



2018-2019 GMS WEB Leaders welcoming our new students!

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 20th year in the Westonka district I continue to feel very blessed. Not only have I been fortunate to work at MWHS as a Spanish teacher and at GMS as dean and principal, but I have also had the experience as a parent at Early Childhood, Hilltop, Shirley Hills, Grandview and MWHS 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

Real-Life Success Story

Among the Best in the State on MCA's Grandview continues to score among the best in the state on math, reading and science MCA's. However, we also know that test scores don't tell you everything about a school's success. We have so many reasons we are proud and our MCA's are just one reason. We focus on preparing kids for the 21st century in all classes, developed STEM programming in all grades, extended our 1:1 program, have implemented a robust college readiness program, and have expanded our math, reading, guidance and mental health support as well. We have many reasons to celebrate!

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.

- Annmarie Umland- Art
- Breana Wollner - Special Education
- Nancy Hoiseth - Special Education Paraprofessional
- Paula Slagle- Special Education Paraprofessional

For those returning you will also notice we've switched some things up a bit! Mrs. Lunski has moved to 5th grade, Mr. Coleman to STEM, Mrs. Matthews to PSS. I am so grateful to have a flexible staff that is willing and excited to try new things!

Where Everybody Belongs Orientation Wednesday August 28th- 8:10- 12:10. **TIME CHANGE**

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. Students should look at the bus stop information posted on the district web site after August 21st.

(<https://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/transportation>) Students who normally don't ride the bus can either go to a bus stop near their home or be dropped off and picked up 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!

5th-7th Grade Open House 3:00-6:00, Tuesday August 27th

We look forward to seeing everyone again at our GMS Open House Night. This night is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's teachers and familiarize yourself with the new curriculum and grade level expectations. In addition, this night will allow you to take care of things such as school pictures, depositing lunch money, find your locker, turn in forms and fees and find classrooms and for 6th and 7th

graders to pick up chromebooks. If you are a returning parent you know that the parking lot is a nightmare during Open House so we have arranged a shuttle between Hilltop and GMS from 3-6pm. Please feel free to park there and Westonka Bus will drop you off and pick you up at the main doors.

At Open House you will find the name of your child's Morning Meeting teacher posted on the wall (it is also on their schedule.) You should report to him/her first to get all the information you need for the night. All of our staff will be in attendance so it will be a great way to meet your child's teachers as well.

If you are unable to attend please have your child return documents on the first day of school. He/she will get their schedule/locker/supplies from the Morning Meeting Teacher. Unfortunately final schedules and lockers are not ready before Open House.

Informational Meeting for New Families If this is your first child at Grandview, we encourage you to stay after Open House for a parent meeting in the cafeteria from 6pm-7pm entitled, "Navigating Middle School." This is not required but encouraged as we will share information about middle school and will also touch on Chromebooks and the technologies we use here. Our goal is to make your transition, as parents, as smooth as it will be for your kids!

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 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!

Additional Back to School Reminders

What is this envelope for? 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!

School Supply List

As we mentioned in our spring mailers, GMS is trying something different this year. 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. We'll ask that you put those in your locker and take the box home to recycle. Supplies that are shared and/or needed in the classroom we have budgeted for this year and will not be additional cost to parents (whiteboard markers, wipes, Kleenex etc.) You will see that your school fee stayed the same as last year even with this change. As always we still would request all students have a backpack and tennis shoes for gym. If kids have earbuds/earphones and or a calculator they want, they can bring those too. However, we will have earbuds (all students get their own) and classroom calculators (these will be shared). We know many students use their chromebook calculators at home so this is up to you. We truly hope this makes this time of year a little less stressful for families.

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 with permission slip requests this year as a result. We know families are busy!



Student Fees: 5th-7th \$45

<u>Additional Fees:</u> <u>Band Fee:</u> \$15 includes band t-shirt and Smart Music for Chromebooks <u>Choir Fee:</u> \$15 includes t-shirt and choir materials and supplies	<u>Optional Fees (but encouraged):</u> \$40 Chromebook Insurance <i>*Please see Chromebook Insurance agreement for more information. This covers accidental damage and not intentional damage.</i>
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Fees should be paid online by logging into Family Access or by bringing checks to teachers during Open House. You will get a collection envelope to return to identify how you plan to pay in our fall mailer.

