

George McGovern Middle School

6221 W. Maple St., Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Where attitude is everything, and the attitude is one of respect.

December 2017

Principal
Assistant Principal
Intern Asst. Principal

Ms. Lynn Gillette
Mr. Richie Hutchinson
Ms. Beckie VanDrongelen



Principal's News

Greetings Everyone,

I recently was asked by a 6th grade student, "Mrs. Gillette, have you ever noticed that the older you get, the less presents or things you want?" Wow, this is great insight from such a young person, and it couldn't be more true. The older we grow, the wiser we grow, and we realize what truly matters are the people we hold near and dear in our hearts.

At our school, staff care deeply for our students and for one another, I see so many examples of this many times over. Caring is seen in how students help one another with both social and academic challenges, it is seen in the classrooms as teachers create a variety of avenues to reach and teach our students. Caring is seen in the hallways as staff members take time to ask students how their day is going and most importantly, the care is also felt. A student's thank you card to a clerical support staff, a staff member's uplifting note to a colleague, a smile from a parent who stops in the office...all of these are gifts of the heart. The wonderful thing is, these acts of care cost absolutely nothing, but the impact they make on a person's day--a person's life--is absolutely priceless.

Thank you for the gift of sharing in the life of your children whom you entrust us with each day. We do not take this responsibility lightly, and are grateful to be teaming with you for the benefit of our students!

Thank you for helping us to create a culture of caring at George McGovern Middle School!

kindest Regards,

**Lynn Gillette, Principal
George McGovern Middle School
6221 W Maple St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
(605)367-4440**

High School Open Houses

**WHS: January 11, 2018 6:30-8:00 pm
January 13, 2018 9:00-11:00 am**

**RHS: January 9, 2018 6:00-8:00 pm
January 13, 2018 9:00-11:00 am**

**LHS: January 13, 2018 9:00-10:30 am
January 16, 2018 6:30-8:00 pm**

NTH: January 18, 2018 6:00-7:30 pm

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office 367-4440
Office Hours 7:45-5:00

Attendance 367-4438
and Health 24 hr voicemail

Counseling 367-4435
and Registration

Kitchen Manager 367-4492

Fax 367-4434

IEP Facilitator 367-4481

Important Dates

Dec 7: 6:30 pm: 6th Gr. Chorus and Expressions Concert
7:30 pm: 7th & 8th Chorus Concert

Dec 11, 6:30 pm Orchestra & Gryphonics Concert

Dec 21: 6:30 pm: Band 6th Gr & Jazz Band Concert
7:30 pm: Band 7th & 8th Gr Concert

Dec. 25-29: No School "Holiday Break"

2018- High School Open Houses

Jan. 9: RHS—6:00 to 8:00 pm

Jan. 11: WHS—6:30 to 8:00 pm

Jan. 13: WHS - 9:00 to 11:00 am
RHS - 9:00 to 11:00 am
LHS - 9:00 to 10:30 am

Jan. 16: LHS - 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Jan. 18: NTH - 6:00 to 7:30 pm



Student Engagement Through Coding

By Dr. Brian Maher, Superintendent



In the world of education, a considerable amount of time is spent implementing strategies to increase student engagement. While teaching the need-to-know skills to be successful in reading, writing, and math, schools continue to be challenged by the reality that today's students need a bigger nudge to come to school than just wanting to learn.

Today's students are growing up with the expectations that schools and learning will keep pace with the super-charged lives they have at home, guaranteed to them by smart phones, 24-hour news and entertainment channels, and fast-food restaurants. Enter an opportunity to implement computer science immersion in three Sioux Falls Elementary Schools.

This fall, the District launched the computer science immersion program at Hayward, Lowell, and Anne Sullivan Elementary Schools. The computer programming curriculum is guided by California-based Code to the Future who assigns a trainer to the schools, helping both teachers and students embed computer coding into their math, reading, science and social studies classes. The theory is that the critical thinking and collaboration that is required in today's world can no longer be found on the pages of an encyclopedia or dictionary.

Learning must be real-world, hands-on and immediate. Computer science immersion is proving to be that and so much more. This month, we are inviting school and business leaders from around the region to see the program in action. There is great interest. Local business partners and curious computer-focused companies have an ongoing opportunity to participate in demonstrations of learning hosted by Kindergarten through 5th graders who are already accomplishing the basic coding commands key to the technology that makes our world work.

