35-1:10
6	12:35-1:50	6	12:35-1:50	6	1:15-1:50
MM PRIDE	1:55-2:50	MM PRIDE	1:55-2:50	MM PRIDE	1:55-2:50

E-Learning Days (as needed)

	7th Grade		6th Grade		5th Grade
MM	at 1:00	MM	at 1:00	MM	at 1:00
2	8:00-8:50	2	8:00-8:50	2	8:00-8:50
3/4	9:00-9:25 9:30-9:55	3	9:00-9:50	3	9:00-9:50
5	10:00-10:50	4/5	10:00-10:25 10:30-10:55	4	10:00-10:50
6	11:00-11:50	6	11:00-11:50	5/6	11:00-11:25 11:30-11:55
LUNCH	11:55-12:55	LUNCH	11:55-12:55	LUNCH	11:55-12:55
MM PRIDE	1:00-2:00	MM PRIDE	1:00-2:00	MM PRIDE	1:00-2:00
STAFF MTGS.	2:00-3:00	STAFF MTGS.	2:00-3:00	STAFF MTGS.	2:00-3:00

GMS Homecoming Fun(D)-Raiser!

GET PLEDGES! HAVE FUN! CELEBRATE HOMECOMING! EVERYONE WINS!

After a year off, we decided to revive our successful "FUN-D" Raiser of 19-20! We are asking you and your child to get family, friends, and neighbors to pledge/donate money that will go directly to our school. Our goal is to have each student raise at least \$50 for this event but we'll be pleased with any amount donated. **Again this year you can also get online pledges through Pledgestar!** The pledges earned by this fundraiser will go to the PTO, who in turn, gives the money back to GMS. Examples of where this money goes are: *5th Grade WEB, 6th Grade Courage Retreat, 7th Grade Graduation Party, Student Scholarships, Sound Amplification Systems, Books for the Media Center, Author/Artist in Residence, Playground Equipment, new furniture and much much more!*

Dates:

Begin collecting pledges any time between August 2021 to September 15th. We will remind kids at school, but you are welcome to start early if you'd like.

September 15th students will turn in donations (and we will print out on-line donations). Totals will be calculated. You are welcome to turn in donations at Open House too.

September 16th wristbands for the party will be distributed. The party takes place September 17th (Friday of Homecoming!) from 1-2:50 at school. Everyone is a winner and can attend. The more kids raise, the more options they will have.

There are two ways you can collect donations.

On-line (Students can set up at school or now and can send texts and emails if you are comfortable. Parents can do it too if you'd like!) THIS WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL LAST TIME!

1. Go to <http://pledgestar.com/grandviewms>
2. Enter your name and email address, then click Register
3. Follow the instructions on-screen- VERY EASY! When you finish, the system emails pledge requests to your family and friends, and allows them to make secure credit card donations online. You get notified each time a pledge is made, and you can track your pledge progress online. Please type in emails carefully- bounceback emails don't count. Call 1-888-598-7510 if you need help. There is nothing to turn in- we get an online report of all pledges! Donors get an emailed receipt for tax purposes!





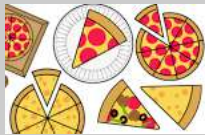

In-person!

You or your child can ask friends/family to donate to the school then take money directly. Pledges should be collected in advance of the event and delivered in the pledge envelope, along with this sheet, to the school by Wednesday September 15th. We celebrate HOMECOMING on September 17th.

Sample script: "Hello. My name is ____ and I am raising money for my school for things like special events, books and technology. Would be you willing to sponsor me by making a tax-deductible donation?"

- Take cash or check written out to GMS PTO and fill in the sheet below and put checks in the envelope.
- **Turn in the attached FORM and checks to MM teacher by September 15th**

GMS Homecoming Fun(D)-Raiser PRIZES!

<u>WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Prize</u>
send emails/texts or in-person requests asking for SCHOOL DONATIONS. NO minimum donation.	HAWKS	Attend THE PARTY! MUSIC, OBSTACLE course, DODGEBALL, extra recess and playground time! 
COLLECT \$25 in DONATIONS/PLEDGES	WHITE	Earn all WHITE Level activities and VIP admission to Hungry Hippo. 
COLLECT \$50 in DONATIONS/PLEDGES	RED	Earn all WHITE and HAWK activities, PLUS 5+ DUNK TANK BALLS TO THROW at Teachers/Staff! 
COLLECT \$75 in DONATIONS/PLEDGES	BLACK	Earn all WHITE, HAWKS and RED activities PLUS time in the game truck! 
HIGHEST MM -STUDENT WHO RAISES MOST / Grade - STUDENT WHO SENDS MOST emails/messages/grade -RAFFLE NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS		WINS A PIZZA PARTY! TIME IN THE MONEY BOOTH!  

GMS Homecoming Fun(D)-Raiser!

IN-Person PLEDGE SHEET

In-person:

Sample script: "Hello. My name is ____ and I am collecting donations to raise money for my school's PTO for things like special events, books and technology. Would you be willing to sponsor me by making a tax-deductible donation?"

- Take cash or check written out to GMS PTO and fill in the sheet below and put checks in the envelope.
- **Turn in THIS FORM and cash/checks to MM teacher on Wednesday September 15th**

Student Name:_____ **Student MM:**_____

<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Donation Amount</u>	Total Collected
Total Collected			\$

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM TOWARD THIS EVENT. GMS really IS a SPECIAL Place Because of
THE SUPPORT FROM ALL OUR PARENTS!*