PTO Welcomes You Back! Parent involvement has been key to our success at Grandview. There are many ways to get involved and the PTO is one of the ways. Our Halloween Party is the first event and we rely on volunteers to make this a great event. Please keep an eye on your email for more PTO information and other volunteer opportunities in our school. The PTO will also have a table at Open House so please stop by to pick up dates and/or to learn about how to get involved!

Parent A-Z Guide At GMS we are not ashamed to steal awesome ideas and so have followed in the primary's footsteps by offering an A-Z Guide for parents. This is intended to answer many of the questions parents have as they enter GMS. It can be found on our website under Parent Resources. If you have suggestions to add, please let us know!

Summer Reading Although we don't have a summer reading requirement, we sure do encourage it! Please check the GMS web site with our recommended reading list and our Summer Reading Challenge!

Wellness Policy Although it is very uncommon for middle school students to bring birthday treats, we want to share that our district policy (in accordance with Federal regulations) has changed and students are no longer 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 item (again, very uncommon in middle school). 5th and 6th graders are still encouraged to bring a snack (peanut free preferred) 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>.

New Fun-D Raiser After some good discussion, we have decided that our Read-a-Thon fundraiser was due for some changes. This, along with our silent auction, support so many essential aspects of our programming such as WEB Orientation, Courage Retreat, 7th Grade Graduation, Library Books, Student Scholarships, and much more. We are taking a bit of a risk but are going to try a Fun-D raiser this year during Homecoming Week. More information will come home but, in a nutshell, we will have kids ask for donations for the school. All kids will get to celebrate during a party on the Friday of Homecoming week. Those who meet certain goals will earn additional options during that time. Should be fun no matter what! Thank you in advance for your support and keep an eye out for more information.

Schedule Changes You may also notice on your child's schedule there is a "R1, R2 or R3". What is that?!?!? We have believed for some time that our students come in with more technology experience every year and so an entire quarter of Technology is not necessary. Therefore, Art, PSS and STEM are now your three TRIMESTER classes, and Technology is out. However, there indeed are many technology lessons kids still need. Therefore, first trimester (R1) will be longer than the other two trimesters (R2 and R3). We will add about 10 technology lessons to that trimester to make sure kids have the basics we believe to be essential and then move in to the content of the trimester class. The other advantage of this is that Art, STEM and PSS will all be a little longer! Hooray!

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 Social Emotional Learning Curriculum and PBIS program we have 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. This should sound familiar as this has been our philosophy for years, but we are finally formalizing it and getting additional training as a part of this initiative. Second Step Curriculum is a piece of the PBIS puzzle to help students navigate the emotional roller coaster we call middle school. We are excited to get started!

HawkStop As a part of our PBIS program we have taken over some unused classroom space to make a game room for kids. This will be great incentive for kids to earn and so far has air hockey, pop-a-shot and foosball! We are looking for a ping pong table if someone has one they want to donate! Our kids work hard so we hope they play hard too!

Sheridan Story Supports Local Families If your family is in need of a little extra food over the weekend, please consider participating in the Sheridan Story. At the end of every week, volunteers will put a small bag of non-perishable food in your child's locker for the weekend. Volunteers do know locker numbers but do not know the identity of the students. Only school administration will know the identity of students needing this assistance. Sign up is easy! You can register on the GMS Web Page or by contacting Mrs.Zachow or Mrs.Thayer. The first distribution will be mid-September.

New Start Times! For most families who use the bus, it will be business-as-usual but just a little later start. For those who get dropped off, you will want to know the time the doors are unlocked so kids aren't waiting outside unsupervised. Fortunately we found a way to minimally impact our opening time for those families who need that. Most buses will arrive between 7:45-8:05, so they have time to get breakfast and head to class.

- Main Door Unlock/ Supervision in Foyer /Breakfast Begins: **7:20am**
- Students allowed to go to lockers/classes: **7:55am**
- School Day: **8:10am-2:50pm**
- M-Th Homework Club: **2:50-4:30pm (tentative)**

Safety First During Drop Off and Pick Up Our main school doors automatically unlock at 7:20 so we ask that students not be dropped off prior to that time. We will have supervision in that area starting at 7:20. Our alley doors will open at 7:55 so students arriving before 7:55 will have to enter through the main doors. At 7:55 alley doors open and students are released from the foyer and cafeteria to their lockers.

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. Staff will be there to assist. Also, we encourage all walkers to use the sidewalks and crossing guards when traveling to and from school. We are also thrilled that Hennepin County has added a flashing crosswalk light to 110 for those kids crossing outside of crossing guard hours. Finally, we encourage students who have bus transportation to take advantage of it. The fewer the cars the faster the process. Thank you!