Code to the Future uses the phrase "Awesome is the New Normal" to generate excitement and engagement. The high-level problem-solving skills students are learning through computer science immersion are, indeed, awesome and one day perhaps this type of learning will be considered the new "normal." For now, it is a cutting-edge program that has students not wanting to even take a break to use the restroom. Now, that is engagement!

Reminders

A Reminder to Parents from
GMMS Office Michelle DeSchepper

Happy Fall to all!

Hope the school year is going well
for your children and families!

As a reminder to parents please remember when dropping
off your children and picking them up to **SLOW DOWN!**
*From approximately 100 feet west of the school
until almost to the fire station east of the school*

it is a **School Zone** which is **15 mph.**

If you do not abide by this you will be
cited for speeding in a school zone.

This is for the safety of the children.

We are all here for the same purpose which is
to care for kids and keep them safe!



YEARBOOK ORDERS

2017-2018

Turn in Orders to Students Pro-Time Teacher

Cost: \$15.00 each, cash or check made out to GMMS

Place Payment into envelope and write on envelope:

Students Name and Grade AND Parents Name

Saints of GMMS

ELA: Sarah.Henrichs@k12.sd.us

Students have been working on adding detail and vivid word choice to their sentences while reading the unit called Set the Table. We worked on sequencing text and writing the steps of a process. Another unit discussed was titled Make a Difference. During that unit, the students read varying text about Martin Luther King, Alice Paul, and Kids helping Kids.

MATH: Leah.Vantol@k12.sd.us

We will be finishing our work on shapes. We will be working on area, perimeter, surface area, and volume. We will also be creating our own nets for 3D shapes!

SCIENCE: Hannah.Erickson@k12.sd.us

Continuing with our life science topics, we will be covering the various systems of the body and how they contribute to human life. We will then move into how living things consume/release energy and how this supports growth and re-

Social Studies: Emily.Larson@k12.sd.us

We will be traveling around the world and learning about how different cultures celebrate Christmas. We will be traveling to:

*Germany *America *Canada *Italy

Your student will get a souvenir from each place we travel also.

Directed Studies: Desiree.Burggraaf@k12.sd.us

We will continue to work on our Math and Language Arts goals. Students will be working on identifying positive and negative numbers and multiplication, finding the main idea of a text, and working on social skills through playing different academic-based games. We will be spending more time working on our personal information and memorizing our addresses, birthdays, and phone numbers. We will continue to work on vocational

6th Grade News

Our team fundraisers are over and the orders have been submitted. Deliveries will be made before the holidays...if there were any errors to your order please call the school immediately 367-4440 (Wolves ask for Mrs. Rippentrop, Hard Rockers ask for Ms. Booth).

Thanks to everyone who participated! This greatly helps our teams.

Language Arts/Reading: brigid.berger@k12.sd.us ; malle.driscoll@k12.sd.us regan.meyer@k12.sd.us

We will be working on reading and writing informational texts with our unit Animal Allies. We will begin the unit by reading an excerpt from Jane Goodall's Memoir, My Life with Chimpanzees.

Math: amy.booth-schofield@k12.sd.us ; Geoff.smith@k12.sd.us ; cassey.penney@k12.sd.us

We are finishing our current area of study with unit rates and comparisons. Then we will be working with integers (positive and negative numbers), and we will find ways to write equivalent fractions, decimals and percents.

HardRockers

Math-Amy Booth-Schofield - amy.booth-schofield@k12.sd.us

ELA-Brigid Berger - brigid.berger@k12.sd.us

SS-Eric Hettinger - eric.hettinger@k12.sd.us

Science-Shayla Seiler - Shayla.seiler@k12.sd.us

Wolves

Math-Geoff Smith - Geoff.smith@k12.sd.us

ELA-Malle Driscoll - malle.driscoll@k12.sd.us

SS-Marissa rippentrop - marissa.rippentrop@k12.sd.us

Science-Amy Miller - amy.e.miller@k12.sd.us

Super Team Members

Math-Cassey Penney - cassey.penney@k12.sd.us

ELA-Regan Meyer - regan.meyer@k12.sd.us

Science-Molly Seeger - molly.seeger@k12.sd.us

Social Studies: eric.hettinger@k12.sd.us ; marissa.rippentrop@k12.sd.us

We will be learning about the ancient Israelites and will have a guest speaker. Then we will be starting to learn about ancient India's civilization (including information on Hinduism and Buddhism).

Science: Shayla.seiler@k12.sd.us ; amy.e.miller@k12.sd.us ; molly.seeger@k12.sd.us

We will begin the month studying volcanoes and will then move into weathering, erosion, deposition, and the rock cycle.





