



FALCON FORUM

G O L D E N
G A T E
M I D D L E
S C H O O L

Our Falcons Soar!

Principal's Corner

2701 48th Terrace SW
Naples, FL 34116

ph. **239-377-3800**
fax. 239-377-3801

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday:
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.collierschools.net/ggm

September 2017

Volume 3

Issue 1

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Mason Clark

Principal

Valerie Hernandez

*Assistant Principal of
Curriculum & Instruction*

James K. Saunders

Assistant Principal

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers, and Members of the Community,

Welcome to your 2017-2018 school year, students, parents, and guardians! Your Falcon staff is eager to get into what will be a fantastic school year. Last year, our Falcons SOARed, gaining 31 points on our overall school grade. In fact, we were only 1% from achieving a B for the 2016-2017 school year. We are very proud of our students' and teachers' efforts!

However, we aren't satisfied with a C+; we want to earn an A in 2017-2018! To do this, we are focusing on three things:

- **Writing:** We are asking teachers to ensure that students complete writing activities in every core class, every day. Writing is one of the most complex tasks on which students are assessed. Practice makes perfect!
- **Organization:** GGM is using a common binder system this year. For all students, the red pocket folder contains language arts work, the blue pocket folder contains mathematics work, the green pocket folder contains science work, and the yellow pocket folder contains social studies work. Each week, your student's iTime teacher will help your student to maintain the binder.
- **Growth Mindset:** Decades of studies have led researchers to conclude that student intelligence is something that can change over time. **When we work harder, we become smarter.** If our students understand, believe, and act upon that one simple fact, then they will achieve! We, the parents, educators, and mentors, must support our kids as they take the steps necessary realize their true potentials!

SOARingly yours,

Dr. Mason Clark
Principal

Volunteers

NEEDED

To volunteer at our school, please contact our parent involvement coordinator, Saylys Carrillo. We have several exciting events throughout the year and we would appreciate the help!

239.377.2073

EMAIL: carris2@collierschools.com

<http://www.collierschools.com/volunteer>



GGM Athletics

Following a successful 2016-2017 athletic season, the Golden Gate Falcons are back at it for 2017-2018! The fall season is already underway, with girls and boys cross country, and girls and boys volleyball. Athletes, make sure to pay attention to the announcements for information about practices and game times. Remember, completed physicals and consent forms are needed before athletes can participate in interscholastic sports contests. In the winter, students can look forward to girls and boys soccer, as well as girls and boys basketball. In the spring, we'll be offering girls and boys track & field, in addition to golf. Information will be provided to students once those seasons begin. Come out and support your Falcons this fall!

Greg Parks

GGM Athletic Director

Attendance and Discipline

At Golden Gate Middle School, our mission is to provide exceptional educational opportunities that motivate and engage each student. This mission supports our vision of a school where every student SOARs. Digital resources form a major source of teaching and learning and help us progress toward our vision.



While we eagerly employ district and BYOD resources to support students in developing their thinking skills, we also recognize that electronic devices can impede learning when used inappropriately at school. To minimize these disruptions, all classrooms will enforce the following BYOD procedures listed within the student handbook as well as the county Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.collierschools.com/Page/4435>.

- 1st correction: Warning.
- 2nd correction: 1 lunch detention
- 3rd correction: 1 detention
- 4th correction: 2 detentions, revocation of privileges.
- 5th correction+: Treated as Defiance of Authority.

Most students use technology appropriately, and we believe that this system will help our students to improve their focus, time management, and face-to-face social skills. We thank students and parents alike for their support as we SOAR into the 2017-2018 school year.

Be kind and S.O.A.R.!

James K. Saunders
Assistant Principal

Wellness Committee

I would like to invite volunteers, community members, and GGM family to attend our three meetings a year to plan our events. We have created events to get students and families moving and spending time together outside. We have been very successful working with the students to enhance the wellness mindset on campus!

One of our major events is our Family Fun Evening, we collaborate with the Collier County Sherriff's Office. The event will be "Cool Winter Nights" again this year and is open to the whole Golden Gate community! On this evening the wellness committee provides a wellness suite to the Sheriffs donating their time to our event. We offer a variety of healthy items for dinner to show our appreciation for this FREE family event!



Please contact me if you are interested.

Take care of yourself...be fit, be happy, and be smart!

Nicole Heller
GGMS Wellness Committee
hellen@collierschools.com
239.377.6896



Counselor assignments by student last name:

Ms. Irigoyen A-F 377-3818
 Email: irigoe@collierschools.com
 Dr. Meyer G-N 377-3806
 Email: meyermi@collierschools.com
 Ms. Gray O-Z 377-3817
 Email: Grayd1@collierschools.com (lead counselor)
 Crystal Guadalupe – Guidance Secretary
 Email: guadalcr@collierschools.com 377-3816

We would like to welcome Ms. Katherine Gutierrez, a counselor intern from Nova Southeastern University to our staff. She will be at GGM Tuesdays and half days on Wednesdays and Fridays. Some of you may already know her from her prior involvement in the community: drug abuse prevention, parenting classes and the Second Step program.