Please Review Family Access Family Access (Skyward) is the one place you need to check before heading back to school. Here are some of the things we would ask you to check before heading back.

- **Fee Payment** Please pay online in Family Access and note on the envelope when you return it at Open House or bring a check to Open House. **5th – 7th fee is \$45 which includes all supplies.**
- **Chromebook and Insurance Information** Again we ask that you pay online in Family Access if you can or return in the envelope during Open House. Insurance is optional but encouraged.
- **Lunch Account Status and Payment** Please pay on-line or bring money during Open House. **WE DO ASK THAT THIS IS A SEPARATE CHECK** from fees. Money brought on the first day of school should be brought to the office so it can be deposited before lunch and keeps the line moving fast!
- **Student Directory** We do not print a student directory. The only information we can give out is the address unless otherwise noted in Family Access. Updating and allowing your contact information is very helpful for parents trying to arrange parties and play dates!
- **Emergency Contact Information** Please log in to Family Access to ensure all your contact information is correct. We've included a print out of what we currently have for reference. You can make corrections to it and turn it in at Open House.
- **Schedule** **Your child's tentative schedule is now available in Family Access. Schedules are not final until Open House.** Occasionally we must make changes for a number of reasons. If you see an error (for example, wanting band but getting choir) please email Mrs. Thayer at thayerj@westonka.k12.mn.us. Those changes will be made before Open House. We thank you in advance for not requesting teacher changes.
- **Scheduling Conflicts & Selective Classes**

You may recall that several classes required an application process (FPS, Future Cities, Advanced Art.) In some situations we had more students apply than we had seats available so unfortunately not all students were able to be scheduled into these classes who wanted to. If that was the case, we scheduled students into the equivalent class instead. We apologize that not all requests could be accommodated.



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 Jackie Davis at davisj@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!

New Bell Schedule Below

Homework Club and Activity Bus Start Week 2 If you have a child who could use a quiet place to work on homework after school Monday - Thursday, **2:50-4:30** students can work in a classroom with a licensed teacher for homework help. Students are allowed to leave early if parents communicate to the office (this is to make sure students are where their parents think they are!) There is no need to sign up ahead of time! Students can just show up and sign in! This service is free of charge and open to all students as long as they are working and not disturbing other students. The room location changes daily and is announced each morning and posted on the office door. **We will start Monday September 9th!**

Activity Bus If your child needs a ride home after activities or homework club he/she can take the Activity Bus free of charge. Students **need to sign up daily during Morning Meeting in order to take the bus.** We send the list to the bus company who creates a route to get students home as quickly as possible. The bus picks up students by the main doors at 4:30 and students should arrive home between 4:45 and 5:45 (depends on the number of students riding) and runs Monday-Thursday. Thanks to the Westonka Healthy Collaborative for funding this service! **We will start Monday September 9th!**

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!

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



@GrandviewMS



Grandview Middle School

	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

GMS Events and Fees

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. 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> River Rendezvous \$15 <i>PTO Fun-D Raiser</i>	<i>School Pictures</i> Fort Snelling \$13 <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	Toy Drive PTO Silent Auction	Toy Drive PTO Silent Auction	Toy Drive PTO Silent Auction
January	<i>Winter Blast</i> Winter Field Trip \$20	<i>Winter Blast</i> Winter Field Trip \$35	<i>Winter Blast</i> Winter Field Trip \$20
February			
March	<i>Yearbook Deadline \$20</i> <i>Food/Supply Drive</i> <i>Spring Pictures</i>	<i>Yearbook Deadline \$20</i> <i>Food/ Supply Drive</i> <i>Spring Pictures</i> MN History Center \$12	<i>Yearbook Deadline \$20</i> <i>Food/Supply Drive</i> <i>Spring Pictures</i>
April	Valleyfair \$30 <i>Spring Fling \$10</i>	Valleyfair \$30 <i>Spring Fling \$10</i>	Valleyfair \$30 <i>Spring Fling \$10</i> Fort Snelling \$13
May			
June			7th Grade Graduation (Free but donations encouraged)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE
GRANDVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL 2019 2020
PLEASE RETURN AT OPEN HOUSE!



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:

- * Co-Taught Language Arts
- * Excel Guided Study
- * Support Groups (examples: Friendship Group, Anxiety Group, Family Change Group, Grief Group)
- * Small Group Math Support
- * 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)