7th Graders



Social Studies - Mr. Flock and Mr. Moulton

Geography class with Mr. Flock and Mr. Moulton students have been learning about the 8 Elements of Cultures; Social/Ethnic Groups, Language, Religion, History, Daily Life, Arts, Government, and Economy. We want students to be proud of their own culture and also recognize that many cultures do things differently. We will be learning about the similarities and differences of the 5 major world religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. We will also focus on the different governments of the world and how the type of government affects the people of the country.

Math—Mrs. Hieronimus and Ms. Wenzel and Ms. Hancock

As we will be completing our final investigations for our Stretching and Shrinking unit during the first weeks of December. Upon completion of this unit we will complete our unit assessment (about mid December). After Stretching and Shrinking, we will then move into our third 7th grade unit which is called Comparing and Scaling. This unit continues our work with ratios and proportions. We will be making comparisons of numerical data using fractions, ratios, unit rates, differences, and percents. Much like our unit Stretching and Shrinking, which compared more geometric ideas, the Comparing and Scaling unit will use the same idea but with a more numerical focus.

Science—Mr. Josephson and Mr. Helget

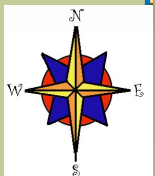
During the month the students studied the topic of Resources and Living Things. A technology tool that was introduced to the students was ThinkLink. The students created a presentation using ThinkLink that looked to inform others on an endangered species of their choosing and allow them to develop research skills while learning about the new technology tool. Students also participated in Quizlet Lives to further develop their vocabulary. The last part of the month focused on land, air and water resources along with a look at alternative energy resources. The month of December will have the students taking a closer look at cells. They will have the opportunity to learn about the parts of a cell and design their own cell model based on their knowledge of those cell parts. Once they have gained knowledge of the cell parts they will then learn about some of the different cell processes.

Language Arts—Mrs. Dossett, Mrs. Huwe and Regan Meyer

We are very excited to be reading and listening to the classic novel *The Outsiders*. Students have been working on recognizing points of view, foreshadowing, and character traits. We have also investigated the author, S.E. Hinton, through a web quest.

Ask your student about the “Kick Me” activity and the characters they’ve met so far. Adding to the enjoyment of this novel will be a dress up day. Students and staff will have the opportunity to dress up as a “greaser” or a “soc” for the day.

We hope everyone will participate in the fun. More information will be coming soon!



8th Graders

Jackrabbits and Coyotes



Greetings from the Coyote/ Jackrabbit Eighth Grade Teams

The eighth grade teams have been very busy. Time moves so quickly during the holiday seasons of November and December. Students have begun activities in South Dakota My Life materials. These materials help students identify possible career interests and guide them to coursework in high school that prepares them to achieve those careers. Later this month students and staff from the high schools will come to present High School Hype, an entertaining session designed to bring information to the students about all the fun and exciting opportunities that await them in high school. A week before the holiday break students will begin the process of high school registration with introduction to High School presentations.

We on the 8th grade teams, wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

Below is the news from the core courses:

Social Studies-Mrs. Case and Mr. McIntyre-Our focus for second quarter will be the Constitution. Students will discover the role of government. They will study the writing of the Constitution, and will learn how their individual rights are protected through the Bill of Rights.

Math-Mr. Knapp & Ms. Kunkel- We have just begun our second book and we are looking at distances travelled and how to calculate the shortest distance. Through this, students will be introduced to the Pythagorean Theorem for the first time and will use that formula in many scenarios involving right triangles..

Science-Mrs. Schroeder & Mr. Rank-After completing our studies on the periodic table and its elements, we will now explore how and why atoms bond. What clue and tendencies does the periodic table give us? What is the difference between covalent and ionic bond? How does bonding occur in metals? These questions and more will be answered in the coming weeks.

See what we are up to at <https://gmmsmrrank.blogspot.com/>

English Language Arts-Ms. VanMaanen & Mrs. Freese-We are reading Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Ask your child what is happening in Harry's world. We have completed our first unit of our new curriculum, and we've now shifted gears and are working on a Forensic Anthropology unit. The 2nd unit of our new curriculum will start before the winter break. The next unit is on "What Matters: Sometimes standing up means refusing to back down". Mrs. Waller, the librarian, has introduced all of the YARP books. Keep Reading!

If you would like to get in touch with your child's core teachers, you can find our email addresses on the eighth grade home page.

To access the page go to the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/k12.sd.us/gmma8thgrade/home> .