What is a school counselor and what do they do?

According to the American School Counselor Association, "School counselors are certified/licensed educators with the minimum of a master's degree in school counseling and are uniquely qualified to address the developmental needs of all students through a comprehensive school counseling program addressing the academic, career and personal/social development of all students."

Why do you say SCHOOL COUNSELOR not guidance counselor?

"In 1958, Congress passed the National Defense Education Act, which sent millions of dollars to train "guidance" counselors, whose primary responsibility was to "guide" talented students, mostly male, to jobs that would help the United States compete in the space race and defend the country during the Cold War. All the "guidance" counselors trained from NDEA funds were teachers. [However, today] the role of "school" counselor is much broader than simply guiding students toward specific professions. School counselors engage not just in individual planning but small group and classroom guidance." – Kwok-Sze Wong, Ed.D. (American School Counseling Association)



Upcoming Dates To Remember!

Check our website for more updates and GGM sports schedules-

<http://www.collierschools.com/ggm>

- September 20 Interim reports go home/Early Dismissal
- September 21 No School
- October 13 End of Quarter 1
- October 16-17 No School
- October 19 Fall Festival
- October 20 Report cards go home
- October. 24 Fall Band Concert at GGHS 6:30 p.m.
- November 22-24 Thanksgiving Break

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Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is about involving our parents within our school. Here at Golden Gate Middle School our focus is on helping our students SOAR and succeed at their highest potential. A huge factor in our student's success, is parent involvement. Our goal is to have our parents become involved in our school and feel like they are part of the Falcon family. Here are some ways you as a parent/guardian can get involved: Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Student Advisory Council (SAC), and volunteering. If you are interested, please feel free to contact Mrs. Carrillo at (239)377-2073.

Salvation Army Can Drive

This year's Salvation Army Can Drive will begin Monday October 2nd and run through Tuesday October 31st. Please start collecting canned goods for your student to take into their Intervention Period teacher. The classroom that collects the most cans, (must have over 100 cans to qualify) will receive a Pizza party. Cans that are expired will have to be thrown away and will not counted towards the classroom total.

GGM After School Program (ASP) is Back!

Before school and after school programs have begun. Before school program runs Monday-Friday 7:20-8:20. If you need to drop your child off to school, prior to 8 am, they must sign up for the before school program and report to the media center. Registration forms are located in both student services and the media center. Before school fees are \$10 per quarter.

After school program still has space available for students to sign up. Afterschool runs Monday-Thursday 3:50-5:15. Club choices include but are not limited to homework help, baking, computer fun, games, etc. Clubs are \$10 per session. This current session will run from 9/5/2017-11/9/2017. Registration forms are located in student services and in the media center.

See Mrs. Coloma if you have any questions. Email: coloma@collierschools.com.

Technology Corner

Hello Falcons & Family:

A new school year (2017-18) is underway and we are excited in the lab! The students seem eager to participate in our class dojo which allows them to earn points when positive things occur in class. They are also trying hard to memorize locations of letter keys on the keyboard in their daily typing warmup. Students are encouraged to practice typing at home whenever possible as it is a beneficial lifelong skill. In our school planners, there are several important pages we have spent time getting familiar with so students can use them purposefully. There is more to follow in the weeks to come, so the learning process continues.

Ms. Brewer
Business Education

PTO Corner

Want to help get involved at Golden Gate Middle? Join PTO. GGM PTO runs family/community events such as Fall Festival and Multicultural Festival. We are always looking for volunteers to come and help during these events. We also have great GGM spirit items, such as water bottles, t-shirts, and now bumper stickers. Look for details in regards to our fall fundraiser with Yankee Candle. There is a \$5 donation per family required. Any questions please contact Mrs. Coloma (coloma@collierschools.com) or Mrs. Higgins (higgij@collierschools.com)

We are looking forward to an amazing year with our Falcons!

Ashley Coloma, President
Jane Higgins, Vice President

PBS- Positive Behavior Support

PBS- many positive rewards and incentives are going to happen for GGM students this year. Stay posted for more information! Student of the week has already begun.

Box Tops for Education - Save Your Boxtops!



Box Tops can be found on hundreds of items, such as; General Mill cereal, Tissues, Scott products, and hundreds of other items. Parents can go on-line to BoxTops4Education.com for the complete list. For every five (5) box tops collected, they may take them to Mrs. Hanba, in 1-107. **Students who turn in box tops will have their name entered into a drawing and receive Dojo points!**