Student of the Month

November

6th Grade



Samantha Anderson



Dylan Gray



Hussein Kadhim



Anna Wurtz

7th Grade



James Kruid



Maya Madsen



Chris Richards



Yasmin Sirat

8th Grade



Taylor Reed



Yasin Sisto



Anthony Solerto

COUNSELORS' CORNER

To contact the counseling office, please call 367-4435

Counselor Assignments:

6th Grade: Last Name A-K: Mr. Fisher

Last Name L-Z: Mrs. Hawkins

7th Grade: Mrs. Hawkins

8th Grade: Mr. Fisher

Kids' Closet

At George McGovern Middle School we have a "Kids' Closet". In there we have winter coats, hats, gloves and other articles of clothing. If your child needs winter clothing, please call the counseling office or have him/her stop by the counseling office.

Important Dates for 8th Graders

November and December: Students will complete career related activities and begin to learn more about high School during Pro-Time and in Science Classes.

December 15th: High Schools visit George McGovern for a HS Pep Rally with 8th graders.

December 18th: Initial HS open enrollment decisions made by school district. For those wanting to open enroll, please apply for open enrollment as soon as possible. Applications are to be turned into the Instructional Planning Center. Open enrollment forms are available in the Counselor's office at George McGovern.

January 11, 2018: High School Counselors visit Science classes to work with students making class choices.

January 26, 2018: GMMS Counselors visit Science classes to work with students finalizing class choices.

January 2018: High Schools host information/registration meetings for parents and students. (Please see below for High School Open House Information)

January 30, 2018: Online High School Registration with HS counselors.

Please contact your high school for additional information.

High School Information is also located on the George McGovern blogspot. Click here..... <http://www.sfgmms.blogspot.com/>

Holiday Assistance for George McGovern Families

The holiday season is approaching. There are several Sioux Falls organizations that provide extra assistance to families during the holidays. The best resource to call is the “Helpline Center” for a list of resources and information. Their phone number is 339-4357. You can also reach them by dialing 211. Their website is: <http://helplinecenter.org/>.

Information from the Committee for a Caring Community

The staff at George McGovern Middle School cares about the safety and well-being of our students. We want to make sure our school is a safe and comfortable learning environment. One of the ways we do this is through a program called the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. The Olweus program is one of the best-known bullying prevention programs and has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying.

The goals of OBPP are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. The program also works to make relationships better among students. The program is for all students, not just those who are being bullied or who are bullying others.

Parents and guardians play a key role in this program. Your child will be asked to tell an adult at school and at home if he or she is bullied or sees bullying happening at school. It is very important that you take any bullying seriously and tell our school staff. Our staff has been trained to deal with bullying situations when we are told about them.

Bullying should not be seen as “kids being kids” or something that students just need to deal with. Having a safe school experience is something that all students should be able to enjoy.

These are the anti-bullying rules at George McGovern. Please review them with your child.

We will not bully others.

We will try to help students who are bullied.

We will try to include students who are left out.

If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and at home.

Our Bully Reporting Form is located on the George McGovern Blog Spot at:

<http://www.sfgmms.blogspot.com/>

WEB Leaders

WEB Notes:

Because of the number of PRO time sections we have, we needed to add some students to our WEB program.

“Congrats” to the following 8th Graders as they have joined WEB!

Nazrawit Zewdie
Georgia Saydee
Nick Tooley
KD Diallo
Shay Nolden

Haimanot Assefa
Mathias Gerle
McKayla Emerson
Emima Niyongushima
Taylor Reed

Tracen Ashen

We have set our WEB dates for the rest of the year. Students will have WEB lunches and work in the 6th grade PROs on the following dates:

Nov. 7: lunch; in PRO's Nov. 8 and 9
Dec. 5: lunch; in PRO's Dec. 6 and 7
Jan. 9: lunch; in PRO's Jan. 10 and 11
Feb. 6: lunch; in PRO's Feb. 7 and 8
Mar. 6: lunch; in PRO's Mar. 7 and 8
Apr. 10: lunch; in PRO's Apr. 11 and 12
May 1: lunch; in PRO's May 2 and 3

Lastly, WEB is still selling the Big Soo Coupon book. If you would like to support the WEB program and save some money, let Mrs. Freese know by calling the school @ 367-4440 or emailing her at Heidi.freese@k12.sd.us. The books are \$42 each and there are \$1000's of dollars of savings in each book!

Thanks for Supporting WEB

George McGovern blog spot sfgmms.blogspot.com

**Parents/Guardians and Students: Check out the George McGovern blog spot
Sfgmms.blogspot.com**

Here you can find information about school events, your child's lunch account, Infinite Campus, how to contact teachers and much, much more...



Stay Connected: Use the code **k8f6ew4** to join the George McGovern Athletics Google Classroom Page.



**Greetings to
"George"
Our Newest member
of the
GMMS Family**



Our Girls' Basketball teams are working hard and having fun. Keep up the great work. Games start November 30th.



Our Boys Basketball season will start off with the first practices on Monday, January 22nd.



Important Transportation Reminder for After Games and Practices

- **Players and Fans should have transportation by 6:00 pm after a game.**
- **Players should have transportation by 5:20 pm after a practice.**



GMMS MUSIC

Music Staff

Band – Jason Rygg
Jason.Rygg@k12.sd.us

Band – Marian Beck
Marian.Beck@k12.sd.us

Chorus - Barb Myers
Barbara.Myers@k12.sd.us

Chorus – Erin McFarland
Erin.McFarland@k12.sd.us

Orchestra – Andrew Travers
Andrew.Travers@k12.sd.us

MUSIC DEPT WEBSITE
(CLICK BELOW!)
<https://sites.google.com/site/cgovmus>

Chorus:

“Music is the greatest communication in the world. Even if people don’t understand the language you are singing in, they still know good music when they hear it.”- Lou Rawls

Chorus Concerts are Thursday, December 7.

6th Grade Concert at 6:30 and the 7-8th Grade Concert is at 7:30.

Students need to arrive 15 minutes before the concert. Please dress nicely-we prefer shirts without printed writing. You should have gotten a reminder home from your student. There is no charge for concerts at the middle school level.

Orchestra:

The Orchestra will host a Winter Concert on Monday, December 11th beginning at 6:30 PM. Call-time for musicians is 6 PM. Guests may wait in the commons or in the auditorium until the concert.

The concert will last about 1 hour and is required for all orchestra students.

Students should arrive prepared to warm-up and tune at 6 PM. 6th graders will begin on-stage, 7th graders, and 8th graders will warm-up in the orchestra room and sit in the front two rows of the auditorium by 6:25 PM.

Concert dress is block bottoms and white tops. Please choose clothing that is as close to this standard as possible. When in doubt, wear clothing without images or words. Do wear your nicest outfit available if black and white are not an option.

We will have combined rehearsals during the school day on Friday, December 8th, and Monday, December 11th. It is essential that all students come to their grade level rehearsal during their normal orchestra period on BOTH days no matter their A/B schedule! These are our only two opportunities to rehearse for the concert!

Band:

'Tis the season for Winter Concerts! The GMMS Bands will be in concert Thursday December 21st in the GMMS Auditorium. There will be two concerts that evening, the first concert starts at 6:30 pm and will feature the 6th Grade Band, then the 7th Grade Band. That concert will finish at 7:00 pm. The second concert will start at 7:30 and will feature the 8th Grade Band, and then the Jazz Band. That concert will finish at 8:00 pm. Students should report to the band room 30 minutes before the start of their concert (6:00 pm for 6th & 7th Graders, 7:00 pm for 8th Graders and Jazz Band) for warm-ups. These performances are meant to be a bit more of a formal event, so nice clothes are appreciated. Guys can certainly wear a shirt and tie with dress pants if possible, ladies could wear a skirt dress or dress pants, etc. Keep in mind that the Jazz band wears a purple t-shirt as part of their uniform.

Bands have been working hard and we are excited for our first performances of the school year! Concerts are free and open to everyone, so bring family, friends and others who would like to come and support our performers. We'll see you there!

GMMS PTA

We take orders at all times by
emailing order to:
GMMSSFPTA@gmail.com

Available for Purchase:
GMMS Spiritwear Shorts
\$12: small up to X-Large
\$14: XX-Large +

Also, Come to us for your:

*GMMS Sweatshirts

*GMMS T-Shirts

*GMMS Sweatpants

*GMMS Lanyards



Email Orders to us at: GMMSSFPTA@gmail.com

Payment available by:

Credit/Debit Cards

Cash

Check

NEXT PTA MEETING WILL BE
December 12, 2017 at 6:30 pm
Join us at HyVee Market Grill at 10th St and Kiwanis Ave.

Roosevelt's
K-5 CHEER CAMP
& 6-8 STUNT CLINIC



Saturday, January 20th
9AM-11AM Camp
Performance during half-time of
the Varsity Boys Game (1:30pm)

Registration @
www.ridercheer.com
Due Friday, Jan. 5th



Questions? Email Coach Diedra Nissen at Diedra.Nissen@k12.sd.us